

# FFmpeg Codecs Documentation

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# 1 Description

This document describes the codecs (decoders and encoders) provided by the libavcodec library.

## 2 Codec Options

libavcodec provides some generic global options, which can be set on all the encoders and decoders. In addition each codec may support so-called private options, which are specific for a given codec.

Sometimes, a global option may only affect a specific kind of codec, and may be unsensical or ignored by another, so you need to be aware of the meaning of the specified options. Also some options are meant only for decoding or encoding.

Options may be set by specifying *-option value* in the FFmpeg tools, or by setting the value explicitly in the `AVCodecContext` options or using the `libavutil/opt.h` API for programmatic use.

The list of supported options follow:

*b integer (encoding, audio, video)*

Set bitrate in bits/s. Default value is 200K.

*ab integer (encoding, audio)*

Set audio bitrate (in bits/s). Default value is 128K.

*bt integer (encoding, video)*

Set video bitrate tolerance (in bits/s). In 1-pass mode, bitrate tolerance specifies how far ratecontrol is willing to deviate from the target average bitrate value. This is not related to min/max bitrate.

Lowering tolerance too much has an adverse effect on quality.

*flags flags (decoding/encoding, audio, video, subtitles)*

Set generic flags.

Possible values:

`'mv4'`

Use four motion vector by macroblock (mpeg4).

`'qpel'`

Use 1/4 pel motion compensation.

`'loop'`

Use loop filter.

`'qscale'`

Use fixed qscale.

`'gmc'`

Use gmc.

`'mv0'`

Always try a mb with mv=<0,0>.

`'input_preserved'`

`'pass1'`

Use internal 2pass ratecontrol in first pass mode.

`'pass2'`

Use internal 2pass ratecontrol in second pass mode.

`'gray'`

Only decode/encode grayscale.

`'emu_edge'`

Do not draw edges.

`'psnr'`

Set error[?] variables during encoding.

`'truncated'`  
`'naq'`

Normalize adaptive quantization.

`'ildct'`

Use interlaced DCT.

`'low_delay'`

Force low delay.

`'global_header'`

Place global headers in extradata instead of every keyframe.

`'bitexact'`

Only write platform-, build- and time-independent data. (except (I)DCT). This ensures that file and data checksums are reproducible and match between platforms. Its primary use is for regression testing.

`'aic'`

Apply H263 advanced intra coding / mpeg4 ac prediction.

`'cbp'`

Deprecated, use mpegvideo private options instead.

`'qprd'`

Deprecated, use mpegvideo private options instead.

`'ilme'`

Apply interlaced motion estimation.

`'cgop'`

Use closed gop.

`me_method integer (encoding, video)`

Set motion estimation method.

Possible values:

`'zero'`

zero motion estimation (fastest)

`'full'`

full motion estimation (slowest)

`'epzs'`

EPZS motion estimation (default)

`'esa'`

esa motion estimation (alias for full)

`'tesa'`

tesa motion estimation

`'dia'`

dia motion estimation (alias for epzs)

`'log'`

log motion estimation

`'phods'`

phods motion estimation

`'x1'`

X1 motion estimation

`'hex'`

hex motion estimation

`'umh'`

umh motion estimation

`'iter'`

iter motion estimation

`extradata_size integer`

Set extradata size.

*time\_base rational number*

Set codec time base.

It is the fundamental unit of time (in seconds) in terms of which frame timestamps are represented. For fixed-fps content, timebase should be  $1 / \text{frame\_rate}$  and timestamp increments should be identically 1.

*g integer (encoding,video)*

Set the group of picture size. Default value is 12.

*ar integer (decoding/encoding,audio)*

Set audio sampling rate (in Hz).

*ac integer (decoding/encoding,audio)*

Set number of audio channels.

*cutoff integer (encoding,audio)*

Set cutoff bandwidth.

*frame\_size integer (encoding,audio)*

Set audio frame size.

Each submitted frame except the last must contain exactly *frame\_size* samples per channel. May be 0 when the codec has CODEC\_CAP\_VARIABLE\_FRAME\_SIZE set, in that case the frame size is not restricted. It is set by some decoders to indicate constant frame size.

*frame\_number integer*

Set the frame number.

*delay integer*

*qcomp float (encoding,video)*

Set video quantizer scale compression (VBR). It is used as a constant in the ratecontrol equation. Recommended range for default rc\_eq: 0.0-1.0.

*qblur float (encoding,video)*

Set video quantizer scale blur (VBR).

*qmin integer (encoding,video)*

Set min video quantizer scale (VBR). Must be included between -1 and 69, default value is 2.

*qmax integer (encoding,video)*

Set max video quantizer scale (VBR). Must be included between -1 and 1024, default value is 31.

*qdiff integer (encoding,video)*

Set max difference between the quantizer scale (VBR).

*bf integer (encoding,video)*

Set max number of B frames between non-B-frames.

Must be an integer between -1 and 16. 0 means that B-frames are disabled. If a value of -1 is used, it will choose an automatic value depending on the encoder.

Default value is 0.

*b\_qfactor float (encoding,video)*

Set qp factor between P and B frames.

*rc\_strategy integer (encoding,video)*

Set ratecontrol method.

*b\_strategy integer (encoding,video)*

Set strategy to choose between I/P/B-frames.

*ps integer (encoding,video)*

Set RTP payload size in bytes.

*mv\_bits integer*

*header\_bits integer*

*i\_tex\_bits integer*

*p\_tex\_bits integer*

*i\_count integer*

*p\_count integer*

*skip\_count integer*

*misc\_bits integer*

*frame\_bits integer*

*codec\_tag integer*

*bug flags (decoding,video)*



Workaround not auto detected encoder bugs.

Possible values:

`'autodetect'`

`'old_msmpeg4'`

some old lavc generated msmpeg4v3 files (no autodetection)

`'xvid_ilace'`

Xvid interlacing bug (autodetected if fourcc==XVIX)

`'ump4'`

(autodetected if fourcc==UMP4)

`'no_padding'`

padding bug (autodetected)

`'amv'`

`'ac_vlc'`

illegal vlc bug (autodetected per fourcc)

`'qpel_chroma'`

`'std_qpel'`

old standard qpel (autodetected per fourcc/version)

`'qpel_chroma2'`

`'direct_blocksize'`

direct-qpel-blocksize bug (autodetected per fourcc/version)

`'edge'`

edge padding bug (autodetected per fourcc/version)

`'hpel_chroma'`

`'dc_clip'`

`'ms'`

Workaround various bugs in microsoft broken decoders.

`'trunc'`

truncated frames

`lelim integer (encoding,video)`

Set single coefficient elimination threshold for luminance (negative values also consider DC coefficient).

`celim integer (encoding,video)`

Set single coefficient elimination threshold for chrominance (negative values also consider dc coefficient)

`strict integer (decoding/encoding,audio,video)`

Specify how strictly to follow the standards.

Possible values:

`'very'`

strictly conform to a older more strict version of the spec or reference software

`'strict'`

strictly conform to all the things in the spec no matter what consequences

`'normal'`

`'unofficial'`

allow unofficial extensions

`'experimental'`

allow non standardized experimental things, experimental (unfinished/work in progress/not well tested) decoders and encoders. Note: experimental decoders can pose a security risk, do not use this for decoding untrusted input.

`b_qoffset float (encoding,video)`

Set QP offset between P and B frames.

`err_detect flags (decoding,audio,video)`

Set error detection flags.

Possible values:

`'crccheck'`

verify embedded CRCs

`'bitstream'`

detect bitstream specification deviations

`'buffer'`

detect improper bitstream length

`'explode'`

abort decoding on minor error detection

`'ignore_err'`

ignore decoding errors, and continue decoding. This is useful if you want to analyze the content of a video and thus want everything to be decoded no matter what. This option will not result in a video that is pleasing to watch in case of errors.

`'careful'`

consider things that violate the spec and have not been seen in the wild as errors

`'compliant'`

consider all spec non compliancies as errors

`'aggressive'`

consider things that a sane encoder should not do as an error

`has_b_frames integer`

`block_align integer`

`mpeg_quant integer (encoding,video)`

Use MPEG quantizers instead of H.263.

`qsquish float (encoding,video)`

How to keep quantizer between qmin and qmax (0 = clip, 1 = use differentiable function).

`rc_qmod_amp float (encoding,video)`

Set experimental quantizer modulation.

`rc_qmod_freq integer (encoding,video)`

Set experimental quantizer modulation.

```
rc_override_count integer  
rc_eq string (encoding,video)
```

Set rate control equation. When computing the expression, besides the standard functions defined in the section 'Expression Evaluation', the following functions are available: bits2qp(bits), qp2bits(qp). Also the following constants are available: iTex pTex tex mv fCode iCount mcVar var isI isP isB avgQP qComp avgIITex avgPITex avgPPTex avgBPTex avgTex.

```
maxrate integer (encoding,audio,video)
```

Set max bitrate tolerance (in bits/s). Requires bufsize to be set.

```
minrate integer (encoding,audio,video)
```

Set min bitrate tolerance (in bits/s). Most useful in setting up a CBR encode. It is of little use otherwise.

```
bufsize integer (encoding,audio,video)
```

Set ratecontrol buffer size (in bits).

```
rc_buf_aggressivity float (encoding,video)
```

Currently useless.

```
i_qfactor float (encoding,video)
```

Set QP factor between P and I frames.

```
i_qoffset float (encoding,video)
```

Set QP offset between P and I frames.

```
rc_init_cplx float (encoding,video)
```

Set initial complexity for 1-pass encoding.

```
dct integer (encoding,video)
```

Set DCT algorithm.

Possible values:

'auto'

autoselect a good one (default)

`'fastint'`

fast integer

`'int'`

accurate integer

`'mmx'`

`'altivec'`

`'faan'`

floating point AAN DCT

`lumi_mask float (encoding,video)`

Compress bright areas stronger than medium ones.

`tcplx_mask float (encoding,video)`

Set temporal complexity masking.

`scplx_mask float (encoding,video)`

Set spatial complexity masking.

`p_mask float (encoding,video)`

Set inter masking.

`dark_mask float (encoding,video)`

Compress dark areas stronger than medium ones.

`idct integer (decoding/encoding,video)`

Select IDCT implementation.

Possible values:

`'auto'`

`'int'`

`'simple'`

`'simplemmx'`

`'simpleauto'`

Automatically pick a IDCT compatible with the simple one

`'arm'`  
`'altivec'`  
`'sh4'`  
`'simplearm'`  
`'simplearmv5te'`  
`'simplearmv6'`  
`'simpleneon'`  
`'simplealpha'`  
`'ipp'`  
`'xvidmmx'`  
`'faani'`

floating point AAN IDCT

`slice_count` *integer*  
`ec flags` (*decoding,video*)

Set error concealment strategy.

Possible values:

`'guess_mvs'`

iterative motion vector (MV) search (slow)

`'deblock'`

use strong deblock filter for damaged MBs

`'favor_inter'`

favor predicting from the previous frame instead of the current

`bits_per_coded_sample` *integer*  
`pred` *integer* (*encoding,video*)

Set prediction method.

Possible values:

`'left'`

`'plane'`

`'median'`

`aspect` *rational number* (*encoding,video*)

Set sample aspect ratio.

`debug flags (decoding/encoding,audio,video,subtitles)`

Print specific debug info.

Possible values:

`'pict'`

picture info

`'rc'`

rate control

`'bitstream'`

`'mb_type'`

macroblock (MB) type

`'qp'`

per-block quantization parameter (QP)

`'mv'`

motion vector

`'dct_coeff'`

`'skip'`

`'startcode'`

`'pts'`

`'er'`

error recognition

`'mmco'`

memory management control operations (H.264)

`'bugs'`

`'vis_qp'`

visualize quantization parameter (QP), lower QP are tinted greener

`'vis_mb_type'`

visualize block types

`'buffers'`

picture buffer allocations

`'thread_ops'`

threading operations

`vismv integer (decoding,video)`

Visualize motion vectors (MVs).

This option is deprecated, see the codecview filter instead.

Possible values:

`'pf'`

forward predicted MVs of P-frames

`'bf'`

forward predicted MVs of B-frames

`'bb'`

backward predicted MVs of B-frames

`cmp integer (encoding,video)`

Set full pel me compare function.

Possible values:

`'sad'`

sum of absolute differences, fast (default)

`'sse'`

sum of squared errors

`'satd'`

sum of absolute Hadamard transformed differences

`'dct'`



sum of absolute DCT transformed differences

'psnr'

sum of squared quantization errors (avoid, low quality)

'bit'

number of bits needed for the block

'rd'

rate distortion optimal, slow

'zero'

0

'vsad'

sum of absolute vertical differences

'vsse'

sum of squared vertical differences

'nsse'

noise preserving sum of squared differences

'w53'

5/3 wavelet, only used in snow

'w97'

9/7 wavelet, only used in snow

'dctmax'

'chroma'

`subcmp integer (encoding, video)`

Set sub pel me compare function.

Possible values:

'sad'

sum of absolute differences, fast (default)

`'sse'`

sum of squared errors

`'satd'`

sum of absolute Hadamard transformed differences

`'dct'`

sum of absolute DCT transformed differences

`'psnr'`

sum of squared quantization errors (avoid, low quality)

`'bit'`

number of bits needed for the block

`'rd'`

rate distortion optimal, slow

`'zero'`

0

`'vsad'`

sum of absolute vertical differences

`'vsse'`

sum of squared vertical differences

`'nsse'`

noise preserving sum of squared differences

`'w53'`

5/3 wavelet, only used in snow

`'w97'`

9/7 wavelet, only used in snow

`'dctmax'`

`'chroma'`

`mbcmp integer (encoding, video)`

Set macroblock compare function.

Possible values:

`'sad'`

sum of absolute differences, fast (default)

`'sse'`

sum of squared errors

`'satd'`

sum of absolute Hadamard transformed differences

`'dct'`

sum of absolute DCT transformed differences

`'psnr'`

sum of squared quantization errors (avoid, low quality)

`'bit'`

number of bits needed for the block

`'rd'`

rate distortion optimal, slow

`'zero'`

0

`'vsad'`

sum of absolute vertical differences

`'vsse'`

sum of squared vertical differences

‘nsse’

noise preserving sum of squared differences

‘w53’

5/3 wavelet, only used in snow

‘w97’

9/7 wavelet, only used in snow

‘dctmax’

‘chroma’

`ildctcmp integer (encoding, video)`

Set interlaced dct compare function.

Possible values:

‘sad’

sum of absolute differences, fast (default)

‘sse’

sum of squared errors

‘satd’

sum of absolute Hadamard transformed differences

‘dct’

sum of absolute DCT transformed differences

‘psnr’

sum of squared quantization errors (avoid, low quality)

‘bit’

number of bits needed for the block

‘rd’

rate distortion optimal, slow

‘zero’

0

‘vsad’

sum of absolute vertical differences

‘vsse’

sum of squared vertical differences

‘nsse’

noise preserving sum of squared differences

‘w53’

5/3 wavelet, only used in snow

‘w97’

9/7 wavelet, only used in snow

‘dctmax’

‘chroma’

*dia\_size integer (encoding,video)*

Set diamond type & size for motion estimation.

*last\_pred integer (encoding,video)*

Set amount of motion predictors from the previous frame.

*preme integer (encoding,video)*

Set pre motion estimation.

*precmp integer (encoding,video)*

Set pre motion estimation compare function.

Possible values:

‘sad’

sum of absolute differences, fast (default)

`'sse'`

sum of squared errors

`'satd'`

sum of absolute Hadamard transformed differences

`'dct'`

sum of absolute DCT transformed differences

`'psnr'`

sum of squared quantization errors (avoid, low quality)

`'bit'`

number of bits needed for the block

`'rd'`

rate distortion optimal, slow

`'zero'`

0

`'vsad'`

sum of absolute vertical differences

`'vsse'`

sum of squared vertical differences

`'nsse'`

noise preserving sum of squared differences

`'w53'`

5/3 wavelet, only used in snow

`'w97'`

9/7 wavelet, only used in snow

`'dctmax'`

`'chroma'`

`pre_dia_size integer (encoding,video)`

Set diamond type & size for motion estimation pre-pass.

`subq integer (encoding,video)`

Set sub pel motion estimation quality.

`dtg_active_format integer`

`me_range integer (encoding,video)`

Set limit motion vectors range (1023 for DivX player).

`ibias integer (encoding,video)`

Set intra quant bias.

`pbias integer (encoding,video)`

Set inter quant bias.

`color_table_id integer`

`global_quality integer (encoding,audio,video)`

`coder integer (encoding,video)`

Possible values:

`'vlc'`

variable length coder / huffman coder

`'ac'`

arithmetic coder

`'raw'`

raw (no encoding)

`'rle'`

run-length coder

`'deflate'`

deflate-based coder

*context integer (encoding,video)*

Set context model.

*slice\_flags integer*

*xvmc\_acceleration integer*

*mbd integer (encoding,video)*

Set macroblock decision algorithm (high quality mode).

Possible values:

‘simple’

use mbcmp (default)

‘bits’

use fewest bits

‘rd’

use best rate distortion

*stream\_codec\_tag integer*

*sc\_threshold integer (encoding,video)*

Set scene change threshold.

*lmin integer (encoding,video)*

Set min lagrange factor (VBR).

*lmax integer (encoding,video)*

Set max lagrange factor (VBR).

*nr integer (encoding,video)*

Set noise reduction.

*rc\_init\_occupancy integer (encoding,video)*

Set number of bits which should be loaded into the rc buffer before decoding starts.

*flags2 flags (decoding/encoding,audio,video)*



Possible values:

‘fast’

Allow non spec compliant speedup tricks.

‘sgop’

Deprecated, use mpegvideo private options instead.

‘noout’

Skip bitstream encoding.

‘ignorecrop’

Ignore cropping information from sps.

‘local\_header’

Place global headers at every keyframe instead of in extradata.

‘chunks’

Frame data might be split into multiple chunks.

‘showall’

Show all frames before the first keyframe.

‘skiprd’

Deprecated, use mpegvideo private options instead.

‘export\_mvs’

Export motion vectors into frame side-data (see AV\_FRAME\_DATA\_MOTION\_VECTORS) for codecs that support it. See also `doc/examples/export_mvs.c`.

`error integer (encoding, video)`

`qns integer (encoding, video)`

Deprecated, use mpegvideo private options instead.

`threads integer (decoding/encoding, video)`

Possible values:

`'auto'`

detect a good number of threads

`me_threshold integer (encoding,video)`

Set motion estimation threshold.

`mb_threshold integer (encoding,video)`

Set macroblock threshold.

`dc integer (encoding,video)`

Set intra\_dc\_precision.

`nssew integer (encoding,video)`

Set nsse weight.

`skip_top integer (decoding,video)`

Set number of macroblock rows at the top which are skipped.

`skip_bottom integer (decoding,video)`

Set number of macroblock rows at the bottom which are skipped.

`profile integer (encoding,audio,video)`

Possible values:

`'unknown'`

`'aac_main'`

`'aac_low'`

`'aac_ssr'`

`'aac_ltp'`

`'aac_he'`

`'aac_he_v2'`

`'aac_ld'`

`'aac_eld'`

`'mpeg2_aac_low'`

`'mpeg2_aac_he'`

`'dts'`

`'dts_es'`

`'dts_96_24'`

`'dts_hd_hra'`

`'dts_hd_ma'`  
`level integer (encoding, audio, video)`

Possible values:

`'unknown'`  
`lowres integer (decoding, audio, video)`

Decode at 1= 1/2, 2=1/4, 3=1/8 resolutions.

`skip_threshold integer (encoding, video)`

Set frame skip threshold.

`skip_factor integer (encoding, video)`

Set frame skip factor.

`skip_exp integer (encoding, video)`

Set frame skip exponent. Negative values behave identical to the corresponding positive ones, except that the score is normalized. Positive values exist primarily for compatibility reasons and are not so useful.

`skipcmp integer (encoding, video)`

Set frame skip compare function.

Possible values:

`'sad'`  
sum of absolute differences, fast (default)

`'sse'`  
sum of squared errors

`'satd'`  
sum of absolute Hadamard transformed differences

`'dct'`  
sum of absolute DCT transformed differences

`'psnr'`

sum of squared quantization errors (avoid, low quality)

‘bit’

number of bits needed for the block

‘rd’

rate distortion optimal, slow

‘zero’

0

‘vsad’

sum of absolute vertical differences

‘vsse’

sum of squared vertical differences

‘nsse’

noise preserving sum of squared differences

‘w53’

5/3 wavelet, only used in snow

‘w97’

9/7 wavelet, only used in snow

‘dctmax’

‘chroma’

`border_mask float (encoding,video)`

Increase the quantizer for macroblocks close to borders.

`mb_lmin integer (encoding,video)`

Set min macroblock lagrange factor (VBR).

`mb_lmax integer (encoding,video)`

Set max macroblock lagrange factor (VBR).

`mepc integer (encoding,video)`

Set motion estimation bitrate penalty compensation ( $1.0 = 256$ ).

`skip_loop_filter integer (decoding,video)`

`skip_idct integer (decoding,video)`

`skip_frame integer (decoding,video)`

Make decoder discard processing depending on the frame type selected by the option value.

`skip_loop_filter` skips frame loop filtering, `skip_idct` skips frame IDCT/dequantization, `skip_frame` skips decoding.

Possible values:

‘none’

Discard no frame.

‘default’

Discard useless frames like 0-sized frames.

‘noref’

Discard all non-reference frames.

‘bidir’

Discard all bidirectional frames.

‘nokey’

Discard all frames excepts keyframes.

‘all’

Discard all frames.

Default value is ‘default’.

`bidir_refine integer (encoding,video)`

Refine the two motion vectors used in bidirectional macroblocks.

`brd_scale integer (encoding,video)`

Downscale frames for dynamic B-frame decision.

`keyint_min integer (encoding,video)`

Set minimum interval between IDR-frames.

`refs integer (encoding,video)`

Set reference frames to consider for motion compensation.

`chromaoffset integer (encoding,video)`

Set chroma qp offset from luma.

`trellis integer (encoding,audio,video)`

Set rate-distortion optimal quantization.

`sc_factor integer (encoding,video)`

Set value multiplied by qscale for each frame and added to scene\_change\_score.

`mv0_threshold integer (encoding,video)`

`b_sensitivity integer (encoding,video)`

Adjust sensitivity of b\_frame\_strategy 1.

`compression_level integer (encoding,audio,video)`

`min_prediction_order integer (encoding,audio)`

`max_prediction_order integer (encoding,audio)`

`timecode_frame_start integer (encoding,video)`

Set GOP timecode frame start number, in non drop frame format.

`request_channels integer (decoding,audio)`

Set desired number of audio channels.

`bits_per_raw_sample integer`

`channel_layout integer (decoding/encoding,audio)`

Possible values:

`request_channel_layout integer (decoding,audio)`

Possible values:

`rc_max_vbv_use float (encoding,video)`

`rc_min_vbv_use float (encoding,video)`

`ticks_per_frame integer (decoding/encoding,audio,video)`

`color_primaries integer (decoding/encoding,video)`  
`color_trc integer (decoding/encoding,video)`  
`colourspace integer (decoding/encoding,video)`  
`color_range integer (decoding/encoding,video)`  
`chroma_sample_location integer (decoding/encoding,video)`  
`log_level_offset integer`

Set the log level offset.

`slices integer (encoding,video)`

Number of slices, used in parallelized encoding.

`thread_type flags (decoding/encoding,video)`

Select which multithreading methods to use.

Use of 'frame' will increase decoding delay by one frame per thread, so clients which cannot provide future frames should not use it.

Possible values:

'slice'

Decode more than one part of a single frame at once.

Multithreading using slices works only when the video was encoded with slices.

'frame'

Decode more than one frame at once.

Default value is 'slice+frame'.

`audio_service_type integer (encoding,audio)`

Set audio service type.

Possible values:

'ma'

Main Audio Service

'ef'

Effects

‘vi’

Visually Impaired

‘hi’

Hearing Impaired

‘di’

Dialogue

‘co’

Commentary

‘em’

Emergency

‘vo’

Voice Over

‘ka’

Karaoke

`request_sample_fmt sample_fmt (decoding, audio)`

Set sample format audio decoders should prefer. Default value is none.

`pkt_timebase rational number`

`sub_charenc encoding (decoding, subtitles)`

Set the input subtitles character encoding.

`field_order field_order (video)`

Set/override the field order of the video. Possible values:

‘progressive’

Progressive video

‘tt’

Interlaced video, top field coded and displayed first



`'bb'`

Interlaced video, bottom field coded and displayed first

`'tb'`

Interlaced video, top coded first, bottom displayed first

`'bt'`

Interlaced video, bottom coded first, top displayed first

`skip_alpha integer (decoding,video)`

Set to 1 to disable processing alpha (transparency). This works like the `'gray'` flag in the `flags` option which skips chroma information instead of alpha. Default is 0.

`codec_whitelist list (input)`

"," separated List of allowed decoders. By default all are allowed.

`dump_separator string (input)`

Separator used to separate the fields printed on the command line about the Stream parameters. For example to separate the fields with newlines and indentation:

```
ffprobe -dump_separator "
                        " -i ~/videos/matrixbench_mpeg2.mpg
```

## 3 Decoders

Decoders are configured elements in FFmpeg which allow the decoding of multimedia streams.

When you configure your FFmpeg build, all the supported native decoders are enabled by default. Decoders requiring an external library must be enabled manually via the corresponding `--enable-lib` option. You can list all available decoders using the configure option `--list-decoders`.

You can disable all the decoders with the configure option `--disable-decoders` and selectively enable / disable single decoders with the options `--enable-decoder=DECODER /`  
`--disable-decoder=DECODER`.

The option `-decoders` of the `ff*` tools will display the list of enabled decoders.

## 4 Video Decoders

A description of some of the currently available video decoders follows.

## 4.1 rawvideo

Raw video decoder.

This decoder decodes rawvideo streams.

### 4.1.1 Options

`top top_field_first`

Specify the assumed field type of the input video.

-1

the video is assumed to be progressive (default)

0

bottom-field-first is assumed

1

top-field-first is assumed

## 5 Audio Decoders

A description of some of the currently available audio decoders follows.

### 5.1 ac3

AC-3 audio decoder.

This decoder implements part of ATSC A/52:2010 and ETSI TS 102 366, as well as the undocumented RealAudio 3 (a.k.a. dnet).

#### 5.1.1 AC-3 Decoder Options

`-drc_scale value`

Dynamic Range Scale Factor. The factor to apply to dynamic range values from the AC-3 stream. This factor is applied exponentially. There are 3 notable scale factor ranges:

`drc_scale == 0`

DRC disabled. Produces full range audio.

`0 < drc_scale <= 1`

DRC enabled. Applies a fraction of the stream DRC value. Audio reproduction is between full range and full compression.

`drc_scale > 1`

DRC enabled. Applies `drc_scale` asymmetrically. Loud sounds are fully compressed. Soft sounds are enhanced.

## 5.2 ffwavesynth

Internal wave synthesizer.

This decoder generates wave patterns according to predefined sequences. Its use is purely internal and the format of the data it accepts is not publicly documented.

## 5.3 libcelt

libcelt decoder wrapper.

libcelt allows libavcodec to decode the Xiph CELT ultra-low delay audio codec. Requires the presence of the libcelt headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libcelt`.

## 5.4 libgsm

libgsm decoder wrapper.

libgsm allows libavcodec to decode the GSM full rate audio codec. Requires the presence of the libgsm headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libgsm`.

This decoder supports both the ordinary GSM and the Microsoft variant.

## 5.5 libilbc

libilbc decoder wrapper.

libilbc allows libavcodec to decode the Internet Low Bitrate Codec (iLBC) audio codec. Requires the presence of the libilbc headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libilbc`.

### 5.5.1 Options

The following option is supported by the libilbc wrapper.

enhance

Enable the enhancement of the decoded audio when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

### 5.6 libopencore-amrnb

libopencore-amrnb decoder wrapper.

libopencore-amrnb allows libavcodec to decode the Adaptive Multi-Rate Narrowband audio codec. Using it requires the presence of the libopencore-amrnb headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libopencore-amrnb`.

An FFmpeg native decoder for AMR-NB exists, so users can decode AMR-NB without this library.

### 5.7 libopencore-amrwb

libopencore-amrwb decoder wrapper.

libopencore-amrwb allows libavcodec to decode the Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband audio codec. Using it requires the presence of the libopencore-amrwb headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libopencore-amrwb`.

An FFmpeg native decoder for AMR-WB exists, so users can decode AMR-WB without this library.

### 5.8 libopus

libopus decoder wrapper.

libopus allows libavcodec to decode the Opus Interactive Audio Codec. Requires the presence of the libopus headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libopus`.

An FFmpeg native decoder for Opus exists, so users can decode Opus without this library.

## 6 Subtitles Decoders

### 6.1 dvdsub

This codec decodes the bitmap subtitles used in DVDs; the same subtitles can also be found in VobSub file pairs and in some Matroska files.

## 6.1.1 Options

### palette

Specify the global palette used by the bitmaps. When stored in VobSub, the palette is normally specified in the index file; in Matroska, the palette is stored in the codec extra-data in the same format as in VobSub. In DVDs, the palette is stored in the IFO file, and therefore not available when reading from dumped VOB files.

The format for this option is a string containing 16 24-bits hexadecimal numbers (without 0x prefix) separated by comas, for example 0d00ee, ee450d, 101010, eaeaea, 0ce60b, ec14ed, ebbf0b, 0d617a, 7b7b7b, d1d1d1, 7b2a0e, 0d950c, 0f007b, cf0dec, cfa80c, 7c127b.

### ifo\_palette

Specify the IFO file from which the global palette is obtained. (experimental)

### forced\_subs\_only

Only decode subtitle entries marked as forced. Some titles have forced and non-forced subtitles in the same track. Setting this flag to 1 will only keep the forced subtitles. Default value is 0.

## 6.2 libzvbi-teletext

Libzvbi allows libavcodec to decode DVB teletext pages and DVB teletext subtitles. Requires the presence of the libzvbi headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libzvbi`.

### 6.2.1 Options

#### txt\_page

List of teletext page numbers to decode. You may use the special \* string to match all pages. Pages that do not match the specified list are dropped. Default value is \*.

#### txt\_chop\_top

Discards the top teletext line. Default value is 1.

#### txt\_format

Specifies the format of the decoded subtitles. The teletext decoder is capable of decoding the teletext pages to bitmaps or to simple text, you should use "bitmap" for teletext pages, because certain graphics and colors cannot be expressed in simple text. You might use "text" for teletext based subtitles if your application can handle simple text based subtitles. Default value is bitmap.

`txt_left`

X offset of generated bitmaps, default is 0.

`txt_top`

Y offset of generated bitmaps, default is 0.

`txt_chop_spaces`

Chops leading and trailing spaces and removes empty lines from the generated text. This option is useful for teletext based subtitles where empty spaces may be present at the start or at the end of the lines or empty lines may be present between the subtitle lines because of double-sized teletext characters. Default value is 1.

`txt_duration`

Sets the display duration of the decoded teletext pages or subtitles in milliseconds. Default value is 30000 which is 30 seconds.

`txt_transparent`

Force transparent background of the generated teletext bitmaps. Default value is 0 which means an opaque (black) background.

## 7 Encoders

Encoders are configured elements in FFmpeg which allow the encoding of multimedia streams.

When you configure your FFmpeg build, all the supported native encoders are enabled by default. Encoders requiring an external library must be enabled manually via the corresponding `--enable-lib` option. You can list all available encoders using the configure option `--list-encoders`.

You can disable all the encoders with the configure option `--disable-encoders` and selectively enable / disable single encoders with the options `--enable-encoder=ENCODER` / `--disable-encoder=ENCODER`.

The option `-encoders` of the ff\* tools will display the list of enabled encoders.

## 8 Audio Encoders

A description of some of the currently available audio encoders follows.

## 8.1 aac

Advanced Audio Coding (AAC) encoder.

This encoder is an experimental FFmpeg-native AAC encoder. Currently only the low complexity (AAC-LC) profile is supported. To use this encoder, you must set `strict` option to ‘experimental’ or lower.

As this encoder is experimental, unexpected behavior may exist from time to time. For a more stable AAC encoder, see `libvo-aacenc`. However, be warned that it has a worse quality reported by some users.

See also `libfdk_aac` and `libfaac`.

### 8.1.1 Options

`b`

Set bit rate in bits/s. Setting this automatically activates constant bit rate (CBR) mode.

`q`

Set quality for variable bit rate (VBR) mode. This option is valid only using the `ffmpeg` command-line tool. For library interface users, use `global_quality`.

`stereo_mode`

Set stereo encoding mode. Possible values:

‘auto’

Automatically selected by the encoder.

‘ms\_off’

Disable middle/side encoding. This is the default.

‘ms\_force’

Force middle/side encoding.

`aac_coder`

Set AAC encoder coding method. Possible values:

‘faac’

FAAC-inspired method.

This method is a simplified reimplementation of the method used in FAAC, which sets thresholds proportional to the band energies, and then decreases all the thresholds with quantizer steps to find the appropriate quantization with distortion below threshold band by band.

The quality of this method is comparable to the two loop searching method described below, but somewhat a little better and slower.

‘anmr’

Average noise to mask ratio (ANMR) trellis-based solution.

This has a theoretic best quality out of all the coding methods, but at the cost of the slowest speed.

‘twoloop’

Two loop searching (TLS) method.

This method first sets quantizers depending on band thresholds and then tries to find an optimal combination by adding or subtracting a specific value from all quantizers and adjusting some individual quantizer a little.

This method produces similar quality with the FAAC method and is the default.

‘fast’

Constant quantizer method.

This method sets a constant quantizer for all bands. This is the fastest of all the methods, yet produces the worst quality.

## 8.2 ac3 and ac3\_fixed

AC-3 audio encoders.

These encoders implement part of ATSC A/52:2010 and ETSI TS 102 366, as well as the undocumented RealAudio 3 (a.k.a. dnet).

The *ac3* encoder uses floating-point math, while the *ac3\_fixed* encoder only uses fixed-point integer math. This does not mean that one is always faster, just that one or the other may be better suited to a particular system. The floating-point encoder will generally produce better quality audio for a given bitrate. The *ac3\_fixed* encoder is not the default codec for any of the output formats, so it must be specified explicitly using the option `-acodec ac3_fixed` in order to use it.



## 8.2.1 AC-3 Metadata

The AC-3 metadata options are used to set parameters that describe the audio, but in most cases do not affect the audio encoding itself. Some of the options do directly affect or influence the decoding and playback of the resulting bitstream, while others are just for informational purposes. A few of the options will add bits to the output stream that could otherwise be used for audio data, and will thus affect the quality of the output. Those will be indicated accordingly with a note in the option list below.

These parameters are described in detail in several publicly-available documents.

- A/52:2010 - Digital Audio Compression (AC-3) (E-AC-3) Standard
- A/54 - Guide to the Use of the ATSC Digital Television Standard
- Dolby Metadata Guide
- Dolby Digital Professional Encoding Guidelines

### 8.2.1.1 Metadata Control Options

`-per_frame_metadata boolean`

Allow Per-Frame Metadata. Specifies if the encoder should check for changing metadata for each frame.

0

The metadata values set at initialization will be used for every frame in the stream. (default)

1

Metadata values can be changed before encoding each frame.

### 8.2.1.2 Downmix Levels

`-center_mixlev level`

Center Mix Level. The amount of gain the decoder should apply to the center channel when downmixing to stereo. This field will only be written to the bitstream if a center channel is present. The value is specified as a scale factor. There are 3 valid values:

0.707

Apply -3dB gain

0.595

Apply -4.5dB gain (default)

0.500

Apply -6dB gain

`-surround_mixlev level`

Surround Mix Level. The amount of gain the decoder should apply to the surround channel(s) when downmixing to stereo. This field will only be written to the bitstream if one or more surround channels are present. The value is specified as a scale factor. There are 3 valid values:

0.707

Apply -3dB gain

0.500

Apply -6dB gain (default)

0.000

Silence Surround Channel(s)

### 8.2.1.3 Audio Production Information

Audio Production Information is optional information describing the mixing environment. Either none or both of the fields are written to the bitstream.

`-mixing_level number`

Mixing Level. Specifies peak sound pressure level (SPL) in the production environment when the mix was mastered. Valid values are 80 to 111, or -1 for unknown or not indicated. The default value is -1, but that value cannot be used if the Audio Production Information is written to the bitstream. Therefore, if the `room_type` option is not the default value, the `mixing_level` option must not be -1.

`-room_type type`

Room Type. Describes the equalization used during the final mixing session at the studio or on the dubbing stage. A large room is a dubbing stage with the industry standard X-curve equalization; a small room has flat equalization. This field will not be written to the bitstream if both the `mixing_level` option and the `room_type` option have the default values.

0

notindicated

Not Indicated (default)

1

large

Large Room

2  
small

Small Room

#### 8.2.1.4 Other Metadata Options

`-copyright boolean`

Copyright Indicator. Specifies whether a copyright exists for this audio.

0  
off

No Copyright Exists (default)

1  
on

Copyright Exists

`-dialnorm value`

Dialogue Normalization. Indicates how far the average dialogue level of the program is below digital 100% full scale (0 dBFS). This parameter determines a level shift during audio reproduction that sets the average volume of the dialogue to a preset level. The goal is to match volume level between program sources. A value of -31dB will result in no volume level change, relative to the source volume, during audio reproduction. Valid values are whole numbers in the range -31 to -1, with -31 being the default.

`-dsur_mode mode`

Dolby Surround Mode. Specifies whether the stereo signal uses Dolby Surround (Pro Logic). This field will only be written to the bitstream if the audio stream is stereo. Using this option does **NOT** mean the encoder will actually apply Dolby Surround processing.

0  
notindicated

Not Indicated (default)

1  
off

Not Dolby Surround Encoded

2  
on

Dolby Surround Encoded

`-original boolean`

Original Bit Stream Indicator. Specifies whether this audio is from the original source and not a copy.

0  
off

Not Original Source

1  
on

Original Source (default)

## 8.2.2 Extended Bitstream Information

The extended bitstream options are part of the Alternate Bit Stream Syntax as specified in Annex D of the A/52:2010 standard. It is grouped into 2 parts. If any one parameter in a group is specified, all values in that group will be written to the bitstream. Default values are used for those that are written but have not been specified. If the mixing levels are written, the decoder will use these values instead of the ones specified in the `center_mixlev` and `surround_mixlev` options if it supports the Alternate Bit Stream Syntax.

### 8.2.2.1 Extended Bitstream Information - Part 1

`-dmix_mode mode`

Preferred Stereo Downmix Mode. Allows the user to select either Lt/Rt (Dolby Surround) or Lo/Ro (normal stereo) as the preferred stereo downmix mode.

0  
notindicated

Not Indicated (default)

1  
ltrt

Lt/Rt Downmix Preferred

2  
loro

## Lo/Ro Downmix Preferred

`-ltrt_cmixlev level`

Lt/Rt Center Mix Level. The amount of gain the decoder should apply to the center channel when downmixing to stereo in Lt/Rt mode.

1.414

Apply +3dB gain

1.189

Apply +1.5dB gain

1.000

Apply 0dB gain

0.841

Apply -1.5dB gain

0.707

Apply -3.0dB gain

0.595

Apply -4.5dB gain (default)

0.500

Apply -6.0dB gain

0.000

Silence Center Channel

`-ltrt_surmixlev level`

Lt/Rt Surround Mix Level. The amount of gain the decoder should apply to the surround channel(s) when downmixing to stereo in Lt/Rt mode.

0.841

Apply -1.5dB gain

0.707

Apply -3.0dB gain

0.595

Apply -4.5dB gain

0.500

Apply -6.0dB gain (default)

0.000

Silence Surround Channel(s)

`-loro_cmixlev level`

Lo/Ro Center Mix Level. The amount of gain the decoder should apply to the center channel when downmixing to stereo in Lo/Ro mode.

1.414

Apply +3dB gain

1.189

Apply +1.5dB gain

1.000

Apply 0dB gain

0.841

Apply -1.5dB gain

0.707

Apply -3.0dB gain

0.595

Apply -4.5dB gain (default)

0.500

Apply -6.0dB gain

0.000

Silence Center Channel

`-loro_surmixlev level`

Lo/Ro Surround Mix Level. The amount of gain the decoder should apply to the surround channel(s) when downmixing to stereo in Lo/Ro mode.

0.841

Apply -1.5dB gain

0.707

Apply -3.0dB gain

0.595

Apply -4.5dB gain

0.500

Apply -6.0dB gain (default)

0.000

Silence Surround Channel(s)

### 8.2.2.2 Extended Bitstream Information - Part 2

`-dsurex_mode mode`

Dolby Surround EX Mode. Indicates whether the stream uses Dolby Surround EX (7.1 matrixed to 5.1). Using this option does **NOT** mean the encoder will actually apply Dolby Surround EX processing.

0

notindicated

Not Indicated (default)

1

on

Dolby Surround EX Off

2

off

Dolby Surround EX On

`-dheadphone_mode mode`

Dolby Headphone Mode. Indicates whether the stream uses Dolby Headphone encoding (multi-channel matrixed to 2.0 for use with headphones). Using this option does **NOT** mean the encoder will actually apply Dolby Headphone processing.

0

not indicated

Not Indicated (default)

1

on

Dolby Headphone Off

2

off

Dolby Headphone On

`-ad_conv_type type`

A/D Converter Type. Indicates whether the audio has passed through HDCD A/D conversion.

0

standard

Standard A/D Converter (default)

1

hdcd

HDCD A/D Converter

### 8.2.3 Other AC-3 Encoding Options

`-stereo_rematrixing boolean`

Stereo Rematrixing. Enables/Disables use of rematrixing for stereo input. This is an optional AC-3 feature that increases quality by selectively encoding the left/right channels as mid/side. This option is enabled by default, and it is highly recommended that it be left as enabled except for testing purposes.



## 8.2.4 Floating-Point-Only AC-3 Encoding Options

These options are only valid for the floating-point encoder and do not exist for the fixed-point encoder due to the corresponding features not being implemented in fixed-point.

`-channel_coupling` *boolean*

Enables/Disables use of channel coupling, which is an optional AC-3 feature that increases quality by combining high frequency information from multiple channels into a single channel. The per-channel high frequency information is sent with less accuracy in both the frequency and time domains. This allows more bits to be used for lower frequencies while preserving enough information to reconstruct the high frequencies. This option is enabled by default for the floating-point encoder and should generally be left as enabled except for testing purposes or to increase encoding speed.

-1  
auto

Selected by Encoder (default)

0  
off

Disable Channel Coupling

1  
on

Enable Channel Coupling

`-cpl_start_band` *number*

Coupling Start Band. Sets the channel coupling start band, from 1 to 15. If a value higher than the bandwidth is used, it will be reduced to 1 less than the coupling end band. If *auto* is used, the start band will be determined by the encoder based on the bit rate, sample rate, and channel layout. This option has no effect if channel coupling is disabled.

-1  
auto

Selected by Encoder (default)

## 8.3 libfaac

libfaac AAC (Advanced Audio Coding) encoder wrapper.

Requires the presence of the libfaac headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libfaac` `--enable-nonfree`.

This encoder is considered to be of higher quality with respect to the the native experimental FFmpeg AAC encoder.

For more information see the libfaac project at <http://www.audiocoding.com/faac.html/>.

### 8.3.1 Options

The following shared FFmpeg codec options are recognized.

The following options are supported by the libfaac wrapper. The `faac`-equivalent of the options are listed in parentheses.

`b (-b)`

Set bit rate in bits/s for ABR (Average Bit Rate) mode. If the bit rate is not explicitly specified, it is automatically set to a suitable value depending on the selected profile. `faac` bitrate is expressed in kilobits/s.

Note that libfaac does not support CBR (Constant Bit Rate) but only ABR (Average Bit Rate).

If VBR mode is enabled this option is ignored.

`ar (-R)`

Set audio sampling rate (in Hz).

`ac (-c)`

Set the number of audio channels.

`cutoff (-C)`

Set cutoff frequency. If not specified (or explicitly set to 0) it will use a value automatically computed by the library. Default value is 0.

`profile`

Set audio profile.

The following profiles are recognized:

`'aac_main'`

Main AAC (Main)

`'aac_low'`

Low Complexity AAC (LC)

`'aac_ssr'`

Scalable Sample Rate (SSR)

`'aac_ltp'`

Long Term Prediction (LTP)

If not specified it is set to `'aac_low'`.

`flags +qscale`

Set constant quality VBR (Variable Bit Rate) mode.

`global_quality`

Set quality in VBR mode as an integer number of lambda units.

Only relevant when VBR mode is enabled with `flags +qscale`. The value is converted to QP units by dividing it by `FF_QP2LAMBDA`, and used to set the quality value used by libfaac. A reasonable range for the option value in QP units is [10-500], the higher the value the higher the quality.

`q (-q)`

Enable VBR mode when set to a non-negative value, and set constant quality value as a double floating point value in QP units.

The value sets the quality value used by libfaac. A reasonable range for the option value is [10-500], the higher the value the higher the quality.

This option is valid only using the `ffmpeg` command-line tool. For library interface users, use `global_quality`.

### 8.3.2 Examples

- Use `ffmpeg` to convert an audio file to ABR 128 kbps AAC in an M4A (MP4) container:

```
ffmpeg -i input.wav -codec:a libfaac -b:a 128k -output.m4a
```

- Use `ffmpeg` to convert an audio file to VBR AAC, using the LTP AAC profile:

```
ffmpeg -i input.wav -c:a libfaac -profile:a aac_ltp -q:a 100 output.m4a
```

## 8.4 libfdk\_aac

libfdk-aac AAC (Advanced Audio Coding) encoder wrapper.

The libfdk-aac library is based on the Fraunhofer FDK AAC code from the Android project.

Requires the presence of the libfdk-aac headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libfdk-aac`. The library is also incompatible with GPL, so if you allow the use of GPL, you should configure with `--enable-gpl --enable-nonfree --enable-libfdk-aac`.

This encoder is considered to be of higher quality with respect to both the native experimental FFmpeg AAC encoder and libfaac.

VBR encoding, enabled through the `vbr` or `flags +qscale` options, is experimental and only works with some combinations of parameters.

Support for encoding 7.1 audio is only available with libfdk-aac 0.1.3 or higher.

For more information see the fdk-aac project at <http://sourceforge.net/p/opencore-amr/fdk-aac/>.

### 8.4.1 Options

The following options are mapped on the shared FFmpeg codec options.

`b`

Set bit rate in bits/s. If the bitrate is not explicitly specified, it is automatically set to a suitable value depending on the selected profile.

In case VBR mode is enabled the option is ignored.

`ar`

Set audio sampling rate (in Hz).

`channels`

Set the number of audio channels.

`flags +qscale`

Enable fixed quality, VBR (Variable Bit Rate) mode. Note that VBR is implicitly enabled when the `vbr` value is positive.

`cutoff`

Set cutoff frequency. If not specified (or explicitly set to 0) it will use a value automatically computed by the library. Default value is 0.

`profile`

Set audio profile.

The following profiles are recognized:

`'aac_low'`

Low Complexity AAC (LC)

`'aac_he'`

High Efficiency AAC (HE-AAC)

`'aac_he_v2'`

High Efficiency AAC version 2 (HE-AACv2)

`'aac_ld'`

Low Delay AAC (LD)

`'aac_eld'`

Enhanced Low Delay AAC (ELD)

If not specified it is set to `'aac_low'`.

The following are private options of the libfdk\_aac encoder.

`afterburner`

Enable afterburner feature if set to 1, disabled if set to 0. This improves the quality but also the required processing power.

Default value is 1.

`eld_sbr`

Enable SBR (Spectral Band Replication) for ELD if set to 1, disabled if set to 0.

Default value is 0.

`signaling`

Set SBR/PS signaling style.

It can assume one of the following values:

`'default'`

choose signaling implicitly (explicit hierarchical by default, implicit if global header is disabled)

`'implicit'`

implicit backwards compatible signaling

`'explicit_sbr'`

explicit SBR, implicit PS signaling

`'explicit_hierarchical'`

explicit hierarchical signaling

Default value is `'default'`.

latm

Output LATM/LOAS encapsulated data if set to 1, disabled if set to 0.

Default value is 0.

header\_period

Set StreamMuxConfig and PCE repetition period (in frames) for sending in-band configuration buffers within LATM/LOAS transport layer.

Must be a 16-bits non-negative integer.

Default value is 0.

vbr

Set VBR mode, from 1 to 5. 1 is lowest quality (though still pretty good) and 5 is highest quality. A value of 0 will disable VBR, and CBR (Constant Bit Rate) is enabled.

Currently only the `'aac_low'` profile supports VBR encoding.

VBR modes 1-5 correspond to roughly the following average bit rates:

`'1'`

32 kbps/channel

`'2'`

40 kbps/channel

‘3’

48-56 kbps/channel

‘4’

64 kbps/channel

‘5’

about 80-96 kbps/channel

Default value is 0.

## 8.4.2 Examples

- Use `ffmpeg` to convert an audio file to VBR AAC in an M4A (MP4) container:

```
ffmpeg -i input.wav -codec:a libfdk_aac -vbr 3 output.m4a
```

- Use `ffmpeg` to convert an audio file to CBR 64k kbps AAC, using the High-Efficiency AAC profile:

```
ffmpeg -i input.wav -c:a libfdk_aac -profile:a aac_he -b:a 64k output.m4a
```

## 8.5 libmp3lame

LAME (Lame Ain't an MP3 Encoder) MP3 encoder wrapper.

Requires the presence of the `libmp3lame` headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libmp3lame`.

See `libshine` for a fixed-point MP3 encoder, although with a lower quality.

### 8.5.1 Options

The following options are supported by the `libmp3lame` wrapper. The `lame`-equivalent of the options are listed in parentheses.

`b` (`-b`)

Set bitrate expressed in bits/s for CBR or ABR. LAME `bitrate` is expressed in kilobits/s.

`q` (`-V`)

Set constant quality setting for VBR. This option is valid only using the `ffmpeg` command-line tool. For library interface users, use `global_quality`.

`compression_level (-q)`

Set algorithm quality. Valid arguments are integers in the 0-9 range, with 0 meaning highest quality but slowest, and 9 meaning fastest while producing the worst quality.

`reservoir`

Enable use of bit reservoir when set to 1. Default value is 1. LAME has this enabled by default, but can be overridden by use `--nores` option.

`joint_stereo (-m j)`

Enable the encoder to use (on a frame by frame basis) either L/R stereo or mid/side stereo. Default value is 1.

`abr (--abr)`

Enable the encoder to use ABR when set to 1. The `lame --abr` sets the target bitrate, while this options only tells FFmpeg to use ABR still relies on `b` to set bitrate.

## 8.6 libopencore-amrnb

OpenCORE Adaptive Multi-Rate Narrowband encoder.

Requires the presence of the `libopencore-amrnb` headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libopencore-amrnb --enable-version3`.

This is a mono-only encoder. Officially it only supports 8000Hz sample rate, but you can override it by setting `strict` to 'unofficial' or lower.

### 8.6.1 Options

`b`

Set bitrate in bits per second. Only the following bitrates are supported, otherwise libavcodec will round to the nearest valid bitrate.

4750  
5150  
5900  
6700  
7400  
7950  
10200  
12200

`dtx`



Allow discontinuous transmission (generate comfort noise) when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

## 8.7 libshine

Shine Fixed-Point MP3 encoder wrapper.

Shine is a fixed-point MP3 encoder. It has a far better performance on platforms without an FPU, e.g. armel CPUs, and some phones and tablets. However, as it is more targeted on performance than quality, it is not on par with LAME and other production-grade encoders quality-wise. Also, according to the project's homepage, this encoder may not be free of bugs as the code was written a long time ago and the project was dead for at least 5 years.

This encoder only supports stereo and mono input. This is also CBR-only.

The original project (last updated in early 2007) is at <http://sourceforge.net/projects/libshine-fxp/>. We only support the updated fork by the Savonet/Liquidsoap project at <https://github.com/savonet/shine>.

Requires the presence of the libshine headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libshine`.

See also libmp3lame.

### 8.7.1 Options

The following options are supported by the libshine wrapper. The `shineenc`-equivalent of the options are listed in parentheses.

`b (-b)`

Set bitrate expressed in bits/s for CBR. `shineenc -b` option is expressed in kilobits/s.

## 8.8 libtwolame

TwoLAME MP2 encoder wrapper.

Requires the presence of the libtwolame headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libtwolame`.

### 8.8.1 Options

The following options are supported by the libtwolame wrapper. The `twolame`-equivalent options follow the FFmpeg ones and are in parentheses.

`b (-b)`

Set bitrate expressed in bits/s for CBR. `twolame b` option is expressed in kilobits/s. Default value is 128k.

`q (-V)`

Set quality for experimental VBR support. Maximum value range is from -50 to 50, useful range is from -10 to 10. The higher the value, the better the quality. This option is valid only using the `ffmpeg` command-line tool. For library interface users, use `global_quality`.

`mode (--mode)`

Set the mode of the resulting audio. Possible values:

`'auto'`

Choose mode automatically based on the input. This is the default.

`'stereo'`

Stereo

`'joint_stereo'`

Joint stereo

`'dual_channel'`

Dual channel

`'mono'`

Mono

`psymodel (--psyc-mode)`

Set psychoacoustic model to use in encoding. The argument must be an integer between -1 and 4, inclusive. The higher the value, the better the quality. The default value is 3.

`energy_levels (--energy)`

Enable energy levels extensions when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

`error_protection (--protect)`

Enable CRC error protection when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

`copyright (--copyright)`

Set MPEG audio copyright flag when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

`original` (`--original`)

Set MPEG audio original flag when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

## 8.9 libvo-aacenc

VisualOn AAC encoder.

Requires the presence of the libvo-aacenc headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libvo-aacenc` `--enable-version3`.

This encoder is considered to be worse than the native experimental FFmpeg AAC encoder, according to multiple sources.

### 8.9.1 Options

The VisualOn AAC encoder only support encoding AAC-LC and up to 2 channels. It is also CBR-only.

b

Set bit rate in bits/s.

## 8.10 libvo-amrwbenc

VisualOn Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband encoder.

Requires the presence of the libvo-amrwbenc headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libvo-amrwbenc` `--enable-version3`.

This is a mono-only encoder. Officially it only supports 16000Hz sample rate, but you can override it by setting `strict` to 'unofficial' or lower.

### 8.10.1 Options

b

Set bitrate in bits/s. Only the following bitrates are supported, otherwise libavcodec will round to the nearest valid bitrate.

'6600'  
'8850'  
'12650'  
'14250'  
'15850'

'18250'  
'19850'  
'23050'  
'23850'

dtx

Allow discontinuous transmission (generate comfort noise) when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

## 8.11 libopus

libopus Opus Interactive Audio Codec encoder wrapper.

Requires the presence of the libopus headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libopus`.

### 8.11.1 Option Mapping

Most libopus options are modelled after the `opusenc` utility from `opus-tools`. The following is an option mapping chart describing options supported by the libopus wrapper, and their `opusenc`-equivalent in parentheses.

`b` (*bitrate*)

Set the bit rate in bits/s. FFmpeg's `b` option is expressed in bits/s, while `opusenc`'s `bitrate` in kilobits/s.

`vbr` (*vbr*, *hard-cbr*, and *cvbr*)

Set VBR mode. The FFmpeg `vbr` option has the following valid arguments, with the their `opusenc` equivalent options in parentheses:

'off' (*hard-cbr*)

Use constant bit rate encoding.

'on' (*vbr*)

Use variable bit rate encoding (the default).

'constrained' (*cvbr*)

Use constrained variable bit rate encoding.

`compression_level` (*comp*)

Set encoding algorithm complexity. Valid options are integers in the 0-10 range. 0 gives the fastest encodes but lower quality, while 10 gives the highest quality but slowest encoding. The default is 10.

`frame_duration` (*framesize*)

Set maximum frame size, or duration of a frame in milliseconds. The argument must be exactly the following: 2.5, 5, 10, 20, 40, 60. Smaller frame sizes achieve lower latency but less quality at a given bitrate. Sizes greater than 20ms are only interesting at fairly low bitrates. The default is 20ms.

`packet_loss` (*expect-loss*)

Set expected packet loss percentage. The default is 0.

`application` (N.A.)

Set intended application type. Valid options are listed below:

‘voip’

Favor improved speech intelligibility.

‘audio’

Favor faithfulness to the input (the default).

‘lowdelay’

Restrict to only the lowest delay modes.

`cutoff` (N.A.)

Set cutoff bandwidth in Hz. The argument must be exactly one of the following: 4000, 6000, 8000, 12000, or 20000, corresponding to narrowband, mediumband, wideband, super wideband, and fullband respectively. The default is 0 (cutoff disabled).

## 8.12 libvorbis

libvorbis encoder wrapper.

Requires the presence of the libvorbisenc headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libvorbis`.

### 8.12.1 Options

The following options are supported by the libvorbis wrapper. The oggenc-equivalent of the options are listed in parentheses.

To get a more accurate and extensive documentation of the libvorbis options, consult the libvorbisenc’s and oggenc’s documentations. See <http://xiph.org/vorbis/>, <http://wiki.xiph.org/Vorbis-tools>, and oggenc(1).

**b** (*-b*)

Set bitrate expressed in bits/s for ABR. `oggenc -b` is expressed in kilobits/s.

**q** (*-q*)

Set constant quality setting for VBR. The value should be a float number in the range of -1.0 to 10.0. The higher the value, the better the quality. The default value is '3.0'.

This option is valid only using the `ffmpeg` command-line tool. For library interface users, use `global_quality`.

**cutoff** (*--advanced-encode-option lowpass\_frequency=N*)

Set cutoff bandwidth in Hz, a value of 0 disables cutoff. `oggenc`'s related option is expressed in kHz. The default value is '0' (cutoff disabled).

**minrate** (*-m*)

Set minimum bitrate expressed in bits/s. `oggenc -m` is expressed in kilobits/s.

**maxrate** (*-M*)

Set maximum bitrate expressed in bits/s. `oggenc -M` is expressed in kilobits/s. This only has effect on ABR mode.

**iblock** (*--advanced-encode-option impulse\_noisetune=N*)

Set noise floor bias for impulse blocks. The value is a float number from -15.0 to 0.0. A negative bias instructs the encoder to pay special attention to the crispness of transients in the encoded audio. The tradeoff for better transient response is a higher bitrate.

## 8.13 libwavpack

A wrapper providing WavPack encoding through libwavpack.

Only lossless mode using 32-bit integer samples is supported currently.

Requires the presence of the libwavpack headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libwavpack`.

Note that a libavcodec-native encoder for the WavPack codec exists so users can encode audios with this codec without using this encoder. See `wavpackenc`.

### 8.13.1 Options

wavpack command line utility's corresponding options are listed in parentheses, if any.

`frame_size` (*--blocksize*)

Default is 32768.

`compression_level`

Set speed vs. compression tradeoff. Acceptable arguments are listed below:

'0' (*-f*)

Fast mode.

'1'

Normal (default) settings.

'2' (*-h*)

High quality.

'3' (*-hh*)

Very high quality.

'4-8' (*-hh -xEXTRAPROC*)

Same as '3', but with extra processing enabled.

'4' is the same as *-x2* and '8' is the same as *-x6*.

## 8.14 wavpack

WavPack lossless audio encoder.

This is a libavcodec-native WavPack encoder. There is also an encoder based on libwavpack, but there is virtually no reason to use that encoder.

See also libwavpack.

### 8.14.1 Options

The equivalent options for wavpack command line utility are listed in parentheses.

### 8.14.1.1 Shared options

The following shared options are effective for this encoder. Only special notes about this particular encoder will be documented here. For the general meaning of the options, see the Codec Options chapter.

`frame_size` (*--blocksize*)

For this encoder, the range for this option is between 128 and 131072. Default is automatically decided based on sample rate and number of channel.

For the complete formula of calculating default, see `libavcodec/wavpackenc.c`.

`compression_level` (*-f*, *-h*, *-hh*, and *-x*)

This option's syntax is consistent with `libwavpack`'s.

### 8.14.1.2 Private options

`joint_stereo` (*-j*)

Set whether to enable joint stereo. Valid values are:

`'on (1)'`

Force mid/side audio encoding.

`'off (0)'`

Force left/right audio encoding.

`'auto'`

Let the encoder decide automatically.

`optimize_mono`

Set whether to enable optimization for mono. This option is only effective for non-mono streams. Available values:

`'on'`

enabled

`'off'`

disabled



## 9 Video Encoders

A description of some of the currently available video encoders follows.

### 9.1 libtheora

libtheora Theora encoder wrapper.

Requires the presence of the libtheora headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libtheora`.

For more information about the libtheora project see <http://www.theora.org/>.

#### 9.1.1 Options

The following global options are mapped to internal libtheora options which affect the quality and the bitrate of the encoded stream.

`b`

Set the video bitrate in bit/s for CBR (Constant Bit Rate) mode. In case VBR (Variable Bit Rate) mode is enabled this option is ignored.

`flags`

Used to enable constant quality mode (VBR) encoding through the `qscale` flag, and to enable the `pass1` and `pass2` modes.

`g`

Set the GOP size.

`global_quality`

Set the global quality as an integer in lambda units.

Only relevant when VBR mode is enabled with `flags +qscale`. The value is converted to QP units by dividing it by `FF_QP2LAMBDA`, clipped in the [0 - 10] range, and then multiplied by 6.3 to get a value in the native libtheora range [0-63]. A higher value corresponds to a higher quality.

`q`

Enable VBR mode when set to a non-negative value, and set constant quality value as a double floating point value in QP units.

The value is clipped in the [0-10] range, and then multiplied by 6.3 to get a value in the native libtheora range [0-63].

This option is valid only using the `ffmpeg` command-line tool. For library interface users, use `global_quality`.

### 9.1.2 Examples

- Set maximum constant quality (VBR) encoding with `ffmpeg`:

```
ffmpeg -i INPUT -codec:v libtheora -q:v 10 OUTPUT.ogg
```

- Use `ffmpeg` to convert a CBR 1000 kbps Theora video stream:

```
ffmpeg -i INPUT -codec:v libtheora -b:v 1000k OUTPUT.ogg
```

## 9.2 libvpx

VP8/VP9 format supported through `libvpx`.

Requires the presence of the `libvpx` headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libvpx`.

### 9.2.1 Options

Mapping from `FFmpeg` to `libvpx` options with conversion notes in parentheses.

`threads`

`g_threads`

`profile`

`g_profile`

`vb`

`rc_target_bitrate`

`g`

`kf_max_dist`

`keyint_min`

`kf_min_dist`

`qmin`

`rc_min_quantizer`

qmax

rc\_max\_quantizer

bufsize, vb

rc\_buf\_sz (bufsize \* 1000 / vb)

rc\_buf\_optimal\_sz (bufsize \* 1000 / vb \* 5 / 6)

rc\_init\_occupancy, vb

rc\_buf\_initial\_sz (rc\_init\_occupancy \* 1000 / vb)

rc\_buffer\_aggressivity

rc\_undershoot\_pct

skip\_threshold

rc\_dropframe\_thresh

qcomp

rc\_2pass\_vbr\_bias\_pct

maxrate, vb

rc\_2pass\_vbr\_maxsection\_pct (maxrate \* 100 / vb)

minrate, vb

rc\_2pass\_vbr\_minsection\_pct (minrate \* 100 / vb)

minrate, maxrate, vb

VPX\_CBR (minrate == maxrate == vb)

crf

VPX\_CQ, VP8E\_SET\_CQ\_LEVEL

quality

*best*

VPX\_DL\_BEST\_QUALITY

*good*

VPX\_DL\_GOOD\_QUALITY

*realtime*

VPX\_DL\_REALTIME

speed

VP8E\_SET\_CPUUSED

nr

VP8E\_SET\_NOISE\_SENSITIVITY

mb\_threshold

VP8E\_SET\_STATIC\_THRESHOLD

slices

VP8E\_SET\_TOKEN\_PARTITIONS

max-intra-rate

VP8E\_SET\_MAX\_INTRA\_BITRATE\_PCT

force\_key\_frames

VPX\_EFLAG\_FORCE\_KF

Alternate reference frame related

vp8flags altref

VP8E\_SET\_ENABLEAUTOALTREF

*arnr\_max\_frames*

VP8E\_SET\_ARNR\_MAXFRAMES

*arnr\_type*

VP8E\_SET\_ARNR\_TYPE

*arnr\_strength*

VP8E\_SET\_ARNR\_STRENGTH

*rc\_lookahead*

```
g_lag_in_frames
vp8flags error_resilient
g_error_resilient
aq_mode
VP9E_SET_AQ_MODE
```

For more information about libvpx see: <http://www.webmproject.org/>

## 9.3 libwebp

libwebp WebP Image encoder wrapper

libwebp is Google's official encoder for WebP images. It can encode in either lossy or lossless mode. Lossy images are essentially a wrapper around a VP8 frame. Lossless images are a separate codec developed by Google.

### 9.3.1 Pixel Format

Currently, libwebp only supports YUV420 for lossy and RGB for lossless due to limitations of the format and libwebp. Alpha is supported for either mode. Because of API limitations, if RGB is passed in when encoding lossy or YUV is passed in for encoding lossless, the pixel format will automatically be converted using functions from libwebp. This is not ideal and is done only for convenience.

### 9.3.2 Options

`-lossless boolean`

Enables/Disables use of lossless mode. Default is 0.

`-compression_level integer`

For lossy, this is a quality/speed tradeoff. Higher values give better quality for a given size at the cost of increased encoding time. For lossless, this is a size/speed tradeoff. Higher values give smaller size at the cost of increased encoding time. More specifically, it controls the number of extra algorithms and compression tools used, and varies the combination of these tools. This maps to the *method* option in libwebp. The valid range is 0 to 6. Default is 4.

`-qscale float`

For lossy encoding, this controls image quality, 0 to 100. For lossless encoding, this controls the effort and time spent at compressing more. The default value is 75. Note that for usage via libavcodec, this option is called *global\_quality* and must be multiplied by *FF\_QP2LAMBDA*.

`-preset type`

Configuration preset. This does some automatic settings based on the general type of the image.

`none`

Do not use a preset.

`default`

Use the encoder default.

`picture`

Digital picture, like portrait, inner shot

`photo`

Outdoor photograph, with natural lighting

`drawing`

Hand or line drawing, with high-contrast details

`icon`

Small-sized colorful images

`text`

Text-like

## 9.4 libx264, libx264rgb

x264 H.264/MPEG-4 AVC encoder wrapper.

This encoder requires the presence of the libx264 headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libx264`.

libx264 supports an impressive number of features, including 8x8 and 4x4 adaptive spatial transform, adaptive B-frame placement, CAVLC/CABAC entropy coding, interlacing (MBAFF), lossless mode, psy optimizations for detail retention (adaptive quantization, psy-RD, psy-trellis).

Many libx264 encoder options are mapped to FFmpeg global codec options, while unique encoder options are provided through private options. Additionally the `x264opts` and `x264-params` private options allows one to pass a list of key=value tuples as accepted by the libx264 `x264_param_parse` function.

The x264 project website is at <http://www.videolan.org/developers/x264.html>.

The libx264rgb encoder is the same as libx264, except it accepts packed RGB pixel formats as input instead of YUV.

### 9.4.1 Supported Pixel Formats

x264 supports 8- to 10-bit color spaces. The exact bit depth is controlled at x264's configure time. FFmpeg only supports one bit depth in one particular build. In other words, it is not possible to build one FFmpeg with multiple versions of x264 with different bit depths.

### 9.4.2 Options

The following options are supported by the libx264 wrapper. The x264-equivalent options or values are listed in parentheses for easy migration.

To reduce the duplication of documentation, only the private options and some others requiring special attention are documented here. For the documentation of the undocumented generic options, see the Codec Options chapter.

To get a more accurate and extensive documentation of the libx264 options, invoke the command `x264 --full-help` or consult the libx264 documentation.

`b` (*bitrate*)

Set bitrate in bits/s. Note that FFmpeg's `b` option is expressed in bits/s, while x264's `bitrate` is in kilobits/s.

`bf` (*bframes*)

`g` (*keyint*)

`qmin` (*qpmin*)

Minimum quantizer scale.

`qmax` (*qpmax*)

Maximum quantizer scale.

`qdiff` (*qpstep*)

Maximum difference between quantizer scales.

`qblur` (*qblur*)

Quantizer curve blur

`qcomp` (*qcomp*)

Quantizer curve compression factor

`refs (ref)`

Number of reference frames each P-frame can use. The range is from 0-16.

`sc_threshold (scenecut)`

Sets the threshold for the scene change detection.

`trellis (trellis)`

Performs Trellis quantization to increase efficiency. Enabled by default.

`nr (nr)`

`me_range (merange)`

Maximum range of the motion search in pixels.

`me_method (me)`

Set motion estimation method. Possible values in the decreasing order of speed:

`'dia (dia)'`

`'epzs (dia)'`

Diamond search with radius 1 (fastest). 'epzs' is an alias for 'dia'.

`'hex (hex)'`

Hexagonal search with radius 2.

`'umh (umh)'`

Uneven multi-hexagon search.

`'esa (esa)'`

Exhaustive search.

`'tesa (tesa)'`

Hadamard exhaustive search (slowest).

`subq (subme)`

Sub-pixel motion estimation method.



`b_strategy` (*b-adapt*)

Adaptive B-frame placement decision algorithm. Use only on first-pass.

`keyint_min` (*min-keyint*)

Minimum GOP size.

`coder`

Set entropy encoder. Possible values:

‘ac’

Enable CABAC.

‘vlc’

Enable CAVLC and disable CABAC. It generates the same effect as x264’s `--no-cabac` option.

`cmp`

Set full pixel motion estimation comparison algorithm. Possible values:

‘chroma’

Enable chroma in motion estimation.

‘sad’

Ignore chroma in motion estimation. It generates the same effect as x264’s `--no-chroma-me` option.

`threads` (*threads*)

Number of encoding threads.

`thread_type`

Set multithreading technique. Possible values:

‘slice’

Slice-based multithreading. It generates the same effect as x264’s `--sliced-threads` option.

‘frame’

Frame-based multithreading.

`flags`

Set encoding flags. It can be used to disable closed GOP and enable open GOP by setting it to `-cgop`. The result is similar to the behavior of x264's `--open-gop` option.

`rc_init_occupancy (vbv-init)`  
`preset (preset)`

Set the encoding preset.

`tune (tune)`

Set tuning of the encoding params.

`profile (profile)`

Set profile restrictions.

`fastfirstpass`

Enable fast settings when encoding first pass, when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect of x264's `--slow-firstpass` option.

`crf (crf)`

Set the quality for constant quality mode.

`crf_max (crf-max)`

In CRF mode, prevents VBV from lowering quality beyond this point.

`qp (qp)`

Set constant quantization rate control method parameter.

`aq-mode (aq-mode)`

Set AQ method. Possible values:

`'none (0)'`

Disabled.

`'variance (1)'`

Variance AQ (complexity mask).

`'autovariance (2)'`

Auto-variance AQ (experimental).

`aq-strength (aq-strength)`

Set AQ strength, reduce blocking and blurring in flat and textured areas.

`psy`

Use psychovisual optimizations when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect as x264's `--no-psy` option.

`psy-rd (psy-rd)`

Set strength of psychovisual optimization, in *psy-rd:psy-trellis* format.

`rc-lookahead (rc-lookahead)`

Set number of frames to look ahead for frametype and ratecontrol.

`weightb`

Enable weighted prediction for B-frames when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect as x264's `--no-weightb` option.

`weightp (weightp)`

Set weighted prediction method for P-frames. Possible values:

`'none (0)'`

Disabled

`'simple (1)'`

Enable only weighted refs

`'smart (2)'`

Enable both weighted refs and duplicates

`ssim (ssim)`

Enable calculation and printing SSIM stats after the encoding.

`intra-refresh (intra-refresh)`

Enable the use of Periodic Intra Refresh instead of IDR frames when set to 1.

`avcintra-class` (*class*)

Configure the encoder to generate AVC-Intra. Valid values are 50,100 and 200

`bluray-compat` (*bluray-compat*)

Configure the encoder to be compatible with the bluray standard. It is a shorthand for setting "bluray-compat=1 force-cfr=1".

`b-bias` (*b-bias*)

Set the influence on how often B-frames are used.

`b-pyramid` (*b-pyramid*)

Set method for keeping of some B-frames as references. Possible values:

`'none'` (*none*)

Disabled.

`'strict'` (*strict*)

Strictly hierarchical pyramid.

`'normal'` (*normal*)

Non-strict (not Blu-ray compatible).

`mixed-refs`

Enable the use of one reference per partition, as opposed to one reference per macroblock when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect as x264's `--no-mixed-refs` option.

`8x8dct`

Enable adaptive spatial transform (high profile 8x8 transform) when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect as x264's `--no-8x8dct` option.

`fast-pskip`

Enable early SKIP detection on P-frames when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect as x264's `--no-fast-pskip` option.

`aud` (*aud*)

Enable use of access unit delimiters when set to 1.

`mbtree`

Enable use macroblock tree ratecontrol when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect as `x264's --no-mbtree` option.

`deblock` (*deblock*)

Set loop filter parameters, in *alpha:beta* form.

`cplxblur` (*cplxblur*)

Set fluctuations reduction in QP (before curve compression).

`partitions` (*partitions*)

Set partitions to consider as a comma-separated list of. Possible values in the list:

`'p8x8'`

8x8 P-frame partition.

`'p4x4'`

4x4 P-frame partition.

`'b8x8'`

4x4 B-frame partition.

`'i8x8'`

8x8 I-frame partition.

`'i4x4'`

4x4 I-frame partition. (Enabling `'p4x4'` requires `'p8x8'` to be enabled. Enabling `'i8x8'` requires adaptive spatial transform (`8x8dct` option) to be enabled.)

`'none` (*none*)'

Do not consider any partitions.

`'all` (*all*)'

Consider every partition.

`direct-pred` (*direct*)

Set direct MV prediction mode. Possible values:

`'none' (none)`

Disable MV prediction.

`'spatial' (spatial)`

Enable spatial predicting.

`'temporal' (temporal)`

Enable temporal predicting.

`'auto' (auto)`

Automatically decided.

`slice-max-size` (*slice-max-size*)

Set the limit of the size of each slice in bytes. If not specified but RTP payload size (ps) is specified, that is used.

`stats` (*stats*)

Set the file name for multi-pass stats.

`nal-hrd` (*nal-hrd*)

Set signal HRD information (requires `vbr-bufsize` to be set). Possible values:

`'none' (none)`

Disable HRD information signaling.

`'vbr' (vbr)`

Variable bit rate.

`'cbr' (cbr)`

Constant bit rate (not allowed in MP4 container).

`x264opts` (N.A.)

Set any x264 option, see `x264 --fullhelp` for a list.

Argument is a list of *key=value* couples separated by ":". In *filter* and *psy-rd* options that use ":" as a separator themselves, use "," instead. They accept it as well since long ago but this is kept undocumented for some reason.

For example to specify libx264 encoding options with `ffmpeg`:

```
ffmpeg -i foo.mpg -vcodec libx264 -x264opts keyint=123:min-keyint=20 -an out.mkv
```

`x264-params` (N.A.)

Override the x264 configuration using a `:`-separated list of `key=value` parameters.

This option is functionally the same as the `x264opts`, but is duplicated for compatibility with the Libav fork.

For example to specify libx264 encoding options with `ffmpeg`:

```
ffmpeg -i INPUT -c:v libx264 -x264-params level=30:bframes=0:weightp=0:\
cabac=0:ref=1:vbv-maxrate=768:vbv-bufsize=2000:analyse=all:me=umh:\
no-fast-pskip=1:subq=6:8x8dct=0:trellis=0 OUTPUT
```

Encoding `ffpresets` for common usages are provided so they can be used with the general presets system (e.g. passing the `pre` option).

## 9.5 libx265

x265 H.265/HEVC encoder wrapper.

This encoder requires the presence of the libx265 headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libx265`.

### 9.5.1 Options

`preset`

Set the x265 preset.

`tune`

Set the x265 tune parameter.

`x265-params`

Set x265 options using a list of *key=value* couples separated by ":". See `x265 --help` for a list of options.

For example to specify libx265 encoding options with `-x265-params`:

```
ffmpeg -i input -c:v libx265 -x265-params crf=26:psy-rd=1 output.mp4
```

## 9.6 libxvid

Xvid MPEG-4 Part 2 encoder wrapper.

This encoder requires the presence of the libxvidcore headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libxvid` `--enable-gpl`.

The native `mpeg4` encoder supports the MPEG-4 Part 2 format, so users can encode to this format without this library.

### 9.6.1 Options

The following options are supported by the libxvid wrapper. Some of the following options are listed but are not documented, and correspond to shared codec options. See the Codec Options chapter for their documentation. The other shared options which are not listed have no effect for the libxvid encoder.

b  
g  
qmin  
qmax  
mpeg\_quant  
threads  
bf  
b\_qfactor  
b\_qoffset  
flags

Set specific encoding flags. Possible values:

`'mv4'`

Use four motion vector by macroblock.

`'aic'`

Enable high quality AC prediction.

`'gray'`

Only encode grayscale.

`'gmc'`

Enable the use of global motion compensation (GMC).



`'qpel'`

Enable quarter-pixel motion compensation.

`'cgop'`

Enable closed GOP.

`'global_header'`

Place global headers in extradata instead of every keyframe.

`trellis`

`me_method`

Set motion estimation method. Possible values in decreasing order of speed and increasing order of quality:

`'zero'`

Use no motion estimation (default).

`'phods'`

`'x1'`

`'log'`

Enable advanced diamond zonal search for 16x16 blocks and half-pixel refinement for 16x16 blocks. `'x1'` and `'log'` are aliases for `'phods'`.

`'epzs'`

Enable all of the things described above, plus advanced diamond zonal search for 8x8 blocks, half-pixel refinement for 8x8 blocks, and motion estimation on chroma planes.

`'full'`

Enable all of the things described above, plus extended 16x16 and 8x8 blocks search.

`mbd`

Set macroblock decision algorithm. Possible values in the increasing order of quality:

`'simple'`

Use macroblock comparing function algorithm (default).

`'bits'`

Enable rate distortion-based half pixel and quarter pixel refinement for 16x16 blocks.

`'rd'`

Enable all of the things described above, plus rate distortion-based half pixel and quarter pixel refinement for 8x8 blocks, and rate distortion-based search using square pattern.

`lumi_aq`

Enable lumi masking adaptive quantization when set to 1. Default is 0 (disabled).

`variance_aq`

Enable variance adaptive quantization when set to 1. Default is 0 (disabled).

When combined with `lumi_aq`, the resulting quality will not be better than any of the two specified individually. In other words, the resulting quality will be the worse one of the two effects.

`ssim`

Set structural similarity (SSIM) displaying method. Possible values:

`'off'`

Disable displaying of SSIM information.

`'avg'`

Output average SSIM at the end of encoding to stdout. The format of showing the average SSIM is:

Average SSIM: %f

For users who are not familiar with C, %f means a float number, or a decimal (e.g. 0.939232).

`'frame'`

Output both per-frame SSIM data during encoding and average SSIM at the end of encoding to stdout. The format of per-frame information is:

SSIM: avg: %1.3f min: %1.3f max: %1.3f

For users who are not familiar with C, %1.3f means a float number rounded to 3 digits after the dot (e.g. 0.932).

`ssim_acc`

Set SSIM accuracy. Valid options are integers within the range of 0-4, while 0 gives the most accurate result and 4 computes the fastest.

## 9.7 mpeg2

MPEG-2 video encoder.

### 9.7.1 Options

`seq_disp_ext` *integer*

Specifies if the encoder should write a `sequence_display_extension` to the output.

-1

auto

Decide automatically to write it or not (this is the default) by checking if the data to be written is different from the default or unspecified values.

0

never

Never write it.

1

always

Always write it.

## 9.8 png

PNG image encoder.

### 9.8.1 Private options

`dpi` *integer*

Set physical density of pixels, in dots per inch, unset by default

`dpm` *integer*

Set physical density of pixels, in dots per meter, unset by default

## 9.9 ProRes

Apple ProRes encoder.

FFmpeg contains 2 ProRes encoders, the `prores-aw` and `prores-ks` encoder. The used encoder can be chosen with the `-vcodec` option.

## 9.9.1 Private Options for prores-ks

`profile integer`

Select the ProRes profile to encode

‘proxy’  
‘lt’  
‘standard’  
‘hq’  
‘4444’

`quant_mat integer`

Select quantization matrix.

‘auto’  
‘default’  
‘proxy’  
‘lt’  
‘standard’  
‘hq’

If set to *auto*, the matrix matching the profile will be picked. If not set, the matrix providing the highest quality, *default*, will be picked.

`bits_per_mb integer`

How many bits to allot for coding one macroblock. Different profiles use between 200 and 2400 bits per macroblock, the maximum is 8000.

`mbs_per_slice integer`

Number of macroblocks in each slice (1-8); the default value (8) should be good in almost all situations.

`vendor string`

Override the 4-byte vendor ID. A custom vendor ID like *apl0* would claim the stream was produced by the Apple encoder.

`alpha_bits integer`

Specify number of bits for alpha component. Possible values are 0, 8 and 16. Use 0 to disable alpha plane coding.

## 9.9.2 Speed considerations

In the default mode of operation the encoder has to honor frame constraints (i.e. not produce frames with size bigger than requested) while still making output picture as good as possible. A frame containing a lot of small details is harder to compress and the encoder would spend more time searching for appropriate quantizers for each slice.

Setting a higher `bits_per_mb` limit will improve the speed.

For the fastest encoding speed set the `qscale` parameter (4 is the recommended value) and do not set a size constraint.

## 10 Subtitles Encoders

### 10.1 dvdsub

This codec encodes the bitmap subtitle format that is used in DVDs. Typically they are stored in VOBSUB file pairs (\*.idx + \*.sub), and they can also be used in Matroska files.

#### 10.1.1 Options

`even_rows_fix`

When set to 1, enable a work-around that makes the number of pixel rows even in all subtitles. This fixes a problem with some players that cut off the bottom row if the number is odd. The work-around just adds a fully transparent row if needed. The overhead is low, typically one byte per subtitle on average.

By default, this work-around is disabled.

## 11 See Also

ffmpeg, ffplay, ffprobe, ffserver, libavcodec

## 12 Authors

The FFmpeg developers.

For details about the authorship, see the Git history of the project ([git://source.ffmpeg.org/ffmpeg](http://source.ffmpeg.org/ffmpeg)), e.g. by typing the command `git log` in the FFmpeg source directory, or browsing the online repository at <http://source.ffmpeg.org>.

Maintainers for the specific components are listed in the file MAINTAINERS in the source code tree.

This document was generated on *December 18, 2014* using *makeinfo*.

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# 1 Description

This document describes the codecs (decoders and encoders) provided by the libavcodec library.

## 2 Codec Options

libavcodec provides some generic global options, which can be set on all the encoders and decoders. In addition each codec may support so-called private options, which are specific for a given codec.

Sometimes, a global option may only affect a specific kind of codec, and may be unsensical or ignored by another, so you need to be aware of the meaning of the specified options. Also some options are meant only for decoding or encoding.

Options may be set by specifying *-option value* in the FFmpeg tools, or by setting the value explicitly in the `AVCodecContext` options or using the `libavutil/opt.h` API for programmatic use.

The list of supported options follow:

*b integer (encoding, audio, video)*

Set bitrate in bits/s. Default value is 200K.

*ab integer (encoding, audio)*

Set audio bitrate (in bits/s). Default value is 128K.

*bt integer (encoding, video)*

Set video bitrate tolerance (in bits/s). In 1-pass mode, bitrate tolerance specifies how far ratecontrol is willing to deviate from the target average bitrate value. This is not related to min/max bitrate.

Lowering tolerance too much has an adverse effect on quality.

*flags flags (decoding/encoding, audio, video, subtitles)*

Set generic flags.

Possible values:

`'mv4'`

Use four motion vector by macroblock (mpeg4).

`'qpel'`

Use 1/4 pel motion compensation.

`'loop'`

Use loop filter.

`'qscale'`

Use fixed qscale.

`'gmc'`

Use gmc.

`'mv0'`

Always try a mb with mv=<0,0>.

`'input_preserved'`

`'pass1'`

Use internal 2pass ratecontrol in first pass mode.

`'pass2'`

Use internal 2pass ratecontrol in second pass mode.

`'gray'`

Only decode/encode grayscale.

`'emu_edge'`

Do not draw edges.

`'psnr'`

Set error[?] variables during encoding.

`'truncated'`  
`'naq'`

Normalize adaptive quantization.

`'ildct'`

Use interlaced DCT.

`'low_delay'`

Force low delay.

`'global_header'`

Place global headers in extradata instead of every keyframe.

`'bitexact'`

Only write platform-, build- and time-independent data. (except (I)DCT). This ensures that file and data checksums are reproducible and match between platforms. Its primary use is for regression testing.

`'aic'`

Apply H263 advanced intra coding / mpeg4 ac prediction.

`'cbp'`

Deprecated, use mpegvideo private options instead.

`'qprd'`

Deprecated, use mpegvideo private options instead.

`'ilme'`

Apply interlaced motion estimation.

`'cgop'`

Use closed gop.

`me_method integer (encoding, video)`

Set motion estimation method.

Possible values:

`'zero'`

zero motion estimation (fastest)

`'full'`

full motion estimation (slowest)

`'epzs'`

EPZS motion estimation (default)

`'esa'`

esa motion estimation (alias for full)

`'tesa'`

tesa motion estimation

`'dia'`

dia motion estimation (alias for epzs)

`'log'`

log motion estimation

`'phods'`

phods motion estimation

`'x1'`

X1 motion estimation

`'hex'`

hex motion estimation

`'umh'`

umh motion estimation

`'iter'`

iter motion estimation

`extradata_size integer`

Set extradata size.

*time\_base rational number*

Set codec time base.

It is the fundamental unit of time (in seconds) in terms of which frame timestamps are represented. For fixed-fps content, timebase should be  $1 / \text{frame\_rate}$  and timestamp increments should be identically 1.

*g integer (encoding,video)*

Set the group of picture size. Default value is 12.

*ar integer (decoding/encoding,audio)*

Set audio sampling rate (in Hz).

*ac integer (decoding/encoding,audio)*

Set number of audio channels.

*cutoff integer (encoding,audio)*

Set cutoff bandwidth.

*frame\_size integer (encoding,audio)*

Set audio frame size.

Each submitted frame except the last must contain exactly *frame\_size* samples per channel. May be 0 when the codec has CODEC\_CAP\_VARIABLE\_FRAME\_SIZE set, in that case the frame size is not restricted. It is set by some decoders to indicate constant frame size.

*frame\_number integer*

Set the frame number.

*delay integer*

*qcomp float (encoding,video)*

Set video quantizer scale compression (VBR). It is used as a constant in the ratecontrol equation. Recommended range for default rc\_eq: 0.0-1.0.

*qblur float (encoding,video)*

Set video quantizer scale blur (VBR).

*qmin integer (encoding,video)*

Set min video quantizer scale (VBR). Must be included between -1 and 69, default value is 2.

*qmax integer (encoding,video)*

Set max video quantizer scale (VBR). Must be included between -1 and 1024, default value is 31.

*qdiff integer (encoding,video)*

Set max difference between the quantizer scale (VBR).

*bf integer (encoding,video)*

Set max number of B frames between non-B-frames.

Must be an integer between -1 and 16. 0 means that B-frames are disabled. If a value of -1 is used, it will choose an automatic value depending on the encoder.

Default value is 0.

*b\_qfactor float (encoding,video)*

Set qp factor between P and B frames.

*rc\_strategy integer (encoding,video)*

Set ratecontrol method.

*b\_strategy integer (encoding,video)*

Set strategy to choose between I/P/B-frames.

*ps integer (encoding,video)*

Set RTP payload size in bytes.

*mv\_bits integer*

*header\_bits integer*

*i\_tex\_bits integer*

*p\_tex\_bits integer*

*i\_count integer*

*p\_count integer*

*skip\_count integer*

*misc\_bits integer*

*frame\_bits integer*

*codec\_tag integer*

*bug flags (decoding,video)*

Workaround not auto detected encoder bugs.

Possible values:

`'autodetect'`

`'old_msmpeg4'`

some old lavc generated msmpeg4v3 files (no autodetection)

`'xvid_ilace'`

Xvid interlacing bug (autodetected if fourcc==XVIX)

`'ump4'`

(autodetected if fourcc==UMP4)

`'no_padding'`

padding bug (autodetected)

`'amv'`

`'ac_vlc'`

illegal vlc bug (autodetected per fourcc)

`'qpel_chroma'`

`'std_qpel'`

old standard qpel (autodetected per fourcc/version)

`'qpel_chroma2'`

`'direct_blocksize'`

direct-qpel-blocksize bug (autodetected per fourcc/version)

`'edge'`

edge padding bug (autodetected per fourcc/version)

`'hpel_chroma'`

`'dc_clip'`

`'ms'`

Workaround various bugs in microsoft broken decoders.

`'trunc'`

truncated frames

`lelim integer (encoding,video)`

Set single coefficient elimination threshold for luminance (negative values also consider DC coefficient).

`celim integer (encoding,video)`

Set single coefficient elimination threshold for chrominance (negative values also consider dc coefficient)

`strict integer (decoding/encoding,audio,video)`

Specify how strictly to follow the standards.

Possible values:

`'very'`

strictly conform to a older more strict version of the spec or reference software

`'strict'`

strictly conform to all the things in the spec no matter what consequences

`'normal'`

`'unofficial'`

allow unofficial extensions

`'experimental'`

allow non standardized experimental things, experimental (unfinished/work in progress/not well tested) decoders and encoders. Note: experimental decoders can pose a security risk, do not use this for decoding untrusted input.

`b_qoffset float (encoding,video)`

Set QP offset between P and B frames.

`err_detect flags (decoding,audio,video)`

Set error detection flags.

Possible values:

`'crccheck'`



verify embedded CRCs

`'bitstream'`

detect bitstream specification deviations

`'buffer'`

detect improper bitstream length

`'explode'`

abort decoding on minor error detection

`'ignore_err'`

ignore decoding errors, and continue decoding. This is useful if you want to analyze the content of a video and thus want everything to be decoded no matter what. This option will not result in a video that is pleasing to watch in case of errors.

`'careful'`

consider things that violate the spec and have not been seen in the wild as errors

`'compliant'`

consider all spec non compliances as errors

`'aggressive'`

consider things that a sane encoder should not do as an error

`has_b_frames integer`

`block_align integer`

`mpeg_quant integer (encoding,video)`

Use MPEG quantizers instead of H.263.

`qsquish float (encoding,video)`

How to keep quantizer between qmin and qmax (0 = clip, 1 = use differentiable function).

`rc_qmod_amp float (encoding,video)`

Set experimental quantizer modulation.

`rc_qmod_freq integer (encoding,video)`

Set experimental quantizer modulation.

```
rc_override_count integer  
rc_eq string (encoding,video)
```

Set rate control equation. When computing the expression, besides the standard functions defined in the section 'Expression Evaluation', the following functions are available: bits2qp(bits), qp2bits(qp). Also the following constants are available: iTex pTex tex mv fCode iCount mcVar var isI isP isB avgQP qComp avgIITex avgPITex avgPPTex avgBPTex avgTex.

```
maxrate integer (encoding,audio,video)
```

Set max bitrate tolerance (in bits/s). Requires bufsize to be set.

```
minrate integer (encoding,audio,video)
```

Set min bitrate tolerance (in bits/s). Most useful in setting up a CBR encode. It is of little use otherwise.

```
bufsize integer (encoding,audio,video)
```

Set ratecontrol buffer size (in bits).

```
rc_buf_aggressivity float (encoding,video)
```

Currently useless.

```
i_qfactor float (encoding,video)
```

Set QP factor between P and I frames.

```
i_qoffset float (encoding,video)
```

Set QP offset between P and I frames.

```
rc_init_cplx float (encoding,video)
```

Set initial complexity for 1-pass encoding.

```
dct integer (encoding,video)
```

Set DCT algorithm.

Possible values:

'auto'

autoselect a good one (default)

`'fastint'`

fast integer

`'int'`

accurate integer

`'mmx'`

`'altivec'`

`'faan'`

floating point AAN DCT

`lumi_mask float (encoding,video)`

Compress bright areas stronger than medium ones.

`tcplx_mask float (encoding,video)`

Set temporal complexity masking.

`scplx_mask float (encoding,video)`

Set spatial complexity masking.

`p_mask float (encoding,video)`

Set inter masking.

`dark_mask float (encoding,video)`

Compress dark areas stronger than medium ones.

`idct integer (decoding/encoding,video)`

Select IDCT implementation.

Possible values:

`'auto'`

`'int'`

`'simple'`

`'simplemmx'`

`'simpleauto'`

Automatically pick a IDCT compatible with the simple one

`'arm'`  
`'altivec'`  
`'sh4'`  
`'simplearm'`  
`'simplearmv5te'`  
`'simplearmv6'`  
`'simpleneon'`  
`'simplealpha'`  
`'ipp'`  
`'xvidmmx'`  
`'faani'`

floating point AAN IDCT

`slice_count` *integer*  
`ec flags` (*decoding,video*)

Set error concealment strategy.

Possible values:

`'guess_mvs'`

iterative motion vector (MV) search (slow)

`'deblock'`

use strong deblock filter for damaged MBs

`'favor_inter'`

favor predicting from the previous frame instead of the current

`bits_per_coded_sample` *integer*  
`pred` *integer* (*encoding,video*)

Set prediction method.

Possible values:

`'left'`

`'plane'`

`'median'`

`aspect` *rational number* (*encoding,video*)

Set sample aspect ratio.

`debug flags (decoding/encoding,audio,video,subtitles)`

Print specific debug info.

Possible values:

`'pict'`

picture info

`'rc'`

rate control

`'bitstream'`

`'mb_type'`

macroblock (MB) type

`'qp'`

per-block quantization parameter (QP)

`'mv'`

motion vector

`'dct_coeff'`

`'skip'`

`'startcode'`

`'pts'`

`'er'`

error recognition

`'mmco'`

memory management control operations (H.264)

`'bugs'`

`'vis_qp'`

visualize quantization parameter (QP), lower QP are tinted greener

`'vis_mb_type'`

visualize block types

`'buffers'`

picture buffer allocations

`'thread_ops'`

threading operations

`vismv integer (decoding,video)`

Visualize motion vectors (MVs).

This option is deprecated, see the codecview filter instead.

Possible values:

`'pf'`

forward predicted MVs of P-frames

`'bf'`

forward predicted MVs of B-frames

`'bb'`

backward predicted MVs of B-frames

`cmp integer (encoding,video)`

Set full pel me compare function.

Possible values:

`'sad'`

sum of absolute differences, fast (default)

`'sse'`

sum of squared errors

`'satd'`

sum of absolute Hadamard transformed differences

`'dct'`

sum of absolute DCT transformed differences

‘psnr’

sum of squared quantization errors (avoid, low quality)

‘bit’

number of bits needed for the block

‘rd’

rate distortion optimal, slow

‘zero’

0

‘vsad’

sum of absolute vertical differences

‘vsse’

sum of squared vertical differences

‘nsse’

noise preserving sum of squared differences

‘w53’

5/3 wavelet, only used in snow

‘w97’

9/7 wavelet, only used in snow

‘dctmax’

‘chroma’

`subcmp integer (encoding, video)`

Set sub pel me compare function.

Possible values:

‘sad’

sum of absolute differences, fast (default)

`'sse'`

sum of squared errors

`'satd'`

sum of absolute Hadamard transformed differences

`'dct'`

sum of absolute DCT transformed differences

`'psnr'`

sum of squared quantization errors (avoid, low quality)

`'bit'`

number of bits needed for the block

`'rd'`

rate distortion optimal, slow

`'zero'`

0

`'vsad'`

sum of absolute vertical differences

`'vsse'`

sum of squared vertical differences

`'nsse'`

noise preserving sum of squared differences

`'w53'`

5/3 wavelet, only used in snow

`'w97'`



9/7 wavelet, only used in snow

`'dctmax'`

`'chroma'`

`mbcmp integer (encoding, video)`

Set macroblock compare function.

Possible values:

`'sad'`

sum of absolute differences, fast (default)

`'sse'`

sum of squared errors

`'satd'`

sum of absolute Hadamard transformed differences

`'dct'`

sum of absolute DCT transformed differences

`'psnr'`

sum of squared quantization errors (avoid, low quality)

`'bit'`

number of bits needed for the block

`'rd'`

rate distortion optimal, slow

`'zero'`

0

`'vsad'`

sum of absolute vertical differences

`'vsse'`

sum of squared vertical differences

‘nsse’

noise preserving sum of squared differences

‘w53’

5/3 wavelet, only used in snow

‘w97’

9/7 wavelet, only used in snow

‘dctmax’

‘chroma’

`ildctcmp integer (encoding, video)`

Set interlaced dct compare function.

Possible values:

‘sad’

sum of absolute differences, fast (default)

‘sse’

sum of squared errors

‘satd’

sum of absolute Hadamard transformed differences

‘dct’

sum of absolute DCT transformed differences

‘psnr’

sum of squared quantization errors (avoid, low quality)

‘bit’

number of bits needed for the block

‘rd’

rate distortion optimal, slow

‘zero’

0

‘vsad’

sum of absolute vertical differences

‘vsse’

sum of squared vertical differences

‘nsse’

noise preserving sum of squared differences

‘w53’

5/3 wavelet, only used in snow

‘w97’

9/7 wavelet, only used in snow

‘dctmax’

‘chroma’

*dia\_size integer (encoding,video)*

Set diamond type & size for motion estimation.

*last\_pred integer (encoding,video)*

Set amount of motion predictors from the previous frame.

*preme integer (encoding,video)*

Set pre motion estimation.

*precmp integer (encoding,video)*

Set pre motion estimation compare function.

Possible values:

‘sad’

sum of absolute differences, fast (default)

`'sse'`

sum of squared errors

`'satd'`

sum of absolute Hadamard transformed differences

`'dct'`

sum of absolute DCT transformed differences

`'psnr'`

sum of squared quantization errors (avoid, low quality)

`'bit'`

number of bits needed for the block

`'rd'`

rate distortion optimal, slow

`'zero'`

0

`'vsad'`

sum of absolute vertical differences

`'vsse'`

sum of squared vertical differences

`'nsse'`

noise preserving sum of squared differences

`'w53'`

5/3 wavelet, only used in snow

`'w97'`

9/7 wavelet, only used in snow

'dctmax'

'chroma'

pre\_dia\_size *integer (encoding,video)*

Set diamond type & size for motion estimation pre-pass.

subq *integer (encoding,video)*

Set sub pel motion estimation quality.

dtg\_active\_format *integer*

me\_range *integer (encoding,video)*

Set limit motion vectors range (1023 for DivX player).

ibias *integer (encoding,video)*

Set intra quant bias.

pbias *integer (encoding,video)*

Set inter quant bias.

color\_table\_id *integer*

global\_quality *integer (encoding,audio,video)*

coder *integer (encoding,video)*

Possible values:

'vlc'

variable length coder / huffman coder

'ac'

arithmetic coder

'raw'

raw (no encoding)

'rle'

run-length coder

'deflate'

deflate-based coder

*context integer (encoding,video)*

Set context model.

*slice\_flags integer*

*xvmc\_acceleration integer*

*mbd integer (encoding,video)*

Set macroblock decision algorithm (high quality mode).

Possible values:

‘simple’

use mbcmp (default)

‘bits’

use fewest bits

‘rd’

use best rate distortion

*stream\_codec\_tag integer*

*sc\_threshold integer (encoding,video)*

Set scene change threshold.

*lmin integer (encoding,video)*

Set min lagrange factor (VBR).

*lmax integer (encoding,video)*

Set max lagrange factor (VBR).

*nr integer (encoding,video)*

Set noise reduction.

*rc\_init\_occupancy integer (encoding,video)*

Set number of bits which should be loaded into the rc buffer before decoding starts.

*flags2 flags (decoding/encoding,audio,video)*

Possible values:

`'fast'`

Allow non spec compliant speedup tricks.

`'sgop'`

Deprecated, use mpegvideo private options instead.

`'noout'`

Skip bitstream encoding.

`'ignorecrop'`

Ignore cropping information from sps.

`'local_header'`

Place global headers at every keyframe instead of in extradata.

`'chunks'`

Frame data might be split into multiple chunks.

`'showall'`

Show all frames before the first keyframe.

`'skiprd'`

Deprecated, use mpegvideo private options instead.

`'export_mvs'`

Export motion vectors into frame side-data (see AV\_FRAME\_DATA\_MOTION\_VECTORS) for codecs that support it. See also `doc/examples/export_mvs.c`.

`error integer (encoding, video)`

`qns integer (encoding, video)`

Deprecated, use mpegvideo private options instead.

`threads integer (decoding/encoding, video)`

Possible values:

`'auto'`

detect a good number of threads

`me_threshold integer (encoding,video)`

Set motion estimation threshold.

`mb_threshold integer (encoding,video)`

Set macroblock threshold.

`dc integer (encoding,video)`

Set intra\_dc\_precision.

`nssew integer (encoding,video)`

Set nsse weight.

`skip_top integer (decoding,video)`

Set number of macroblock rows at the top which are skipped.

`skip_bottom integer (decoding,video)`

Set number of macroblock rows at the bottom which are skipped.

`profile integer (encoding,audio,video)`

Possible values:

`'unknown'`

`'aac_main'`

`'aac_low'`

`'aac_ssr'`

`'aac_ltp'`

`'aac_he'`

`'aac_he_v2'`

`'aac_ld'`

`'aac_eld'`

`'mpeg2_aac_low'`

`'mpeg2_aac_he'`

`'dts'`

`'dts_es'`

`'dts_96_24'`

`'dts_hd_hra'`



`'dts_hd_ma'`  
`level integer (encoding, audio, video)`

Possible values:

`'unknown'`  
`lowres integer (decoding, audio, video)`

Decode at 1= 1/2, 2=1/4, 3=1/8 resolutions.

`skip_threshold integer (encoding, video)`

Set frame skip threshold.

`skip_factor integer (encoding, video)`

Set frame skip factor.

`skip_exp integer (encoding, video)`

Set frame skip exponent. Negative values behave identical to the corresponding positive ones, except that the score is normalized. Positive values exist primarily for compatibility reasons and are not so useful.

`skipcmp integer (encoding, video)`

Set frame skip compare function.

Possible values:

`'sad'`  
sum of absolute differences, fast (default)

`'sse'`  
sum of squared errors

`'satd'`  
sum of absolute Hadamard transformed differences

`'dct'`  
sum of absolute DCT transformed differences

`'psnr'`

sum of squared quantization errors (avoid, low quality)

`'bit'`

number of bits needed for the block

`'rd'`

rate distortion optimal, slow

`'zero'`

0

`'vsad'`

sum of absolute vertical differences

`'vsse'`

sum of squared vertical differences

`'nsse'`

noise preserving sum of squared differences

`'w53'`

5/3 wavelet, only used in snow

`'w97'`

9/7 wavelet, only used in snow

`'dctmax'`

`'chroma'`

`border_mask float (encoding, video)`

Increase the quantizer for macroblocks close to borders.

`mb_lmin integer (encoding, video)`

Set min macroblock lagrange factor (VBR).

`mb_lmax integer (encoding, video)`

Set max macroblock lagrange factor (VBR).

`mepc integer (encoding,video)`

Set motion estimation bitrate penalty compensation ( $1.0 = 256$ ).

`skip_loop_filter integer (decoding,video)`

`skip_idct integer (decoding,video)`

`skip_frame integer (decoding,video)`

Make decoder discard processing depending on the frame type selected by the option value.

`skip_loop_filter` skips frame loop filtering, `skip_idct` skips frame IDCT/dequantization, `skip_frame` skips decoding.

Possible values:

‘none’

Discard no frame.

‘default’

Discard useless frames like 0-sized frames.

‘noref’

Discard all non-reference frames.

‘bidir’

Discard all bidirectional frames.

‘nokey’

Discard all frames excepts keyframes.

‘all’

Discard all frames.

Default value is ‘default’.

`bidir_refine integer (encoding,video)`

Refine the two motion vectors used in bidirectional macroblocks.

`brd_scale integer (encoding,video)`

Downscale frames for dynamic B-frame decision.

`keyint_min integer (encoding,video)`

Set minimum interval between IDR-frames.

`refs integer (encoding,video)`

Set reference frames to consider for motion compensation.

`chromaoffset integer (encoding,video)`

Set chroma qp offset from luma.

`trellis integer (encoding,audio,video)`

Set rate-distortion optimal quantization.

`sc_factor integer (encoding,video)`

Set value multiplied by qscale for each frame and added to scene\_change\_score.

`mv0_threshold integer (encoding,video)`

`b_sensitivity integer (encoding,video)`

Adjust sensitivity of b\_frame\_strategy 1.

`compression_level integer (encoding,audio,video)`

`min_prediction_order integer (encoding,audio)`

`max_prediction_order integer (encoding,audio)`

`timecode_frame_start integer (encoding,video)`

Set GOP timecode frame start number, in non drop frame format.

`request_channels integer (decoding,audio)`

Set desired number of audio channels.

`bits_per_raw_sample integer`

`channel_layout integer (decoding/encoding,audio)`

Possible values:

`request_channel_layout integer (decoding,audio)`

Possible values:

`rc_max_vbv_use float (encoding,video)`

`rc_min_vbv_use float (encoding,video)`

`ticks_per_frame integer (decoding/encoding,audio,video)`

`color_primaries integer (decoding/encoding,video)`  
`color_trc integer (decoding/encoding,video)`  
`colourspace integer (decoding/encoding,video)`  
`color_range integer (decoding/encoding,video)`  
`chroma_sample_location integer (decoding/encoding,video)`  
`log_level_offset integer`

Set the log level offset.

`slices integer (encoding,video)`

Number of slices, used in parallelized encoding.

`thread_type flags (decoding/encoding,video)`

Select which multithreading methods to use.

Use of 'frame' will increase decoding delay by one frame per thread, so clients which cannot provide future frames should not use it.

Possible values:

'slice'

Decode more than one part of a single frame at once.

Multithreading using slices works only when the video was encoded with slices.

'frame'

Decode more than one frame at once.

Default value is 'slice+frame'.

`audio_service_type integer (encoding,audio)`

Set audio service type.

Possible values:

'ma'

Main Audio Service

'ef'

Effects

‘vi’

Visually Impaired

‘hi’

Hearing Impaired

‘di’

Dialogue

‘co’

Commentary

‘em’

Emergency

‘vo’

Voice Over

‘ka’

Karaoke

`request_sample_fmt sample_fmt (decoding, audio)`

Set sample format audio decoders should prefer. Default value is none.

`pkt_timebase rational number`

`sub_charenc encoding (decoding, subtitles)`

Set the input subtitles character encoding.

`field_order field_order (video)`

Set/override the field order of the video. Possible values:

‘progressive’

Progressive video

‘tt’

Interlaced video, top field coded and displayed first

`'bb'`

Interlaced video, bottom field coded and displayed first

`'tb'`

Interlaced video, top coded first, bottom displayed first

`'bt'`

Interlaced video, bottom coded first, top displayed first

`skip_alpha integer (decoding,video)`

Set to 1 to disable processing alpha (transparency). This works like the `'gray'` flag in the `flags` option which skips chroma information instead of alpha. Default is 0.

`codec_whitelist list (input)`

"," separated List of allowed decoders. By default all are allowed.

`dump_separator string (input)`

Separator used to separate the fields printed on the command line about the Stream parameters. For example to separate the fields with newlines and indentation:

```
ffprobe -dump_separator "
                        " -i ~/videos/matrixbench_mpeg2.mpg
```

## 3 Decoders

Decoders are configured elements in FFmpeg which allow the decoding of multimedia streams.

When you configure your FFmpeg build, all the supported native decoders are enabled by default. Decoders requiring an external library must be enabled manually via the corresponding `--enable-lib` option. You can list all available decoders using the configure option `--list-decoders`.

You can disable all the decoders with the configure option `--disable-decoders` and selectively enable / disable single decoders with the options `--enable-decoder=DECODER /`  
`--disable-decoder=DECODER`.

The option `-decoders` of the `ff*` tools will display the list of enabled decoders.

## 4 Video Decoders

A description of some of the currently available video decoders follows.

## 4.1 rawvideo

Raw video decoder.

This decoder decodes rawvideo streams.

### 4.1.1 Options

`top top_field_first`

Specify the assumed field type of the input video.

-1

the video is assumed to be progressive (default)

0

bottom-field-first is assumed

1

top-field-first is assumed

## 5 Audio Decoders

A description of some of the currently available audio decoders follows.

### 5.1 ac3

AC-3 audio decoder.

This decoder implements part of ATSC A/52:2010 and ETSI TS 102 366, as well as the undocumented RealAudio 3 (a.k.a. dnet).

#### 5.1.1 AC-3 Decoder Options

`-drc_scale value`

Dynamic Range Scale Factor. The factor to apply to dynamic range values from the AC-3 stream. This factor is applied exponentially. There are 3 notable scale factor ranges:

`drc_scale == 0`

DRC disabled. Produces full range audio.



`0 < drc_scale <= 1`

DRC enabled. Applies a fraction of the stream DRC value. Audio reproduction is between full range and full compression.

`drc_scale > 1`

DRC enabled. Applies `drc_scale` asymmetrically. Loud sounds are fully compressed. Soft sounds are enhanced.

## 5.2 ffwavesynth

Internal wave synthesizer.

This decoder generates wave patterns according to predefined sequences. Its use is purely internal and the format of the data it accepts is not publicly documented.

## 5.3 libcelt

libcelt decoder wrapper.

libcelt allows libavcodec to decode the Xiph CELT ultra-low delay audio codec. Requires the presence of the libcelt headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libcelt`.

## 5.4 libgsm

libgsm decoder wrapper.

libgsm allows libavcodec to decode the GSM full rate audio codec. Requires the presence of the libgsm headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libgsm`.

This decoder supports both the ordinary GSM and the Microsoft variant.

## 5.5 libilbc

libilbc decoder wrapper.

libilbc allows libavcodec to decode the Internet Low Bitrate Codec (iLBC) audio codec. Requires the presence of the libilbc headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libilbc`.

### 5.5.1 Options

The following option is supported by the libilbc wrapper.

enhance

Enable the enhancement of the decoded audio when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

### 5.6 libopencore-amrnb

libopencore-amrnb decoder wrapper.

libopencore-amrnb allows libavcodec to decode the Adaptive Multi-Rate Narrowband audio codec. Using it requires the presence of the libopencore-amrnb headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libopencore-amrnb`.

An FFmpeg native decoder for AMR-NB exists, so users can decode AMR-NB without this library.

### 5.7 libopencore-amrwb

libopencore-amrwb decoder wrapper.

libopencore-amrwb allows libavcodec to decode the Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband audio codec. Using it requires the presence of the libopencore-amrwb headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libopencore-amrwb`.

An FFmpeg native decoder for AMR-WB exists, so users can decode AMR-WB without this library.

### 5.8 libopus

libopus decoder wrapper.

libopus allows libavcodec to decode the Opus Interactive Audio Codec. Requires the presence of the libopus headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libopus`.

An FFmpeg native decoder for Opus exists, so users can decode Opus without this library.

## 6 Subtitles Decoders

### 6.1 dvdsub

This codec decodes the bitmap subtitles used in DVDs; the same subtitles can also be found in VobSub file pairs and in some Matroska files.

## 6.1.1 Options

### palette

Specify the global palette used by the bitmaps. When stored in VobSub, the palette is normally specified in the index file; in Matroska, the palette is stored in the codec extra-data in the same format as in VobSub. In DVDs, the palette is stored in the IFO file, and therefore not available when reading from dumped VOB files.

The format for this option is a string containing 16 24-bits hexadecimal numbers (without 0x prefix) separated by comas, for example 0d00ee, ee450d, 101010, eaeaea, 0ce60b, ec14ed, ebf0b, 0d617a, 7b7b7b, d1d1d1, 7b2a0e, 0d950c, 0f007b, cf0dec, cfa80c, 7c127b.

### ifo\_palette

Specify the IFO file from which the global palette is obtained. (experimental)

### forced\_subs\_only

Only decode subtitle entries marked as forced. Some titles have forced and non-forced subtitles in the same track. Setting this flag to 1 will only keep the forced subtitles. Default value is 0.

## 6.2 libzvbi-teletext

Libzvbi allows libavcodec to decode DVB teletext pages and DVB teletext subtitles. Requires the presence of the libzvbi headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libzvbi`.

### 6.2.1 Options

#### txt\_page

List of teletext page numbers to decode. You may use the special \* string to match all pages. Pages that do not match the specified list are dropped. Default value is \*.

#### txt\_chop\_top

Discards the top teletext line. Default value is 1.

#### txt\_format

Specifies the format of the decoded subtitles. The teletext decoder is capable of decoding the teletext pages to bitmaps or to simple text, you should use "bitmap" for teletext pages, because certain graphics and colors cannot be expressed in simple text. You might use "text" for teletext based subtitles if your application can handle simple text based subtitles. Default value is bitmap.

`txt_left`

X offset of generated bitmaps, default is 0.

`txt_top`

Y offset of generated bitmaps, default is 0.

`txt_chop_spaces`

Chops leading and trailing spaces and removes empty lines from the generated text. This option is useful for teletext based subtitles where empty spaces may be present at the start or at the end of the lines or empty lines may be present between the subtitle lines because of double-sized teletext characters. Default value is 1.

`txt_duration`

Sets the display duration of the decoded teletext pages or subtitles in milliseconds. Default value is 30000 which is 30 seconds.

`txt_transparent`

Force transparent background of the generated teletext bitmaps. Default value is 0 which means an opaque (black) background.

## 7 Encoders

Encoders are configured elements in FFmpeg which allow the encoding of multimedia streams.

When you configure your FFmpeg build, all the supported native encoders are enabled by default. Encoders requiring an external library must be enabled manually via the corresponding `--enable-lib` option. You can list all available encoders using the configure option `--list-encoders`.

You can disable all the encoders with the configure option `--disable-encoders` and selectively enable / disable single encoders with the options `--enable-encoder=ENCODER` / `--disable-encoder=ENCODER`.

The option `-encoders` of the ff\* tools will display the list of enabled encoders.

## 8 Audio Encoders

A description of some of the currently available audio encoders follows.

## 8.1 aac

Advanced Audio Coding (AAC) encoder.

This encoder is an experimental FFmpeg-native AAC encoder. Currently only the low complexity (AAC-LC) profile is supported. To use this encoder, you must set `strict` option to ‘experimental’ or lower.

As this encoder is experimental, unexpected behavior may exist from time to time. For a more stable AAC encoder, see libvo-aacenc. However, be warned that it has a worse quality reported by some users.

See also `libfdk_aac` and `libfaac`.

### 8.1.1 Options

`b`

Set bit rate in bits/s. Setting this automatically activates constant bit rate (CBR) mode.

`q`

Set quality for variable bit rate (VBR) mode. This option is valid only using the `ffmpeg` command-line tool. For library interface users, use `global_quality`.

`stereo_mode`

Set stereo encoding mode. Possible values:

‘auto’

Automatically selected by the encoder.

‘ms\_off’

Disable middle/side encoding. This is the default.

‘ms\_force’

Force middle/side encoding.

`aac_coder`

Set AAC encoder coding method. Possible values:

‘faac’

FAAC-inspired method.

This method is a simplified reimplementation of the method used in FAAC, which sets thresholds proportional to the band energies, and then decreases all the thresholds with quantizer steps to find the appropriate quantization with distortion below threshold band by band.

The quality of this method is comparable to the two loop searching method described below, but somewhat a little better and slower.

‘anmr’

Average noise to mask ratio (ANMR) trellis-based solution.

This has a theoretic best quality out of all the coding methods, but at the cost of the slowest speed.

‘twoloop’

Two loop searching (TLS) method.

This method first sets quantizers depending on band thresholds and then tries to find an optimal combination by adding or subtracting a specific value from all quantizers and adjusting some individual quantizer a little.

This method produces similar quality with the FAAC method and is the default.

‘fast’

Constant quantizer method.

This method sets a constant quantizer for all bands. This is the fastest of all the methods, yet produces the worst quality.

## 8.2 ac3 and ac3\_fixed

AC-3 audio encoders.

These encoders implement part of ATSC A/52:2010 and ETSI TS 102 366, as well as the undocumented RealAudio 3 (a.k.a. dnet).

The *ac3* encoder uses floating-point math, while the *ac3\_fixed* encoder only uses fixed-point integer math. This does not mean that one is always faster, just that one or the other may be better suited to a particular system. The floating-point encoder will generally produce better quality audio for a given bitrate. The *ac3\_fixed* encoder is not the default codec for any of the output formats, so it must be specified explicitly using the option `-acodec ac3_fixed` in order to use it.

## 8.2.1 AC-3 Metadata

The AC-3 metadata options are used to set parameters that describe the audio, but in most cases do not affect the audio encoding itself. Some of the options do directly affect or influence the decoding and playback of the resulting bitstream, while others are just for informational purposes. A few of the options will add bits to the output stream that could otherwise be used for audio data, and will thus affect the quality of the output. Those will be indicated accordingly with a note in the option list below.

These parameters are described in detail in several publicly-available documents.

- A/52:2010 - Digital Audio Compression (AC-3) (E-AC-3) Standard
- A/54 - Guide to the Use of the ATSC Digital Television Standard
- Dolby Metadata Guide
- Dolby Digital Professional Encoding Guidelines

### 8.2.1.1 Metadata Control Options

`-per_frame_metadata boolean`

Allow Per-Frame Metadata. Specifies if the encoder should check for changing metadata for each frame.

0

The metadata values set at initialization will be used for every frame in the stream. (default)

1

Metadata values can be changed before encoding each frame.

### 8.2.1.2 Downmix Levels

`-center_mixlev level`

Center Mix Level. The amount of gain the decoder should apply to the center channel when downmixing to stereo. This field will only be written to the bitstream if a center channel is present. The value is specified as a scale factor. There are 3 valid values:

0.707

Apply -3dB gain

0.595

Apply -4.5dB gain (default)

0.500

Apply -6dB gain

`-surround_mixlev level`

Surround Mix Level. The amount of gain the decoder should apply to the surround channel(s) when downmixing to stereo. This field will only be written to the bitstream if one or more surround channels are present. The value is specified as a scale factor. There are 3 valid values:

0.707

Apply -3dB gain

0.500

Apply -6dB gain (default)

0.000

Silence Surround Channel(s)

### 8.2.1.3 Audio Production Information

Audio Production Information is optional information describing the mixing environment. Either none or both of the fields are written to the bitstream.

`-mixing_level number`

Mixing Level. Specifies peak sound pressure level (SPL) in the production environment when the mix was mastered. Valid values are 80 to 111, or -1 for unknown or not indicated. The default value is -1, but that value cannot be used if the Audio Production Information is written to the bitstream. Therefore, if the `room_type` option is not the default value, the `mixing_level` option must not be -1.

`-room_type type`

Room Type. Describes the equalization used during the final mixing session at the studio or on the dubbing stage. A large room is a dubbing stage with the industry standard X-curve equalization; a small room has flat equalization. This field will not be written to the bitstream if both the `mixing_level` option and the `room_type` option have the default values.

0

notindicated

Not Indicated (default)

1

large



Large Room

2  
small

Small Room

#### 8.2.1.4 Other Metadata Options

`-copyright boolean`

Copyright Indicator. Specifies whether a copyright exists for this audio.

0  
off

No Copyright Exists (default)

1  
on

Copyright Exists

`-dialnorm value`

Dialogue Normalization. Indicates how far the average dialogue level of the program is below digital 100% full scale (0 dBFS). This parameter determines a level shift during audio reproduction that sets the average volume of the dialogue to a preset level. The goal is to match volume level between program sources. A value of -31dB will result in no volume level change, relative to the source volume, during audio reproduction. Valid values are whole numbers in the range -31 to -1, with -31 being the default.

`-dsur_mode mode`

Dolby Surround Mode. Specifies whether the stereo signal uses Dolby Surround (Pro Logic). This field will only be written to the bitstream if the audio stream is stereo. Using this option does **NOT** mean the encoder will actually apply Dolby Surround processing.

0  
notindicated

Not Indicated (default)

1  
off

Not Dolby Surround Encoded

2  
on

Dolby Surround Encoded

`-original boolean`

Original Bit Stream Indicator. Specifies whether this audio is from the original source and not a copy.

0  
off

Not Original Source

1  
on

Original Source (default)

## 8.2.2 Extended Bitstream Information

The extended bitstream options are part of the Alternate Bit Stream Syntax as specified in Annex D of the A/52:2010 standard. It is grouped into 2 parts. If any one parameter in a group is specified, all values in that group will be written to the bitstream. Default values are used for those that are written but have not been specified. If the mixing levels are written, the decoder will use these values instead of the ones specified in the `center_mixlev` and `surround_mixlev` options if it supports the Alternate Bit Stream Syntax.

### 8.2.2.1 Extended Bitstream Information - Part 1

`-dmix_mode mode`

Preferred Stereo Downmix Mode. Allows the user to select either Lt/Rt (Dolby Surround) or Lo/Ro (normal stereo) as the preferred stereo downmix mode.

0  
notindicated

Not Indicated (default)

1  
ltrt

Lt/Rt Downmix Preferred

2  
loro

## Lo/Ro Downmix Preferred

`-ltrt_cmixlev level`

Lt/Rt Center Mix Level. The amount of gain the decoder should apply to the center channel when downmixing to stereo in Lt/Rt mode.

1.414

Apply +3dB gain

1.189

Apply +1.5dB gain

1.000

Apply 0dB gain

0.841

Apply -1.5dB gain

0.707

Apply -3.0dB gain

0.595

Apply -4.5dB gain (default)

0.500

Apply -6.0dB gain

0.000

Silence Center Channel

`-ltrt_surmixlev level`

Lt/Rt Surround Mix Level. The amount of gain the decoder should apply to the surround channel(s) when downmixing to stereo in Lt/Rt mode.

0.841

Apply -1.5dB gain

0.707

Apply -3.0dB gain

0.595

Apply -4.5dB gain

0.500

Apply -6.0dB gain (default)

0.000

Silence Surround Channel(s)

`-loro_cmixlev level`

Lo/Ro Center Mix Level. The amount of gain the decoder should apply to the center channel when downmixing to stereo in Lo/Ro mode.

1.414

Apply +3dB gain

1.189

Apply +1.5dB gain

1.000

Apply 0dB gain

0.841

Apply -1.5dB gain

0.707

Apply -3.0dB gain

0.595

Apply -4.5dB gain (default)

0.500

Apply -6.0dB gain

0.000

Silence Center Channel

`-loro_surmixlev level`

Lo/Ro Surround Mix Level. The amount of gain the decoder should apply to the surround channel(s) when downmixing to stereo in Lo/Ro mode.

0.841

Apply -1.5dB gain

0.707

Apply -3.0dB gain

0.595

Apply -4.5dB gain

0.500

Apply -6.0dB gain (default)

0.000

Silence Surround Channel(s)

### 8.2.2.2 Extended Bitstream Information - Part 2

`-dsurex_mode mode`

Dolby Surround EX Mode. Indicates whether the stream uses Dolby Surround EX (7.1 matrixed to 5.1). Using this option does **NOT** mean the encoder will actually apply Dolby Surround EX processing.

0

notindicated

Not Indicated (default)

1

on

Dolby Surround EX Off

2

off

Dolby Surround EX On

`-dheadphone_mode mode`

Dolby Headphone Mode. Indicates whether the stream uses Dolby Headphone encoding (multi-channel matrixed to 2.0 for use with headphones). Using this option does **NOT** mean the encoder will actually apply Dolby Headphone processing.

0

not indicated

Not Indicated (default)

1

on

Dolby Headphone Off

2

off

Dolby Headphone On

`-ad_conv_type type`

A/D Converter Type. Indicates whether the audio has passed through HDCD A/D conversion.

0

standard

Standard A/D Converter (default)

1

hdcd

HDCD A/D Converter

### 8.2.3 Other AC-3 Encoding Options

`-stereo_rematrixing boolean`

Stereo Rematrixing. Enables/Disables use of rematrixing for stereo input. This is an optional AC-3 feature that increases quality by selectively encoding the left/right channels as mid/side. This option is enabled by default, and it is highly recommended that it be left as enabled except for testing purposes.

## 8.2.4 Floating-Point-Only AC-3 Encoding Options

These options are only valid for the floating-point encoder and do not exist for the fixed-point encoder due to the corresponding features not being implemented in fixed-point.

`-channel_coupling boolean`

Enables/Disables use of channel coupling, which is an optional AC-3 feature that increases quality by combining high frequency information from multiple channels into a single channel. The per-channel high frequency information is sent with less accuracy in both the frequency and time domains. This allows more bits to be used for lower frequencies while preserving enough information to reconstruct the high frequencies. This option is enabled by default for the floating-point encoder and should generally be left as enabled except for testing purposes or to increase encoding speed.

-1  
auto

Selected by Encoder (default)

0  
off

Disable Channel Coupling

1  
on

Enable Channel Coupling

`-cpl_start_band number`

Coupling Start Band. Sets the channel coupling start band, from 1 to 15. If a value higher than the bandwidth is used, it will be reduced to 1 less than the coupling end band. If *auto* is used, the start band will be determined by the encoder based on the bit rate, sample rate, and channel layout. This option has no effect if channel coupling is disabled.

-1  
auto

Selected by Encoder (default)

## 8.3 libfaac

libfaac AAC (Advanced Audio Coding) encoder wrapper.

Requires the presence of the libfaac headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libfaac --enable-nonfree`.

This encoder is considered to be of higher quality with respect to the the native experimental FFmpeg AAC encoder.

For more information see the libfaac project at <http://www.audiocoding.com/faac.html/>.

### 8.3.1 Options

The following shared FFmpeg codec options are recognized.

The following options are supported by the libfaac wrapper. The `faac`-equivalent of the options are listed in parentheses.

`b (-b)`

Set bit rate in bits/s for ABR (Average Bit Rate) mode. If the bit rate is not explicitly specified, it is automatically set to a suitable value depending on the selected profile. `faac` bitrate is expressed in kilobits/s.

Note that libfaac does not support CBR (Constant Bit Rate) but only ABR (Average Bit Rate).

If VBR mode is enabled this option is ignored.

`ar (-R)`

Set audio sampling rate (in Hz).

`ac (-c)`

Set the number of audio channels.

`cutoff (-C)`

Set cutoff frequency. If not specified (or explicitly set to 0) it will use a value automatically computed by the library. Default value is 0.

`profile`

Set audio profile.

The following profiles are recognized:

`'aac_main'`

Main AAC (Main)

`'aac_low'`

Low Complexity AAC (LC)



`'aac_ssr'`

Scalable Sample Rate (SSR)

`'aac_ltp'`

Long Term Prediction (LTP)

If not specified it is set to `'aac_low'`.

`flags +qscale`

Set constant quality VBR (Variable Bit Rate) mode.

`global_quality`

Set quality in VBR mode as an integer number of lambda units.

Only relevant when VBR mode is enabled with `flags +qscale`. The value is converted to QP units by dividing it by `FF_QP2LAMBDA`, and used to set the quality value used by libfaac. A reasonable range for the option value in QP units is [10-500], the higher the value the higher the quality.

`q (-q)`

Enable VBR mode when set to a non-negative value, and set constant quality value as a double floating point value in QP units.

The value sets the quality value used by libfaac. A reasonable range for the option value is [10-500], the higher the value the higher the quality.

This option is valid only using the `ffmpeg` command-line tool. For library interface users, use `global_quality`.

### 8.3.2 Examples

- Use `ffmpeg` to convert an audio file to ABR 128 kbps AAC in an M4A (MP4) container:

```
ffmpeg -i input.wav -codec:a libfaac -b:a 128k -output.m4a
```

- Use `ffmpeg` to convert an audio file to VBR AAC, using the LTP AAC profile:

```
ffmpeg -i input.wav -c:a libfaac -profile:a aac_ltp -q:a 100 output.m4a
```

## 8.4 libfdk\_aac

libfdk-aac AAC (Advanced Audio Coding) encoder wrapper.

The libfdk-aac library is based on the Fraunhofer FDK AAC code from the Android project.

Requires the presence of the libfdk-aac headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libfdk-aac`. The library is also incompatible with GPL, so if you allow the use of GPL, you should configure with `--enable-gpl --enable-nonfree --enable-libfdk-aac`.

This encoder is considered to be of higher quality with respect to both the native experimental FFmpeg AAC encoder and libfaac.

VBR encoding, enabled through the `vbr` or `flags +qscale` options, is experimental and only works with some combinations of parameters.

Support for encoding 7.1 audio is only available with libfdk-aac 0.1.3 or higher.

For more information see the fdk-aac project at <http://sourceforge.net/p/opencore-amr/fdk-aac/>.

### 8.4.1 Options

The following options are mapped on the shared FFmpeg codec options.

`b`

Set bit rate in bits/s. If the bitrate is not explicitly specified, it is automatically set to a suitable value depending on the selected profile.

In case VBR mode is enabled the option is ignored.

`ar`

Set audio sampling rate (in Hz).

`channels`

Set the number of audio channels.

`flags +qscale`

Enable fixed quality, VBR (Variable Bit Rate) mode. Note that VBR is implicitly enabled when the `vbr` value is positive.

`cutoff`

Set cutoff frequency. If not specified (or explicitly set to 0) it will use a value automatically computed by the library. Default value is 0.

`profile`

Set audio profile.

The following profiles are recognized:

`'aac_low'`

Low Complexity AAC (LC)

`'aac_he'`

High Efficiency AAC (HE-AAC)

`'aac_he_v2'`

High Efficiency AAC version 2 (HE-AACv2)

`'aac_ld'`

Low Delay AAC (LD)

`'aac_eld'`

Enhanced Low Delay AAC (ELD)

If not specified it is set to `'aac_low'`.

The following are private options of the libfdk\_aac encoder.

`afterburner`

Enable afterburner feature if set to 1, disabled if set to 0. This improves the quality but also the required processing power.

Default value is 1.

`eld_sbr`

Enable SBR (Spectral Band Replication) for ELD if set to 1, disabled if set to 0.

Default value is 0.

`signaling`

Set SBR/PS signaling style.

It can assume one of the following values:

`'default'`

choose signaling implicitly (explicit hierarchical by default, implicit if global header is disabled)

`'implicit'`

implicit backwards compatible signaling

`'explicit_sbr'`

explicit SBR, implicit PS signaling

`'explicit_hierarchical'`

explicit hierarchical signaling

Default value is `'default'`.

latm

Output LATM/LOAS encapsulated data if set to 1, disabled if set to 0.

Default value is 0.

header\_period

Set StreamMuxConfig and PCE repetition period (in frames) for sending in-band configuration buffers within LATM/LOAS transport layer.

Must be a 16-bits non-negative integer.

Default value is 0.

vbr

Set VBR mode, from 1 to 5. 1 is lowest quality (though still pretty good) and 5 is highest quality. A value of 0 will disable VBR, and CBR (Constant Bit Rate) is enabled.

Currently only the `'aac_low'` profile supports VBR encoding.

VBR modes 1-5 correspond to roughly the following average bit rates:

`'1'`

32 kbps/channel

`'2'`

40 kbps/channel

‘3’

48-56 kbps/channel

‘4’

64 kbps/channel

‘5’

about 80-96 kbps/channel

Default value is 0.

## 8.4.2 Examples

- Use `ffmpeg` to convert an audio file to VBR AAC in an M4A (MP4) container:

```
ffmpeg -i input.wav -codec:a libfdk_aac -vbr 3 output.m4a
```

- Use `ffmpeg` to convert an audio file to CBR 64k kbps AAC, using the High-Efficiency AAC profile:

```
ffmpeg -i input.wav -c:a libfdk_aac -profile:a aac_he -b:a 64k output.m4a
```

## 8.5 libmp3lame

LAME (Lame Ain't an MP3 Encoder) MP3 encoder wrapper.

Requires the presence of the `libmp3lame` headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libmp3lame`.

See `libshine` for a fixed-point MP3 encoder, although with a lower quality.

### 8.5.1 Options

The following options are supported by the `libmp3lame` wrapper. The `lame`-equivalent of the options are listed in parentheses.

`b` (`-b`)

Set bitrate expressed in bits/s for CBR or ABR. LAME `bitrate` is expressed in kilobits/s.

`q` (`-V`)

Set constant quality setting for VBR. This option is valid only using the `ffmpeg` command-line tool. For library interface users, use `global_quality`.

`compression_level (-q)`

Set algorithm quality. Valid arguments are integers in the 0-9 range, with 0 meaning highest quality but slowest, and 9 meaning fastest while producing the worst quality.

`reservoir`

Enable use of bit reservoir when set to 1. Default value is 1. LAME has this enabled by default, but can be overridden by use `--nores` option.

`joint_stereo (-m j)`

Enable the encoder to use (on a frame by frame basis) either L/R stereo or mid/side stereo. Default value is 1.

`abr (--abr)`

Enable the encoder to use ABR when set to 1. The `lame --abr` sets the target bitrate, while this options only tells FFmpeg to use ABR still relies on `b` to set bitrate.

## 8.6 libopencore-amrnb

OpenCORE Adaptive Multi-Rate Narrowband encoder.

Requires the presence of the `libopencore-amrnb` headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libopencore-amrnb --enable-version3`.

This is a mono-only encoder. Officially it only supports 8000Hz sample rate, but you can override it by setting `strict` to 'unofficial' or lower.

### 8.6.1 Options

`b`

Set bitrate in bits per second. Only the following bitrates are supported, otherwise libavcodec will round to the nearest valid bitrate.

4750  
5150  
5900  
6700  
7400  
7950  
10200  
12200

`dtx`

Allow discontinuous transmission (generate comfort noise) when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

## 8.7 libshine

Shine Fixed-Point MP3 encoder wrapper.

Shine is a fixed-point MP3 encoder. It has a far better performance on platforms without an FPU, e.g. armel CPUs, and some phones and tablets. However, as it is more targeted on performance than quality, it is not on par with LAME and other production-grade encoders quality-wise. Also, according to the project's homepage, this encoder may not be free of bugs as the code was written a long time ago and the project was dead for at least 5 years.

This encoder only supports stereo and mono input. This is also CBR-only.

The original project (last updated in early 2007) is at <http://sourceforge.net/projects/libshine-fxp/>. We only support the updated fork by the Savonet/Liquidsoap project at <https://github.com/savonet/shine>.

Requires the presence of the libshine headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libshine`.

See also libmp3lame.

### 8.7.1 Options

The following options are supported by the libshine wrapper. The shineenc-equivalent of the options are listed in parentheses.

b (-b)

Set bitrate expressed in bits/s for CBR. shineenc -b option is expressed in kilobits/s.

## 8.8 libtwolame

TwoLAME MP2 encoder wrapper.

Requires the presence of the libtwolame headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libtwolame`.

### 8.8.1 Options

The following options are supported by the libtwolame wrapper. The twolame-equivalent options follow the FFmpeg ones and are in parentheses.

b (-b)

Set bitrate expressed in bits/s for CBR. `twolame b` option is expressed in kilobits/s. Default value is 128k.

`q (-V)`

Set quality for experimental VBR support. Maximum value range is from -50 to 50, useful range is from -10 to 10. The higher the value, the better the quality. This option is valid only using the `ffmpeg` command-line tool. For library interface users, use `global_quality`.

`mode (--mode)`

Set the mode of the resulting audio. Possible values:

`'auto'`

Choose mode automatically based on the input. This is the default.

`'stereo'`

Stereo

`'joint_stereo'`

Joint stereo

`'dual_channel'`

Dual channel

`'mono'`

Mono

`psymodel (--psyc-mode)`

Set psychoacoustic model to use in encoding. The argument must be an integer between -1 and 4, inclusive. The higher the value, the better the quality. The default value is 3.

`energy_levels (--energy)`

Enable energy levels extensions when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

`error_protection (--protect)`

Enable CRC error protection when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

`copyright (--copyright)`



Set MPEG audio copyright flag when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

`original (--original)`

Set MPEG audio original flag when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

## 8.9 libvo-aacenc

VisualOn AAC encoder.

Requires the presence of the libvo-aacenc headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libvo-aacenc --enable-version3`.

This encoder is considered to be worse than the native experimental FFmpeg AAC encoder, according to multiple sources.

### 8.9.1 Options

The VisualOn AAC encoder only support encoding AAC-LC and up to 2 channels. It is also CBR-only.

b

Set bit rate in bits/s.

## 8.10 libvo-amrwbenc

VisualOn Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband encoder.

Requires the presence of the libvo-amrwbenc headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libvo-amrwbenc --enable-version3`.

This is a mono-only encoder. Officially it only supports 16000Hz sample rate, but you can override it by setting `strict` to 'unofficial' or lower.

### 8.10.1 Options

b

Set bitrate in bits/s. Only the following bitrates are supported, otherwise libavcodec will round to the nearest valid bitrate.

'6600'  
'8850'  
'12650'  
'14250'  
'15850'

'18250'  
'19850'  
'23050'  
'23850'

dtx

Allow discontinuous transmission (generate comfort noise) when set to 1. The default value is 0 (disabled).

## 8.11 libopus

libopus Opus Interactive Audio Codec encoder wrapper.

Requires the presence of the libopus headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libopus`.

### 8.11.1 Option Mapping

Most libopus options are modelled after the `opusenc` utility from `opus-tools`. The following is an option mapping chart describing options supported by the libopus wrapper, and their `opusenc`-equivalent in parentheses.

`b` (*bitrate*)

Set the bit rate in bits/s. FFmpeg's `b` option is expressed in bits/s, while `opusenc`'s `bitrate` in kilobits/s.

`vbr` (*vbr*, *hard-cbr*, and *cvbr*)

Set VBR mode. The FFmpeg `vbr` option has the following valid arguments, with the their `opusenc` equivalent options in parentheses:

'off' (*hard-cbr*)

Use constant bit rate encoding.

'on' (*vbr*)

Use variable bit rate encoding (the default).

'constrained' (*cvbr*)

Use constrained variable bit rate encoding.

`compression_level` (*comp*)

Set encoding algorithm complexity. Valid options are integers in the 0-10 range. 0 gives the fastest encodes but lower quality, while 10 gives the highest quality but slowest encoding. The default is 10.

`frame_duration (framesize)`

Set maximum frame size, or duration of a frame in milliseconds. The argument must be exactly the following: 2.5, 5, 10, 20, 40, 60. Smaller frame sizes achieve lower latency but less quality at a given bitrate. Sizes greater than 20ms are only interesting at fairly low bitrates. The default is 20ms.

`packet_loss (expect-loss)`

Set expected packet loss percentage. The default is 0.

`application (N.A.)`

Set intended application type. Valid options are listed below:

‘voip’

Favor improved speech intelligibility.

‘audio’

Favor faithfulness to the input (the default).

‘lowdelay’

Restrict to only the lowest delay modes.

`cutoff (N.A.)`

Set cutoff bandwidth in Hz. The argument must be exactly one of the following: 4000, 6000, 8000, 12000, or 20000, corresponding to narrowband, mediumband, wideband, super wideband, and fullband respectively. The default is 0 (cutoff disabled).

## 8.12 libvorbis

libvorbis encoder wrapper.

Requires the presence of the libvorbisenc headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libvorbis`.

### 8.12.1 Options

The following options are supported by the libvorbis wrapper. The oggenc-equivalent of the options are listed in parentheses.

To get a more accurate and extensive documentation of the libvorbis options, consult the libvorbisenc’s and oggenc’s documentations. See <http://xiph.org/vorbis/>, <http://wiki.xiph.org/Vorbis-tools>, and oggenc(1).

**b** (*-b*)

Set bitrate expressed in bits/s for ABR. `oggenc -b` is expressed in kilobits/s.

**q** (*-q*)

Set constant quality setting for VBR. The value should be a float number in the range of -1.0 to 10.0. The higher the value, the better the quality. The default value is '3.0'.

This option is valid only using the `ffmpeg` command-line tool. For library interface users, use `global_quality`.

**cutoff** (*--advanced-encode-option lowpass\_frequency=N*)

Set cutoff bandwidth in Hz, a value of 0 disables cutoff. `oggenc`'s related option is expressed in kHz. The default value is '0' (cutoff disabled).

**minrate** (*-m*)

Set minimum bitrate expressed in bits/s. `oggenc -m` is expressed in kilobits/s.

**maxrate** (*-M*)

Set maximum bitrate expressed in bits/s. `oggenc -M` is expressed in kilobits/s. This only has effect on ABR mode.

**iblock** (*--advanced-encode-option impulse\_noisetune=N*)

Set noise floor bias for impulse blocks. The value is a float number from -15.0 to 0.0. A negative bias instructs the encoder to pay special attention to the crispness of transients in the encoded audio. The tradeoff for better transient response is a higher bitrate.

## 8.13 libwavpack

A wrapper providing WavPack encoding through libwavpack.

Only lossless mode using 32-bit integer samples is supported currently.

Requires the presence of the libwavpack headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libwavpack`.

Note that a libavcodec-native encoder for the WavPack codec exists so users can encode audios with this codec without using this encoder. See `wavpackenc`.

### 8.13.1 Options

wavpack command line utility's corresponding options are listed in parentheses, if any.

`frame_size` (*--blocksize*)

Default is 32768.

`compression_level`

Set speed vs. compression tradeoff. Acceptable arguments are listed below:

'0' (*-f*)

Fast mode.

'1'

Normal (default) settings.

'2' (*-h*)

High quality.

'3' (*-hh*)

Very high quality.

'4-8' (*-hh -xEXTRAPROC*)

Same as '3', but with extra processing enabled.

'4' is the same as *-x2* and '8' is the same as *-x6*.

## 8.14 wavpack

WavPack lossless audio encoder.

This is a libavcodec-native WavPack encoder. There is also an encoder based on libwavpack, but there is virtually no reason to use that encoder.

See also libwavpack.

### 8.14.1 Options

The equivalent options for wavpack command line utility are listed in parentheses.

### 8.14.1.1 Shared options

The following shared options are effective for this encoder. Only special notes about this particular encoder will be documented here. For the general meaning of the options, see the Codec Options chapter.

`frame_size` (*--blocksize*)

For this encoder, the range for this option is between 128 and 131072. Default is automatically decided based on sample rate and number of channel.

For the complete formula of calculating default, see `libavcodec/wavpackenc.c`.

`compression_level` (*-f*, *-h*, *-hh*, and *-x*)

This option's syntax is consistent with `libwavpack`'s.

### 8.14.1.2 Private options

`joint_stereo` (*-j*)

Set whether to enable joint stereo. Valid values are:

`'on (1)'`

Force mid/side audio encoding.

`'off (0)'`

Force left/right audio encoding.

`'auto'`

Let the encoder decide automatically.

`optimize_mono`

Set whether to enable optimization for mono. This option is only effective for non-mono streams. Available values:

`'on'`

enabled

`'off'`

disabled

## 9 Video Encoders

A description of some of the currently available video encoders follows.

### 9.1 libtheora

libtheora Theora encoder wrapper.

Requires the presence of the libtheora headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libtheora`.

For more information about the libtheora project see <http://www.theora.org/>.

#### 9.1.1 Options

The following global options are mapped to internal libtheora options which affect the quality and the bitrate of the encoded stream.

`b`

Set the video bitrate in bit/s for CBR (Constant Bit Rate) mode. In case VBR (Variable Bit Rate) mode is enabled this option is ignored.

`flags`

Used to enable constant quality mode (VBR) encoding through the `qscale` flag, and to enable the `pass1` and `pass2` modes.

`g`

Set the GOP size.

`global_quality`

Set the global quality as an integer in lambda units.

Only relevant when VBR mode is enabled with `flags +qscale`. The value is converted to QP units by dividing it by `FF_QP2LAMBDA`, clipped in the [0 - 10] range, and then multiplied by 6.3 to get a value in the native libtheora range [0-63]. A higher value corresponds to a higher quality.

`q`

Enable VBR mode when set to a non-negative value, and set constant quality value as a double floating point value in QP units.

The value is clipped in the [0-10] range, and then multiplied by 6.3 to get a value in the native libtheora range [0-63].

This option is valid only using the `ffmpeg` command-line tool. For library interface users, use `global_quality`.

### 9.1.2 Examples

- Set maximum constant quality (VBR) encoding with `ffmpeg`:

```
ffmpeg -i INPUT -codec:v libtheora -q:v 10 OUTPUT.ogg
```

- Use `ffmpeg` to convert a CBR 1000 kbps Theora video stream:

```
ffmpeg -i INPUT -codec:v libtheora -b:v 1000k OUTPUT.ogg
```

## 9.2 libvpx

VP8/VP9 format supported through `libvpx`.

Requires the presence of the `libvpx` headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libvpx`.

### 9.2.1 Options

Mapping from `FFmpeg` to `libvpx` options with conversion notes in parentheses.

`threads`

`g_threads`

`profile`

`g_profile`

`vb`

`rc_target_bitrate`

`g`

`kf_max_dist`

`keyint_min`

`kf_min_dist`

`qmin`

`rc_min_quantizer`



qmax

rc\_max\_quantizer

bufsize, vb

rc\_buf\_sz (bufsize \* 1000 / vb)

rc\_buf\_optimal\_sz (bufsize \* 1000 / vb \* 5 / 6)

rc\_init\_occupancy, vb

rc\_buf\_initial\_sz (rc\_init\_occupancy \* 1000 / vb)

rc\_buffer\_aggressivity

rc\_undershoot\_pct

skip\_threshold

rc\_dropframe\_thresh

qcomp

rc\_2pass\_vbr\_bias\_pct

maxrate, vb

rc\_2pass\_vbr\_maxsection\_pct (maxrate \* 100 / vb)

minrate, vb

rc\_2pass\_vbr\_minsection\_pct (minrate \* 100 / vb)

minrate, maxrate, vb

VPX\_CBR (minrate == maxrate == vb)

crf

VPX\_CQ, VP8E\_SET\_CQ\_LEVEL

quality

*best*

VPX\_DL\_BEST\_QUALITY

*good*

VPX\_DL\_GOOD\_QUALITY

*realtime*

VPX\_DL\_REALTIME

speed

VP8E\_SET\_CPUUSED

nr

VP8E\_SET\_NOISE\_SENSITIVITY

mb\_threshold

VP8E\_SET\_STATIC\_THRESHOLD

slices

VP8E\_SET\_TOKEN\_PARTITIONS

max-intra-rate

VP8E\_SET\_MAX\_INTRA\_BITRATE\_PCT

force\_key\_frames

VPX\_EFLAG\_FORCE\_KF

Alternate reference frame related

vp8flags altref

VP8E\_SET\_ENABLEAUTOALTREF

*arnr\_max\_frames*

VP8E\_SET\_ARNR\_MAXFRAMES

*arnr\_type*

VP8E\_SET\_ARNR\_TYPE

*arnr\_strength*

VP8E\_SET\_ARNR\_STRENGTH

*rc\_lookahead*

`g_lag_in_frames`

`vp8flags error_resilient`

`g_error_resilient`

`aq_mode`

`VP9E_SET_AQ_MODE`

For more information about libvpx see: <http://www.webmproject.org/>

## 9.3 libwebp

libwebp WebP Image encoder wrapper

libwebp is Google's official encoder for WebP images. It can encode in either lossy or lossless mode. Lossy images are essentially a wrapper around a VP8 frame. Lossless images are a separate codec developed by Google.

### 9.3.1 Pixel Format

Currently, libwebp only supports YUV420 for lossy and RGB for lossless due to limitations of the format and libwebp. Alpha is supported for either mode. Because of API limitations, if RGB is passed in when encoding lossy or YUV is passed in for encoding lossless, the pixel format will automatically be converted using functions from libwebp. This is not ideal and is done only for convenience.

### 9.3.2 Options

`-lossless boolean`

Enables/Disables use of lossless mode. Default is 0.

`-compression_level integer`

For lossy, this is a quality/speed tradeoff. Higher values give better quality for a given size at the cost of increased encoding time. For lossless, this is a size/speed tradeoff. Higher values give smaller size at the cost of increased encoding time. More specifically, it controls the number of extra algorithms and compression tools used, and varies the combination of these tools. This maps to the *method* option in libwebp. The valid range is 0 to 6. Default is 4.

`-qscale float`

For lossy encoding, this controls image quality, 0 to 100. For lossless encoding, this controls the effort and time spent at compressing more. The default value is 75. Note that for usage via libavcodec, this option is called *global\_quality* and must be multiplied by *FF\_QP2LAMBDA*.

`-preset type`

Configuration preset. This does some automatic settings based on the general type of the image.

`none`

Do not use a preset.

`default`

Use the encoder default.

`picture`

Digital picture, like portrait, inner shot

`photo`

Outdoor photograph, with natural lighting

`drawing`

Hand or line drawing, with high-contrast details

`icon`

Small-sized colorful images

`text`

Text-like

## 9.4 libx264, libx264rgb

x264 H.264/MPEG-4 AVC encoder wrapper.

This encoder requires the presence of the libx264 headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libx264`.

libx264 supports an impressive number of features, including 8x8 and 4x4 adaptive spatial transform, adaptive B-frame placement, CAVLC/CABAC entropy coding, interlacing (MBAFF), lossless mode, psy optimizations for detail retention (adaptive quantization, psy-RD, psy-trellis).

Many libx264 encoder options are mapped to FFmpeg global codec options, while unique encoder options are provided through private options. Additionally the `x264opts` and `x264-params` private options allows one to pass a list of key=value tuples as accepted by the libx264 `x264_param_parse` function.

The x264 project website is at <http://www.videolan.org/developers/x264.html>.

The libx264rgb encoder is the same as libx264, except it accepts packed RGB pixel formats as input instead of YUV.

### 9.4.1 Supported Pixel Formats

x264 supports 8- to 10-bit color spaces. The exact bit depth is controlled at x264's configure time. FFmpeg only supports one bit depth in one particular build. In other words, it is not possible to build one FFmpeg with multiple versions of x264 with different bit depths.

### 9.4.2 Options

The following options are supported by the libx264 wrapper. The x264-equivalent options or values are listed in parentheses for easy migration.

To reduce the duplication of documentation, only the private options and some others requiring special attention are documented here. For the documentation of the undocumented generic options, see the Codec Options chapter.

To get a more accurate and extensive documentation of the libx264 options, invoke the command `x264 --full-help` or consult the libx264 documentation.

`b` (*bitrate*)

Set bitrate in bits/s. Note that FFmpeg's `b` option is expressed in bits/s, while x264's `bitrate` is in kilobits/s.

`bf` (*bframes*)

`g` (*keyint*)

`qmin` (*qpmin*)

Minimum quantizer scale.

`qmax` (*qpmax*)

Maximum quantizer scale.

`qdiff` (*qpstep*)

Maximum difference between quantizer scales.

`qblur` (*qblur*)

Quantizer curve blur

`qcomp` (*qcomp*)

Quantizer curve compression factor

`refs (ref)`

Number of reference frames each P-frame can use. The range is from 0-16.

`sc_threshold (scenecut)`

Sets the threshold for the scene change detection.

`trellis (trellis)`

Performs Trellis quantization to increase efficiency. Enabled by default.

`nr (nr)`

`me_range (merange)`

Maximum range of the motion search in pixels.

`me_method (me)`

Set motion estimation method. Possible values in the decreasing order of speed:

`'dia (dia)'`

`'epzs (dia)'`

Diamond search with radius 1 (fastest). 'epzs' is an alias for 'dia'.

`'hex (hex)'`

Hexagonal search with radius 2.

`'umh (umh)'`

Uneven multi-hexagon search.

`'esa (esa)'`

Exhaustive search.

`'tesa (tesa)'`

Hadamard exhaustive search (slowest).

`subq (subme)`

Sub-pixel motion estimation method.

`b_strategy` (*b-adapt*)

Adaptive B-frame placement decision algorithm. Use only on first-pass.

`keyint_min` (*min-keyint*)

Minimum GOP size.

`coder`

Set entropy encoder. Possible values:

‘ac’

Enable CABAC.

‘vlc’

Enable CAVLC and disable CABAC. It generates the same effect as x264’s `--no-cabac` option.

`cmp`

Set full pixel motion estimation comparison algorithm. Possible values:

‘chroma’

Enable chroma in motion estimation.

‘sad’

Ignore chroma in motion estimation. It generates the same effect as x264’s `--no-chroma-me` option.

`threads` (*threads*)

Number of encoding threads.

`thread_type`

Set multithreading technique. Possible values:

‘slice’

Slice-based multithreading. It generates the same effect as x264’s `--sliced-threads` option.

‘frame’

Frame-based multithreading.

`flags`

Set encoding flags. It can be used to disable closed GOP and enable open GOP by setting it to `-cgop`. The result is similar to the behavior of x264's `--open-gop` option.

`rc_init_occupancy (vbv-init)`  
`preset (preset)`

Set the encoding preset.

`tune (tune)`

Set tuning of the encoding params.

`profile (profile)`

Set profile restrictions.

`fastfirstpass`

Enable fast settings when encoding first pass, when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect of x264's `--slow-firstpass` option.

`crf (crf)`

Set the quality for constant quality mode.

`crf_max (crf-max)`

In CRF mode, prevents VBV from lowering quality beyond this point.

`qp (qp)`

Set constant quantization rate control method parameter.

`aq-mode (aq-mode)`

Set AQ method. Possible values:

`'none (0)'`

Disabled.

`'variance (1)'`

Variance AQ (complexity mask).



`'autovariance (2)'`

Auto-variance AQ (experimental).

`aq-strength (aq-strength)`

Set AQ strength, reduce blocking and blurring in flat and textured areas.

`psy`

Use psychovisual optimizations when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect as x264's `--no-psy` option.

`psy-rd (psy-rd)`

Set strength of psychovisual optimization, in *psy-rd:psy-trellis* format.

`rc-lookahead (rc-lookahead)`

Set number of frames to look ahead for frametype and ratecontrol.

`weightb`

Enable weighted prediction for B-frames when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect as x264's `--no-weightb` option.

`weightp (weightp)`

Set weighted prediction method for P-frames. Possible values:

`'none (0)'`

Disabled

`'simple (1)'`

Enable only weighted refs

`'smart (2)'`

Enable both weighted refs and duplicates

`ssim (ssim)`

Enable calculation and printing SSIM stats after the encoding.

`intra-refresh (intra-refresh)`

Enable the use of Periodic Intra Refresh instead of IDR frames when set to 1.

`avcintra-class` (*class*)

Configure the encoder to generate AVC-Intra. Valid values are 50,100 and 200

`bluray-compat` (*bluray-compat*)

Configure the encoder to be compatible with the bluray standard. It is a shorthand for setting "bluray-compat=1 force-cfr=1".

`b-bias` (*b-bias*)

Set the influence on how often B-frames are used.

`b-pyramid` (*b-pyramid*)

Set method for keeping of some B-frames as references. Possible values:

`'none'` (*none*)

Disabled.

`'strict'` (*strict*)

Strictly hierarchical pyramid.

`'normal'` (*normal*)

Non-strict (not Blu-ray compatible).

`mixed-refs`

Enable the use of one reference per partition, as opposed to one reference per macroblock when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect as x264's `--no-mixed-refs` option.

`8x8dct`

Enable adaptive spatial transform (high profile 8x8 transform) when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect as x264's `--no-8x8dct` option.

`fast-pskip`

Enable early SKIP detection on P-frames when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect as x264's `--no-fast-pskip` option.

`aud` (*aud*)

Enable use of access unit delimiters when set to 1.

`mbtree`

Enable use macroblock tree ratecontrol when set to 1. When set to 0, it has the same effect as `x264's --no-mbtree` option.

`deblock` (*deblock*)

Set loop filter parameters, in *alpha:beta* form.

`cplxblur` (*cplxblur*)

Set fluctuations reduction in QP (before curve compression).

`partitions` (*partitions*)

Set partitions to consider as a comma-separated list of. Possible values in the list:

`'p8x8'`

8x8 P-frame partition.

`'p4x4'`

4x4 P-frame partition.

`'b8x8'`

4x4 B-frame partition.

`'i8x8'`

8x8 I-frame partition.

`'i4x4'`

4x4 I-frame partition. (Enabling `'p4x4'` requires `'p8x8'` to be enabled. Enabling `'i8x8'` requires adaptive spatial transform (`8x8dct` option) to be enabled.)

`'none` (*none*)'

Do not consider any partitions.

`'all` (*all*)'

Consider every partition.

`direct-pred` (*direct*)

Set direct MV prediction mode. Possible values:

`'none' (none)`

Disable MV prediction.

`'spatial' (spatial)`

Enable spatial predicting.

`'temporal' (temporal)`

Enable temporal predicting.

`'auto' (auto)`

Automatically decided.

`slice-max-size` (*slice-max-size*)

Set the limit of the size of each slice in bytes. If not specified but RTP payload size (ps) is specified, that is used.

`stats` (*stats*)

Set the file name for multi-pass stats.

`nal-hrd` (*nal-hrd*)

Set signal HRD information (requires `vbr-bufsize` to be set). Possible values:

`'none' (none)`

Disable HRD information signaling.

`'vbr' (vbr)`

Variable bit rate.

`'cbr' (cbr)`

Constant bit rate (not allowed in MP4 container).

`x264opts` (N.A.)

Set any x264 option, see `x264 --fullhelp` for a list.

Argument is a list of *key=value* couples separated by ":". In *filter* and *psy-rd* options that use ":" as a separator themselves, use "," instead. They accept it as well since long ago but this is kept undocumented for some reason.

For example to specify libx264 encoding options with `ffmpeg`:

```
ffmpeg -i foo.mpg -vcodec libx264 -x264opts keyint=123:min-keyint=20 -an out.mkv
```

`x264-params` (N.A.)

Override the x264 configuration using a `:`-separated list of `key=value` parameters.

This option is functionally the same as the `x264opts`, but is duplicated for compatibility with the Libav fork.

For example to specify libx264 encoding options with `ffmpeg`:

```
ffmpeg -i INPUT -c:v libx264 -x264-params level=30:bframes=0:weightp=0:\
cabac=0:ref=1:vbv-maxrate=768:vbv-buFSIZE=2000:analyse=all:me=umh:\
no-fast-pskip=1:subq=6:8x8dct=0:trellis=0 OUTPUT
```

Encoding `ffpresets` for common usages are provided so they can be used with the general presets system (e.g. passing the `pre` option).

## 9.5 libx265

x265 H.265/HEVC encoder wrapper.

This encoder requires the presence of the libx265 headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libx265`.

### 9.5.1 Options

`preset`

Set the x265 preset.

`tune`

Set the x265 tune parameter.

`x265-params`

Set x265 options using a list of *key=value* couples separated by ":". See `x265 --help` for a list of options.

For example to specify libx265 encoding options with `-x265-params`:

```
ffmpeg -i input -c:v libx265 -x265-params crf=26:psy-rd=1 output.mp4
```

## 9.6 libxvid

Xvid MPEG-4 Part 2 encoder wrapper.

This encoder requires the presence of the libxvidcore headers and library during configuration. You need to explicitly configure the build with `--enable-libxvid` `--enable-gpl`.

The native `mpeg4` encoder supports the MPEG-4 Part 2 format, so users can encode to this format without this library.

### 9.6.1 Options

The following options are supported by the libxvid wrapper. Some of the following options are listed but are not documented, and correspond to shared codec options. See the Codec Options chapter for their documentation. The other shared options which are not listed have no effect for the libxvid encoder.

b  
g  
qmin  
qmax  
mpeg\_quant  
threads  
bf  
b\_qfactor  
b\_qoffset  
flags

Set specific encoding flags. Possible values:

`'mv4'`

Use four motion vector by macroblock.

`'aic'`

Enable high quality AC prediction.

`'gray'`

Only encode grayscale.

`'gmc'`

Enable the use of global motion compensation (GMC).

`'qpel'`

Enable quarter-pixel motion compensation.

`'cgop'`

Enable closed GOP.

`'global_header'`

Place global headers in extradata instead of every keyframe.

`trellis`

`me_method`

Set motion estimation method. Possible values in decreasing order of speed and increasing order of quality:

`'zero'`

Use no motion estimation (default).

`'phods'`

`'x1'`

`'log'`

Enable advanced diamond zonal search for 16x16 blocks and half-pixel refinement for 16x16 blocks. `'x1'` and `'log'` are aliases for `'phods'`.

`'epzs'`

Enable all of the things described above, plus advanced diamond zonal search for 8x8 blocks, half-pixel refinement for 8x8 blocks, and motion estimation on chroma planes.

`'full'`

Enable all of the things described above, plus extended 16x16 and 8x8 blocks search.

`mbd`

Set macroblock decision algorithm. Possible values in the increasing order of quality:

`'simple'`

Use macroblock comparing function algorithm (default).

`'bits'`

Enable rate distortion-based half pixel and quarter pixel refinement for 16x16 blocks.

`'rd'`

Enable all of the things described above, plus rate distortion-based half pixel and quarter pixel refinement for 8x8 blocks, and rate distortion-based search using square pattern.

`lumi_aq`

Enable lumi masking adaptive quantization when set to 1. Default is 0 (disabled).

`variance_aq`

Enable variance adaptive quantization when set to 1. Default is 0 (disabled).

When combined with `lumi_aq`, the resulting quality will not be better than any of the two specified individually. In other words, the resulting quality will be the worse one of the two effects.

`ssim`

Set structural similarity (SSIM) displaying method. Possible values:

`'off'`

Disable displaying of SSIM information.

`'avg'`

Output average SSIM at the end of encoding to stdout. The format of showing the average SSIM is:

Average SSIM: %f

For users who are not familiar with C, %f means a float number, or a decimal (e.g. 0.939232).

`'frame'`

Output both per-frame SSIM data during encoding and average SSIM at the end of encoding to stdout. The format of per-frame information is:

SSIM: avg: %1.3f min: %1.3f max: %1.3f

For users who are not familiar with C, %1.3f means a float number rounded to 3 digits after the dot (e.g. 0.932).

`ssim_acc`

Set SSIM accuracy. Valid options are integers within the range of 0-4, while 0 gives the most accurate result and 4 computes the fastest.



## 9.7 mpeg2

MPEG-2 video encoder.

### 9.7.1 Options

`seq_disp_ext` *integer*

Specifies if the encoder should write a `sequence_display_extension` to the output.

-1

auto

Decide automatically to write it or not (this is the default) by checking if the data to be written is different from the default or unspecified values.

0

never

Never write it.

1

always

Always write it.

## 9.8 png

PNG image encoder.

### 9.8.1 Private options

`dpi` *integer*

Set physical density of pixels, in dots per inch, unset by default

`dpm` *integer*

Set physical density of pixels, in dots per meter, unset by default

## 9.9 ProRes

Apple ProRes encoder.

FFmpeg contains 2 ProRes encoders, the `prores-aw` and `prores-ks` encoder. The used encoder can be chosen with the `-vcodec` option.

## 9.9.1 Private Options for prores-ks

`profile integer`

Select the ProRes profile to encode

‘proxy’  
‘lt’  
‘standard’  
‘hq’  
‘4444’

`quant_mat integer`

Select quantization matrix.

‘auto’  
‘default’  
‘proxy’  
‘lt’  
‘standard’  
‘hq’

If set to *auto*, the matrix matching the profile will be picked. If not set, the matrix providing the highest quality, *default*, will be picked.

`bits_per_mb integer`

How many bits to allot for coding one macroblock. Different profiles use between 200 and 2400 bits per macroblock, the maximum is 8000.

`mbs_per_slice integer`

Number of macroblocks in each slice (1-8); the default value (8) should be good in almost all situations.

`vendor string`

Override the 4-byte vendor ID. A custom vendor ID like *apl0* would claim the stream was produced by the Apple encoder.

`alpha_bits integer`

Specify number of bits for alpha component. Possible values are 0, 8 and 16. Use 0 to disable alpha plane coding.

## 9.9.2 Speed considerations

In the default mode of operation the encoder has to honor frame constraints (i.e. not produce frames with size bigger than requested) while still making output picture as good as possible. A frame containing a lot of small details is harder to compress and the encoder would spend more time searching for appropriate quantizers for each slice.

Setting a higher `bits_per_mb` limit will improve the speed.

For the fastest encoding speed set the `qscale` parameter (4 is the recommended value) and do not set a size constraint.

## 10 Subtitles Encoders

### 10.1 dvdsub

This codec encodes the bitmap subtitle format that is used in DVDs. Typically they are stored in VOBSUB file pairs (\*.idx + \*.sub), and they can also be used in Matroska files.

#### 10.1.1 Options

`even_rows_fix`

When set to 1, enable a work-around that makes the number of pixel rows even in all subtitles. This fixes a problem with some players that cut off the bottom row if the number is odd. The work-around just adds a fully transparent row if needed. The overhead is low, typically one byte per subtitle on average.

By default, this work-around is disabled.

## 11 See Also

ffmpeg, ffplay, ffprobe, ffserver, libavcodec

## 12 Authors

The FFmpeg developers.

For details about the authorship, see the Git history of the project ([git://source.ffmpeg.org/ffmpeg](http://source.ffmpeg.org/ffmpeg)), e.g. by typing the command `git log` in the FFmpeg source directory, or browsing the online repository at <http://source.ffmpeg.org>.

Maintainers for the specific components are listed in the file MAINTAINERS in the source code tree.

This document was generated on *December 18, 2014* using *makeinfo*.