

# Computer Science Basics

## Lossy Compression

Fall Term 2025/2026

Emmanuel Benoist | BFH-TI

# Lossy Compression

- ▶ Last Week
- ▶ Lossy compression  
Example
- ▶ JPEG
- ▶ Videos
- ▶ Conclusion

# Last Week

# Lossless compression

## Compression is central in a lot of Med Inf topics

- Storage of large documents
- Transfer of large documents

## Algorithms

- RLE is efficient if there are a lot of repetitions (Black and White images for instance).
- Huffman generates a tree. Is efficient if the type is known or if the tree remains small regarding the size of the document.
- LZW is efficient even if nothing is none.

## ZIP files

- For lossless compression of files
- Uses the algorithm Deflate based on LZ77 and Huffman
- First compress the duplicate series of bytes (Lempel-Ziv)
- Then replaces commonly used symbols (Huffman).
- Very efficient with text files.

## Lossless vs lossy compression

- Sometime, we do not need all of the information, a part of it is sufficient

# Lossy compression

# Lossy Compression

## **Irreversible compression**

- Use inexact approximations
- Partial data discarding
- The exact data can not be regenerated

## **Reduce data size**

- For storing
- handling
- transmitting data

## **Compression is much more efficient**

- Lossy compressed files are much more smaller than lossless ones.

## **Compression of multimedia data**

- Audio, Video, Images

# Example

## Same image: different sizes

- 31MB Without compression tiff (raw data)
- 14MB Tiff-file zipped (lossless compression using zip)
- 9MB PNG lossless compression
- 1,9MB High quality lossy compression using JPEG)
- 729kB Medium quality JPEG
- 403kB Low quality JPEG
- 86kB Low quality JPEG 2000

# Example

Different sizes (JPEG high, medium and low quality)



1,9MB



729kB



403kB

# Example

## Different sizes (JPEG high, medium and low quality)



3,5 MB



1,1 kB



588 kB

## Example: Zoom

### Different sizes



JPEG High quality



JPEG medium quality



JPEG2000 Low Quality

# JPEG

# JPEG

## **Joint Photographic Experts Group Algorithm for encoding images**

- Compression rate: 10:1 (with little visible quality loss)

### **Encoding algorithm**

- Consist of different steps

### **Contains also metadata**

- The system generating the image
- Location where it was taken
- Specific settings of the system

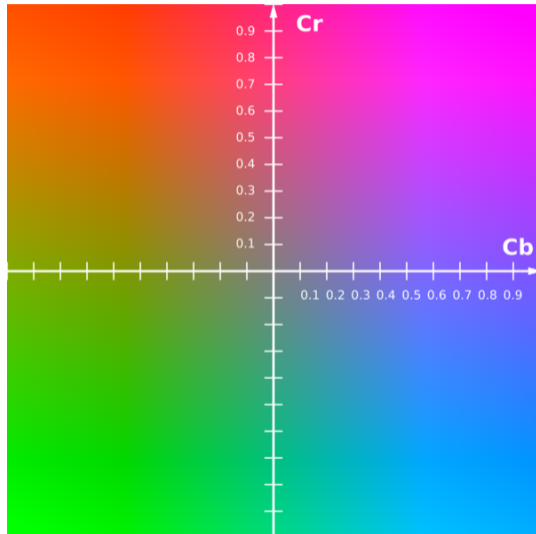
# JPEG Encoding (JFIF)

## Raw Data

- Color space transformation
- Downsampling
- Block splitting
- Discrete cosine transform DCT
- Quantization
- Entropy coding and RLE compression

## JPEG File

# Color space transformation

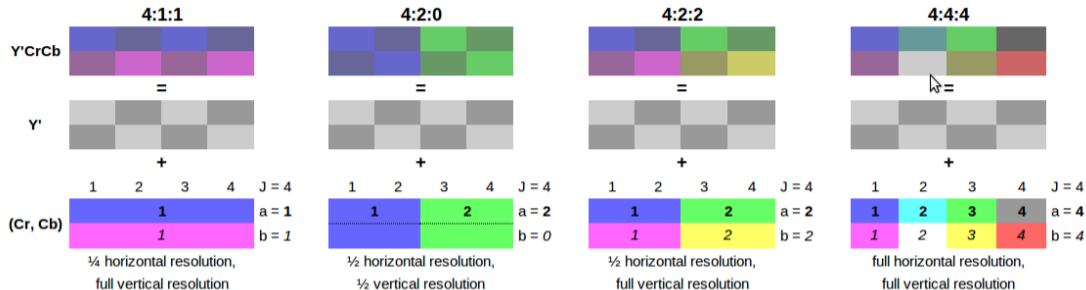


**Transform RGB (Red Green Blue) image**

**Into Y'CrCb image**

- *Luma* Y' component represents the brightness;
- *chroma* Cb and Cr components represent the color.

# Downsampling



- We can reduce the Cr and Cb images, without touching the Y' layer (Y' is more important)
- 4 times smaller 4:1:1 or 4:2:0
- 2 times smaller 4:2:2
- Size unchanged 4:4:4

# Block splitting

## Create blocks of 8x8

- Complexity for larger blocks is too high

### **1 Block (8x8) represents:**

- 64 pixels for Y'
- 64, 128, or 256 pixels for Cr and Cb

# Discrete cosine transform DCT

## Block is transformed using discrete cosine transform

- each block is converted to a frequency-domain representation
- A block is represented by a matrix of 64 values
- Those values can be calculated using another matrix of 64 values for cosine coefficients

## Steps

- transform a byte into a value between -128 and 127
- compute the coefficient of the cosine functions that generate those values.
- The obtained matrix contains coefficients:
  - ▣ On the top-left corner, we have the DC coefficient, represents the hue for the entire block
  - ▣ on the bottom-right corner, coefficients are rather small

# Discrete Cosine Transform

## Initial matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 52 & 55 & 61 & 66 & 70 & 61 & 64 & 73 \\ 63 & 59 & 55 & 90 & 109 & 85 & 69 & 72 \\ 62 & 59 & 68 & 113 & 144 & 104 & 66 & 73 \\ 63 & 58 & 71 & 122 & 154 & 106 & 70 & 69 \\ 67 & 61 & 68 & 104 & 126 & 88 & 68 & 70 \\ 79 & 65 & 60 & 70 & 77 & 68 & 58 & 75 \\ 85 & 71 & 64 & 59 & 55 & 61 & 65 & 83 \\ 87 & 79 & 69 & 68 & 65 & 76 & 78 & 94 \end{bmatrix} \cdot$$

# Discrete Cosine Transform

Matrix with negative values (g=lnit-128)

$$g = \begin{matrix} & & & & \mathbf{x} & & & & \\ & & & & \longrightarrow & & & & \\ \mathbf{g} = & \left[ \begin{array}{cccccccc} -76 & -73 & -67 & -62 & -58 & -67 & -64 & -55 \\ -65 & -69 & -73 & -38 & -19 & -43 & -59 & -56 \\ -66 & -69 & -60 & -15 & 16 & -24 & -62 & -55 \\ -65 & -70 & -57 & -6 & 26 & -22 & -58 & -59 \\ -61 & -67 & -60 & -24 & -2 & -40 & -60 & -58 \\ -49 & -63 & -68 & -58 & -51 & -60 & -70 & -53 \\ -43 & -57 & -64 & -69 & -73 & -67 & -63 & -45 \\ -41 & -49 & -59 & -60 & -63 & -52 & -50 & -34 \end{array} \right] & \begin{matrix} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \downarrow \mathbf{y}. \end{matrix} \end{matrix}$$

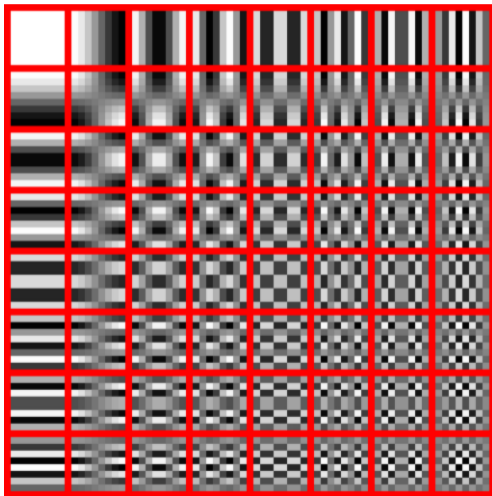
# Discrete Cosine Transform

## Matrix with cosine coefficients

$$G = \begin{matrix} & & & \begin{matrix} u \\ \longrightarrow \end{matrix} & & & & & \\ \left[ \begin{array}{cccccccc} -415.38 & -30.19 & -61.20 & 27.24 & 56.12 & -20.10 & -2.39 & 0.46 \\ 4.47 & -21.86 & -60.76 & 10.25 & 13.15 & -7.09 & -8.54 & 4.88 \\ -46.83 & 7.37 & 77.13 & -24.56 & -28.91 & 9.93 & 5.42 & -5.65 \\ -48.53 & 12.07 & 34.10 & -14.76 & -10.24 & 6.30 & 1.83 & 1.95 \\ 12.12 & -6.55 & -13.20 & -3.95 & -1.87 & 1.75 & -2.79 & 3.14 \\ -7.73 & 2.91 & 2.38 & -5.94 & -2.38 & 0.94 & 4.30 & 1.85 \\ -1.03 & 0.18 & 0.42 & -2.42 & -0.88 & -3.02 & 4.12 & -0.66 \\ -0.17 & 0.14 & -1.07 & -4.19 & -1.17 & -0.10 & 0.50 & 1.68 \end{array} \right. & & \begin{matrix} \downarrow \\ v. \end{matrix} \end{matrix}$$

# Discrete Cosine Transform

Are the coefficients of the following functions



# Quantization

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} 16 & 11 & 10 & 16 & 24 & 40 & 51 & 61 \\ 12 & 12 & 14 & 19 & 26 & 58 & 60 & 55 \\ 14 & 13 & 16 & 24 & 40 & 57 & 69 & 56 \\ 14 & 17 & 22 & 29 & 51 & 87 & 80 & 62 \\ 18 & 22 & 37 & 56 & 68 & 109 & 103 & 77 \\ 24 & 35 & 55 & 64 & 81 & 104 & 113 & 92 \\ 49 & 64 & 78 & 87 & 103 & 121 & 120 & 101 \\ 72 & 92 & 95 & 98 & 112 & 100 & 103 & 99 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Human eye not good at distinguishing high frequency brightness variation

We reduce the information in the high frequency components

We divide each component in the matrix by a constant (also given in a matrix) and then round to the next integer.

It generates a lot of os (in the bottom-right corner )

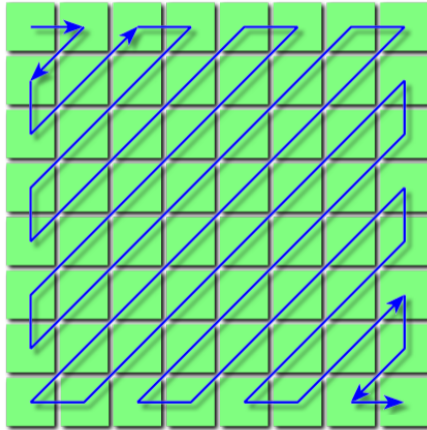
# Quantization

## Obtained Matrix

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} -26 & -3 & -6 & 2 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & -4 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 1 & 5 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} .$$

# Entropy coding

The bytes are written in Zigzag



# Entropy coding

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} -26 & -3 & -6 & 2 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & -4 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 1 & 5 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Zigzag returns:**

-26,  
-3, -0,  
-3, -2, -6,  
2, -4, 1, -3,  
1, 1, 5, 1, 2,  
-1, 1, -1, 2, 0, 0,  
0, 0, 0, -1, -1, 0, 0,  
0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, ...

**Run Length Encoding on 0s**

**Then entropic coding (Huffman for instance)**

# Videos

# Videos compression

## **MPEG (Moving Picture Experts Group)**

- Defined different standards. Current is MPEG-4

## **Based on two information**

- Interframe prediction (Vectors of movement for macro blocs (16x16))
- Static image compression (DCT - Discrete Cosine Transform)

# Conclusion

# Conclusion

## **Loseless vs Lossy compression**

- Loseless for programs, documents that can not be changed
- Lossy for multimedia content, where losing a small part of the information is not a problem

## **Image compression, JPEG**

- Y'CbCr image, Downsampling of Cb Cr (because Y' is more important for the eye).
- Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) + Quantization = most of the elements are zero
- Lose quality : impossible to reconstruct the first image.
- Compression factor is around 10:1

# References

## Web pages

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JPEG>
- <https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/JPEG>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/YCbCr>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lossy\\_compression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lossy_compression)