

# An Integrated Approach for Downscaling MPEG Video

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**Abstract.** Digital video databases are widely available in compressed format. In many applications such as video browsing, picture in picture, video conferencing etc. data transfer at lower bit rate is required. This requires downscaling of the video before transmission. The conventional spatial domain approach for downscaling video is computationally very expensive. The computation can greatly be reduced if downscaling and inverse motion compensation (IMC) are performed in Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) domain. There are many algorithms in the literature to perform IMC in the DCT domain. In this paper, we propose an efficient integrated technique to perform IMC and downscaling in DCT domain. This new approach results in significant improvement in computational complexity.

## 1 Introduction

Due to the day to day advancement in multi-media based applications, more and more video data are available in digital formats. A digital video is typically stored in the compressed form to reduce storage space and transmission time. International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has proposed MPEG standards [1] for video compression. According to MPEG standard, a video stream consists of a number of GOPs and each GOP is a pre-specified sequence of different kinds of frames. There are three such different types of frames, namely, I, P and B. The I frames are intra coded frame and they are followed by P and B kinds of frames which are known as inter coded frames. They are also called motion compensated frames. There are quite a few good review papers [2] [3] [4] dealing with this standard.

There are applications as video browsing, picture in picture, video conferencing which requires video to be transcoded at lower bit rates and of reduced frame size. A straightforward method to perform this transcoding is to decode each frame in the input video, downscale each frame spatially and re-encode at a lower bit rate. This technique is known as spatial domain downscaling. But the spatial domain technique is very time consuming and computationally inefficient to meet the requirement of real time applications. The DCT/IDCT

operations and motion estimation during re-encoding of downscaled video are main bottlenecks of this approach. The computation time can greatly be reduced if we perform downscaling in the DCT domain itself, which eliminates the requirement of costly IDCT operation. There exists many algorithms [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] that provide different approaches for image/video downscaling in the DCT domain. As stated earlier, many frames in an MPEG stream (MPEG-1, MPEG-2) are motion compensated to achieve higher degree of compression. One has to reconstruct these motion compensated frames using inverse motion compensation(IMC) techniques before downscaling. This problem of inverse motion compensation (IMC) in DCT domain was studied in the work of Chang and Messerschmit [9], and subsequently in [12], [13], [14], [15]. Merhav[12] has proposed an excellent scheme to perform IMC in the DCT domain. He has also proposed an efficient computational model for performing this task with the help of factorization of the DCT and IDCT matrices that correspond to fast eight point winograd DCT/IDCT [16]. In [14], the shared information in a macroblock is used to speed up the process of IMC. It shows about 19% and 13.5% improvement over the method presented in [12], [13] respectively. In [15], a Macroblockwise Inverse Motion Compensation (MBIMC) scheme is presented to predict a complete macroblock in single step. This work is extension to the work of Merhav [12]. The method presented in [15] has shown 27% improvement over the Merhav approach.

In this paper, we propose a different approach for video downscaling by combining the downscaling and IMC as a composite operation. This approach is extension of our previous work [15] reported as Macroblockwise Inverse Motion Compensation (MBIMC) scheme. This work formulate a single expression for downscaling and inverse motion compensation. This reduces the computational complexity. We have computed the complexities in terms of multiplication and addition operations. Since multiplication operation is always costlier than addition operation, we assume in our work that a single multiplication is equivalent to 3 machine instructions and addition as a single machine instruction (as considered in [17]). The results are recorded using video stream containing I and P frames only ( $n=3, m=1$  GOP structure is used). However the proposed approach can easily be extended to videos containing B frames also. In the next section (section II), we discuss in brief about MBIMC scheme [15]. In the section III, the integrated approach for downscaling a video with IMC is discussed. Subsequently, results are presented and discussed in section IV.

## 2 Conversion of a P Frame to an I Frame

In an MPEG video stream, motion compensated frame (P) can be converted to an intra (I) frame by performing the IMC operation. In motion compensation, each macroblock  $M$  in current frame is predicted from the previous encoded frame. If predicted macroblock is  $M'$  then error  $E$  is computed as  $E = M - M'$  and finally this error block  $E$  is encoded in the video stream. A motion compensated frame is called inter coded frame. The inverse motion compensation

is required to convert an inter coded frame (P-frames) to an intra coded frame (I-frames).

During motion compensation, the best matching reference macroblock  $M'$  may not be aligned to any macroblock of its reference frame. In general, the predicted macroblock  $M'$  may intersect with nine  $8 \times 8$  blocks (see Figure 2). Our aim is to compute  $DCT(M)$  of current macroblock using the fact  $M = M' + E$ . As  $DCT(E)$  is available directly from the compressed stream, we have to compute  $DCT(M')$ .

In [15], the MBIMC scheme is presented to perform IMC for a macroblock. We discuss the MBIMC scheme here for the sake of completeness.

### 2.1 Macroblockwise Inverse Motion Compensation (MBIMC)

In MPEG video stream, motion estimation and compensation are performed for each macroblock. A macroblock contains four  $8 \times 8$  DCT blocks. A motion vector is generated for each macroblock and each  $8 \times 8$  block in the macroblock shares the same motion vector.

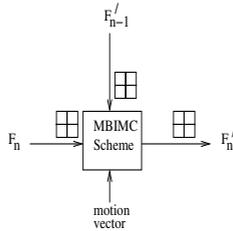


Fig. 1. Block diagram of MBIMC scheme

The functionality of MBIMC scheme is shown in Figure 1. The  $F'_{n-1}$  represents the  $(n - 1)^{th}$  intra/reference frame.  $F_n$  is the  $n^{th}$  motion compensated inter frame in the video sequence. The MBIMC scheme uses the motion vector and macroblocks from reference and current (inter) frames to perform the IMC for complete macroblock. The IMC operation converts an inter macroblock in to Intra macroblock which can easily be downscaled by any downscaling algorithm.

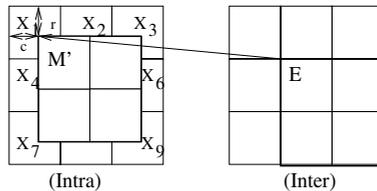


Fig. 2. Macroblockwise inverse motion compensation (MBIMC)

As shown in Figure 2,  $M'$  is the predicted macroblock in the reference frame which starts from the location  $(r, c)$ . Macroblock  $M'$  does not always align with

the block boundaries and intersects with nine  $8 \times 8$  DCT blocks in general. In MBIMC scheme, the  $M'$  is computed from the nine  $8 \times 8$  DCT blocks. If  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8, x_9$  are the adjacent blocks in spatial domain then a  $16 \times 16$  block from the  $24 \times 24$  block can be extracted using the Eq. (1).

$$m' = c_r \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ x_4 & x_5 & x_6 \\ x_7 & x_8 & x_9 \end{bmatrix} c_c \tag{1}$$

Where  $m'$  is the predicted macroblock in spatial domain and  $c_r$  is a  $16 \times 24$  matrix,  $c_c$  is  $24 \times 16$  matrix. These matrices are different for different values of  $r$  and  $c$  (refer Figure 2). Since  $1 \leq r \leq 8$  and  $1 \leq c \leq 8$ , there can be eight different  $c_r$  and  $c_c$  matrices which can be pre-computed and stored.

Since we have DCT blocks  $X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9$  and we have to extract macroblock  $M'$  from these nine DCT blocks. The macroblock  $M'$  is a group of four adjacent  $8 \times 8$  DCT blocks. To achieve this, Eq. (1) is expressed in the DCT domain as follows:

$$\mathbf{M}' = \begin{pmatrix} S_8 & 0 \\ 0 & S_8 \end{pmatrix} \left\{ c_r \begin{bmatrix} S_8^t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & S_8^t & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & S_8^t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_1 & X_2 & X_3 \\ X_4 & X_5 & X_6 \\ X_7 & X_8 & X_9 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} S_8 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & S_8 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & S_8 \end{bmatrix} c_c \right\} \begin{pmatrix} S_8^t & 0 \\ 0 & S_8^t \end{pmatrix} \tag{2}$$

Here '0' represents a  $8 \times 8$  matrix of zeros. The matrix multiplication inside the curly braces results in a  $16 \times 16$  matrix, which represent the spatial domain block. The premultiplication of  $\begin{pmatrix} S_8 & 0 \\ 0 & S_8 \end{pmatrix}$  and post multiplication of  $\begin{pmatrix} S_8^t & 0 \\ 0 & S_8^t \end{pmatrix}$  results in a  $16 \times 16$  macroblock containing four  $8 \times 8$  DCT blocks. Let us define  $\mathbf{S}$  and  $\mathbf{S}^t$  as shown below.

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} S_8 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & S_8 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & S_8 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{S}^t = \begin{bmatrix} S_8^t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & S_8^t & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & S_8^t \end{bmatrix}$$

Then  $\mathbf{S}^t$  can be written using the well known factorization of 8 point DCT matrix  $S$  as shown in Eq. (3).

$$S_8 = DPB_1B_2MA_1A_2A_3 \tag{3}$$

Here  $D$  is a diagonal matrix,  $P$  is a permutation matrix,  $B_1, B_2, A_1, A_2, A_3$  are sparse matrices of zeros and ones and  $M$  is sparse matrix of real numbers. The details can be seen in [16].

$$\mathbf{S}^t = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} (MA_1A_2A_3)^t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & (MA_1A_2A_3)^t & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & (MA_1A_2A_3)^t \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{Q}^t} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} B_2^t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & B_2^t & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & B_2^t \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{B}2^t} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} B_1^t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & B_1^t & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & B_1^t \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{B}1^t} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} P^t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & P^t & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & P^t \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{P}^t} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} D^t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & D^t & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D^t \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{D}^t}$$

Similarly, equation for  $\mathbf{S}$  is factorized also.

Using the above mentioned notations, we can rewrite Eq. (2) as given below.

$$\mathbf{M}' = \begin{pmatrix} S_8 & 0 \\ 0 & S_8 \end{pmatrix} \left\{ c_r \mathbf{Q}^t \mathbf{B}2^t \mathbf{B}1^t \mathbf{P}^t \mathbf{D}^t \begin{bmatrix} X_1 & X_2 & X_3 \\ X_4 & X_5 & X_6 \\ X_7 & X_8 & X_9 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{P} \mathbf{B}1 \mathbf{B}2 \mathbf{Q} c_c \right\} \begin{pmatrix} S_8^t & 0 \\ 0 & S_8^t \end{pmatrix} \tag{4}$$

The Eq. (4) is used to perform IMC for a macroblock in MBIMC scheme. The MBIMC scheme can be referred in detail in [15].





$$\mathbf{J}_5 = \begin{bmatrix} 2\ 0 & -2A & -1 & -2B & -A & -2C & 0\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 0 \\ 2\ 0 & 2A & 1 & 2C & -A & -2B & -1\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 0 \\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 2\ 0 & 2A & 1 & -2C & A & 2B & 1\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 0 \\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 2\ 0 & -2A & -1 & 2B & A & 2C & 0\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 0 \\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 2\ 0 & -2A & -1 & -2B & -A & -2C & 0\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 0 \\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 2\ 0 & 2A & 1 & 2C & -A & -2B & -1\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 0 \\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 2\ 0 & 2A & 1 & -2C & A & 2B & 1 \\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\ 0\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2\ 0 & -2A & -1 & -2B & A & 2C & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Where A = 0.7071, B = 0.9239 and C = 0.3827.

To compute  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{J}_5\mathbf{v}$ , we calculate according to following steps. (Here also ' and ' are used to represents variables. It does not represent derivatives.)

$Y_1 = 2Av_3 + v_4$	$Y'_1 = 2Av_{11} + v_{12}$	$Y''_1 = 2Av_{19} + v_{20}$
$Y_2 = 2(B + C)(v_5 + v_7)$	$Y'_2 = 2(B + C)(v_{13} + v_{15})$	$Y''_2 = 2(B + C)(v_{21} + v_{23})$
$Y_3 = 2Cv_5$	$Y'_3 = 2Cv_{13}$	$Y''_3 = 2Cv_{21}$
$Y_4 = 2Bv_7$	$Y'_4 = 2Bv_{15}$	$Y''_4 = 2Bv_{23}$
$Y_5 = Av_6$	$Y'_5 = Av_{14}$	$Y''_5 = Av_{22}$
$Y_6 = Y_2 - Y_3 - Y_4$	$Y'_6 = Y'_2 - Y'_3 - Y'_4$	$Y''_6 = Y''_2 - Y''_3 - Y''_4$
$Y_7 = Y_5 + v_8$	$Y'_7 = Y'_5 + v_{16}$	$Y''_7 = Y''_5 + v_{24}$
$Y_8 = Y_3 - Y_4 - Y_7$	$Y'_8 = Y'_3 - Y'_4 - Y'_7$	$Y''_8 = Y''_3 - Y''_4 - Y''_7$

$$\begin{aligned}
 u_1 &= 2v_1 - Y_1 - Y_6 - Y_5 \\
 u_2 &= 2v_1 + Y_1 + Y_8 \\
 u_3 &= 2v_9 + Y'_1 - Y'_8 \\
 u_4 &= 2v_9 - Y'_1 + Y'_6 + Y'_5 \\
 u_5 &= 2v_9 - Y'_1 - Y'_6 - Y'_5 \\
 u_6 &= 2v_9 + Y'_1 + Y'_8 \\
 u_7 &= 2v_{17} + Y''_1 - Y''_8 \\
 u_8 &= 2v_{17} - Y''_1 + Y''_6 + Y''_5
 \end{aligned}$$

Similar exercise can be done for  $J_1, J_3$  and  $J_7$  matrices. By developing similar implementation schemes of matrix multiplication, the number of operations required to perform matrix multiplication of  $J_i$  matrices with an arbitrary matrix of size  $24 \times 24$  are computed and shown in Table 1. The  $K_c$  matrices will also require same number of operations to perform matrix multiplication due to similar structures.

**Table 1.** Multiplication complexities of  $\mathbf{J}_i$  matrices in integrated scheme

Matrix	Computations/column
$J_1$	10m + 34a
$J_2$	17m + 44a
$J_3$	14m + 38a
$J_4$	16m + 43a
$J_5$	15m + 41a
$J_6$	17m + 44a
$J_7$	14m + 38a
$J_8$	15m + 44a

Let us now compute the total computational complexity for Inverse Motion Compensation and downscaling of a block. Consider a case when  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{6}$  in Eq. (5). This requires maximum number of computations to perform IMC and downscaling (refer Table 1). It is considered for finding the computational requirements in the worst case. Total operations required to perform IMC and downscaling (when  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{6}$ ) using Eq. (5) for each macroblock are 856m + 3496a. It requires 3.34 multiplications and 13.65 additions operations per pixel

**Table 2.** Computational complexities for downscaling a P frame from CIF resolution to QCIF resolution

Function	Complexity			Total Cost
	Mults.	Adds	Shifts	
<b>Spatial Domain based downscaling</b>				
<i>Input CIF frame processing</i>				
Inverse Quant. + IDCT (144m, 464a per 8 × 8 block)	228096	734976		
Inverse Motion Compensation (256a per 16 × 16 block)		101376		
<i>Output QCIF frame processing</i>				
Downscale by 2 (3a, 1s per pixel)		76032	25344	
Full search ME ( $\pm 15$ pels, 738048a per 16 × 16 block)		73066752		
Motion Compensation (256a per 16 × 16 block)		25344		
DCT + Quant. (144m, 464a per 8 × 8 block)	57024	183744		
Total	285120	74188224	25344	
Total Operation count (Add = 1 op, shift = 1 op, Mult. = 3ops)				
<b>DCT domain based downscaling (Using MBIMC)</b>				
<i>Input CIF frame processing</i>				
Inverse Quant. (64m per 8 × 8 block)	101376			
IMC using MBIMC ( 3.43m, 20.5a per pixel)	347720	2078208		
<i>Output QCIF frame processing</i>				
DCT Downscale by 2 (1.25m, 1.25a per pixel)	126720	126720		
AMVR (9m, 30a, 1shift per 16 × 16 block)	891	2970	99	
DCT domain MC (3.43m, 20.5a per pixel)	86930	519552		
Quant. (64m per 8 × 8 block)	25344			
Total	688981	2727450	99	
Total Operation count (Add = 1 op, shift = 1 op, Mult. = 3ops)				
<b>DCT domain based downscaling (Using Integrated Scheme)</b>				
<i>Input CIF frame processing</i>				
Inverse Quant. (64m per 8 × 8 block)	101376			
IMC using Integrated Scheme ( 3.34m, 13.65a per pixel)	338595	1383782		
DCT Upscale by 2 for intermediate frame processing (1.25m, 1.25a per pixel)	126720	126720		
<i>Output QCIF frame processing</i>				
AMVR (9m, 30a, 1shift per 16 × 16 block)	891	2970	99	
DCT domain MC (3.43m, 20.5a per pixel)	86930	519552		
Quant. (64m per 8 × 8 block)	25344			
Total	679856	2033024	99	
Total Operation count (Add = 1 op, shift = 1 op, Mult. = 3ops)				

of the input video frame. The computations required per pixel in the integrated approach is less than the MBIMC scheme [15]. In the integrated approach, we have to upsample the resulting downscaled frame to reconstruct the next inter frame in the video sequence. This requirement will add extra computational cost to the integrated scheme. We have used the Dugad and Ahuja [5] approach for upsampling of the frames which requires 1.25 multiplications and 1.25 additions per pixel of the upsampled frame. If we assume that one multiplication is equivalent to three machine instructions and one addition is one machine instruction (refer [17]), the video downscaling using the integrated scheme shows 23% improvement over the MBIMC scheme (The method presented in [5] is used for downscaling with MBIMC scheme).

## 4 Results

We have implemented the MBIMC scheme presented in [15] and integrated scheme to perform IMC and used Dugad and Ahuja’s approach for downscaling/upsampling wherever required. The integrated scheme discussed above performs downscaling and IMC in DCT domain and convert each interframe (P-frame) in to an intraframe (I-frame). We have compared the spatial domain video downscaling system with DCT domain based video downscaling system using the MBIMC scheme and Integrated scheme. The computational comparison of these schemes are shown in Table 2. In the DCT domain based video downscaling methods the AMVR [17] method is used for motion vector re-estimation. The

**Table 3.** Comparison of Different Technique

video	PSNR (dB)								
	Spatial Domain			MBIMC Scheme			Integrated Scheme		
	Y	U	V	Y	U	V	Y	U	V
Coastguard	25.17	32.54	32.55	26.84	42.69	44.07	26.68	42.38	43.78
Foreman	28.61	32.20	32.08	31.45	40.84	42.45	30.89	40.38	41.80
Container	25.76	32.49	32.78	27.03	40.95	40.46	26.49	39.88	39.20
Tennis	24.98	32.36	31.58	26.82	40.55	41.88	26.19	39.41	40.19

four different MPEG video streams with only I and P frames are used to record the results. These video streams are downsampled to QCIF resolution (at 500 kbps) from CIF resolution (at 1.5 mbps). To compute the PSNR, each frame from downsampled QCIF video stream is upsampled to CIF resolution and then compared with the original video frame. In spatial domain technique, frames are upsampled using 'bilinear' technique and in other DCT domain based techniques, frames are upsampled in DCT domain using Dugad and Ahuja's technique [5]. The average PSNR values for different video streams are shown in the Table 3.

In Table 3, we can observe that average PSNR values of Integrated approach are much higher than the spatial domain approach and very close to MBIMC scheme. It is obvious from Table2 that the MBIMC scheme is approximately 15 times faster than the spatial domain technique, however the integrated scheme shows 23% improvement over the MBIMC scheme.

## 5 Conclusion

In this paper, we propose a integrated scheme to perform inverse motion compensation (IMC) and downscaling directly on DCT blocks of an MPEG video stream. This scheme performs IMC and downscaling over a complete macroblock in a single step. It also uses the factorization of the DCT/IDCT matrices to reduce computational complexity of the IMC operation. A fast mathematical model is proposed to perform the computations efficiently. The integrated scheme shows 23% improvement for downscaling operation over the MBIMC scheme.

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