

End-to-End Learned Image and Video Compression: Design, Implementation, and Computer Vision Applications

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May 26, 2023

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Outline

- Overview of Learned Image/Video Compression
- End-to-end Learned Image Compression
- End-to-end Learned Video Compression
- Computer Vision Applications

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- Overview of Learned Image/Video Compression
 - Neural network-based image/video compression
 - Challenge on learned image compression (CLIC)
 - JPEG AI standardization activities
- End-to-end Learned Image Compression
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Learned Image/Video Compression

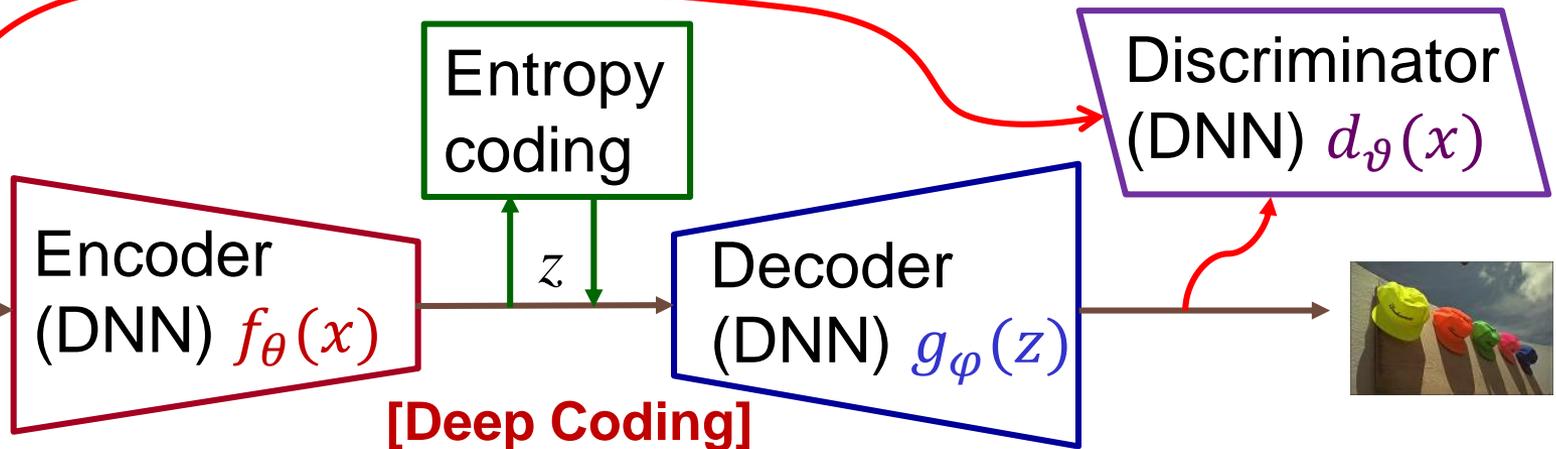
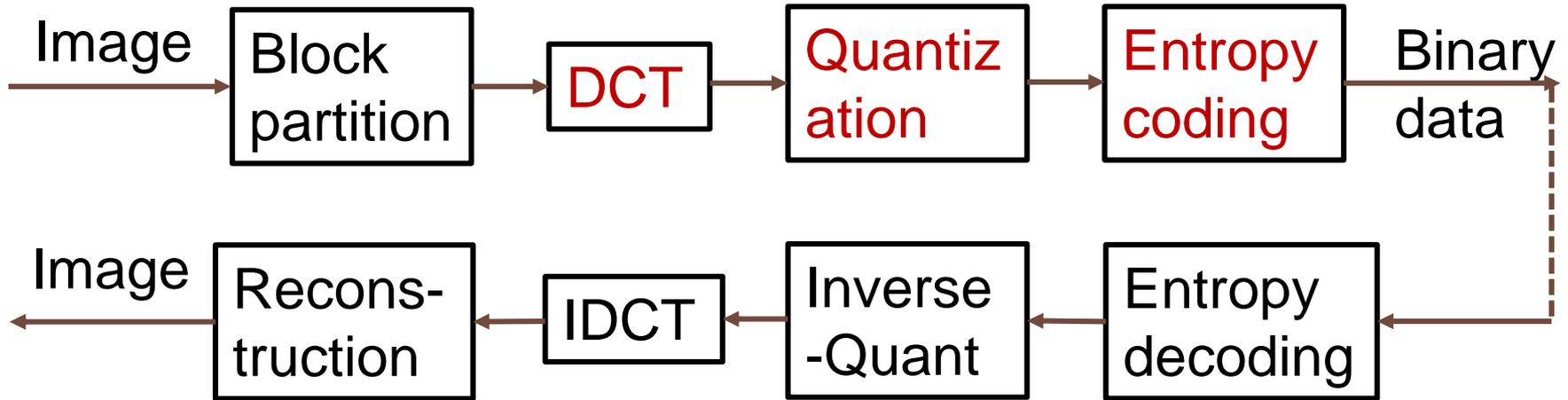
- **Deep Learning (DL)-based** compression
 - Neural networks as **backbone** of the compression system
- **DL-assisted** compression
 - DL techniques for enhancing conventional codecs **without changing** their design
- **Hybrid** schemes
 - DL-based **tools** in traditional codecs

Deep Compression Papers

- Deep image/video compression is attracting attention
- **150** papers on deep image compression since 2017
 - Most adopt the **autoencoder-based** framework with **hyperprior**
- **40** papers on deep video compression since 2019
 - Potential techniques are still being researched
 - Pixel/feature-domain **residual and conditional coding** are popular approaches

Transform Coding vs. Deep Coding

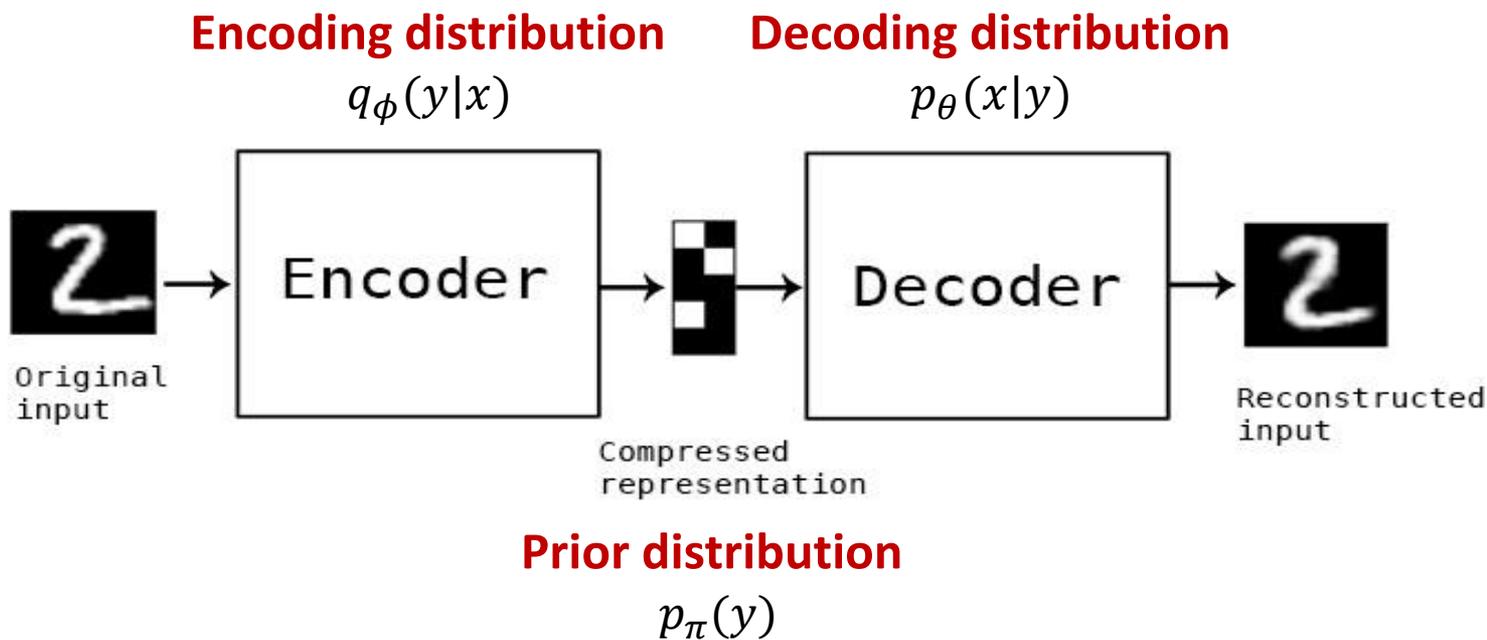
[DCT-based Image Codecs]



[Deep Coding]

Variational Autoencoder (VAE)

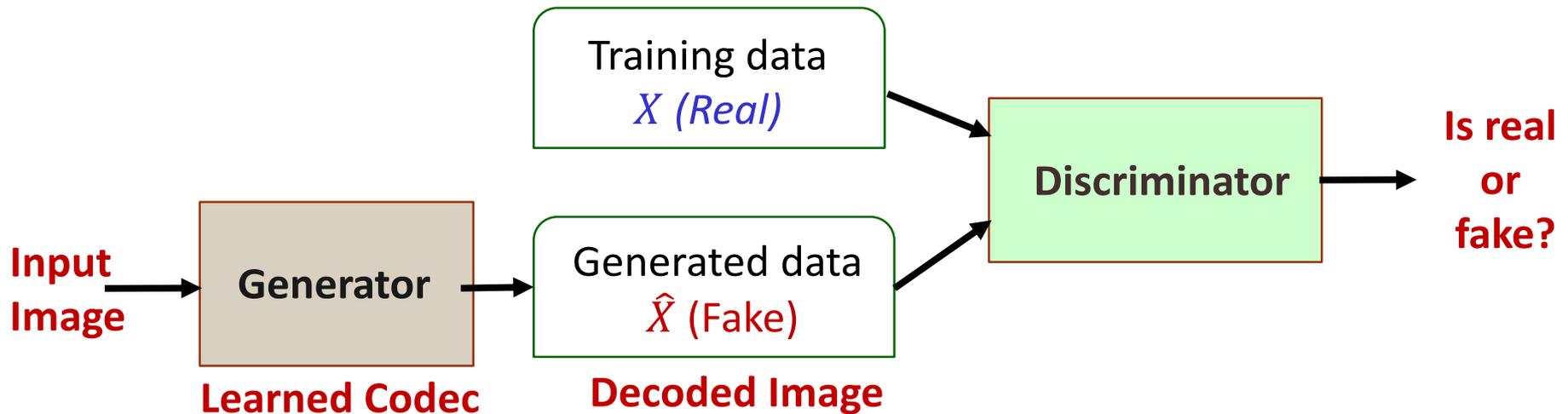
- A **generative** model that forms the basis of most learned image/video compression systems



$$\min_{\phi, \pi, \theta} \underbrace{E_{y \sim q_{\phi}(y|x)} [-\log p_{\theta}(x|y)]}_{\text{Distortion}} + \underbrace{E_{y \sim q_{\phi}(y|x)} [-\log p_{\pi}(y)]}_{\text{Rate}}$$

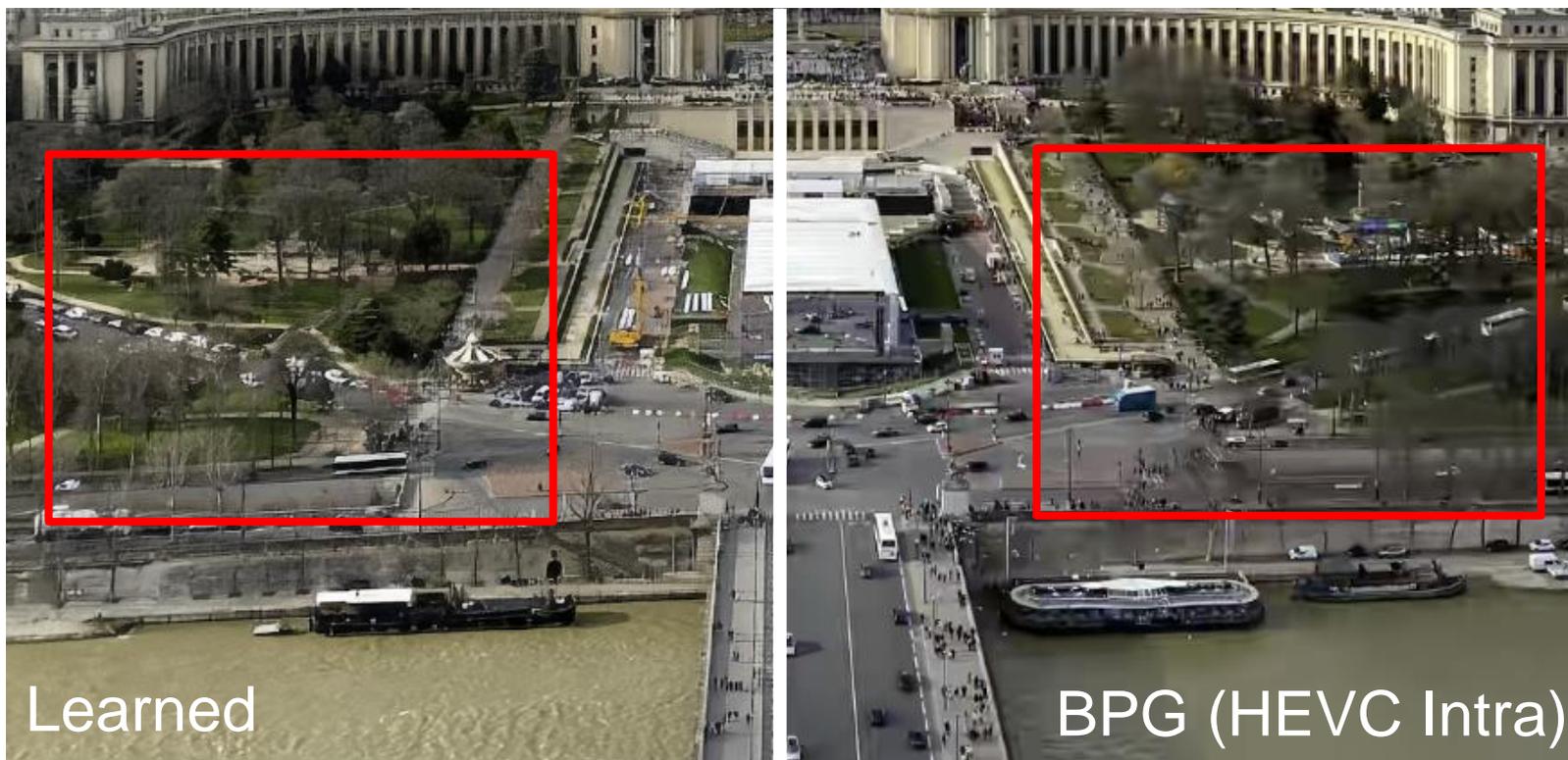
Generative Adversarial Network (GAN)

- Two neural networks playing against each other
 - Generator (e.g. **learned image codec**)
 - Discriminator (evaluator)
- Latent variables \rightarrow **Generator** \rightarrow generated image
- Real/Fake inputs \rightarrow **Discriminator** \rightarrow identify fake!



Neural Networks for Image Compression?

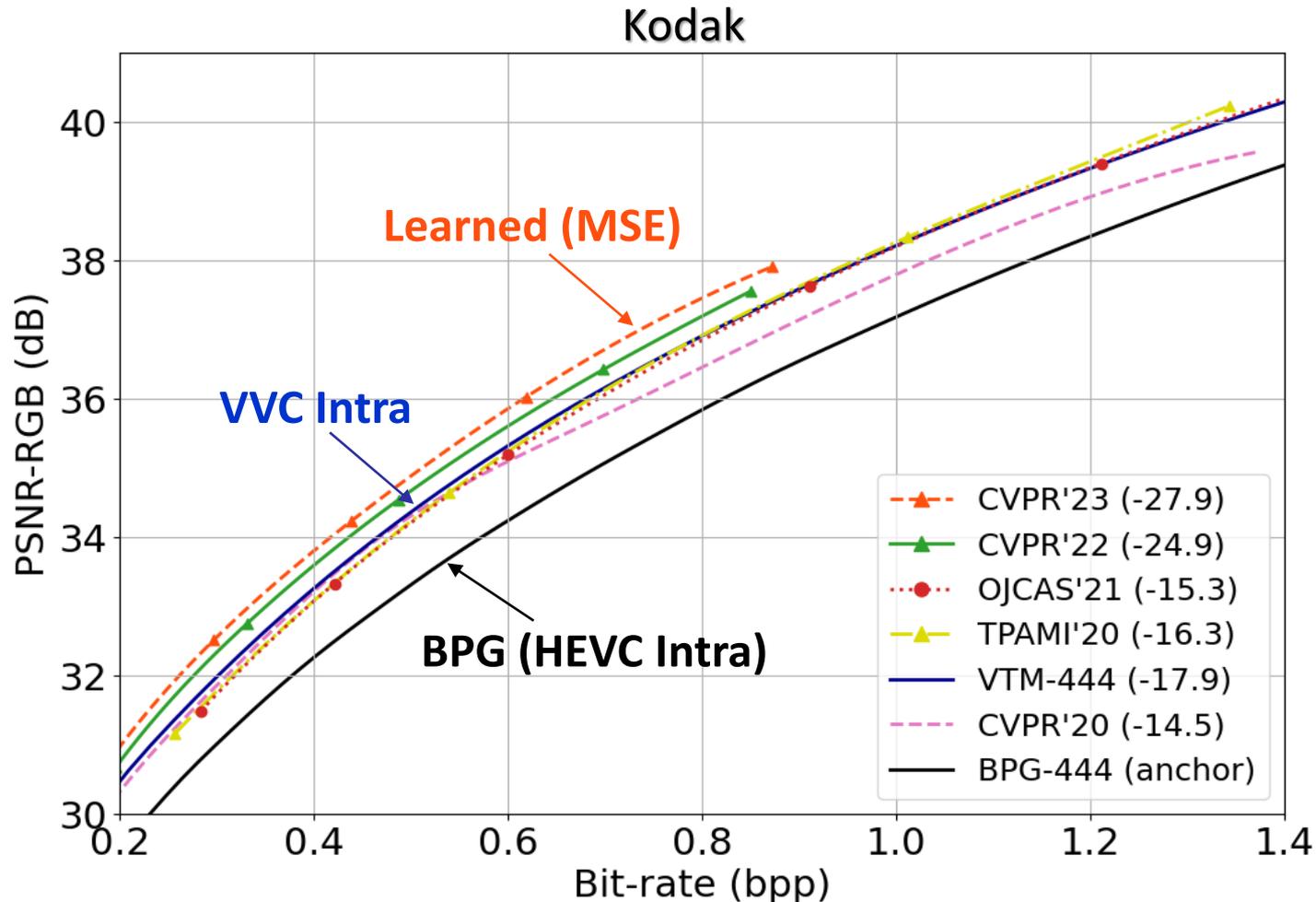
- Neural networks are good at **synthesizing** image details
- They are amenable to any **differentiable** quality metric



<https://hific.github.io/>

Source: Mentzer et al., "High-Fidelity Generative Image Compression (HIFIC)," NIPS 2020

How Good is Learned Image Compression?

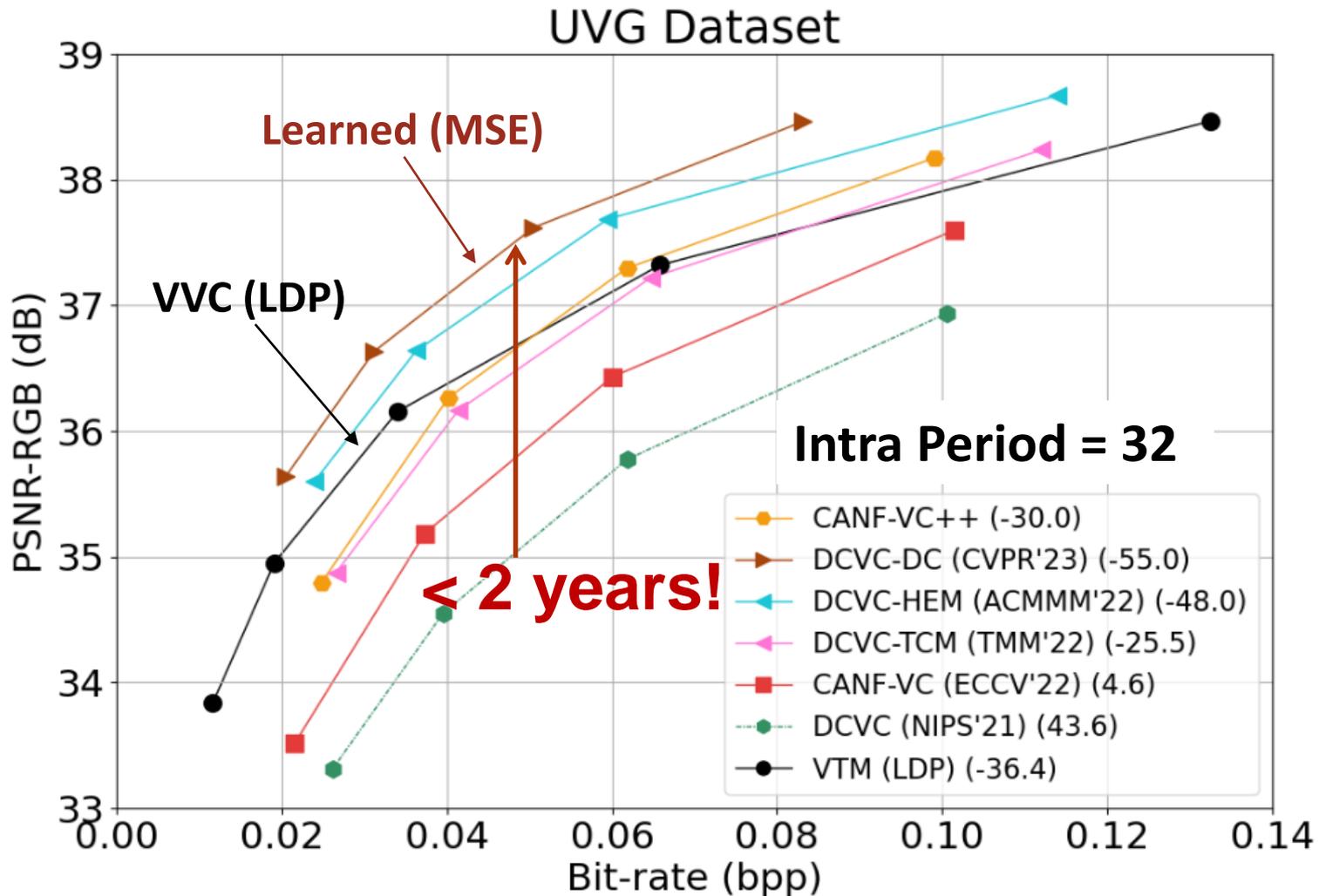


Top performer (CVPR'23): **12%** bit rate saving over VVC Intra

Reference

- Liu et al., “Learned Image Compression with Mixed Transformer-CNN Architectures,” **CVPR 2023**
- He et al., “ELIC: Efficient Learned Image Compression With Unevenly Grouped Space-Channel Contextual Adaptive Coding,” **CVPR 2022**
- Ho et al., “ANFIC: Image Compression Using Augmented Normalizing Flows,” **OJCAS 2021**
- Ma et al., “End-to-End Optimized Versatile Image Compression With Wavelet-Like Transform,” **TPAMI 2020**
- Cheng et al., “Learned Image Compression with Discretized Gaussian Mixture Likelihoods and Attention Modules,” **CVPR 2020**

How Good is Learned Video Compression?



< 2 years!

Top performer (CVPR'23): **55%** bit rate saving over VVC LDP

Reference

- **DCVC-DC**: Li et al., “Neural Video Compression with Diverse Contexts,” CVPR 2023.
- **DCVC-HEM**: Li et al., “Hybrid Spatial-Temporal Entropy Modelling for Neural Video Compression,” ACM MM 2022
- **DCVC-TCM**: Sheng et al. “Temporal Context Mining for Learned Video Compression,” IEEE TMM 2022
- **CANF-VC/CANF-VC++**: Ho et al., “CANF-VC: Conditional Augmented Normalizing Flows for Video Compression,” ECCV 2022
- **DCVC**: Li et al., “Deep Contextual Video Compression,” NeurIPS 2021

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Challenge on Learned Image Compression

- CLIC 2018 targeted image coding @ **0.15bpp**
- CLIC 2019 included **transparent track** (PSNR>40dB)
- CLIC 2020 introduced **P-frame track** (**1 P-frame@0.075 bpp**)
- CLIC 2021 introduced **video coding track** (2-sec videos@30Hz) and **multi-rate image coding track** (0.075, 0.15, 0.3 bpp)
- CLIC 2022 introduced **video coding track** (**1 mbps & 0.1 mbps** for 720p/1080p@15-60fps) and **multi-rate image coding track** (0.075, 0.15, 0.3 bpp)

Google



CVL
ETH zürich

NETFLIX

 **Lambda**

 **DISNEY RESEARCH
STUDIOS**


HUAWEI

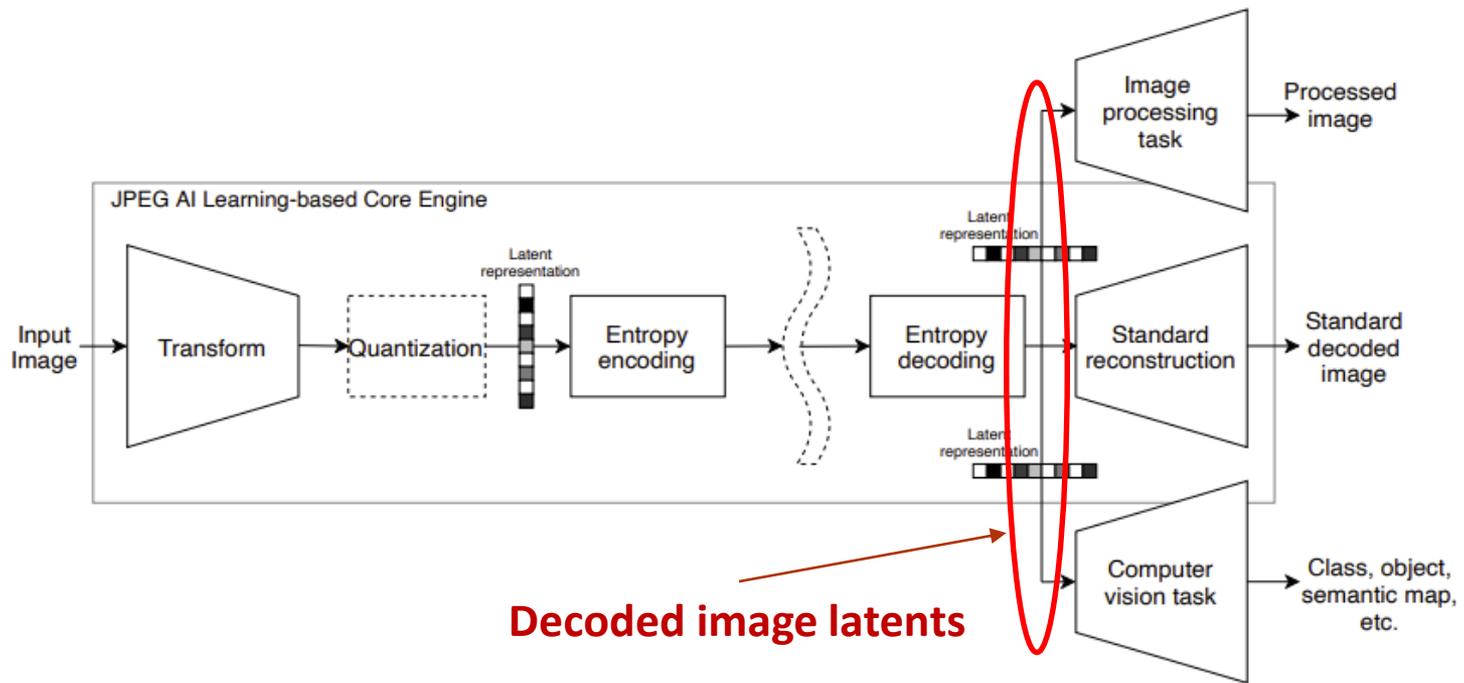
 **MEDIATEK**

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JPEG AI Call-for-Proposals (CFP)

- To complete a **learning-based** image coding standard by **2024**, targeting **human perception** and effective performance for **image processing and computer vision tasks**



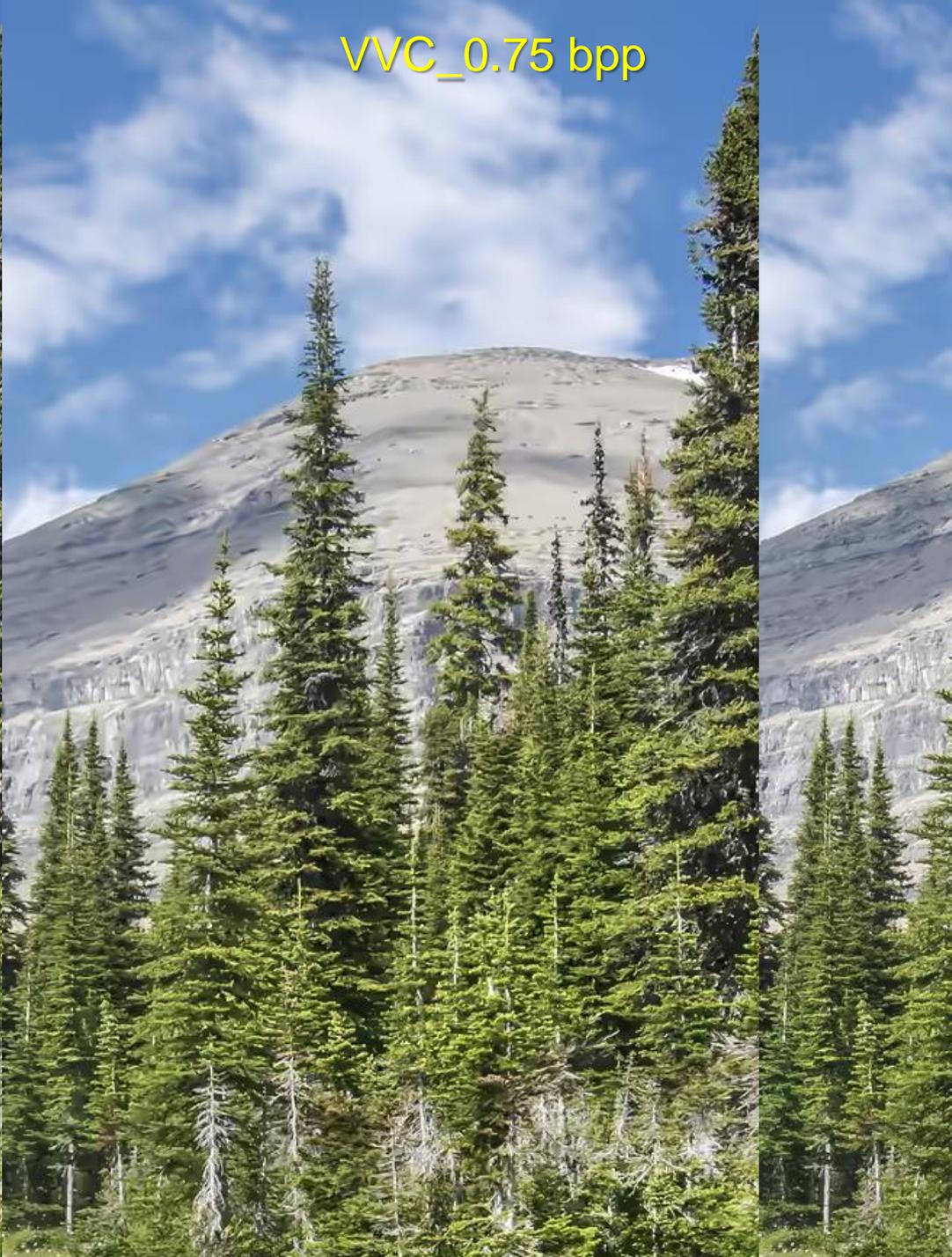
Status and Timeline

- Call-for-Proposals concluded in July 2022
 - 10 responses evaluated objectively and subjectively
 - MS-SSIM, IW-SSIM, VIF, NLPD, PSNR-HVS-M, VMAF, FSIM
 - DSCQS method, 280+ subjects
- **4 parts** to be included
 - Part 1 – Core Coding System
 - Part 2 – Profiling
 - Part 3 – Reference Software
 - Part 4 – Conformance
- **2 versions** to be standardized
 - v1 focuses on **image reconstruction** (Int'l Standard: Apr. 2024)
 - v2 addresses **compressed-domain vision/processing tasks** and **better coding efficiency** (Int'l Standard: Jan. 2026)

JPEG AI VM2.1_0.75 bpp



VVC_0.75 bpp



JPEG AI VM-2.1

5 points BD-rate (0.06, 0.12, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75)

10%

Test	BD rate vs VVC								Monotonicity	Max Bit Dev.	Dec. complexity		Enc. complexity	
	AVG	msssim	vif	fsim	nlpd	iw-ssim	vmaf	psnrHV			AVG	Run	Run	Run
		Torch						S			kMAC/pxl	Time × VVC	Time × VVC	Time × Dec
VMv2.1-tools-off-BRM	-25.1%	-38.0%	-17.9%	-28.8%	-23.4%	-35.0%	-22.7%	-9.7%	TRUE	3%	784	1.1	0.004	~1.5
VMv2.1-tools-on-BRM	-28.3%	-38.7%	-18.8%	-33.8%	-26.8%	-35.6%	-32.6%	-11.5%	TRUE	8%	897	1.3	0.038	~8



Decoding runtime (JPEG AI on GPU vs. VVC on CPU) -- **1.3 : 1**

Encoding runtime (JPEG AI on GPU vs. VVC on CPU) -- **0.038 : 1**

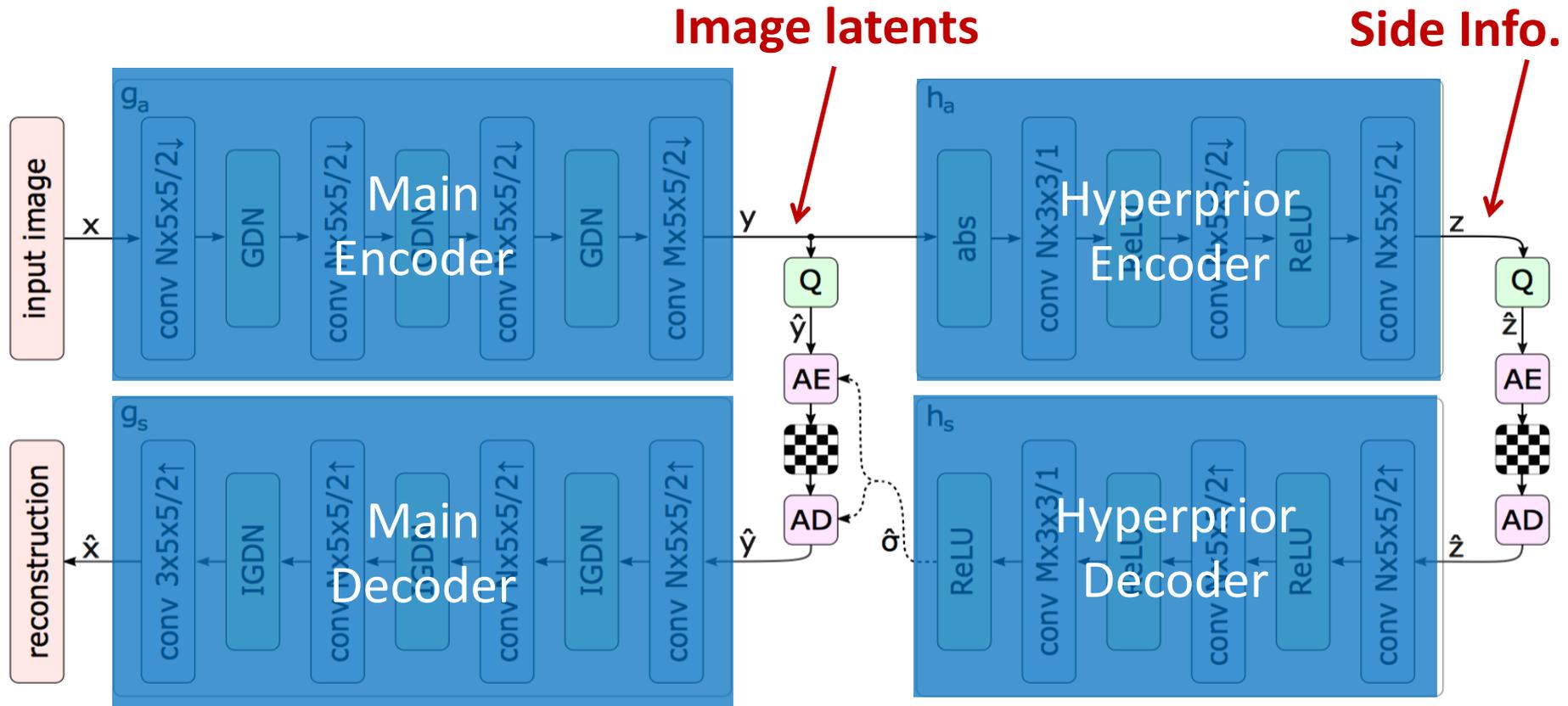
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 - Non-linear transform
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Notable Works

- J. Ballé et al., "Variational Image Compression with a Scale Hyperprior," *ICLR 2018*.
- D. Minnen et al., "Joint Autoregressive and Hierarchical Priors for Learned Image Compression," *NIPS 2018*.
- Y. Ho et al., "ANFIC: Image Compression Using Augmented Normalizing Flows," *OJCAS 2021*.
- Y. Zhu et al., "Transformer-based Transform Coding," *ICLR 2022*.
- D. He et al., "ELIC: Efficient Learned Image Compression with Unevenly Grouped Space-Channel Contextual Adaptive Coding," *CVPR 2022*.
- D. He et al., "Checkerboard context model for efficient learned image compression," *CVPR 2021*.
- D. Minnen and S. Singh, "Channel-wise autoregressive entropy models for learned image compression," *ICIP 2020*.

VAE-based Compression with “Hyperprior”

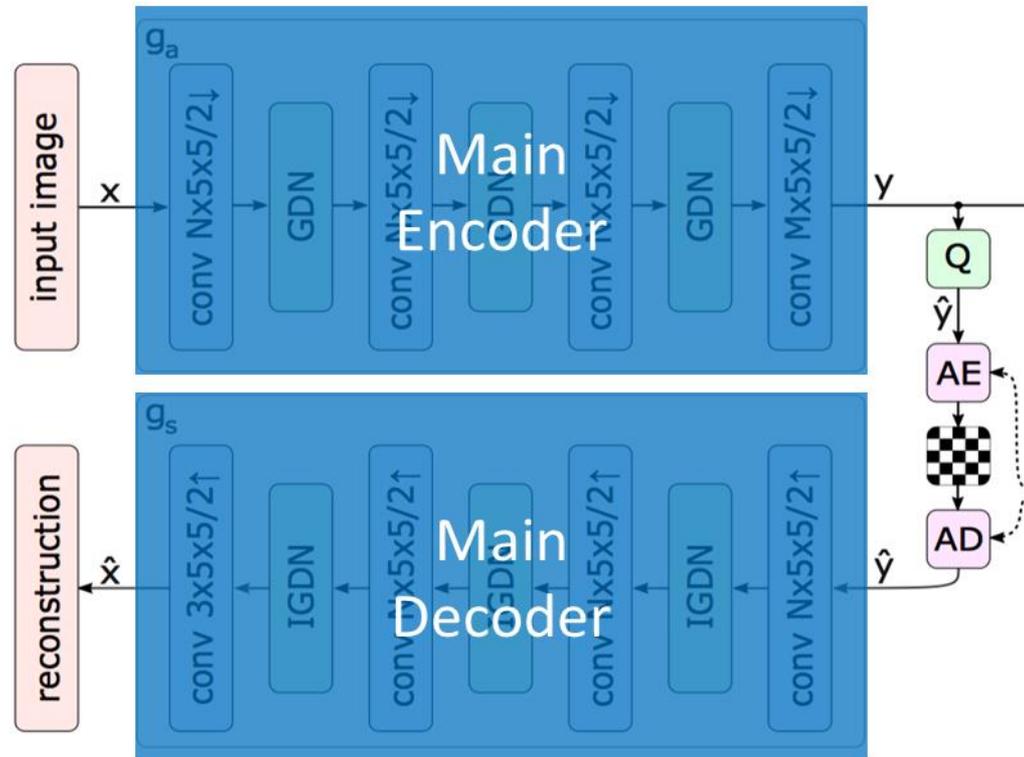


Variational Autoencoder (VAE)

Hyperprior Autoencoder

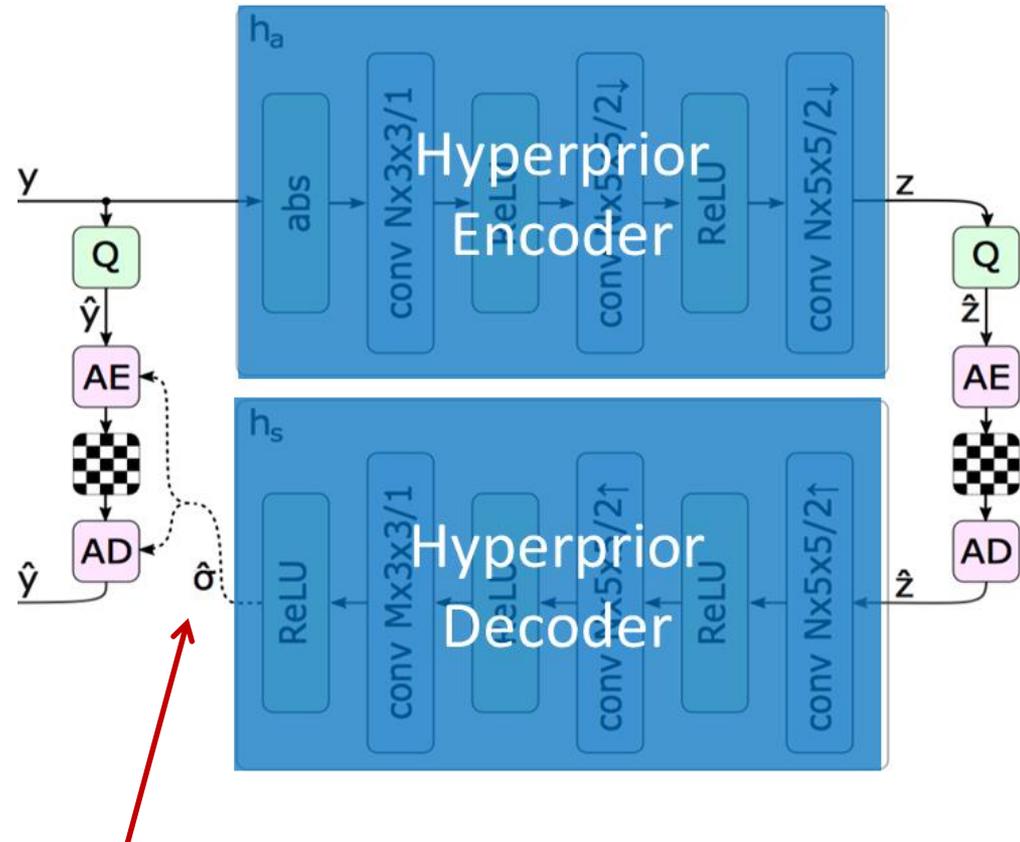
Main Encoder and Decoder

- **Encoder** works as an **analysis transform** to condense the image information
- **Decoder** - “inverse of Encoder” - **synthesizes** an approximation of the original input



Hyperprior Encoder and Decoder

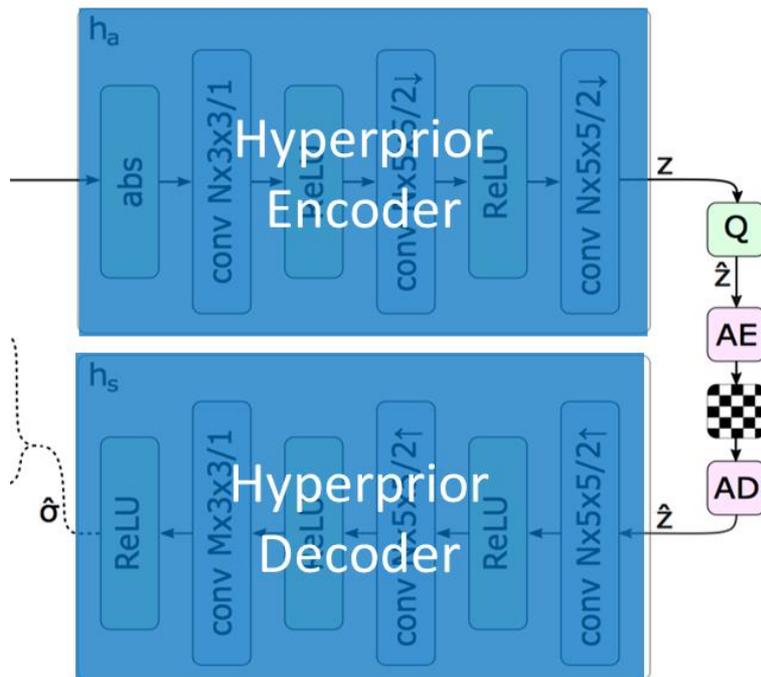
- **Hyper-encoder** produces **hyperprior** $z = \{z_i\}$ from image latents $y = \{y_i\}$ as **side information**
- **Hyper-decoder** decodes **quantized** z to output **distribution parameters** of image latents y



Distribution parameters

Distributions of Hyperprior z

- Assumptions
 - $p(z)$ is **factorial**
 - $p(z_i)$ is **identically distributed**
- **Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF)** of z_i is learned



Prob. of quantized hyperprior \hat{z}_i :

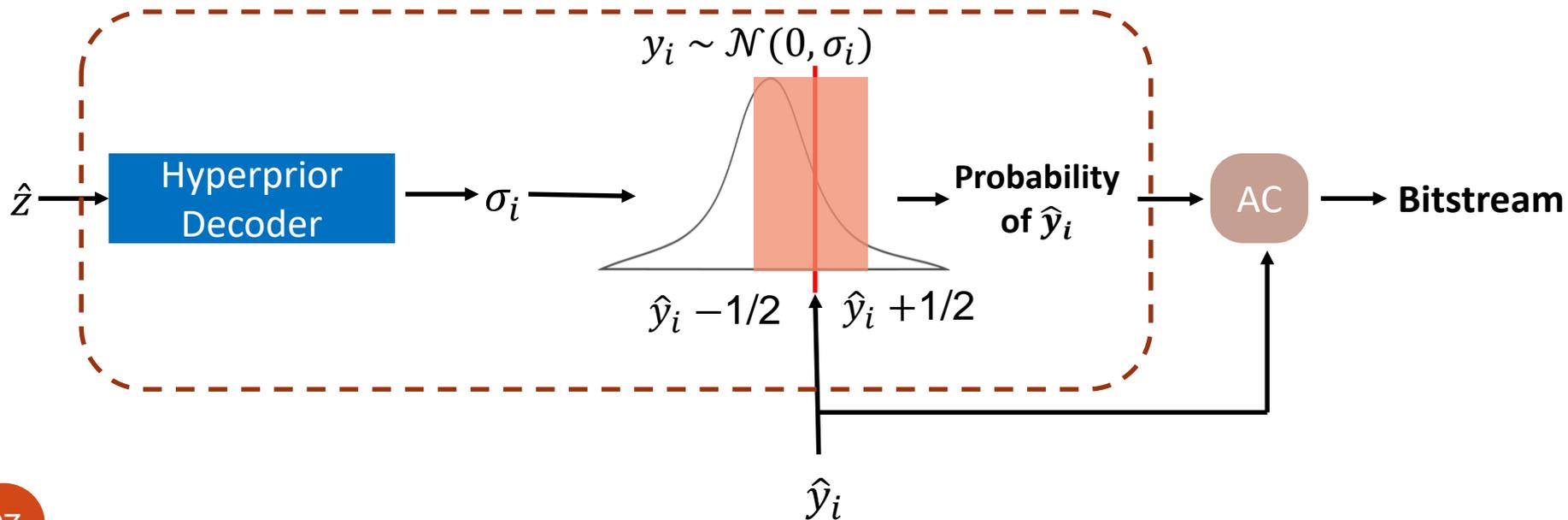
$$p(\hat{z}_i) = CDF(\hat{z}_i + \frac{1}{2}) - CDF(\hat{z}_i - \frac{1}{2})$$

Conditional Distributions of Image Latents y

- Assumptions

- $p(y|\hat{Z})$ is **fully factorial** along **channel and spatial** dimensions
- $p(y_i|\hat{Z})$ is **Gaussian** with **mean zero** and **scale derived from \hat{Z}**

Prob. of quantized latent \hat{y}_i :
$$p(\hat{y}_i|\hat{Z}) = \int_{\hat{y}_i-1/2}^{\hat{y}_i+1/2} \mathcal{N}(y_i; 0, \sigma_i(\hat{Z})) dy_i$$



Quantization

- Rounding to the **nearest integer** at inference time, i.e. **uniform quantization** with step size 1
- Differentiable approximation during **training**
 - **Additive uniform noise**: to mimic quantization noise; e.g., *End-to-end optimized image compression,” ICLR2017*
 - **Stochastic rounding**: quantized value + noise; e.g., *Lossy image compression with compressive autoencoders, ICLR2017*
 - **Soft quantization**: continuous approximation to hard quantizer; e.g., *Soft-to-Hard Vector Quantization for End-to-End Learning Compressible Representations, NIPS2017*

Training Objective

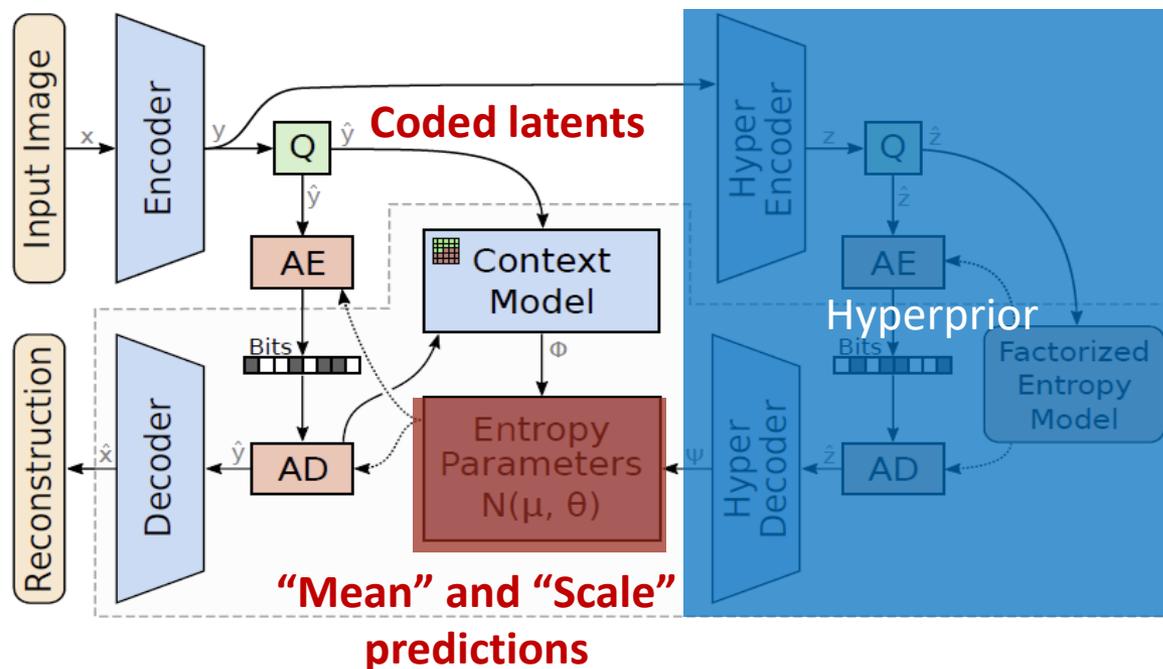
- A weighted sum of **distortion** L_D and **rate** L_R

$$L = L_D(x, \hat{x}) + \lambda \times L_R(\hat{y}, \hat{z})$$

- L_D – any **differentiable** metric, e.g. MSE, MS-SSIM, perceptual loss, and adversarial loss
- L_R – the rate needed to signal the image latents
– $\log p(\hat{y}|\hat{z})$ and hyperprior – $\log p(\hat{z})$

Context Model (1/2)

- $p(y|\hat{z})$ is **non-factorial** along the **spatial** dimension
- $p(y_i|\hat{z}, \hat{y}_{<i})$ is Gaussian with **mean and scale** derived from **hyperprior** \hat{z} and previously **coded image latents** $\hat{y}_{<i}$

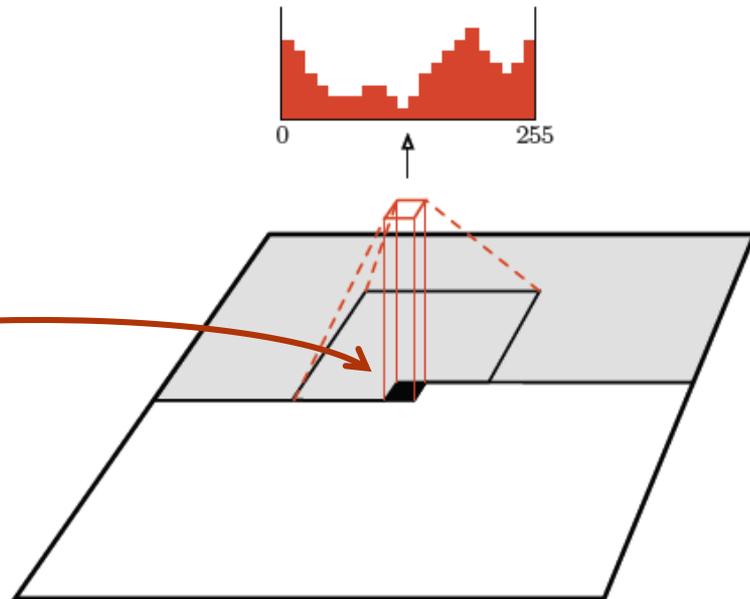


Context Model (2/2)

- To condition the mean and scale predictions based on hyperprior and previously coded latents $\hat{y}_{<i}$

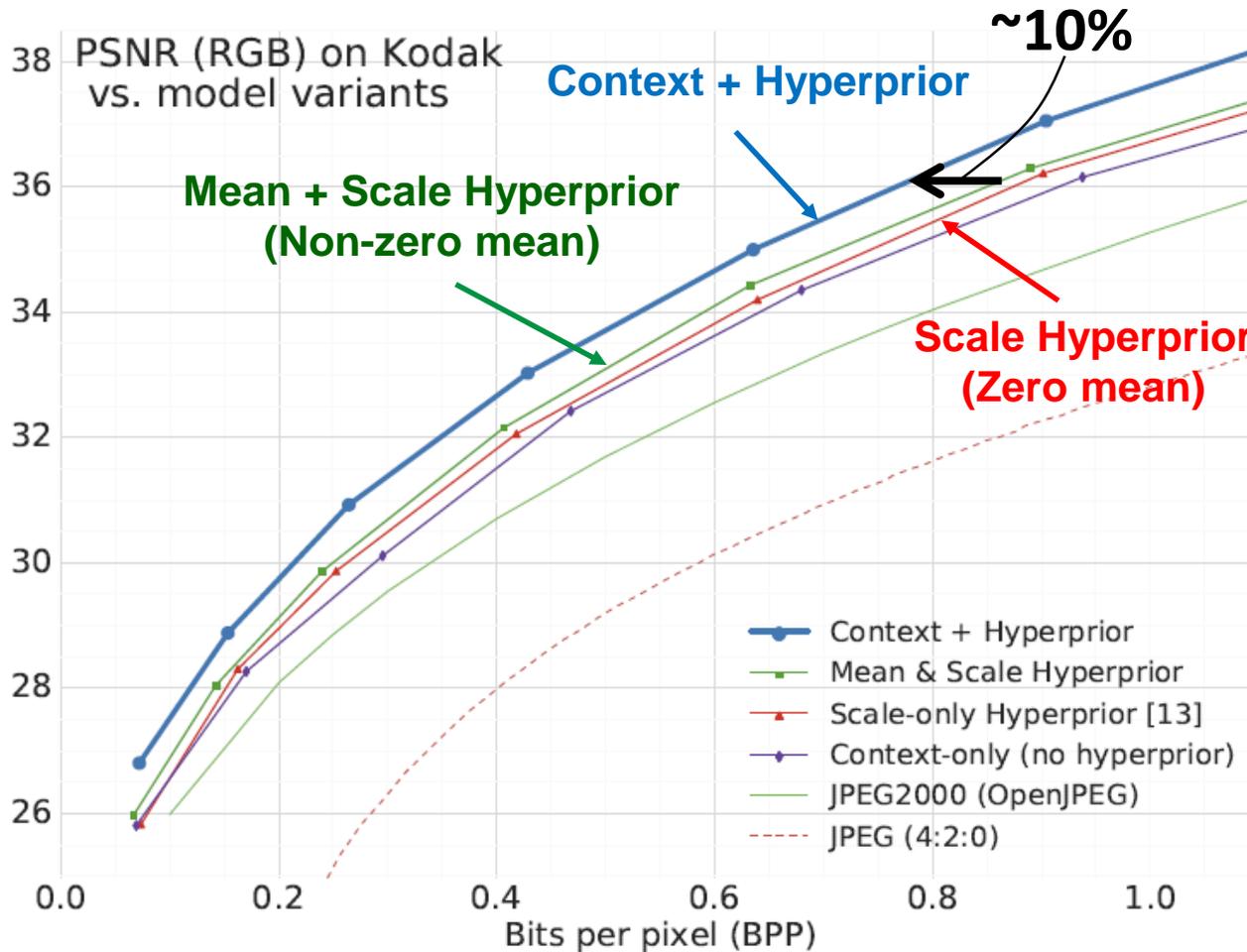
Previously coded latents \hat{y}_i

1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	■	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0



Source: A. van den Oord et al., “Conditional image generation with pixelcnn decoders,” NIPS16

Rate-Distortion Comparison



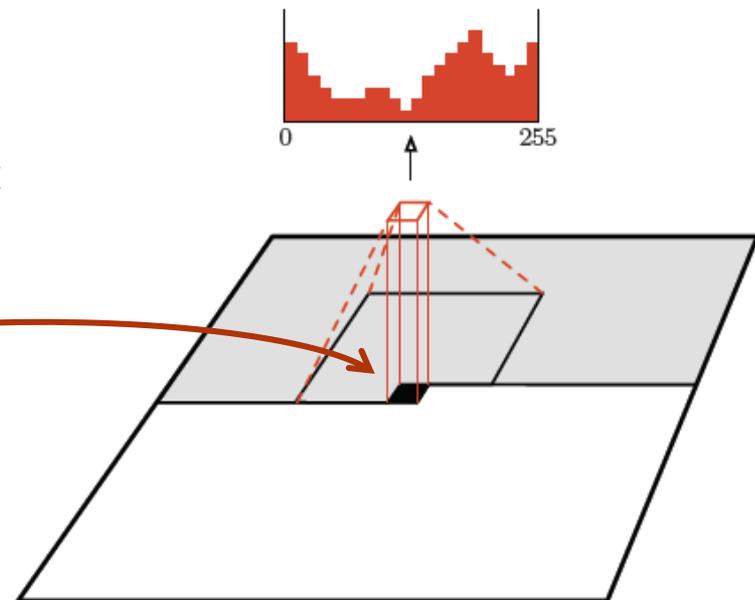
Source: D. Minnen *et al.*, "Joint Autoregressive and Hierarchical Priors for Learned Image Compression," *NIPS18*.

Issues of the Context Model

- **NOT parallel-friendly** for decoding
 - Mean and variance prediction has to be done one-by-one
- **Uni-directional context** due to causality
 - Samples can only be referenced from one direction

Previously coded latents \hat{y}_i

1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	■	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0

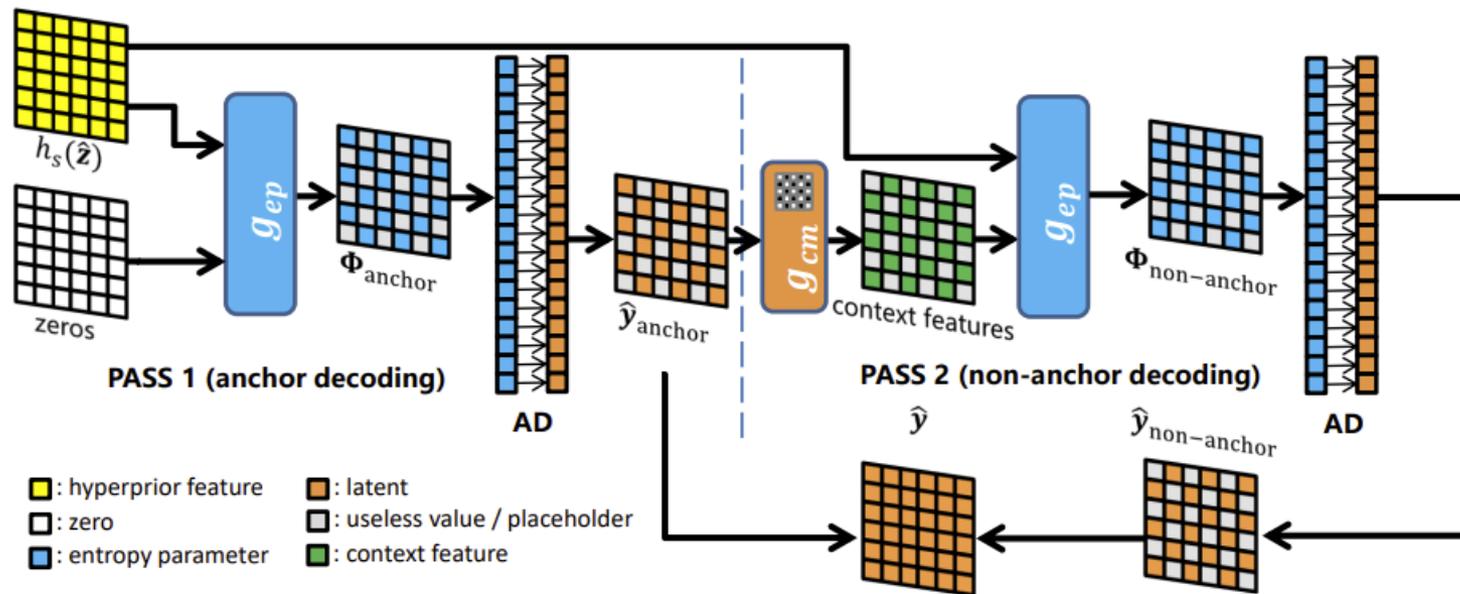


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Checkerboard Context Model

- Split latents into **two slices** along the **spatial** dimension
- Slice 1 (anchor) uses **hyperprior** to derive coding probabilities
- Slice 2 (non-anchor) refers to **Slice 1, hyperprior** as context



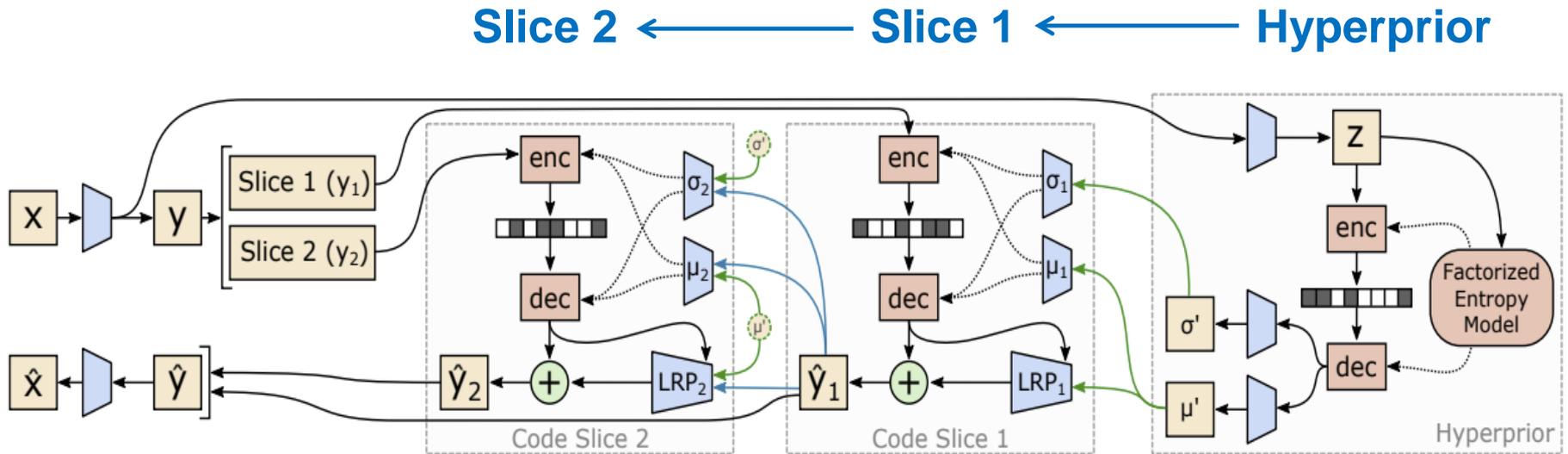
Source: D. He et al., "Checkerboard context model for efficient learned image compression," CVPR 2021

Remarks

- Mean and variance prediction in each slice is done in parallel
- Slice 1 (50% of samples) refers to **hyperprior** only
- Slice 2 (remaining 50%) refers to **bi-directional context**
- Decoding time is very close to using **hyperprior only**
- Rate saving decreases by 2-3% (w.r.t. **the context model**)

Channel-wise Context Model

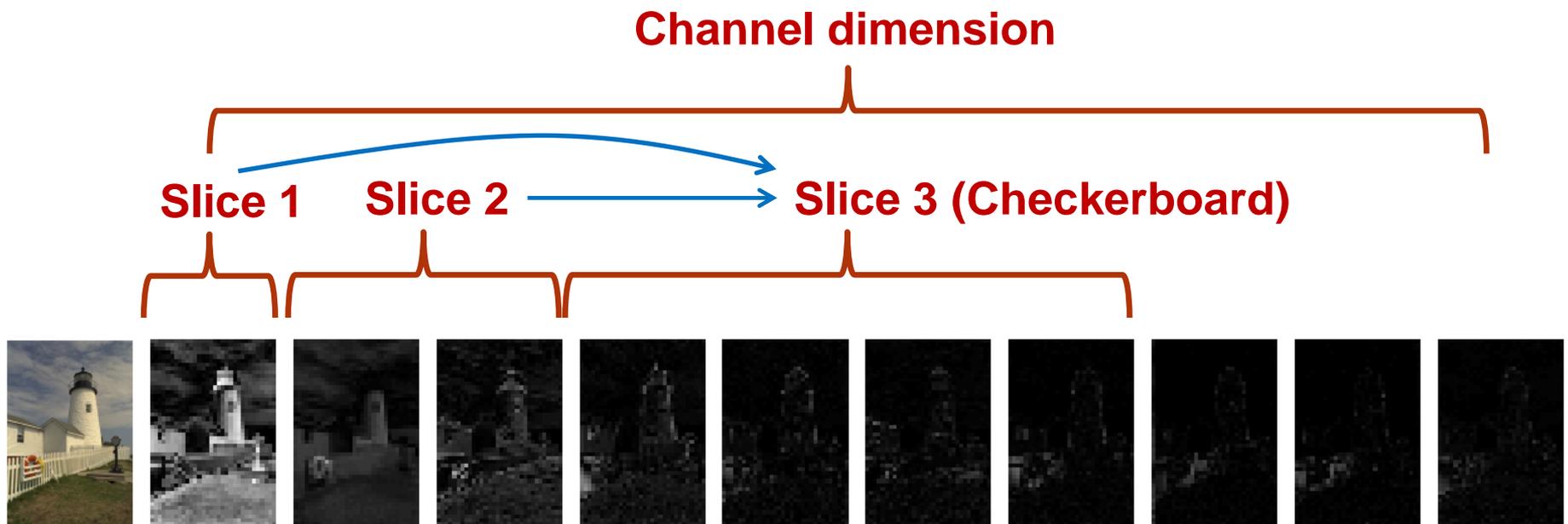
- Split latents into two slices along the **channel** dimension
- Slice 1 uses **hyperprior** to derive coding probabilities
- Slice 2 refers to **Slice 1 and hyperprior** as context



Source: D. Minnen and S. Singh, "Channel-wise autoregressive entropy models for learned image compression," ICIP 2020

Spatial-channel Context Model

- Split latents into **non-even slices** along the **channels**
- Apply **spatial-channel context** in each slice
- Ex: Checkerboard-channel context



Source: D. He et al., "ELIC: Efficient Learned Image Compression with Unevenly Grouped Space-Channel Contextual Adaptive Coding," CVPR 2022.

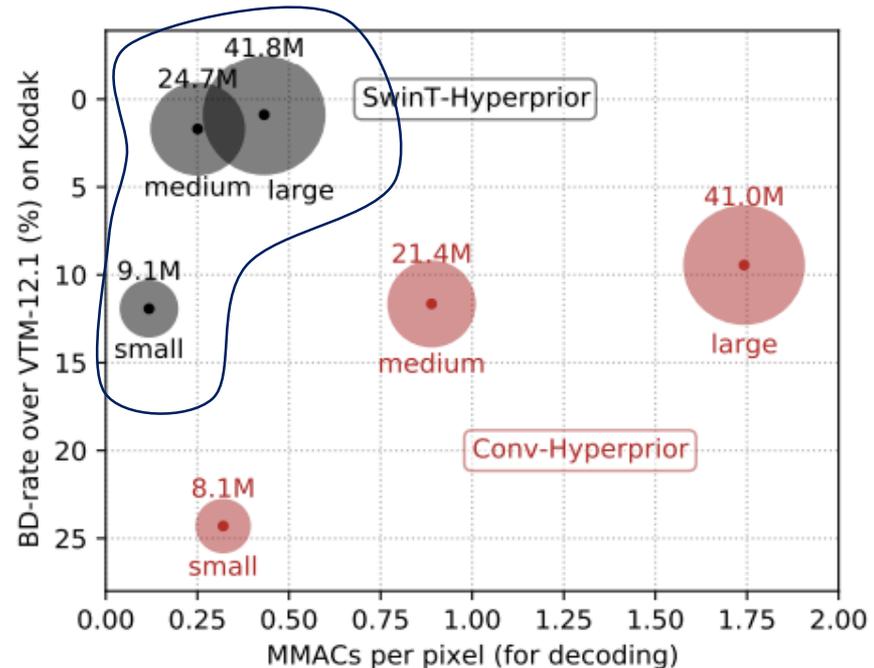
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Swin-Transformer as Non-linear Transform

- As compared to ConvNet, Swin-Transformer offers
 - Flexible receptive fields
 - Non-stationary, content-adaptive convolution
 - Short- and long-range attentions with shifted windows

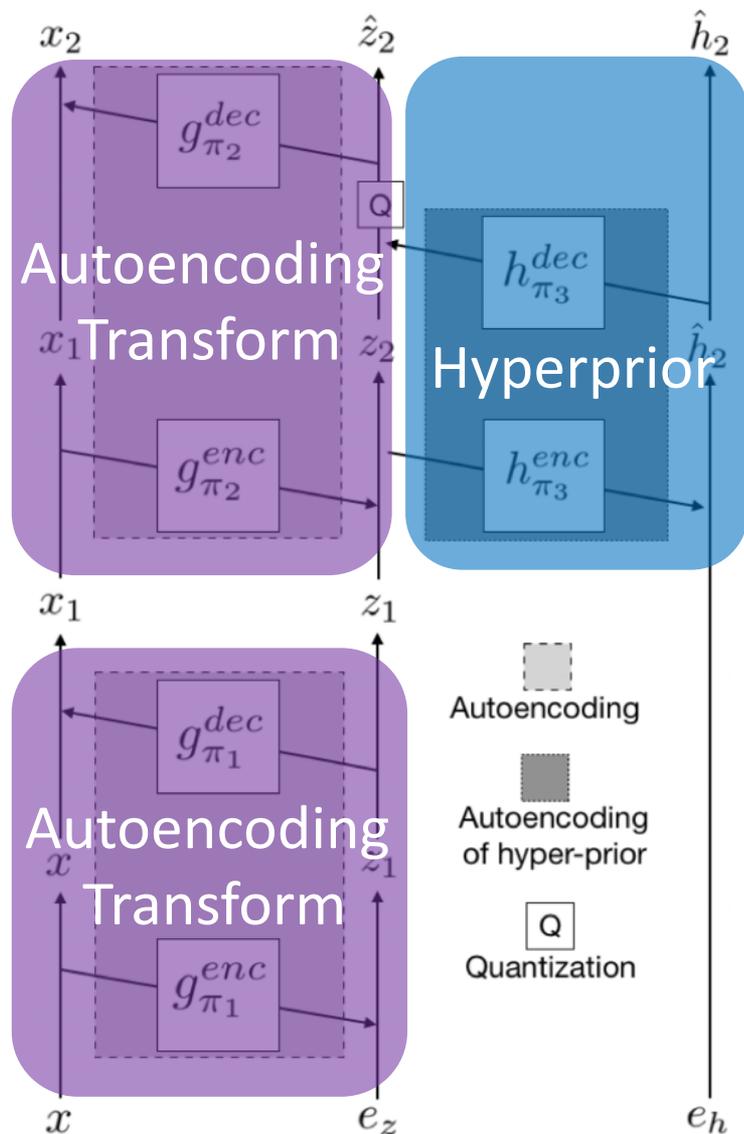
**Rate saving
vs.
MACs/pixel for **decoding****



Flow-based Coding Frameworks

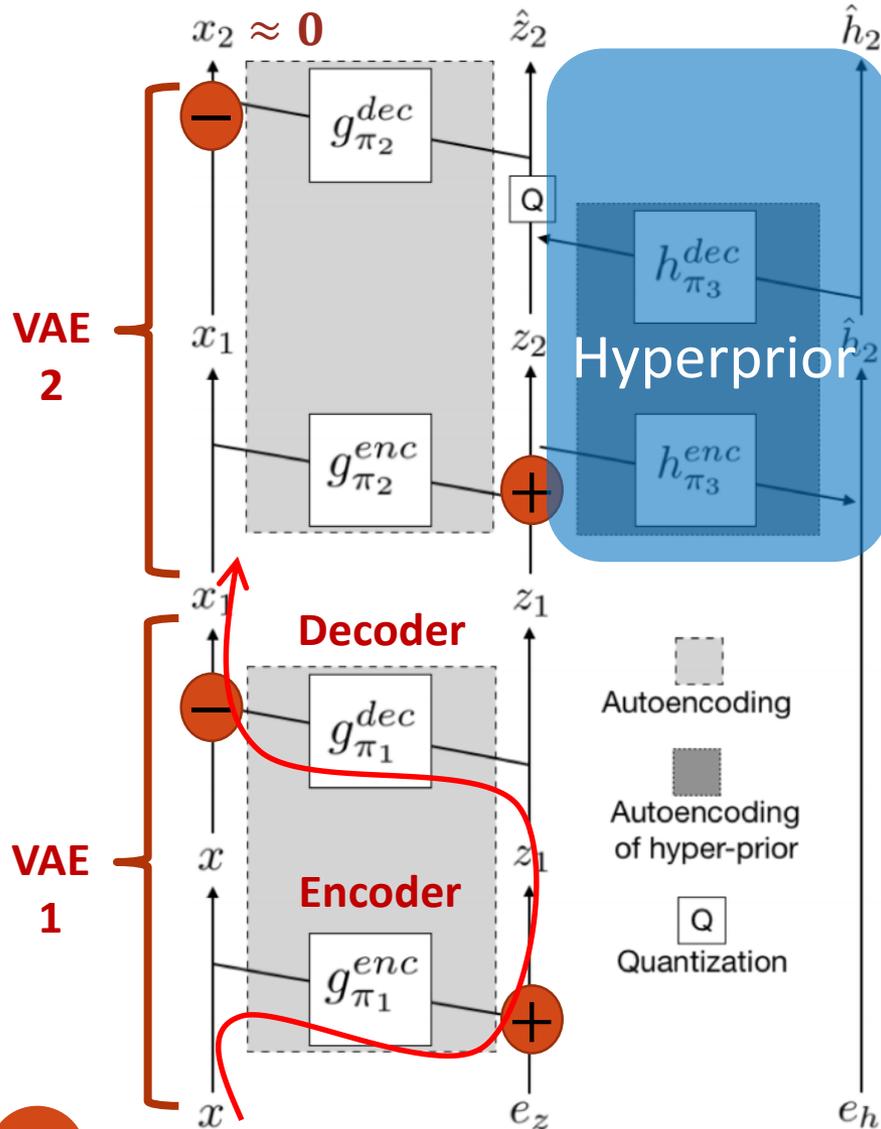
- H. Ma et al., “**End-to-End Optimized Versatile Image Compression with Wavelet-Like Transform,**” IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (TPAMI), 2020.
- Y.-H. Ho et al., “**ANFIC: Image Compression Using Augmented Normalizing Flows,**” IEEE Open Journal of Circuits and Systems (OJCAS), Dec. 2021.

ANFIC in a Nutshell



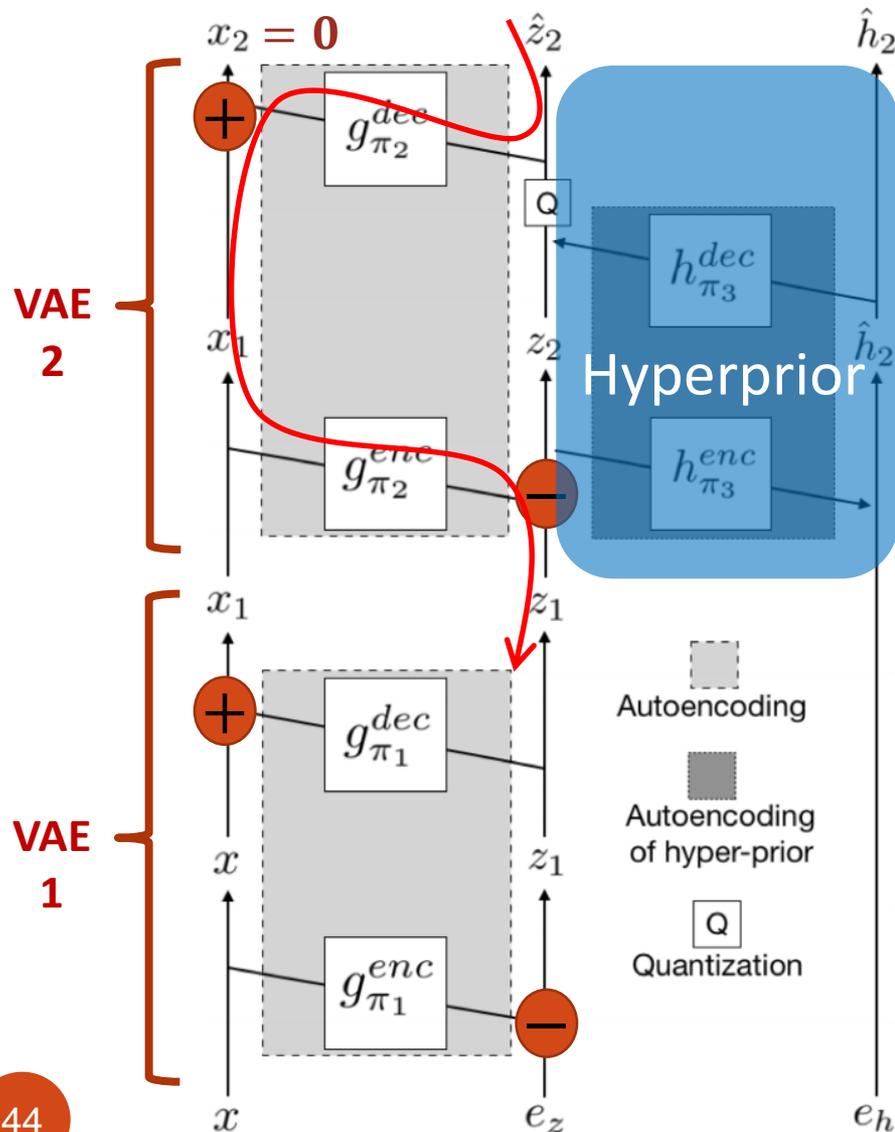
- Learn image distribution $p(x)$
- Employ a stack of **additive autoencoding transforms**
- Use **augmented noise** e_z to convert input x into $x_2 \approx 0$
- Encode the latents \hat{z}_2, \hat{h}_2 into a bitstream

Additive Autoencoding Transform: Forward

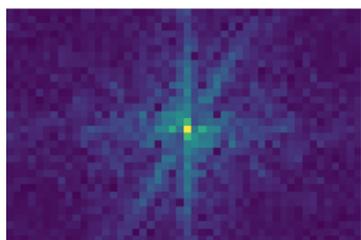
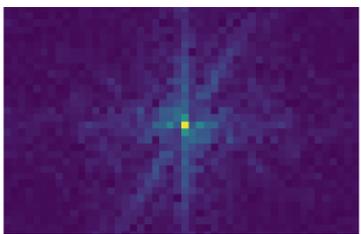
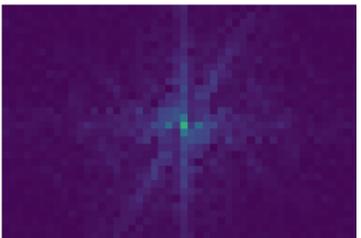


- Additive autoencoding transform + Hyperprior
- Use augmented noise e_z to convert input x into $x_2 \approx 0$
- Encode the latents \hat{z}_2, \hat{h}_2 into a bitstream

Additive Autoencoding Transform: Inverse



- Addition \rightarrow Subtraction
- Subtraction \rightarrow Addition

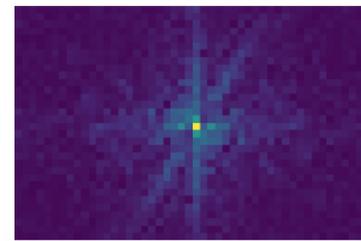
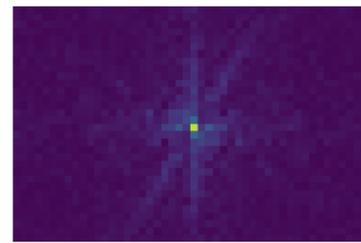
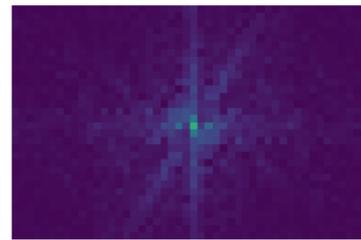
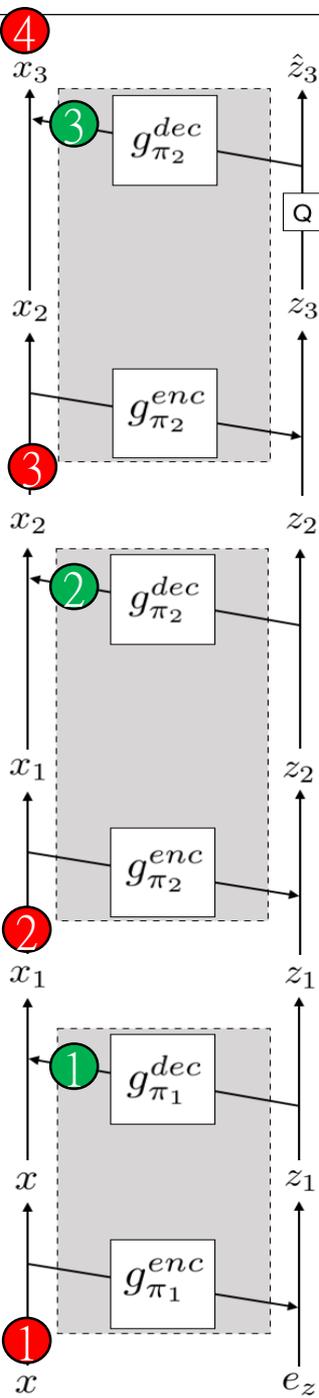
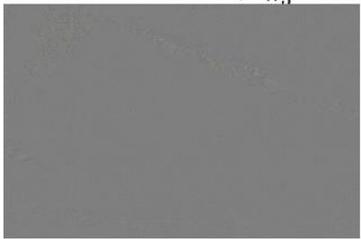


4 $x_3 = x_2 - \mu_{\pi_3}^{dec}$

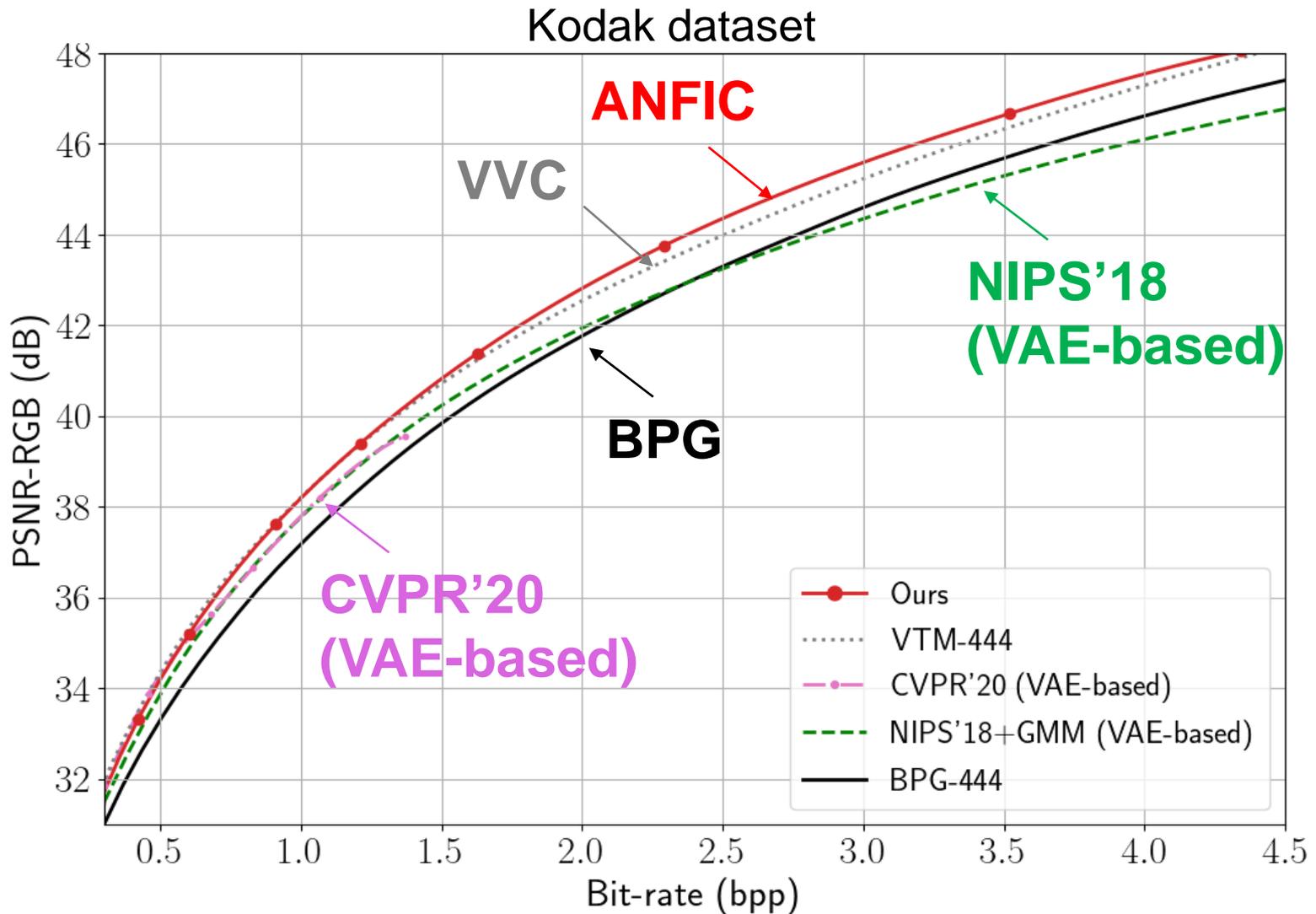
3 $x_2 = x_1 - \mu_{\pi_2}^{dec}$

2 $x_1 = x - \mu_{\pi_1}^{dec}$

1 x



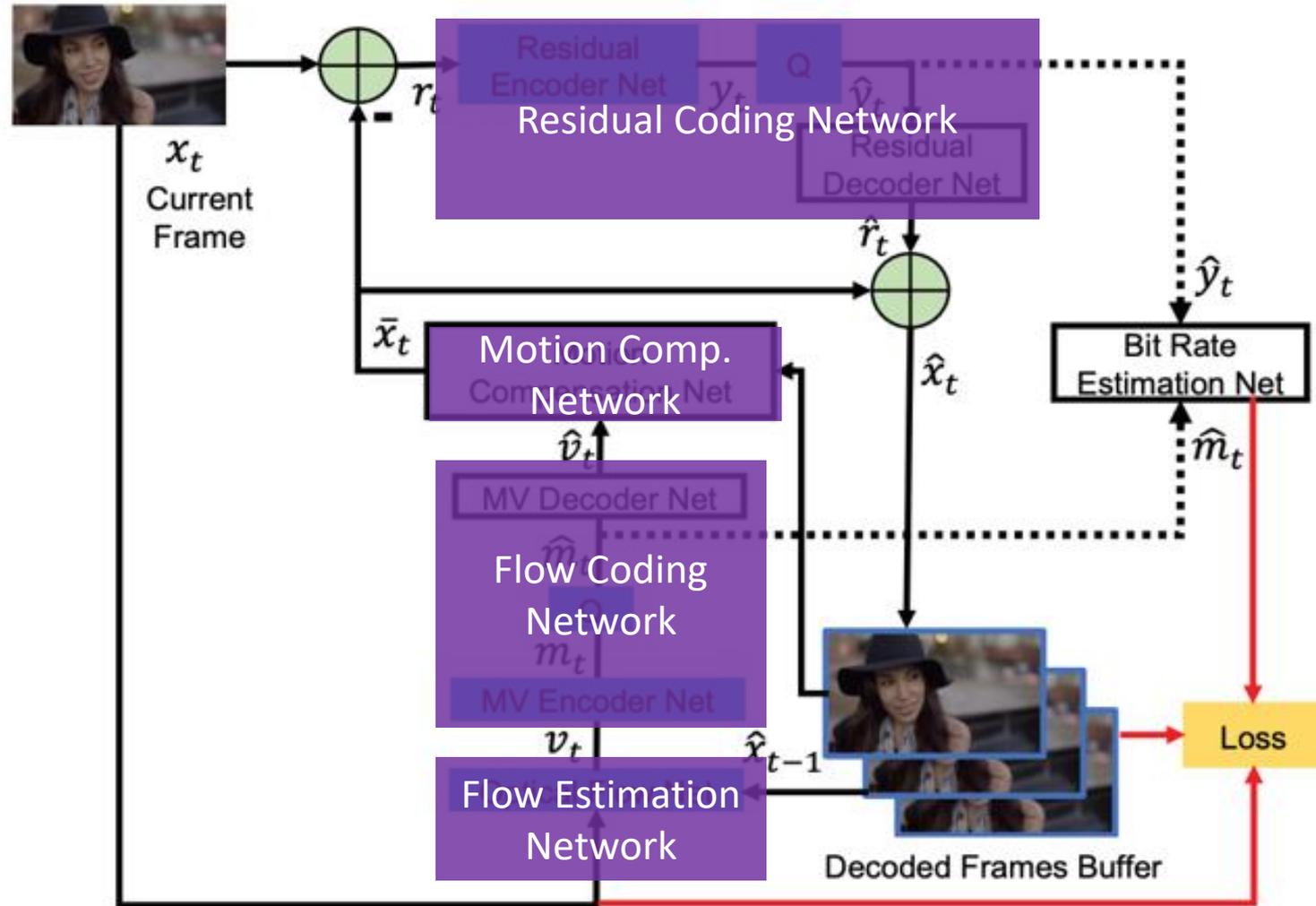
Rate-Distortion Performance



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Residual-based Coding Framework



Notable Works

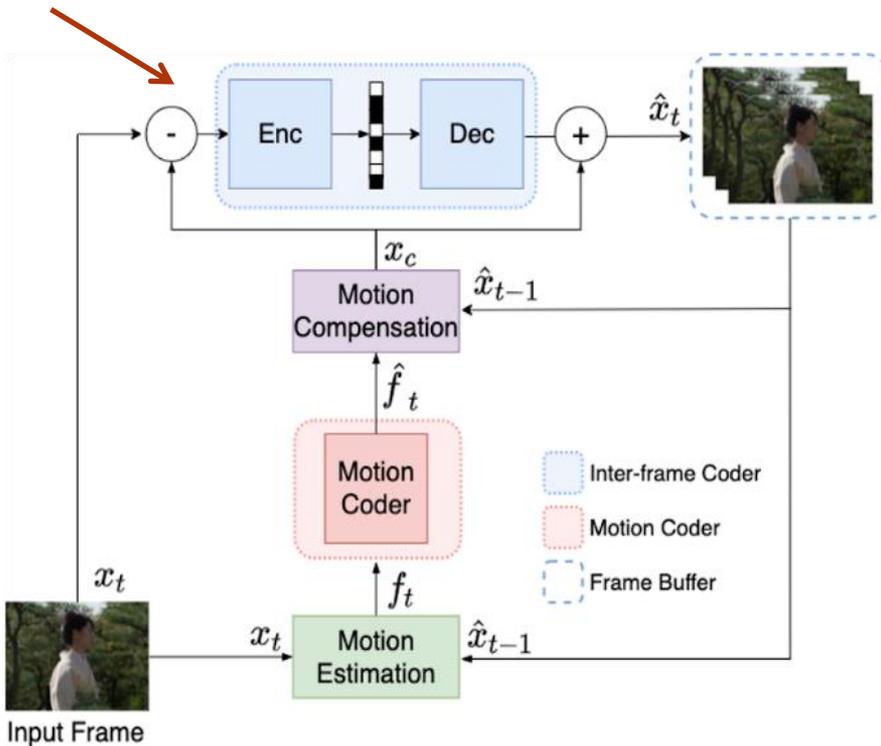
- **DVC/DVC-Pro:** Lu et al., “DVC: An End-to-End Deep Video Compression Framework,” CVPR 2019; Lu et al., “An End-to-End Learning Framework for Video Compression,” TPAMI 2020
- **Scale-space:** Agustsson et al., “Scale-space Flow for End-to-End Optimized Video Compression,” CVPR 2020
- **FVC:** Z. Hu et al., “FVC: A New Framework towards Deep Video Compression in Feature Space,” CVPR 2021
- **C2F-FVC:** Z. Hu et al., “Coarse-to-fine Deep Video Coding with Hyperprior-guided Mode Prediction,” CVPR 2022

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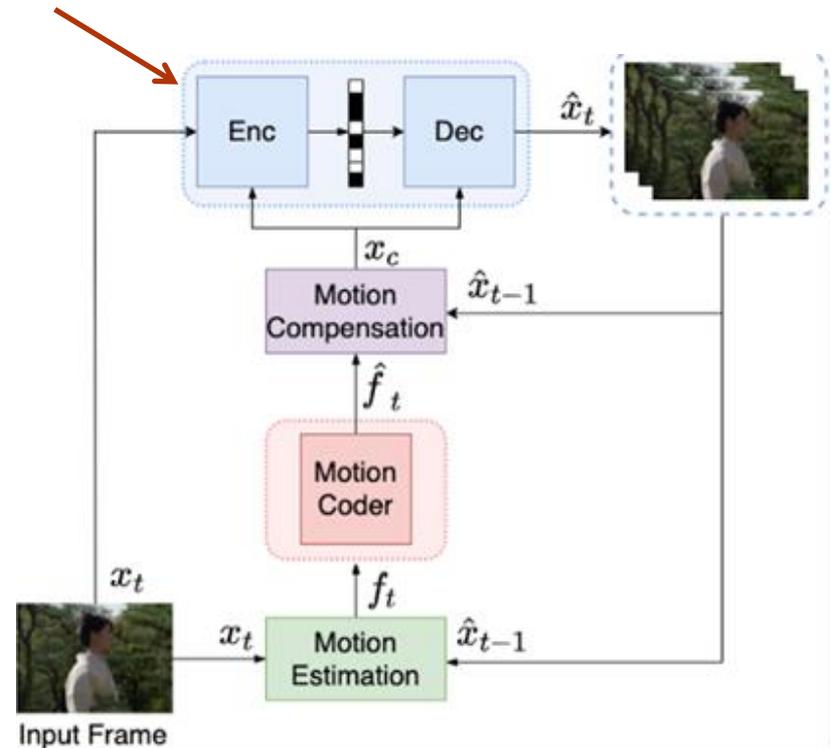
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Residual vs. Conditional Coding

Residual coding



Conditional Coding



No evaluation of residual signals!

Conditional Coding

- **Residual coding** is sub-optimal from the information-theoretic perspective

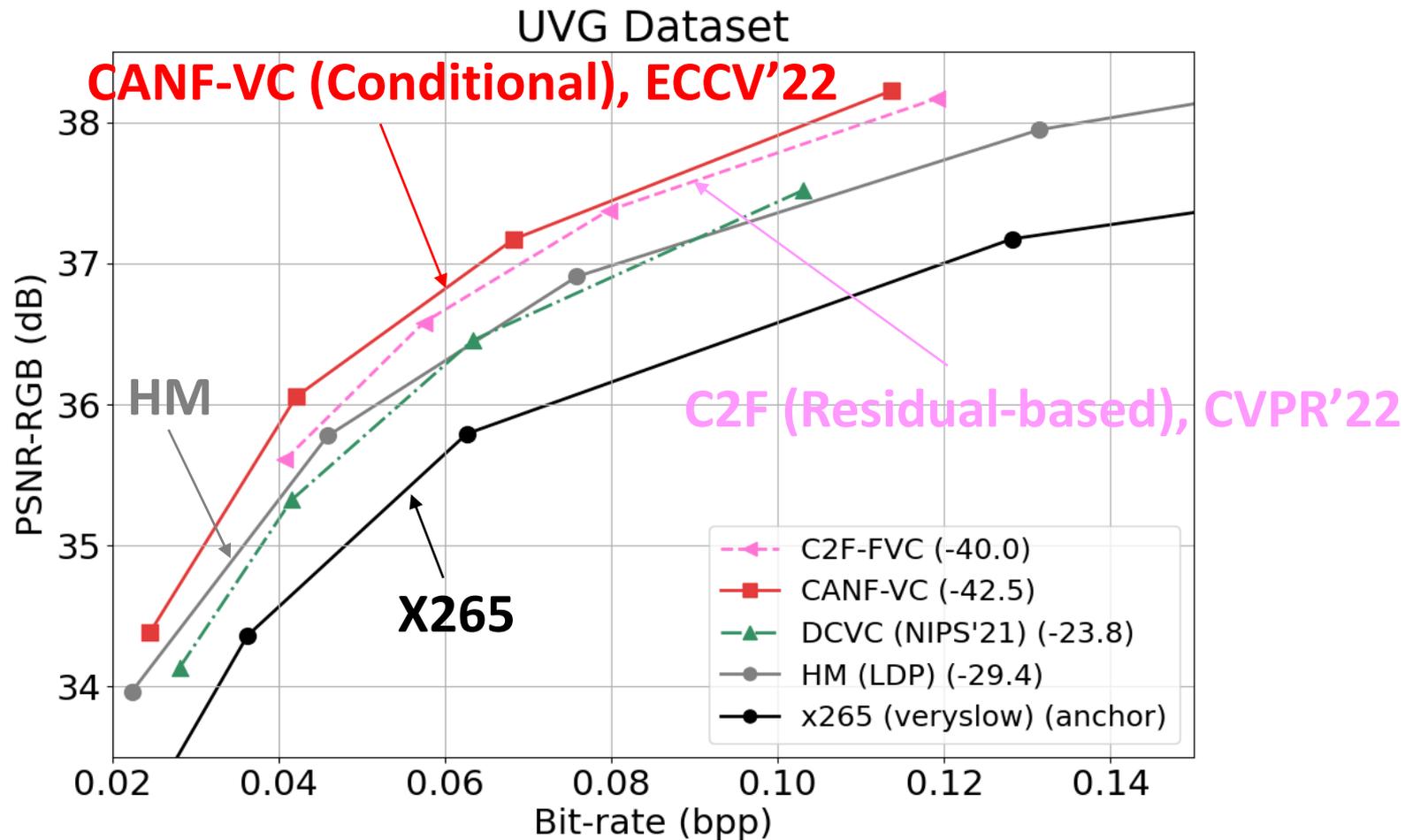
$$H(I_t - I_c) \geq H(I_t - I_c | I_c) = H(I_t | I_c)$$

I_t : Coding frame

I_c : Motion-compensated reference frame

- **Conditional coding** aims to approach $H(I_t | I_c)$
→ Need to learn the conditional distribution $p(I_t | I_c)$

Conditional vs. Residual Coding in 2022

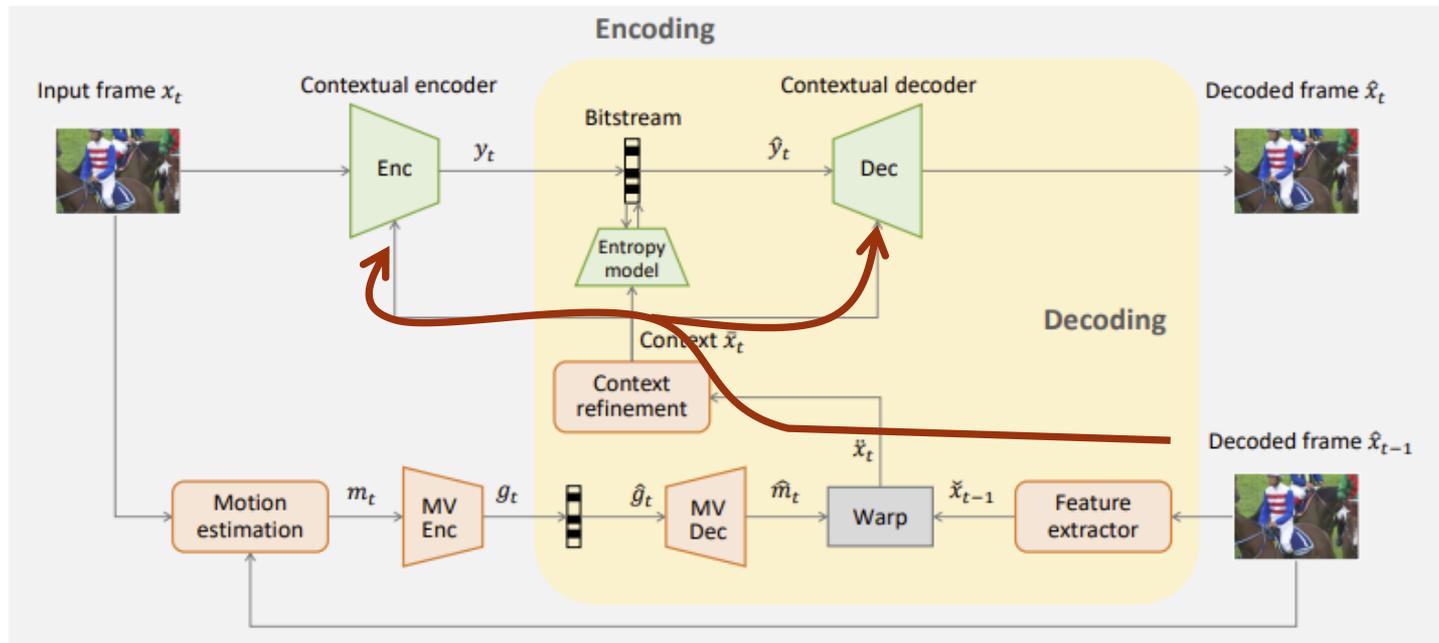


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- **DCVC:** J. Li et al., “Deep Contextual Video Compression,” NeurIPS 2021
- **DCVC-TCM:** X. Sheng et al., “Temporal Context Mining for Learned Video Compression,” IEEE TMM, 2022
- **DCVC-HEM:** J. Li et al., “Hybrid Spatial-Temporal Entropy Modelling for Neural Video Compression,” ACM MM 2022
- **DCVC-DC:** J. Li et al., “Neural Video Compression with Diverse Contexts,” CVPR 2023
- **CANF-VC:** Y.-H Ho et al., “CANF-VC: Conditional Augmented Normalizing Flows for Video Compression,” ECCV 2022
- **VCT:** F. Mentzer et al., “VCT: A Video Compression Transformer,” NeurIPS 2022
- **MIMT:** J. Xiang et al., “MIMT: Masked Image Modeling Transformer for Video Compression,” ICLR, 2023

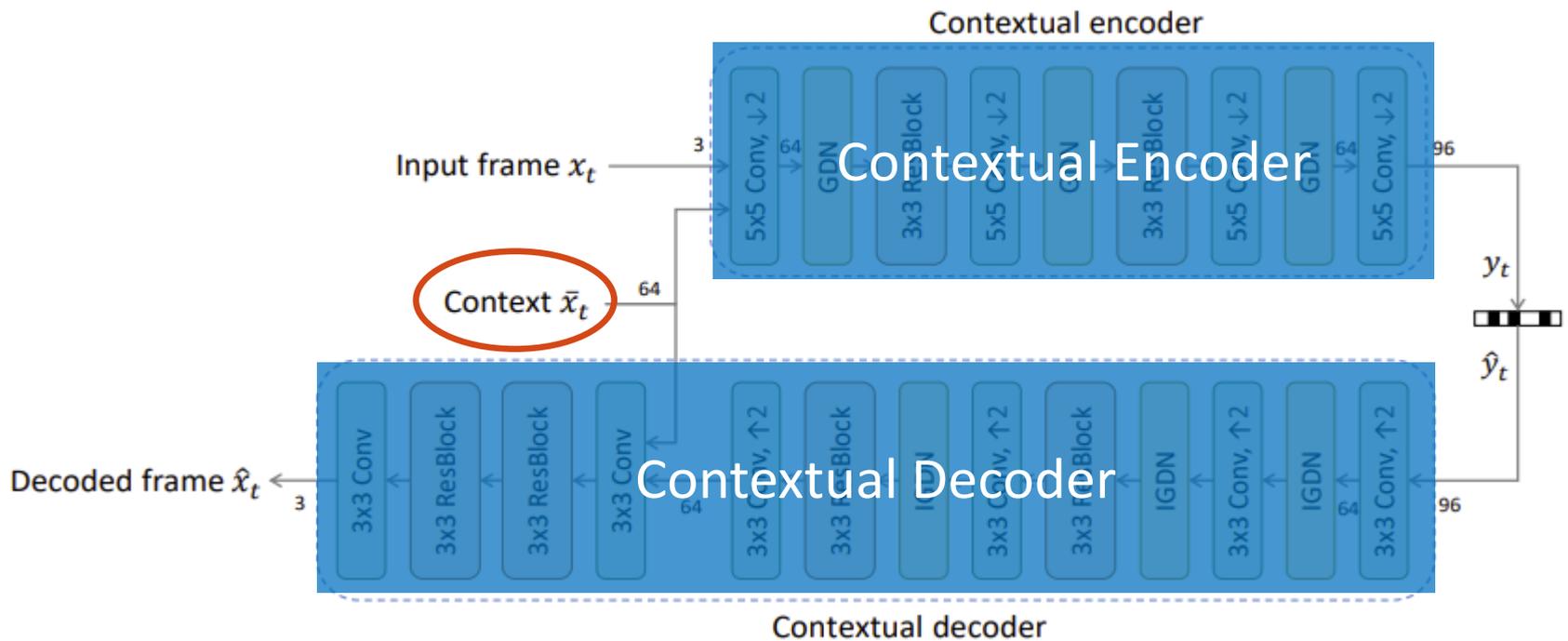
DCVC: Deep Contextual Video Coding

- J. Li, B. Li, Y. Lu (MSRA), NeurIPS 2021
- Use a **conditional variational autoencoder (CVAE)** for contextual encoding and decoding



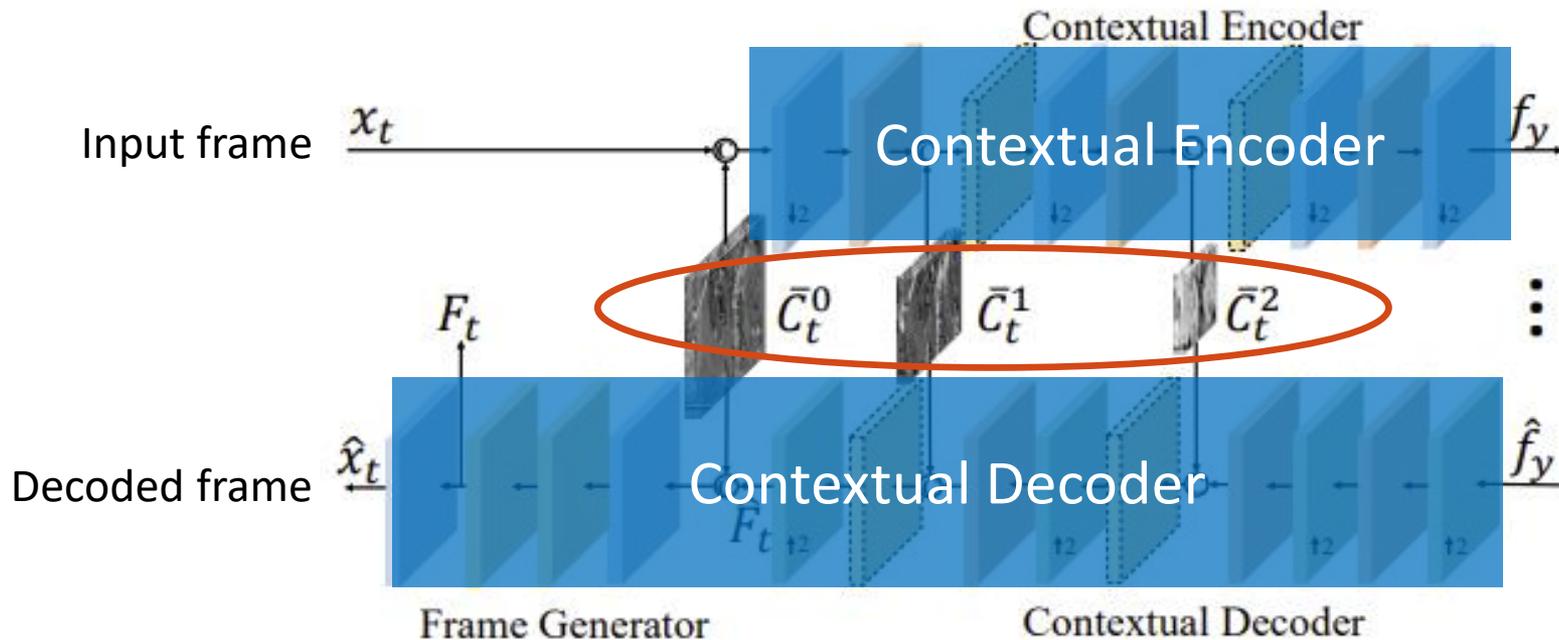
Conditional Variational Autoencoder

- Use single **concatnation** as a means to achieve contextual encoding and decoding



DCVC-TCM: Temporal Context Mining

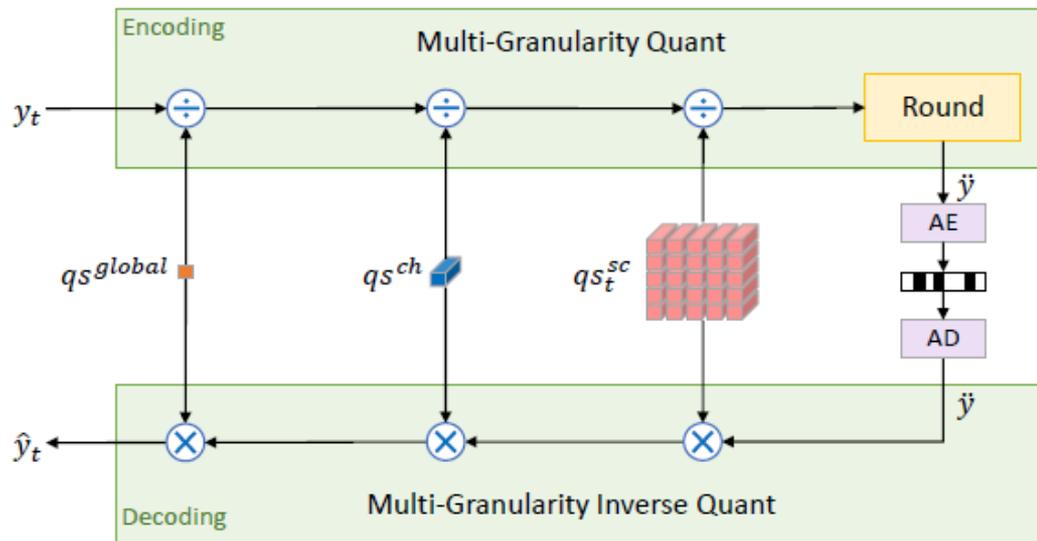
- Extend DCVC by learning **multi-scale conditioning factors** from **previously stored frame features**



DCVC-HEM

- An extended version of DCVC-TCM
 - **Spatial-channel context** model for entropy coding
 - **Multi-granularity quantization** for **variable-rate coding**

Global **Channel-wise** **Element-wise**
(Adjustable) **(Learned)** **(Learned)**



CANF-VC: Conditional Augmented Normalizing Flows for Video Compression

- Y. H. Ho (NYCU), C. P. Chang (NYCU), P. Y. Chen (NYCU), A. Gnutti (Univ. Brescia), W. H. Peng (NYCU), ECCV 2022
- Adopt **conditional augmented normalizing flows (CANF)** for conditional coding
- Apply conditional coding to both **motion and inter-frame coding**

Conditional ANF (CANF)

- Turn ANFIC into a **conditional video generator**



I_{t-2}



I_{t-1}



I_t



Idea: To generate I_t conditionally based on I_{t-1}

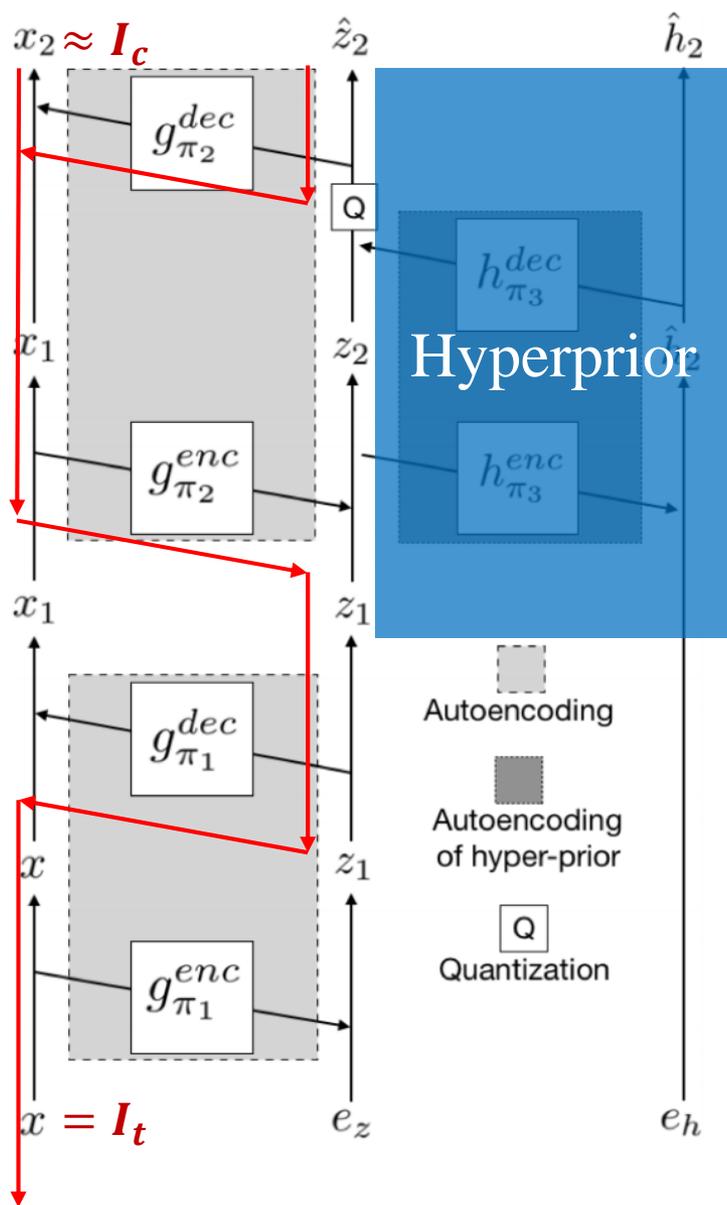
Conditional Video Frame Generation



I_c Reference frame



I_t Current frame



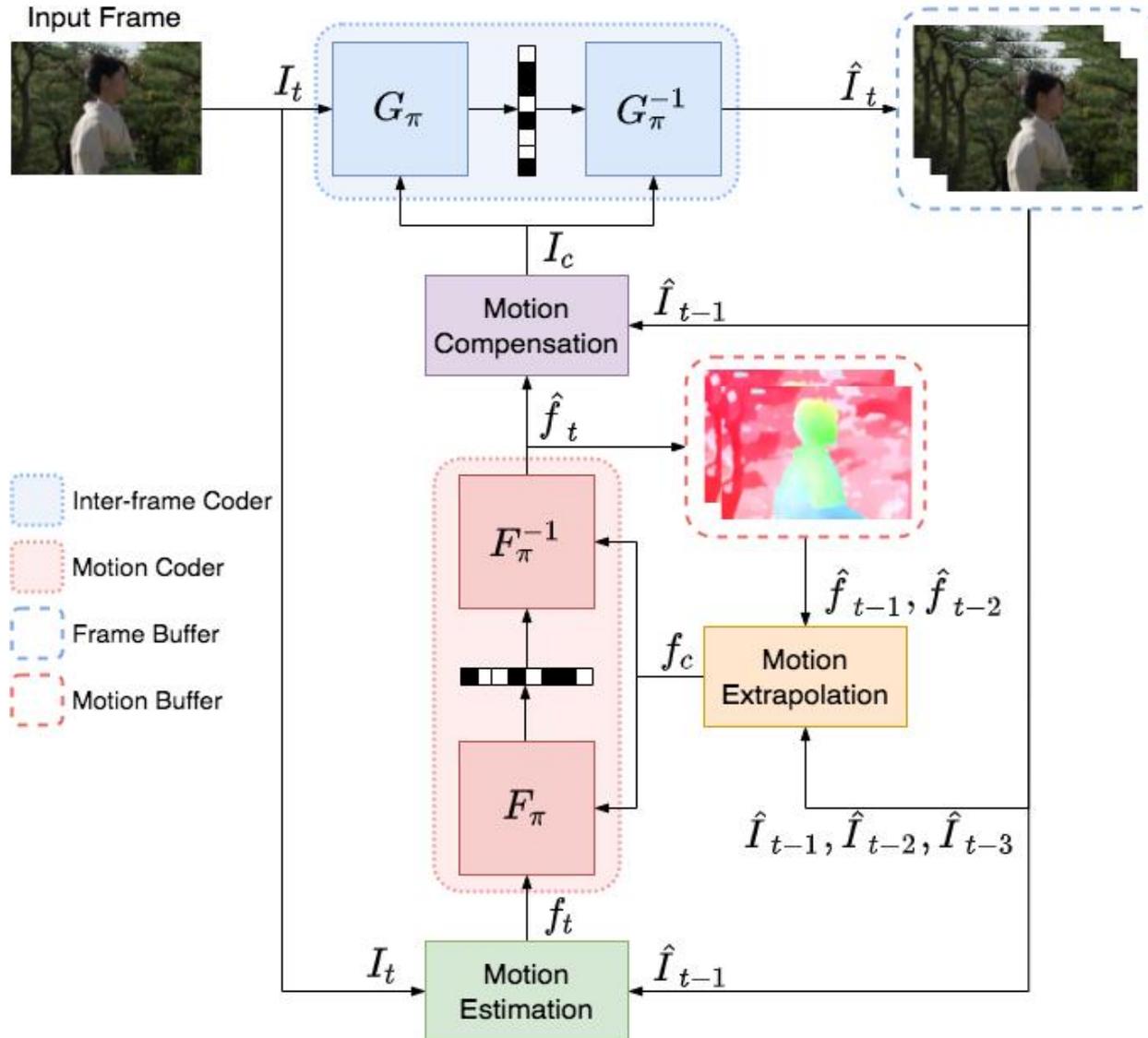
Dec_2(\hat{z}_2)



Dec_1(z_1)



CANF for Motion and Inter-frame Coding



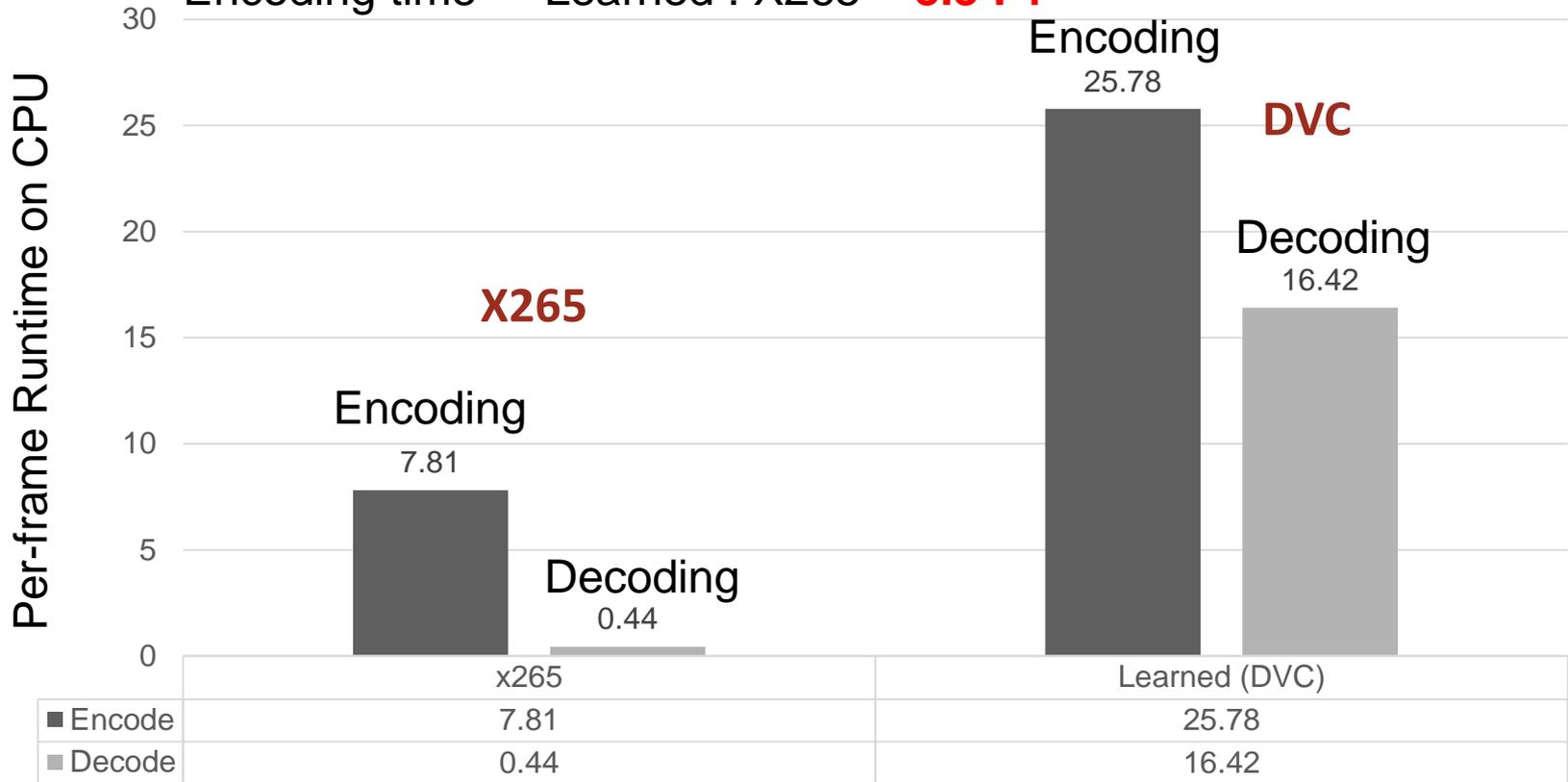
Learned Video Codecs vs. X265

Learned codec - Encoding : Decoding ~ **1.6 : 1**

X265 (HEVC) - Encoding : Decoding ~ **17.8 : 1**

Decoding time - Learned : X265 ~ **37.3 : 1**

Encoding time - Learned : X265 ~ **3.3 : 1**



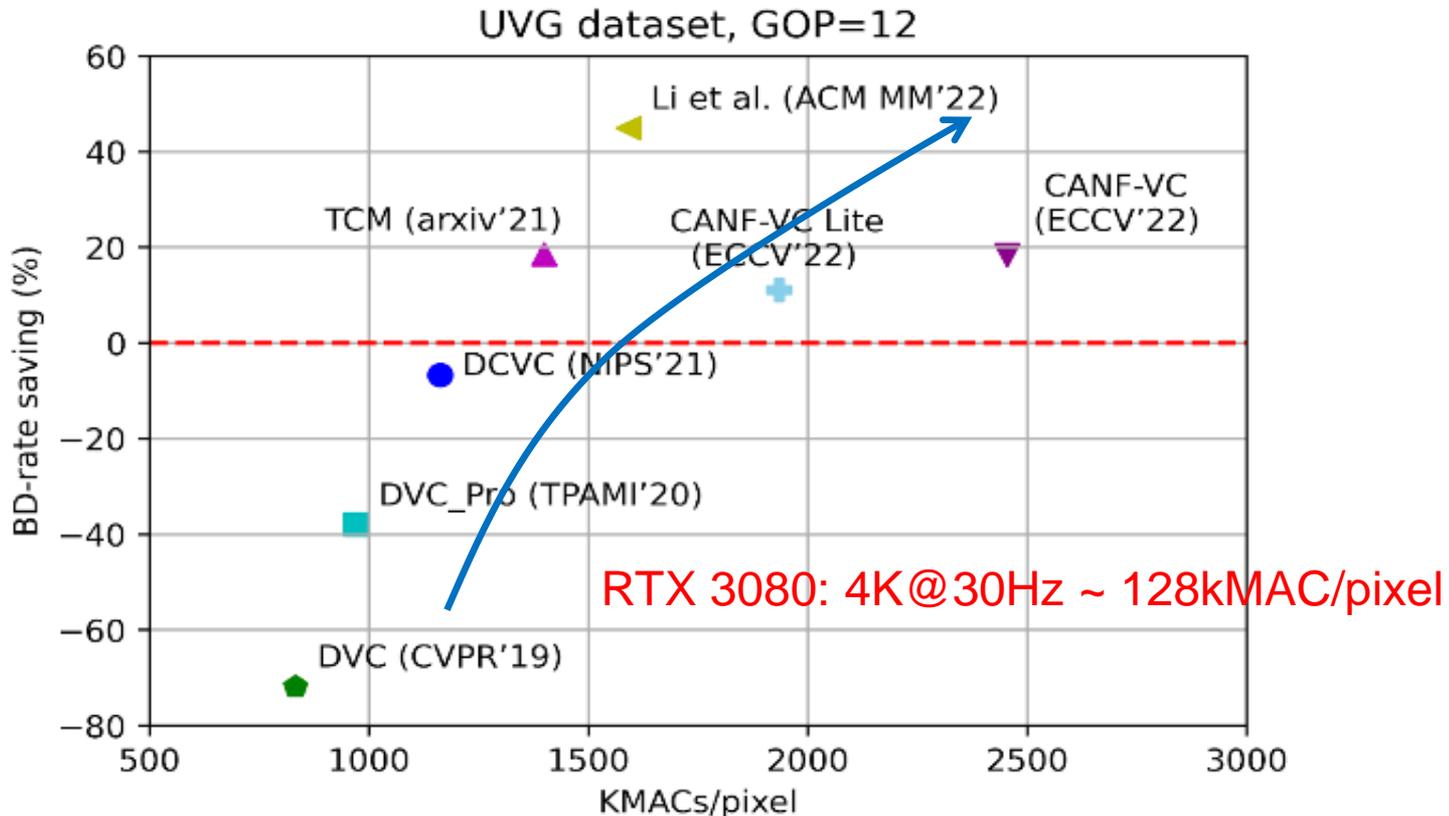
CPU: i7-9700K

RAM: 16G

■ Encode ■ Decode

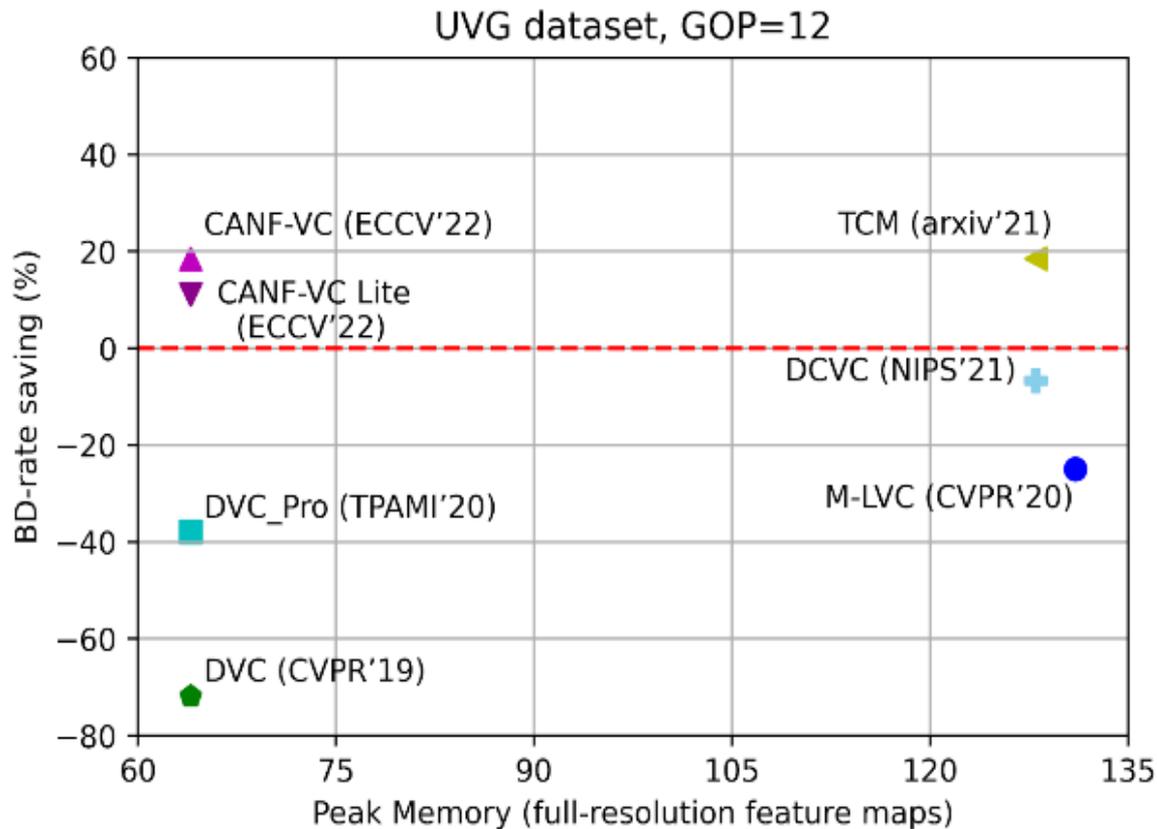
Multiply-Accumulate Operations (MAC)

- **BD-rate saving (vs. HM-16.20):** The higher the better
- **kMAC/pixel for **encoding**:** The lower the better
- **Encoding : Decoding = 1.5 : 1**



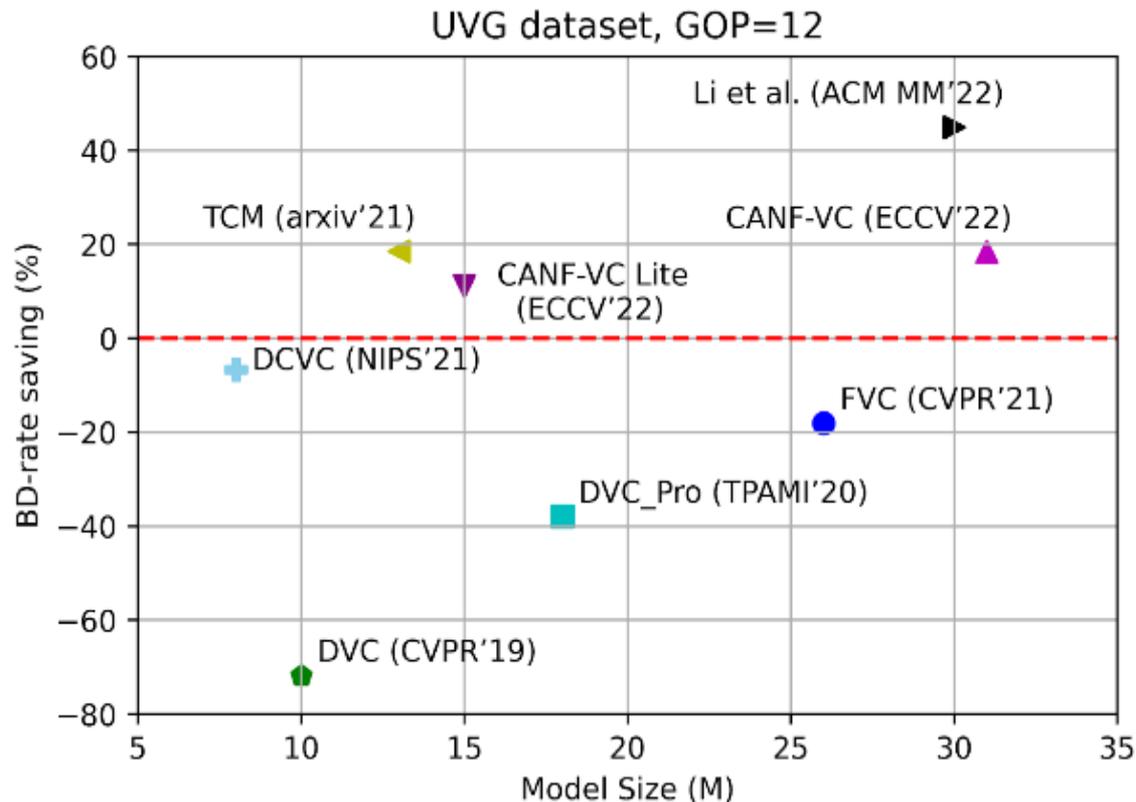
Peak Memory Requirements

- **BD-rate saving (vs. HM-16.20):** The higher the better
- **Peak memory:** The lower the better



Model Size

- **BD-rate saving (vs. HM-16.20):** The higher the better
- **Model size (I-frame NOT counted):** The lower the better



Outline

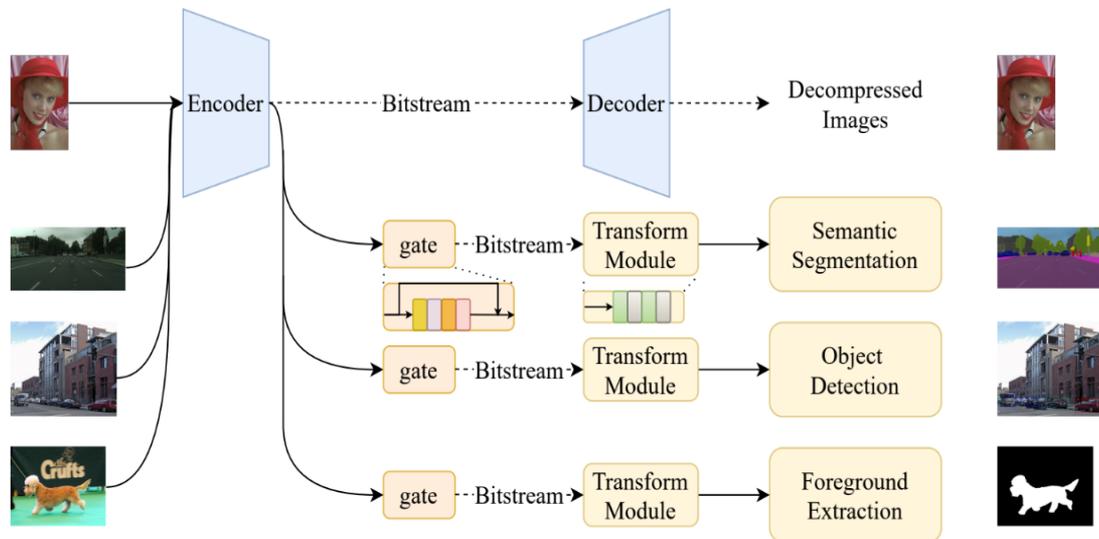
- Overview of Learned Image / Video Compression
- End-to-end Learned Image Compression
- End-to-end Learned Video Compression
- **Computer Vision Applications**

Notable Works

- **Single-task** bitstream
 - J. Liu et al., “Improving Multiple Machine Vision Tasks in the Compressed Domain,” ICPR 2022
- **Scalable** bitstream
 - H Choi et al., “Scalable Image Coding for Humans and Machines,” TIP 2022
- **Multi-task** (or **many-task**) bitstream
 - R. Feng et al., “Image Coding for Machines with Omnipotent Feature Learning,” ECCV2022

Improving Multiple Machine Vision Tasks in the Compressed Domain

- Train a base codec with **multi-task loss** (e.g. recon. + seg.)
 - Encoder adopts a **gate** module for **task-specific feature coding**
 - Decoder uses a **transform** module to adapt features to the task
- Encoder = Image Compressor + Feature Extractor



Scalable Image Coding for Humans and Machines

- Divide image latents y along channel dimension into y_1 and y_2
- Decode y_1 (base layer) for **machine perception**
- Decode $y_1 + y_2$ (enhancement layer) for **human perception**

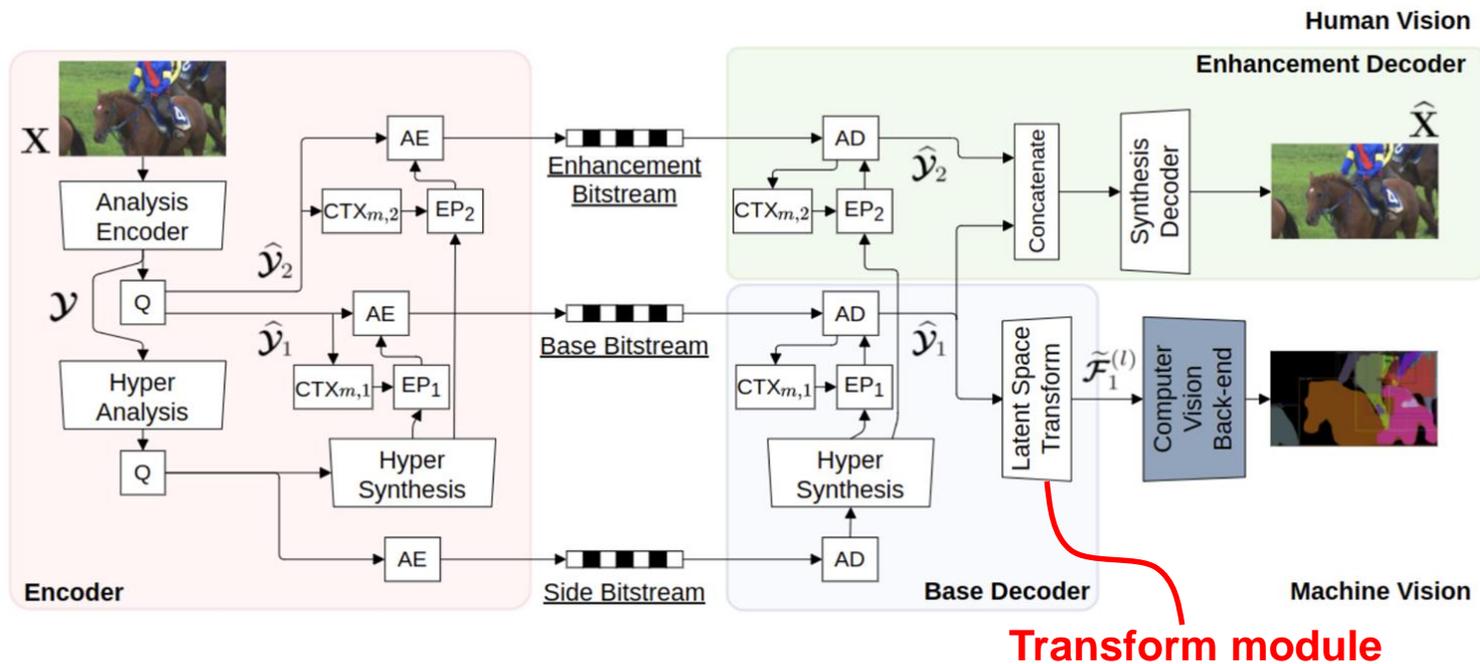
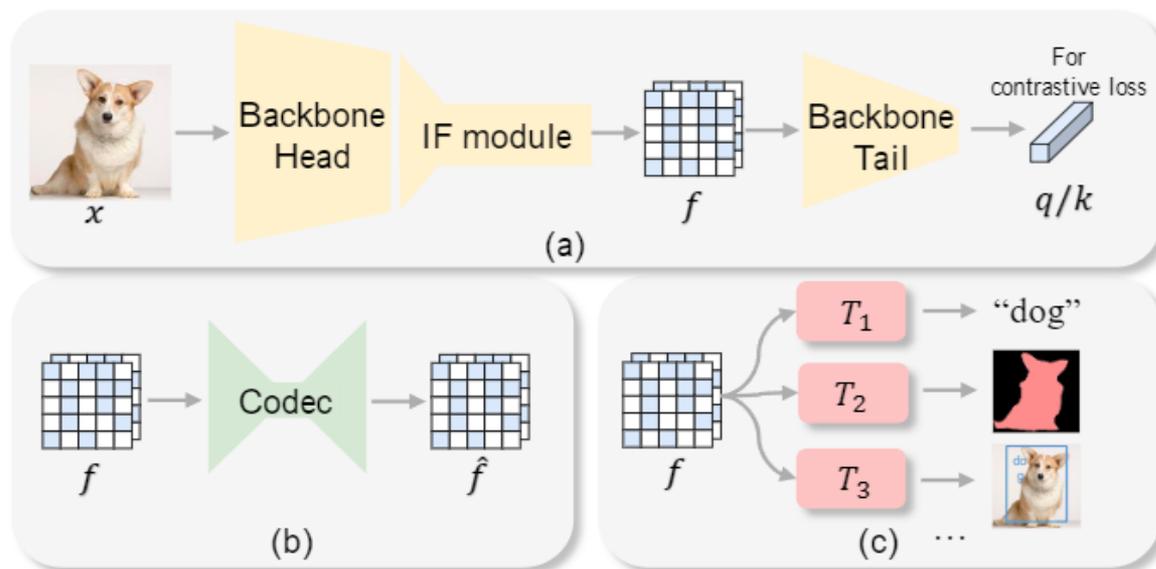


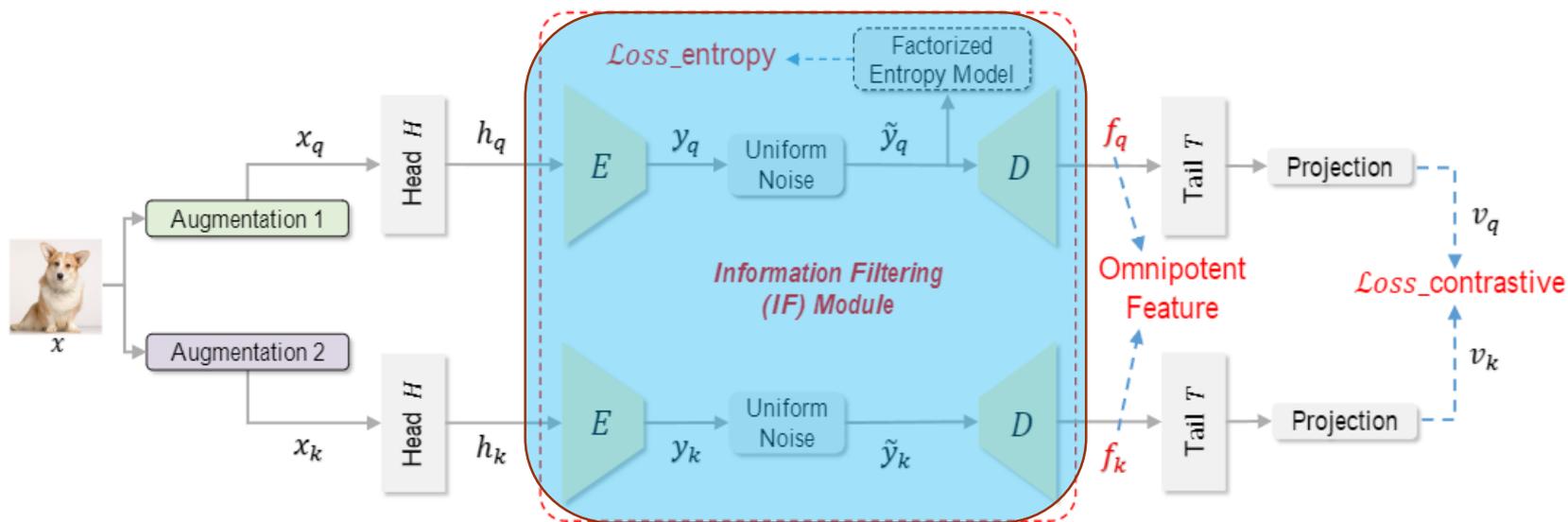
Image Coding for Machines with Omnipotent Feature Learning

- Use **contrastive learning** to learn **omnipotent features**, i.e. features suitable for **many vision tasks**
- Encode omnipotent features with learned codecs
- Fine-tune recognition networks with omnipotent features



Omnipotent Feature Learning

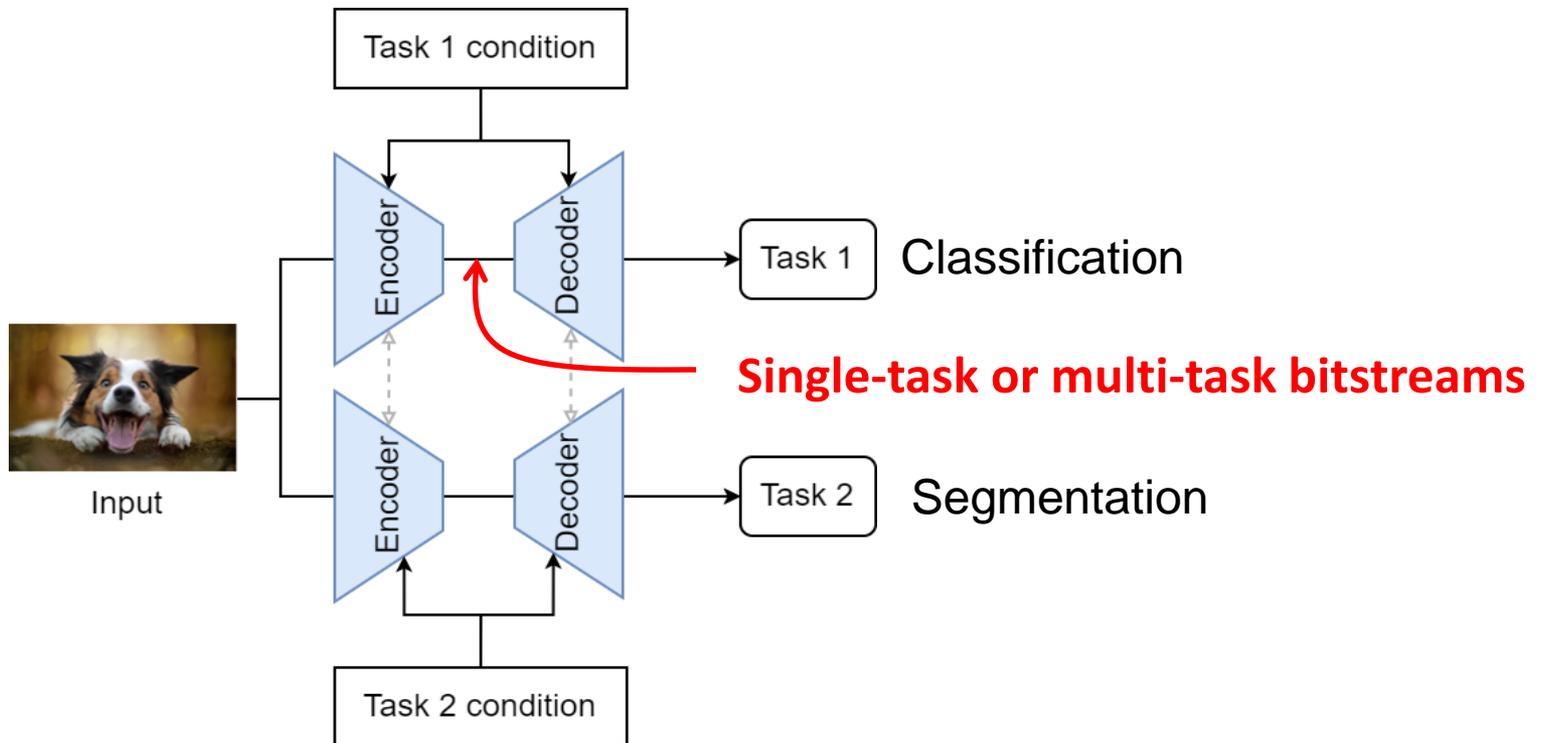
- Information Filtering (IF) + Contrastive learning
- IF: **rate constrained** representation learning



Learned feature compressor

Transfer Learning for Machine Perception

- Task: To **transfer a learned codec** from human perception to machine perception
- Adapt the **feature distributions** of the learned codec using **task-specific conditions** for machine perception



Machine Task: Classification

Base codec
(Human)

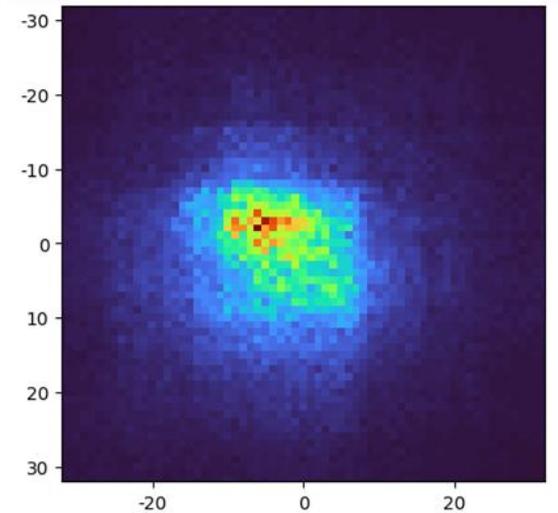
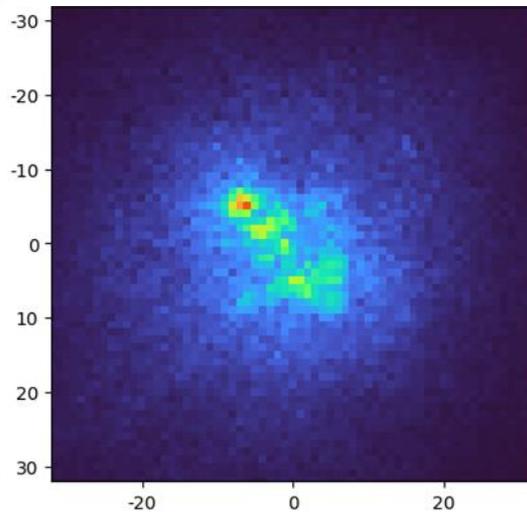
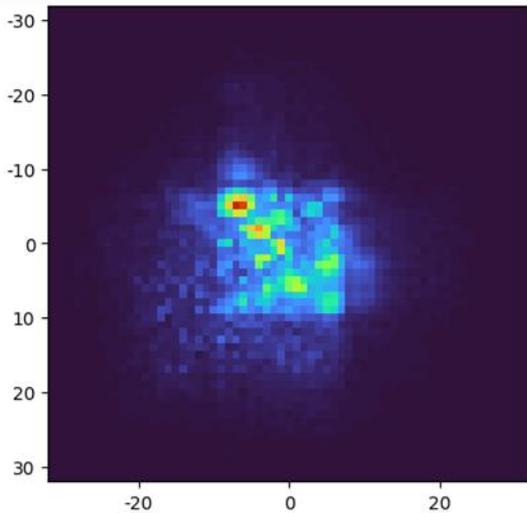
Adapted base codec
(Machine)

Full finetuning
(Machine)

Decoded Image

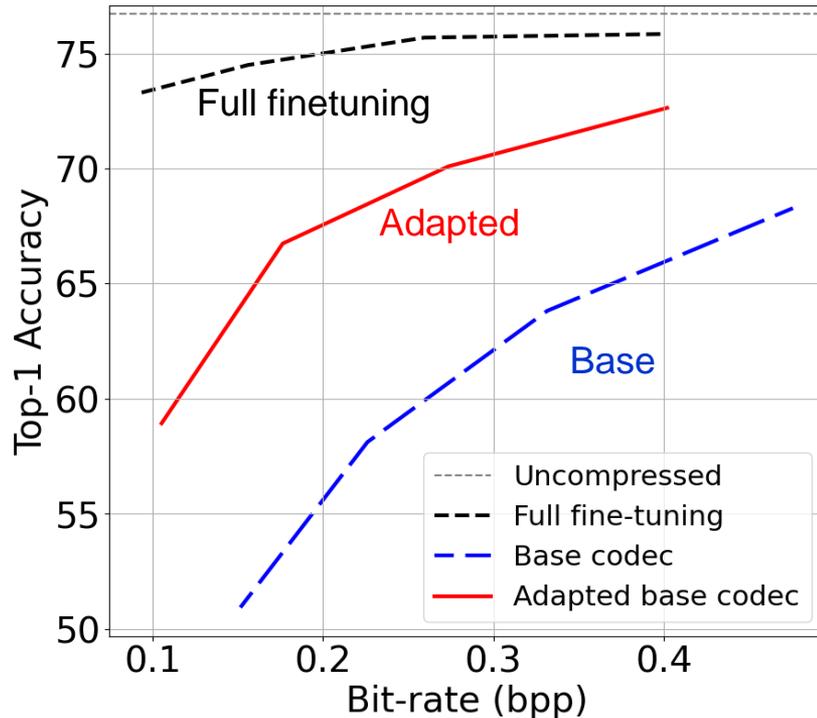


Effective Receptive Field

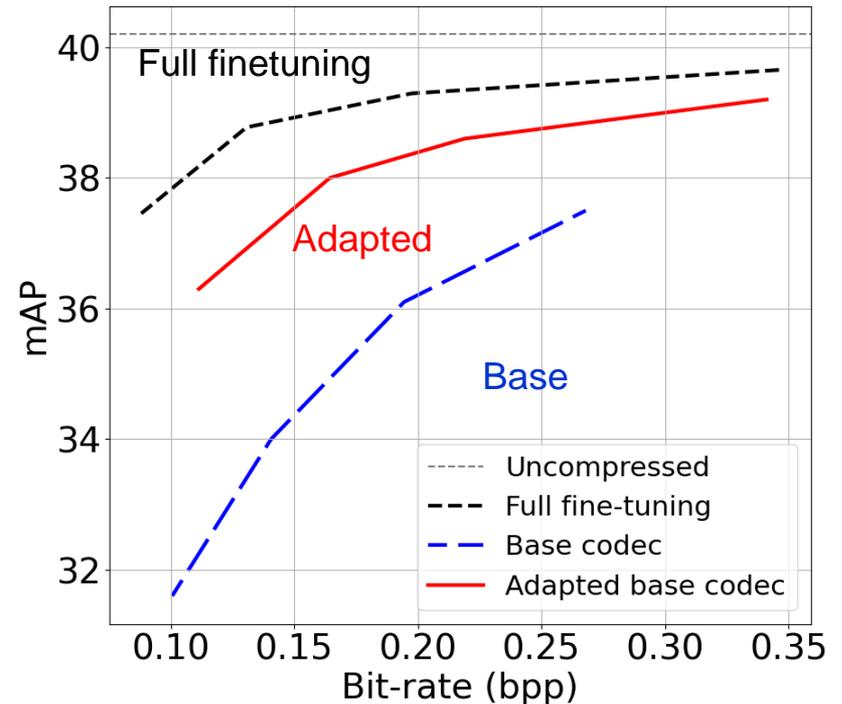


Rate-Accuracy Performance

Classification



Object Detection



Conclusion

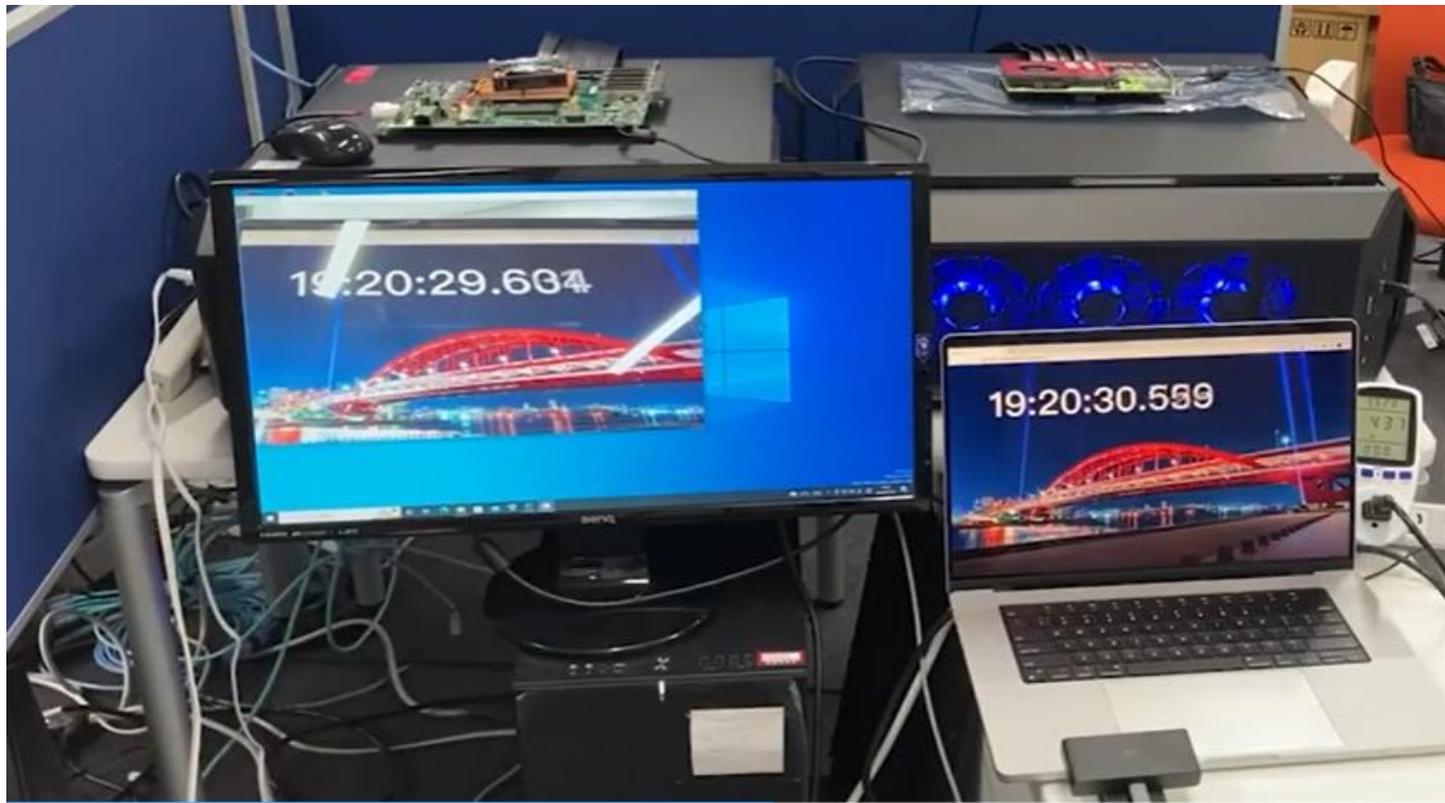
- End-to-end learned image/video compression is progressing at light speed
- For image coding,
 - **VAE-based compression with hyperprior** is currently the most popular approach
 - JPEG AI is progressing fast towards **version 1**
 - PSNR-RGB: > VVC intra, MS-SSIM: >> VVC
- For video coding,
 - Research is still ongoing, with **conditional coding** emerging as an attractive alternative to residual coding
 - More **content-adaptive** coding is expected
 - PSNR-RGB: > VVC (LDP), MS-SSIM: >> VVC

Conclusion

- The complexity of learned codecs is still **high**
 - **2 to 3** orders of magnitude higher than traditional codecs in terms of kMAC/pixel and CPU decoding time
- Many issues remain widely open
 - Performance and complexity assessment
 - YUV content coding
 - Encoder optimization
 - Rate control
 - Generalization
 - Coding for machines
 - etc.

Neural Image Compression on FPGA

- H. Sun et al, “F-LIC: FPGA-based Learned Image Compression with a Fine-grained Pipeline,” ASSCC 2022



Thank you for your attention

