# A Rate Control Algorithm for HEVC Considering Visual Saliency 

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#### Abstract

In this paper, visual saliency is used to guide the coding tree unit (CTU) level bit allocation process in high efficiency video coding (HEVC) to improve the visual quality. At first, a saliency detection algorithm is proposed. With the detected saliency map, the distortion of each CTU is weighted by the corresponding saliency, so that the distortion of the salient areas is more critical. Then, the optimal bit allocation problem constraint by the picture level target bits and minimum quality fluctuation is built. Numerical method is used to solve the bit allocation problem. Experiment results show that quality gaining in salient areas is up to 0.8658 dB , the gaining of saliency weighted PSNR is up to 1.0318 dB .


## I. Introduction

A rate control scheme usually resolves two main problems. The first is how to allocate proper bits to each coding block according to the buffer status or bit budget, and the second is how to adjust the encoder parameters to properly encode each block with the allocated bits [1]. For the first problem, proper bits mean that the allocated bits should not only meet the constraint, but also reach the optimization goal. In [2], interframe dependency was considered to reflect the correlation among consecutive frames, and then efficient frame-level bits allocation algorithm was proposed. Li et al. [3] attempted to solve the coding tree unit (CTU) level optimal bit allocation problem, they developed an optimization formulation with rate distortion (R-D) estimation, and obtained a closed form solution by recursive Taylor expansion method. Li et al. [4] considered both inter-frame dependence and CTU level RD performance. Many R-D models have been proposed to calculate $\lambda$ and QP, e.g., Quadratic model [5], $\rho$-domain model [6] and $\lambda$-domain model [7].

All of the above rate control algorithms aimed at minimizing the average objective distortion, while human visual system (HVS) was not considered. For HVS based video coding, region of interest (ROI) coding is the hot topic. Some algorithms have been proposed to improve the quality in ROIs. Zeng et al. [8] developed perceptual sensitivity to guide bit allocation. Zhang et al. [9] built RD models for ROIs and nonROIs respectively. Bai et al. [10] used the average saliency and mean absolute difference as weights, and allocated bits for each CTU according to these two weights. However, bit allocation for ROIs and non-ROIs in these algorithms is not optimal in RDO sense, as the bits difference between ROIs and non-ROIs is manually determined.

In this paper, we propose a saliency based CTU level rate control algorithm for Inter coded frames in HEVC. Our
algorithm mainly focuses on the first problem, i.e., proper bit allocation. In the proposed rate control algorithm, saliency is used as the weight to measure the distortion in different regions, so that the overall distortion is penalized by the distortion in salient areas (SA), i.e., ROI. At first, a saliency detection algorithm is proposed to detect the saliency. Then, the optimal CTU level bit allocation problem is built constraint by frame level target bits and minimum weighted distortion. The problem is solved by the numerical method. Finally, the bits re-allocation and the RDO parameters clipping algorithms are designed to make up the mismatch between the allocated bits and the actually consumed bits.

The paper is organized as follows. The proposed saliency detection algorithm and saliency weighted distortion are presented in Section II. Section III introduces the proposed rate control algorithm. Section IV presents experimental results and Section V concludes the paper.

## II. The Proposed Saliency Detection Algorithm

The proposed saliency detection algorithm is mainly composed of 3 parts: static saliency detection, dynamic saliency detection and fusion. In the proposed algorithm, information in compressed HEVC domain, besides information in pixel domain, is utilized to generate dynamic feature map to reduce complexity.

## A. Static Saliency Detection

To detect static saliency, static features are extracted at first. In the proposed algorithm, four static feature maps are extracted: one luminance feature map, two chroma feature maps and one texture feature map. Luminance and chroma feature maps are the down-sampling of $\mathrm{Y}, \mathrm{Cb}$ and Cr color component, represented by $S F^{L}, S F^{C b}$ and $S F^{C r}$ respectively. The down-sampling process can be expressed as,

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
S F_{k}^{L}=\sum_{i=1}^{64} Y_{k, i} / 64  \tag{1}\\
S F_{k}^{C b}=\sum_{i=1}^{16} C b_{k, i} / 16 \\
S F_{k}^{C r}=\sum_{i=1}^{16} C r_{k, i} / 16
\end{array}\right.
$$

where $Y_{k, i}\left(C b_{k, i}, C r_{k, i}\right)$ is the $i$-th element in the $k$-th $8 \times 8$ $(4 \times 4)$ block of $\mathrm{Y}(\mathrm{Cb}, \mathrm{Cr})$ color component. It should be noted that the video format in our experiment is $4: 2: 0 \mathrm{YCbCr}$, then
the extracted luminance feature map and chroma feature maps are of the same size.

Texture feature can be represented by spatial frequency. DCT is a powerful tool to transform images from pixel domain into spatial frequency domain. Therefore, we use $8 \times 8$ DCT to extract texture features from Y component. Our texture feature map, represented by $S F^{T}$, is a set of vectors, each of which is composed of 5 lowest frequency DCT AC coefficients, as following,

$$
\begin{equation*}
S F_{k}^{T}=\left\{A C_{k}^{(0,1)}, A C_{k}^{(1,0)}, A C_{k}^{(2,0)}, A C_{k}^{(1,1)}, A C_{k}^{(0,2)}\right\} \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $A C_{k}^{(i, j)}$ is the coefficient with coordinate $(i, j)$ in the $k$-th DCT block.

Each static feature map can generate a saliency map by calculating the saliency of each static feature. The saliency of one static feature is measured by the distance from itself to the surroundings, as the following,

$$
\begin{equation*}
S M_{k}^{F}=\sum_{i \in W(k)} G(i, k) \cdot\left\|F_{i}-F_{k}\right\|_{2} \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $F_{i}$ is the $i$-th feature in the static feature map $F, F \in$ $\left\{S F^{L}, S F^{C b}, S F^{C r}, S F^{T}\right\}, W(k)$ is $k$-centric $9 \times 9$ square window, and $G(\cdot)$ is Gaussian kernel function. Finally, the static saliency map can be obtained by the following equation,

$$
\begin{equation*}
S M=0.4 \cdot S M^{L}+0.15 \cdot S M^{C b}+0.15 \cdot S M^{C r}+0.3 \cdot S M^{T} \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

## B. Dynamic Saliency Detection

Dynamic feature indicates the movement in frame. It is time-consuming to exhaustively search the movement of the entire frame. To reduce the complexity, motion vector (MV) generated by the HEVC encoder is used instead. The MV of each $8 \times 8$ block composes the dynamic feature map, represented by $D F$. However, for dynamic background videos, the movement of background may cause comparable MV to that of foreground, which can introduce spurious SA. Therefore, the feature of dynamic background should be filtered out. Different from the complex and varied motion of foreground, the motion of background tends to be regular, which results in the relatively simple coding structure and smaller residual. In this paper, the mask containing coding structure and residual information is designed to filtered out the motion of dynamic background, as following,

$$
\text { mask }_{k}= \begin{cases}0, & \text { if } d_{k} \cdot r_{k}<T h  \tag{5}\\ 1, & \text { if } d_{k} \cdot r_{k}>T h\end{cases}
$$

where $d_{k}$ is the splitting depth in CTU of the $k$-th $8 \times 8$ block, and $r_{k}$ is the average residual of the $k$-th $8 \times 8$ block. The threshold $T h$ is defined as,

$$
\begin{equation*}
T h=2 \cdot \frac{\sum d_{k} \cdot r_{k}}{n} \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

where, n is number of pixels in a frame. Then, the dynamic saliency map can be obtained by normalizing and masking the dynamic feature map,

$$
\begin{equation*}
D M_{k}=\frac{\left\|D F_{k}\right\|_{2}}{\max _{k}\left\|D F_{k}\right\|_{2}} \cdot \text { mask }_{k} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

## C. Adaptive Fusion

With the static and dynamic saliency map, the final saliency map can be obtained by fusion. In the proposed algorithm, the linear fusion scheme is used, as following,

$$
\begin{equation*}
F M_{k}=a_{1} \cdot S M_{k}+a_{2} \cdot D M_{k}+a_{3} \cdot M M_{k} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $a_{1}, a_{2}$ and $a_{3}$ are weighting factors, $M M$ is the mixed saliency map, $M M_{k}=S M_{k} \cdot D M_{k}$. The weighting factors are defined as,

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
a_{1}=1  \tag{9}\\
a_{2}=\left(\frac{\sigma^{S M}}{\sigma^{D M}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
a_{3}=2 \cdot\left(\frac{\sigma^{S M}}{\sigma^{F M}} \cdot \frac{\sigma^{D M}}{\sigma^{F M}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}
\end{array}\right.
$$

where $\sigma$ is standard deviation of corresponding saliency map. After fusion, normalization is carried out, and the final saliency map is obtained.

## III. The Proposed Rate Control Algorithm

## A. Saliency Weighted Distortion

The traditional picture quality metrics, i.e., PSNR and MSE, have been widely criticized for not correlating well with perceived quality measurements [11]. The studies over the past few years have shown that the addition of video saliency maps improves the performance of most quality metrics [12]. Therefore, the visual saliency is used to weight the distortion, similar as [13], to be compliant well with the perceived quality. The saliency weighted distortion in this paper is defined as,

$$
\begin{equation*}
d^{s}=(0.01+s) d=w d \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $d$ is MSE of the CTU, $s$ is the maximum visual saliency within the CTU and $w=0.01+s$ is the weighting factor.

As shown in (10), the weighting factor $w$ is proportional to visual saliency $s$. For SA, the relative large weighting factor penalizes the objective distortion $d$, which is in accordance with the wide acknowledge that visual distortions appearing in salient regions might be more visible and, therefore, more annoying [14].

## B. CTU Level Initial Bit Allocation

In [15], a linear distortion model, i.e., $\lambda$-D model, is proposed, where distortion is described by the Lagrange multiplier $\lambda$, as the following,

$$
\begin{equation*}
d^{c u r r}=\frac{d^{\text {prev }}}{\lambda^{\text {prev }}} \cdot \lambda^{\text {curr }} \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $d^{\text {curr }}$ is MSE of the current picture, $d^{\text {prev }}$ is MSE of the previous picture, $\lambda^{c u r r}$ is the Lagrange multiplier of the current picture and $\lambda^{\text {prev }}$ is the Lagrange multiplier of the previous picture. Another rate estimation model widely used in HEVC is $\lambda$-R model [7] which can be expressed as,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lambda=\alpha \cdot b p p^{\beta} \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\alpha$ and $\beta$ are context related model parameters, and bpp is the abbreviation of bit per pixel.

In this paper, we use the above $\lambda$-D model and $\lambda$ - R model to facilitate the proposed algorithm. However, the linear $\lambda$ D model is derived under the condition that the quality of consecutive frames in the video is consistent. To be compatible with hierarchy coding structure, the linear distortion model is modified before used, as the following,

$$
\begin{equation*}
d_{i}=p_{i} \cdot \lambda_{i} \tag{13}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $d_{i}$ is MSE of the $i$-th CTU in current frame, $p_{i}$ is the ratio of MSE to the Lagrange multiplier of the $i$-th CTU in the previous same hierarchy frame, and $\lambda_{i}$ is the Lagrange multiplier of the $i$-th CTU in current frame.

Combining (10) and (13), the weighted distortion for the $i$-th CTU in current frame is,

$$
\begin{equation*}
d_{i}^{s}=w_{i} p_{i} \lambda_{i} \tag{14}
\end{equation*}
$$

Our goal is that the total distortion in the whole frame is minimized by proper bit allocation, i.e.,

$$
\begin{align*}
d_{p i c}^{s} & =\underset{d_{i}^{s}}{\arg \min } \sum_{i=1}^{N} n_{i} d_{i}^{s} \\
& =\underset{b p p_{i}}{\arg \min } \sum_{i=1}^{N} n_{i} w_{i} p_{i} \alpha_{i} b p p_{i}^{\beta_{i}} \tag{15}
\end{align*}
$$

where $d_{p i c}^{s}$ is the picture level weighted distortion, $n_{i}$ is the number of pixels in the $i$-th CTU, $N$ is the number of CTUs in a frame, $b p p_{i}$ is the $b p p$ of the $i$-th CTU, and $\alpha_{i}$ and $\beta_{i}$ are $\lambda$-R model parameters in CTU level. Besides, the total allocated bits for CTUs in the frame should also satisfy the target bitrate constraint that,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{i=1}^{N} n_{i} b p p_{i} \leq R_{p i c} \tag{16}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $R_{p i c}$ is the target bits allocated to the current frame by the frame level rate control mechanism. Equations (15) and (16) constitute the constrained optimization problem, which can be elegantly solved by Lagrange multiplier method [16]. The Lagrange function of the constrained problem is,
$L\left(b p p_{i}, u\right)=\sum_{i=1}^{N} n_{i} w_{i} p_{i} \alpha_{i} b p p_{i}{ }^{\beta_{i}}+u\left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} n_{i} b p p_{i}-R_{p i c}\right)$
where $u$ is the Lagrange multiplier. The Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) condition of equation (17) is,

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\frac{\partial L}{\partial b p p_{i}}=n_{i} w_{i} p_{i} \alpha_{i} \beta_{i} b p p_{i}{ }^{\beta_{i}-1}+u \cdot n_{i}=0  \tag{18}\\
\frac{\partial L}{\partial u}=\sum_{i=1}^{N} n_{i} b p p_{i}-R_{p i c}=0
\end{array}\right.
$$

From condition $(i)$, the optimal bits allocated to the $i$-th CTU by the proposed algorithm can be obtained,

$$
\begin{equation*}
r_{i}^{i n i t}=n_{i} \cdot b p p_{i}=n_{i}\left(-\frac{u}{w_{i} p_{i} \alpha_{i} \beta_{i}}\right)^{\frac{1}{\beta_{i}-1}} \tag{19}
\end{equation*}
$$

Taking $b p p_{i}$ in condition (i) into condition (ii), the singlevariable equation related with $u$ can be obtained, as following,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{i=1}^{N} n_{i}\left(-\frac{u}{w_{i} p_{i} \alpha_{i} \beta_{i}}\right)^{\frac{1}{\beta_{i}-1}}=R_{p i c} \tag{20}
\end{equation*}
$$

The above equation can also be viewed as the root of function $f$ which is,

$$
\begin{align*}
f(u) & =\sum_{i=1}^{N} n_{i}\left(-\frac{u}{w_{i} p_{i} \alpha_{i} \beta_{i}}\right)^{\frac{1}{\beta_{i}-1}}-R_{p i c}  \tag{21}\\
& =\sum_{i=1}^{N} \operatorname{coef} f_{i} \cdot u^{\frac{1}{\beta_{i}-1}}-R_{p i c}
\end{align*}
$$

where,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\text { coeff } f_{i}=n_{i} \cdot\left(-w_{i} p_{i} \alpha_{i} \beta_{i}\right)^{\frac{1}{1-\beta_{i}}} \tag{22}
\end{equation*}
$$

Comparing (20) and (21), $u$ in (20) is also the root of $f$, vice versa. In this paper, we use the Newton iterative method [17] to solve the root of $f$. The iterative scheme here is,

$$
\begin{equation*}
u_{n+1}=u_{n}-\frac{f\left(u_{n}\right)}{f^{\prime}\left(u_{n}\right)} \tag{23}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $u_{n}$ is the $n$-th iteration value. It can be proved that the iteration in (23) necessarily converges with any positive initial value $u_{0}$.

With the root solved by the above numerical method, the optimal bits for the $i$-th CTU can be obtained by plugging it into (19).

## C. CTU Level Rate Control

With the initially allocated bits above, the Lagrange multiplier for RDO can be calculated by $\lambda$-R model [7]. For each CTU, QP is calculated according to the $\lambda$-QP model [18]. Then, the CTU is encoded with the calculated $\lambda$ and QP. Ideally, the actually consumed bits to encode the CTU exactly equal the allocated one. However, there nearly almost exists mismatch between the initially allocated bits and the actually consumed bits for the inaccuracy of $\lambda$ - R model [7]. To make up this mismatch, bits error generated by the previous CTUs is assigned to all the following uncoded CTUs by weight. The re-allocated bits by the proposed method is,

$$
\begin{equation*}
r_{i}^{r e}=r_{i}^{i n i t}+\frac{\sum_{j=1}^{i-1}\left(r_{j}^{\text {init }}-r_{j}^{a c t}\right)}{\sum_{k=i}^{N} r_{k}^{\text {init }}} r_{i}^{i n i t} \tag{24}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $r_{i}^{r e}$ is the re-allocated bits for the $i$-th CTU, $r_{i}^{r e}$ is the initially allocated bits in Section III-B and $r_{j}^{a c t}$ is the actually consumed bits for encoding the $j$-th CTU.

With the re-allocated bits $r_{i}^{r e}$, the RDO parameters $\lambda_{i}^{a c t}$ and $Q P_{i}^{a c t}$ for the $i$-th CTU can then be calculated [7], [18],

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\lambda_{i}^{a c t}=\alpha_{i}\left(\frac{r_{i}^{r e}}{n_{i}}\right)^{\beta_{i}}  \tag{25}\\
Q P_{i}^{a c t}=\left\lfloor 4.2005 \cdot \ln \lambda_{i}^{a c t}+13.7122+0.5\right\rfloor
\end{array}\right.
$$

where $\lfloor\cdot\rfloor$ is the floor operation. But due to the inaccuracy of RD model, the bits error may accumulate gradually so that there is inadequate or excess remaining bits for the latter

CTUs. To reduce bits error accumulation, $\lambda_{i}^{a c t}$ and $Q P_{i}^{a c t}$ are clipped around the picture level parameters,
$\left\{\begin{array}{l}\lambda_{i}^{a c t}=\operatorname{clip}\left(\lambda_{p i c} \cdot 2^{-\frac{d Q L(i)}{3}}, \lambda_{p i c} \cdot 2^{\frac{d Q U(i)}{3}}, \lambda_{i}^{a c t}\right) \\ Q P_{i}^{a c t}=\operatorname{clip}\left(Q P_{p i c}-d Q L(i), Q P_{p i c}+d Q U(i), Q P_{i}^{a c t}\right)\end{array}\right.$
where $\lambda_{p i c}$ is the picture level Lagrange parameter, $Q P_{p i c}$ is the corresponding picture level QP , and $d Q L(i)$ and $d Q U(i)$ are saliency related functions. For salient CTUs, $d Q L=8$, $d Q U=2$, for non-salient CTUs, $d Q L=2, d Q U=8$. Then, $\lambda_{i}^{a c t}$ and $Q P_{i}^{a c t}$ are used to encode the $i$-th CTU.

## IV. Experimental Results

To evaluate the performance of the proposed algorithm, we implement it into HM [19]. Four bitrates, corresponding to four constant QP encoded bitrates, i.e., $\mathrm{QP}=22, \mathrm{QP}=27$, $\mathrm{QP}=32$ and $\mathrm{QP}=37$, are tested. In the following, QP is used to represent the corresponding bitrate for simplicity. In the experiments, data for saliency detection are from two public databases [20], [21], and sequences for rate control are HEVC common test sequences [22].

## A. Performance Analysis of Saliency Detection

To evaluate the performance of the proposed saliency detection algorithm, area under the curve (AUC) is tested. The comparison results of AUC are listed in Table I, where LD is lowdelay configuration and RA is randomaccess configuration. It can be seen from Table I that about half AUCs by the proposed algorithm ( $\mathrm{LD}, \mathrm{QP}=22$ ) are bigger than those by the other four algorithms. The average AUCs by the four classical algorithms are $0.1404,0.0605,0.1167$ and 0.0792 smaller than the one by the proposed algorithm (LD, $\mathrm{QP}=22$ ). Therefore, the proposed saliency detection algorithm is better than the other four classic algorithms in sense of AUC. The performances under different bitrates and encoder configurations are tested, as shown in Table I. The results show that the biggest AUC difference under four conditions is only 0.0389 , therefore the performance of the proposed saliency detection algorithm remains stable for different bitrates and configurations in sense of AUC.

## B. Bits Allocation Analysis

The bits ratio allocated to salient areas (SA) at bitrate $\mathrm{QP}=22$ and $\mathrm{QP}=37$ is counted, as shown in Table II. In our experiment, the top $30 \%$ CTUs in saliency descending order are regarded as salient, otherwise non-salient. It can be seen from Table II that bits allocated to SA by the proposed algorithm are more than those by HM for all sequences. The bits allocated to SA by the proposed algorithm are $24 \%$ more for LD and $30 \%$ more for RA at bitrate $\mathrm{QP}=22$; and $27 \%$ more for LD and $18 \%$ more for RA at bitrate $\mathrm{QP}=37$. As more bits are allocated, the quality in SA can be enhanced by the proposed algorithm.

## C. Quality in SA and NSA

Quality in SA and non-salient areas (NSA) by HM, Bai [10] and the proposed algorithm are tested. The results of KristenAndSara are shown in Fig. 1 (a)-(c). From Fig. 1 (a), PSNR in SA by HM is much less than PSNR in NSA, which is improper as distortion in SA is more sensitive. Bais' [10] method increased the quality in SA, but still needs to be further improved, as shown in Fig. 1 (b). In the proposed algorithm, bits are allocated based on saliency, and the quality in SA is effectively increased, as shown in Fig. 1 (c). The more detail results at bitrate $\mathrm{QP}=22$ are shown in Table III, where PSNRS is PSNR for SA, PSNR-NS is PSNR for NSA. From Table III, the quality in SA by HM is about 1.2269 dB worse than that in NSA. Bais' method improves the quality in SA, but still 0.5887 dB worse than that in NSA. The quality in SA by the proposed algorithm is similar as or even better than that in NSA for every sequence.

## D. Quality Comparison

The bitrate quality (RQ) curves by HM, Bai [10] and the proposed algorithm are presented in Fig. 1 (d). It can be seen from Fig. 1 (d) that RQ curve by HM is the best one when PSNR is used as criterion. As PSNR does not correlate well with perceptual quality, we use saliency weighted PSNR (wPSNR) to re-evaluate the quality [27]. The RQ curves of the three methods when wPSNR is used as quality criterion are presented in Fig. 1 (e). As bits are optimally allocated according to saliency, the RD performance by the proposed algorithm is better than the other two algorithms.
The more detail wPSNR comparison is presented in Table IV. From Table IV, the wPSNR gaining by Bai and the proposed algorithm is 0.1894 dB and 0.5093 dB at bitrate $\mathrm{QP}=22$, and 0.3785 dB and 0.4633 dB at bitrate $\mathrm{QP}=32$. Therefore, the proposed algorithm is effective at different bitrate and outperforms HM and Bais' method in sense of wPSNR.

To further evaluate the performance of the proposed rate control algorithm, BD-BR and BD-wPSNR [28] are tested, as shown in Table V. For LD configuration, BD-BR decreasing and BD-wPSNR gaining by the proposed algorithm are $12.61 \%$ and 0.4999 dB on average, about $6.32 \%$ and 0.2487 dB more than those by Bai [10].

## E. Complexity and Bitrate Error Analysis

The bitrate error (BRE) by HM and the encoding time of the proposed algorithm vs. HM are tested, as shown in Table VI where CRC is encoding time ratio excluding saliency detection and CRCS is encoding time ratio including saliency detection. From Table VI, the BRE is $2.70 \%$ and $3.55 \%$ for HM and the proposed algorithm under LD, and $1.75 \%$ and $2.57 \%$ for HM and the proposed algorithm under RA. Therefore, the rate control accuracy by the proposed algorithm is slightly worse than that by HM under both LD and RA. The reason is that more bits are allocated in SA by the proposed algorithm, which causes bigger bits error accumulation with the same RD model error. The encoding complexity by the proposed rate

TABLE I
aUC Performance Comparison

| Sequences | Zhang [23] | Itti [24] | Seo [25] | Hou $[26]$ | LD |  | RA |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | QP=22 | QP=32 |  |  |
| HallMonit | 0.7071 | 0.7999 | 0.8393 | 0.7912 | 0.8434 | 0.8512 | 0.8723 | 0.8503 |
| FOREMAN | 0.5285 | 0.6905 | 0.5696 | 0.6543 | 0.7863 | 0.7654 | 0.7735 | 0.7471 |
| HARBOUR | 0.5236 | 0.5773 | 0.4273 | 0.4832 | 0.6403 | 0.6014 | 0.6278 | 0.6107 |
| MOBILE | 0.3339 | 0.4088 | 0.4287 | 0.4382 | 0.7003 | 0.7109 | 0.6987 | 0.7054 |
| BQSquare | 0.4693 | 0.5291 | 0.4935 | 0.5423 | 0.6076 | 0.6280 | 0.5867 | 0.6079 |
| BasketballPass | 0.6452 | 0.7905 | 0.6748 | 0.7252 | 0.7550 | 0.7520 | 0.7264 | 0.7187 |
| Johnny | 0.7532 | 0.8813 | 0.7915 | 0.8594 | 0.8868 | 0.8847 | 0.8744 | 0.8716 |
| FourPeople | 0.7350 | 0.6758 | 0.7323 | 0.8095 | 0.8206 | 0.8102 | 0.8211 | 0.8122 |
| SlideEditing | 0.5954 | 0.8559 | 0.6491 | 0.6956 | 0.8012 | 0.8182 | 0.8104 | 0.8280 |
| SlideShow | 0.7880 | 0.7892 | 0.7296 | 0.7284 | 0.7899 | 0.7803 | 0.7753 | 0.7988 |
| KristenAndSara | 0.8193 | 0.8163 | 0.8370 | 0.8643 | 0.9026 | 0.8947 | 0.9072 | 0.8939 |
| Cactus | 0.7158 | 0.7584 | 0.7256 | 0.7566 | 0.7655 | 0.7483 | 0.7746 | 0.7553 |
| Average | 0.6345 | 0.7144 | 0.6582 | 0.6957 | 0.7749 | 0.7704 | 0.7707 | 0.7667 |



Fig. 1. RQ Curve Comparison of KristenAndSara by Three Methods (LD): (a) RQ curve of SA and NSA by HM (b) RQ curve of SA and NSA by Bai [10] (c) RQ curve of SA and NSA by proposed algorithm (d) RQ curve by four methods (e) weighted RQ curve by four methods.

TABLE II
Bits Ratio of Salient Areas

|  | Sequences | LD |  | RA |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | HM | Proposed | HM | Proposed |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { N } \\ \stackrel{1}{\sigma} \end{gathered}$ | FourPeople | 56\% | 78\% | 51\% | 81\% |
|  | Johnny | 46\% | 81\% | 39\% | 82\% |
|  | KristenAndSara | 39\% | 75\% | 37\% | 77\% |
|  | BQTerrace | 39\% | 57\% | 38\% | 62\% |
|  | Cactus | 45\% | 66\% | 42\% | 69\% |
|  | Kimono | 41\% | 66\% | 40\% | 67\% |
|  | ParkScene | 40\% | 56\% | 41\% | 63\% |
|  | Average | 44\% | 68\% | 41\% | 71\% |
| $\stackrel{\pi}{\pi}$ | FourPeople | 40\% | 68\% | 34\% | 42\% |
|  | Johnny | 46\% | 69\% | 32\% | 39\% |
|  | KristenAndSara | 37\% | 69\% | 32\% | 40\% |
|  | BQTerrace | 31\% | 62\% | 30\% | 50\% |
|  | Cactus | 47\% | 70\% | 38\% | 69\% |
|  | Kimono | 42\% | 69\% | 40\% | 67\% |
|  | ParkScene | 41\% | 66\% | 37\% | 67\% |
|  | Average | 41\% | 68\% | 35\% | 53\% |

control algorithm is similar as HM. If take saliency detection into consideration, the overall encoding complexity by the proposed algorithm is about 1.03 times than HM under LD and 1.05 times than HM under RA.

## V. Conclusion

In this paper, a saliency based CTU level rate control algorithm is proposed to enhance the quality of SA. Besides, a saliency detection algorithm is also proposed. The proposed saliency detection algorithm is superior to four classic algorithms in sense of AUC. By the proposed rate control algorithm, quality gaining in salient areas is up to 0.8658 dB , the gaining of saliency weighted PSNR is up to 1.0318 dB .

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TABLE III
PSNR Comparison between Salient Areas and non-Salient Areas ( $\mathrm{QP}=22$ )

| Sequences |  | HM |  | Bai [10] |  | Proposed |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { PSNR-S } \\ & \text { (dB) } \end{aligned}$ | PSNR-NS <br> (dB) | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { PSNR-S } \\ \text { (dB) } \end{gathered}$ | PSNR-NS <br> (dB) | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { PSNR-S } \\ & \text { (dB) } \end{aligned}$ | PSNR-NS <br> (dB) |
| LD | FourPeople | 42.2858 | 43.9335 | 42.2210 | 43.7542 | 42.2837 | 42.6391 |
|  | Johnny | 41.7606 | 44.0353 | 41.8581 | 43.9266 | 42.2877 | 43.4869 |
|  | KristenAndSara | 43.3700 | 44.4779 | 43.6454 | 44.1125 | 43.9784 | 43.6793 |
|  | BQTerrace | 39.2224 | 40.2919 | 39.5715 | 39.5147 | 40.2805 | 39.2050 |
|  | Cactus | 38.6633 | 39.4146 | 38.9410 | 38.9516 | 39.1404 | 38.7931 |
|  | Kimono | 41.6842 | 42.1148 | 41.9683 | 41.5069 | 42.2903 | 41.0913 |
|  | ParkScene | 39.4625 | 40.3550 | 39.3121 | 39.5440 | 40.1629 | 39.4123 |
|  | Average | 40.9213 | 42.0890 | 41.0739 | 41.6158 | 41.4891 | 41.1867 |
| RA | FourPeople | 42.0497 | 43.7491 | 42.1187 | 43.5783 | 42.3294 | 43.1504 |
|  | Johnny | 42.1096 | 44.2080 | 42.2066 | 44.0756 | 42.4514 | 43.7781 |
|  | KristenAndSara | 43.3017 | 44.4014 | 43.3971 | 44.0855 | 43.6707 | 43.7969 |
|  | BQTerrace | 39.0137 | 40.1616 | 39.2646 | 39.5927 | 39.8795 | 39.2652 |
|  | Cactus | 38.4159 | 39.1981 | 38.6131 | 38.8174 | 38.7450 | 38.6104 |
|  | Kimono | 38.6327 | 39.7718 | 38.9334 | 38.7850 | 39.2742 | 38.2692 |
|  | ParkScene | 41.3236 | 41.9449 | 41.5022 | 41.2220 | 41.8601 | 40.8860 |
|  | Average | 40.6924 | 41.9193 | 40.8622 | 41.4509 | 41.1729 | 41.1080 |

TABLE IV wPSNR Comparison (LD)

| Sequences |  | HM | Bai [10] | Proposed |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { I } \\ & \pi \\ & \tilde{0} \end{aligned}$ | FourPeople | 44.1391 | 44.1976 | 44.2930 |
|  | Johnny | 43.9566 | 44.2282 | 44.4749 |
|  | KristenAndSara | 45.3738 | 45.7281 | 45.9944 |
|  | BQTerrace | 41.0747 | 41.2051 | 41.5680 |
|  | Cactus | 40.4160 | 40.3824 | 40.9160 |
|  | Kimono | 43.5802 | 44.0751 | 44.2288 |
|  | ParkScene | 41.1140 | 41.1638 | 41.7447 |
|  | Average | 42.8078 | 42.9972 | 43.3171 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \tilde{1} \\ & \tilde{0} \end{aligned}$ | FourPeople | 38.3535 | 38.5571 | 38.7213 |
|  | Johnny | 37.9287 | 37.8757 | 38.1162 |
|  | KristenAndSara | 39.3634 | 39.9360 | 39.8926 |
|  | BQTerrace | 35.0909 | 35.3397 | 35.4509 |
|  | Cactus | 35.5392 | 35.8850 | 35.9149 |
|  | Kimono | 37.7606 | 38.7474 | 38.7924 |
|  | ParkScene | 34.9995 | 35.1676 | 35.3902 |
|  | Average | 37.0051 | 37.3836 | 37.4684 |

TABLE V
BD-BR AND BD-wPSNR COMPARISON (LD)

| Sequences | Bai [10] |  | Proposed |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | BD-BR <br> $(\%)$ | BD-wPSNR <br> $(\mathrm{dB})$ | BD-BR <br> $(\%)$ | BD-wPSNR <br> $(\mathrm{dB})$ |
| FourPeople | -4.42 | 0.2072 | -8.06 | 0.3127 |
| Johnny | -0.99 | 0.0142 | -10.47 | 0.4715 |
| KristenAndSara | -11.19 | 0.5322 | -15.31 | 0.6592 |
| BQTerrace | -7.41 | 0.3023 | -12.43 | 0.5219 |
| Cactus | -2.74 | 0.0211 | -11.39 | 0.3112 |
| Kimono | -16.82 | 0.6800 | -18.73 | 0.7898 |
| ParkScene | -0.44 | 0.0012 | -11.85 | 0.4327 |
| Average | -6.29 | 0.2512 | -12.61 | 0.4999 |

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TABLE VI
Complexity and Bit Error Comparison (QP=27)

| Sequences |  | HM | Proposed |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | BRE | BRE | CRC | CRCS |
| LD | FourPeople | 2.56 | 2.87 | 98 | 105 |
|  | Johnny | 3.22 | 4.04 | 99 | 104 |
|  | KristenAndSara | 3.03 | 3.89 | 98 | 103 |
|  | BQTerrace | 1.87 | 2.48 | 101 | 103 |
|  | Cactus | 2.88 | 3.79 | 100 | 103 |
|  | Kimono | 3.81 | 3.75 | 99 | 102 |
|  | ParkScene | 1.50 | 4.06 | 99 | 103 |
|  | Average | 2.70 | 3.55 | 99 | 103 |
|  | FourPeople | 2.31 | 2.33 | 97 | 108 |
|  | Johnny | 2.62 | 4.28 | 98 | 107 |
|  | KristenAndSara | 2.43 | 2.37 | 99 | 107 |
|  | BQTerrace | 1.31 | 2.19 | 100 | 104 |
|  | Cactus | 1.35 | 3.06 | 101 | 104 |
|  | Kimono | 1.04 | 1.22 | 98 | 103 |
|  | ParkScene | 1.18 | 2.56 | 99 | 104 |
|  | Average | 1.75 | 2.57 | 99 | 105 |

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