

Everyone

Next Generation, Open-Source Digital Media Technology for

Overview of Coding Tools Under Consideration in AVM

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Outline

- Introduction
- Tools Overview
 - Quantization
 - Partition tools
 - Intra coding tools
 - Inter coding tools
 - Transform coding tools
 - Entropy coding tools
 - In-Loop filtering tools
- Conclusion





Age of Analog Video

Age of Digital Video

Age of Internet Video

Next-Gen AOM Video Codec (AVM)

- In 2020, AOM started exploratory work towards a **next-gen video codec**
- Requirements for next-gen codec:
 - Should achieve ~40% lower bandwidth than AV1 at equivalent perceptual quality
 - PSNR-wise target could be lower
 - \circ $\:$ Should not have a decoder side complexity/area of more than 2X that of AV1 $\:$
- Initial phase of development (2020-21):
 - Formalized Processes to be followed during development
 - Testing Sub Working Group: Selected Test Sequences; defined Common Test Conditions (CTC)
 - Starting Codebase: A version of libaom open-source AV1 codec library selected
 - Inception of AOM Video Model (AVM)
 - Setup of repository on gitlab: <u>https://gitlab.com/AOMediaCodec/avm</u>
 - Selection of Chairs for various working groups and sub-working groups, SW co-ordinators

Progress so far

- In the last three years, many new tools have gone through the CWG review process and have been chosen as candidates in AVM
 - \circ A new version of AVM is released ~ every 4 months
- **Rigorous scrutiny** for hardware decoding complexity
- Current status:
 - Latest anchor: AVM-v8.0.0
 - A good way towards our goal in terms of objective metrics
- New codec finalization schedule
 - TBD
- Disclaimer:
 - None of the tools presented here are guaranteed to exist in the final next-gen AOM codec.
 - Only covers tools that are in AVM v-8.0.0

Coding Tool Contributors and Collaborators

- Industry Contributors:
 - Amazon
 - Apple
 - o Cisco
 - Google
 - Intel
 - Ittiam
 - Meta
 - Netflix
 - o Oppo
 - Samsung
 - Tencent
 - Videolan

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 \bigcirc

- Academic Collaborators:
 - UCSB
 - USC
 - NYU
 - Hangzhou University
 - 0 ...

- AVM is an open-source project!
- We are always welcoming new contributors







Framework has not changed much in the last 35 years !





Framework has not changed much in the last 35 years !



• Intra Predictor

- Multiple Reference Line Selection
- Adaptive Intra Mode Coding
- Intra Bi-Prediction
- Local Intra Block Copy
- Improved CfL Prediction

• Inter Predictor

- Reference Framework
- Temporal Interpolated Frame
- Optical Flow MV Refinement
- MV Prediction
- MV Coding
- Enhanced Warp Prediction
- Extended Wedge Compound Mode
- Block Adaptive Weighted Prediction
- Skip Mode Enhancement

Quantization

• Extended Quantization

• Partitioning

- Extended Recursive Partitioning
- Semi-Decoupled Partitioning

Transform Coding

- New Transform Partitioning
- Primary Transforms
- Secondary Transforms
- Cross Component Transform

Entropy Coding

- Parity Hiding & Forward Skip Coding
- Coefficient Coding Improvements
- Arithmetic Coding Improvements

In-Loop Filtering

- Improved Deblocking Filters
- Cross Component Sample Offset
- Extended Loop Restoration Filters

Quantization

Quantization: Extended Quantization Redesign

- AV1 Quantizer
 - Quantization Index (QP) to step-size mapping are given by predefined look-up tables
 - 256 quantization levels
 - Different tables used for 8/10/12-bit content as well as AC/DC
- AVM New Quantizer
 - Quantization Index (QP) to step-size mapping given by a unified exponential formula
 - 10-bit, 12-bit quantizers and AC/DC modifiers are shifts on indices
 - Steps double for every 24
 - 256/304/352 levels for 8/10/12-bit content
 - Range expanded to cover wider range of qualities

$$Q_{step} = \begin{cases} 32 & q_{index} = 0\\ round(2^{\frac{q_{index}+127}{24}}) & q_{index}in \ [1, 24]\\ Q_{step}[(q_{index}-1)\% 24) + 1] * (2^{\frac{q_{index}-1}{24}}) & q_{index} \ge 25 \end{cases}$$

Partitioning Tools

Partitioning: Extended Recursive Partitions (ERP)

• AV1 partitioning types



R = Recursive

Partitioning: Extended Recursive Partitions (ERP)



Partitioning: Extended Recursive Partitions (ERP)



Partitioning: New Rectangular Block Sizes and Tx Sizes

• Coding block sizes:

4x4, 8x8, 16x16, 32x32, 64x64, 128x128, **256x256**

• Rectangular 1:2/2:1:

4x8, 8x4, 8x16,16x8,16x32, 32x16, 32x64, 64x32, 64x128, 128x64, **128x256, 256x128**

- Rectangular 1:4/4:1: 4x16,16x4, 8x32, 32x8, 16x64, 64x16
- Rectangular 1:8/8:1: 4x32, 32x4, 8x64, 64x8
- Rectangular 1:16/16:1: 4x64, 64x4

Transform block sizes:

• Square:

• Square:

- 4x4, 8x8, 16x16, 32x32, 64x64
- Rectangular 1:2/2:1: 4x8, 8x4, 8x16, 16x8, 16x32, 32x16, 32x64, 64x32
- Rectangular 1:4/4:1: 4x16, 16x4, 8x32, 32x8, 16x64, 64x16
- Rectangular 1:8/8:1: 4x32, 32x4, 8x64, 64x8
- Rectangular 1:16/16:1: 4x64, 64x4

New blocksizes added

Partitioning: Semi Decoupled Partitioning (SDP)

- In AV1, partition structure is shared between luma and chroma
- SDP
 - <u>Same</u> luma & chroma partition structure up to BLOCK_64X64.
 - <u>Independent</u> luma & chroma partition structure at smaller block sizes.





Luma coding block partition

Chroma coding block partition

1

2

2

Partitioning: Semi Decoupled Partitioning (SDP) in Inter Frames

- Coding blocks <= BLOCK_64X64 may use semi-decoupled partitioning
- If SDP is used for a coding block:
 - <u>luma</u> channel <u>can</u> be further partitioned recursively
 - <u>chroma</u> channel <u>cannot</u> be partitioned further.
 - All sub-blocks within this coding block will use intra prediction only





Luma coding block partition

Chroma coding block partition

Intra Coding Tools

Intra: MRLS & AIMC

- Multiple Reference Line Selection (MRLS)
 - Select and signal one among 4 top/left reference lines for intra prediction
 - Applied to luma component only
 - Applied to all directional prediction modes
 - For blocks at SB boundary, 1 top and 4 left reference lines
 - Angle refinement {-1, 0, 1} is applied to different MRL
- Adaptive Intra Mode Coding (AIMC)
 - Rank available intra modes based on those of neighboring/colocated intra mode info
 - Split the ranked modes into mode sets, then signal
 - mode set idx
 - mode idx within mode set
 - Top ranked sets/modes are cheaper to signal.



Intra: Intra Prediction

- Intra Bi-Prediction (IBP)
 - Prediction is the weighted average of A, and B.
 - Weights defined based on (mode, bsize, x, y)

- Offset based refinement of intra prediction (ORIP)
 - The offsets are generated from top and left neighboring prediction samples.
 - The refinement is applied to top-most 4x4 left-most 4x4 sub-blocks



Intra: Improved Chroma from Luma (CfL) Prediction

- AV1 CfL
 - Fixed 4-tap luma downsampling filter
 - Pred_c = a (Rec_y DC_y) + DC_c
 - \circ a is searched by encoder and signaled in the bitstream
- Improved CfL
 - Luma downsampling filter
 - Three filter types (4-, 5- or 6-tap)
 - Filter selection signaled in sequence header



- \circ Additional CfL mode with implicitly derived a
 - a = argmin sum(Rec_c a * Rec_y)^2
 over the L-shape region



Intra: Multi Hypothesis Cross Component Prediction (MHCCP)

Two shapes are supported in MHCCP, and 5 parameters are derived in each shape

$$E = (C^2 + F) >> bit_depth$$

F = 1 << (bit_depth - 1)

T C B

Vertical shape:
chroma =
$$w_0$$
.C + w_1 .T + w_2 .B + w_3 .E + w_4 .F

C R Horizontal shape: chroma = w_0 .C + w_1 .L + w_2 .R + w_3 .E + w_4 .F



Extend the reference lines for deriving the model parameters

Intra block copy improvement

- Block vector prediction improvement
- Existing (hardware) on-chip 128x128 buffer for nearby pixels as an additional search area.
- Supports additional mode to generate linear predictor from top and left template.
- Modified signaling to enable for natural camera capture content.
 - Signaling of frame level intrabc flag does not depends on the "allow_screen_content_tool" flag.



Inter Coding Tools

Inter Coding: Reference Frame Framework

New Reference Signaling

- Replace named references by ranked references
 - LAST/LAST2/LAST3/GOLDEN/BWDREF/ALTREF2/ALTREF ⇒ ref rank indices 0-6
- No signaling overhead for reference mapping
 - Ranks and num_total_refs are implicitly derived.
 - Ranking based on 1) temporal distance to reference frame
 (d) and 2) quantizer (q) of reference frame

$$\cos t = 64 * d + q$$

- Bitstream syntax
 - Unary codeword for reference frame index signaling



Example: compound with refs ranked 2 & 5

- 010001, if num_refs>5
- 01000, if num_refs=5

Inter Coding: Compound Modes

- Temporal Interpolated Prediction (TIP) frame
 - Interpolated intermediate frame between forward and backward reference frames
- TIP mode at block level
 - Only one motion information required



- \circ Signal MVD₀, and derive MVD₁ by scaling MVD₀
- Scaling factor can be either derived from temporal distances or explicitly signaled.

Inter Coding: Optical Flow MV Refinement

- MVs are refined for each (8x8 or 4x4) subblock in bi-directional prediction block
 - P0, P1: Reference blocks after MC.
 - Cur: Current source block.

 $\circ \quad (\mathsf{MVi}_x, \, \mathsf{MVi}_y) \leftarrow (\mathsf{MVi}_x + \mathsf{di} * \mathsf{vx}, \, \mathsf{MVi}_y + \mathsf{di} * \mathsf{vy})$





Inter Coding: Decoder Side Affine Motion Refinement (DAMR)

- In optical flow refinement
 - Solve two translational parameters per subblock
- DAMR
 - 1st step: solve 4 affine parameters (rotation φ, scaling α, translational tx & ty) for whole block
 - Formulation based on the optical flow equation
 - Parameter are assumed to be small, which allows 4-parameter least squares solution
 - 2nd step: solve 2 translational parameters per subblock
 - Same as optical flow refinement
 - Recon step: compound warped prediction per subblock using parameters from two steps combined





Inter Coding: Sub-Block Based MV Refinement

- Compound mode
- Divide a block into N 16x16 sub-blocks
- For each sub-block:
 - Search 5x5 region with MV0, MV1 (initial MVs) as center
 - \circ For each offset (Δ MV)
 - Generate first predictor P0 using (MV0 + Δ MV).
 - Generate second predictor P1 using (MV1 △MV)
 - Compute SAD between P0 and P1
 - \circ Find best offset (Δ MVbest) with minimum SAD
 - Final motion compensation using (MV0 + Δ MVbest) and (MV1 Δ MVbest)



Inter Coding: Compound Weighted Prediction (CWP)

- Adaptive weighting compound mode
 - P0, P1: Reference blocks after MC
 - P=(W×P0+(16-W)×P1+8)≫4

	Weighting factors (W)
Two ref frames are from different directions	8, 10, 6, 12, 4
Two ref frames are from same directions	8, 12, 4, 20, -4

• Only applies to:

- COMPOUND_AVERAGE mode
- Some inter modes (NEAR_NEARMV, JOINT_NEWMV, or JOINT_AMVDNEWMV)

Inter Coding: Extended Wedge Compound Mode

- Explicit wedge mask signaling
 - Wedge mode is extended from 32x32 to 64x64 block
 - Wedge mode is extended from 16 to 68 modes
 - Blending function based on sigmoid function

- Implicit wedge mask
 - Handling prediction samples outside frame boundary





Inter Coding: MV Prediction

- Temporal and Spatial MV Prediction (TMVP/SMVP) Improvements
- Reference MV Bank

	SB(0, 0) coded	SB(0, 1) coded	SB(0, 2) coded	SB(0, 3) coded	SB(0, 4) coded
Ref MV Bank Bank	SB(1, 0) coded	SB(1, 1) coded	 SB(1, 2) being coded 	SB(1, 3) to be coded	SB(1,4) to be coded
SB coded Reset bank at	SB(2, 0) to be coded	SB(2, 1) to be coded	SB(2, 2) to be coded	SB(2, 3) to be coded	SB(2, 4) to be coded



Inter Coding: MV trajectory tracking

- In addition to linear projection, track the trajectory of blocks by concatenating the decoded MVs in the reference frames.
 - Stored as a two-way mapping table
 - Block ⇔ trajectory ID
 - Improves both TMVP and SMVP
- Utilizes past motion information more efficiently
- Adaptive to non-linear motion
 - e.g. camera shake, objects moving along a curved path





Inter Coding: Motion Vector Resolution

- Adaptive MV Difference (AMVD)
 - Implicit adaptive MVD resolution
 - Only applies to some inter modes (NEAR_NEW, NEW_NEAR, JMVD_AMVD, AMVD_NEWMV)
 - A look-up table based approach where a set of predefined absolute MVD values are allowed.
 - For MVD magnitude > 1 pel, allow MV magnitudes of 2, 4, 8, ..., 2048 only, leading to reduction in the signaling cost of motion vector difference (down to 8 bits)

amvd	index	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
set	row/col in unit of ⅓ pel	0	2	4	6	8	16	32	64	128

- Adaptive MV Resolution (AMVR)
 - Signaled adaptive MVD resolution
 - AMVD precision from $\{8, 4, 2, 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}\}$ pixel selected and signaled.

Inter Coding: Joint Motion Vector Coding

- Joint coding of absolute row and column
 - Decode shell_index
 - Decode absolute value of col
- Sign derivation for MVD
 - Sign is predicted from the sum of absolute values shell index = 3
 row and col.
 - Sign of last non-zero MVD component is equal to the parity of the sum of absolute values of the all mvd components.



 $shell_index = |MVD.row| + |MVD.col|$



Inter: Extended Warp Prediction

- Non-translation prediction
 - Affine model, up to 6 parameters
- WARP_EXTEND motion mode
 - Keep continuity with neighbour at block edge
 - Match signaled MV at block center
- WARP_DELTA motion mode
 - Take a nearby warp model, and select/signal the delta w.r.t. the nearby warp model
 - \circ $\,$ Warp reference list (WRL): constructed by adding warp models from
 - Warp model derive from the 3 corner MVs
 - Models from the spatial neighboring blocks
 - Warp parameter bank: circular buffer to store previously coded models in the SB row
 - (If there are still available slots) Global motion and pre-defined models
- WARPMV mode
 - Supports WARP_CAUSAL and WARP_DELTA mode
 - MV is predicted from the warp reference list (instead of DRL)



Inter Coding: New Warp Filter

- AV1 warp filter: Break an affine transformation up into two shears
 - Very efficient, but can only handle small amounts of warping
- New warp filter for stronger warps
 - Split block into 4x4 units
 - Translate each 4x4 unit independently
 - Deblock boundaries between 4x4 units
- Greatly extends the range of warps we can perform





Inter Coding: BAWP and Skip Mode

- Block Adaptive Weighted Prediction (BAWP)
 - Illuminance compensation in the form

$$ax + b$$

Parameters **a** can be implicitly derived or explicit signaled, parameter **b** is implicitly derived

Implicit derivation: minimal SSE between reconstructed and predicted L-shape causal neighbors

$$(a^*, b^*) = \underset{(a,b)}{\operatorname{argmin}} SSE($$

- Explicit signaling: selection from a set of candidate values of *a* is signaled
- Skip mode enhancement
 - Allow MV candidate selection (DRL) and residual signaling

Transform Coding Tools

Transform Coding: New Transform Partitions





AV1 transform partition

AVM: New transform partition (NTP)

- Removal of recursive scheme used in AV1
- Allowed partitions: PARTITION_NONE, PARTITION_SPLIT, PARTITION_VERT, PARTITION_HORZ, PARTITION_HORZ_M, PARTITION_VERT_M

Transform Coding: Primary Transforms

- ADST type replacement for intra residuals
 - Replace 4-point ADST of type DST-VII to DST-IV.
 - Replace 8-point ADST of type DST-IV with a generalized unitary transform.
 - Replace 16-point ADST of type DST-IV to DST-VII.
- ADST type replacement for inter residuals with Data-driven primary transform kernels (DDTX)
 - \circ $\,$ $\,$ Used for 8-point and 16-point only.



Transform Coding: Secondary Transforms

- Secondary transform on low frequency transform coefficients.
- Enabled when primary transform is
 - DCT_DCT or ADST_ADST (Intra).
 - DCT_DCT (Inter).
- 14 transform sets, each set with 3 offline trained kernels.
- Signaled transform set and kernel index (Intra).
- Only kernel index signaled for inter blocks.



Transform Coding: Cross chroma component transform (CCTX)

- 2D rotations applied to the colocated u and v transform coefficients. $(U,V) \rightarrow (C1,C2)$.
- 7 rotation angles (0, 30, 45, 60, -30, -45, -60 degrees) for selection.



Entropy Coding Tools

Entropy Coding: Parity Hiding & Forward Skip Coding

- Parity Hiding
 - Luma DC coefficient parity can be implicitly derived.
 - Is applied when there are 3+ non-zero AC coefficients.
 - Parity is obtained from the sum of base range (BR) and low range (LR) AC coefficient levels.
- Forward Skip Coding (FSC)
 - Separate residual coding scheme is applied for prediction residuals using identity transform
 - Forward coefficient scan for BR, LR and sign coding passes.
 - Refined context modeling.
 - Implicit end of block (EOB) derivation.
 - Context coded sign values.

Entropy Coding: Coefficient Coding Improvements

- Region based coefficient coding.
- 6-ary base range (BR) symbol in LF region.
- 4-ary low range (LR) symbol for both default and LF region.
- Truncated Rice coding of high range (HR) symbol.
- Overall reduction and refinement of contexts for luma and chroma coefficient coding.
- Unify the scan order \rightarrow always use up-right diagonal scan.



Entropy Coding: Arithmetic Coding Improvements

- Uses a multi-symbol arithmetic coder
 - Supports M-ary symbols, where M can range from 2 to 16.
- AVM Improvements
 - Probability Adjustment Rate Adaptation (PARA)
 - Improves symbol probability estimation by flexible adjustment of update rate.
 - Offset is jointly optimized for different symbol groups and symbol frequency.
 - Bypass coding improvement
 - Avoids complex scaling and range normalization between bypass symbols.
 - Allows processing of 8+ consecutive bypass symbols in one cycle, compared with 1 or 2 symbols per cycle currently possible with AV1 hardware implementations.

In-loop Filtering Tools

In-loop Filtering: AV1 pipeline



Super-resolution mode:

• Each frame could be coded at a few lower resolution options, then upscaled in-loop with filtering.

In-loop Filtering: Intended AVM pipeline



Super-resolution mode:

- Each frame could be coded at a few lower resolution options, then upscaled in-loop with filtering.
- 2D upscaling is under development

In-loop Filtering: New Deblocking Filter

- Several different filters in av1 are replaced with one generalized filter
 - One formula for any filter length, but carefully designed decision logic
- Some decision logics (at very high level)
 - Boundaries are examined based on signal smoothness
 - Decision thresholds are q-dependent
 - Many more details...
- Number of samples modified at each side of block boundary
 - AV1: 1,2,3, or 6 for luma, 1 or 2 for chroma
 - NEW_DF: 1-12 for luma, 1-5 for chroma

In-loop Filtering: Cross-Component Sample Offset (CCSO)

CCSO

- Main idea: use luma pixels to refine both luma and Ο chroma reconstruction pixels
- Nonlinear filtering process applied on all three color Ο components. Steps:
 - d0, d1: quantized luma delta values in {-1, 0, 1}, p0, p1 - locations determined by filter index
 - Get component band index b, where # bands = {1, 2, 4, 8
 - s = LUT(d0, d1, b)
 - Component output rc' = clip(rc + s)
- #Bands, guantization step, filter shape and LUT entries Ο are all signaled at the frame level

6 Filter shapes (locations of p0, p1)





d1=Quantize(val(p1)-val(rl))

In-loop Filtering: Improved Loop Restoration

Luma

- AV1 LR: Separable Wiener + Guided Filter
- New filters for AVM
 - Pixel Classification based pre-trained Wiener filter Ο
 - Pre-trained 13 tap diamond-shaped filters for Luma
 - Gradient based 64-ary classification in 4x4 units
 - No side-info overheads!
 - Explicitly signaled non-separable Wiener filter Ο
 - Explicit signaling of coefficients
 - Luma: diamond-shaped 12 tap symmetric filters
 - Chroma: small diamond shaped
 - In-component + cross-component
 - Cross-component portion has no symmetry constraints

Chroma

			7				
		9	5	8			
	10	3	1	2	11		
6	4	0	12	0	4	6	
	11	2	1	3	10		
		8	5	9			
			7				
Pixel-classified Luma							

9 5 8 10 3 2 11 6 0 0 4 4 11 2 3 10 8 5 9 7 Explicit Filter: Luma



In-loop Filtering: Improved Loop Restoration (cont'd)

- Frame level explicitly-signaled classified Wiener filters
 - Flexible number of classes derived from master 64-ary classifier
 - Explicitly signal filters for each class at frame level
- Syntax Optimization
 - Allows multiple RUs to share the same side information
 - Circular bank of previously used filters can be used as predictor for the next RU
 - Flexible mechanism to turn on/off tools at sequence/frame level



Conclusion

- Development of coding tools for next-gen royalty-free codec from AOM continues as AVM
- Status
 - More than 100 candidate coding tools available
 - ~25.70% (YUV-PSNR 14:1:1) coding gain compared to AV1 with candidate tools;
 ~27.55% (YUV-PSNR 6:1:1)
 - \circ All tools in AVM-8.0 rigorously vetted for decoder hardware complexity
 - Encoder very slow right now !
- Plan & future work
 - Extend objective gain to 30% and perceptual coding gain to 40% bitrate reduction over AV1.
 - Optimization and encoder-complexity reduction

Thank You!