
**Information technology — Generic coding
of moving pictures and associated audio
information —**

Part 4:
Conformance testing

*Technologies de l'information — Codage générique des images animées
et des informations sonores associées —*

Partie 4: Essais de conformité

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO/IEC 13818-4 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 29, *Coding of audio, picture, multimedia and hypermedia information*.

ISO/IEC 13818 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Generic coding of moving pictures and associated audio information*:

- *Part 1: Systems*
- *Part 2: Video*
- *Part 3: Audio*
- *Part 4: Conformance testing*
- *Part 5: Software simulation*
- *Part 6: Extensions for DSM-CC*
- *Part 7: Advanced Audio Coding (AAC)*
- *Part 9: Extension for real time interface for systems decoders*
- *Part 10: Conformance extensions for Digital Storage Media Command and Control (DSM-CC)*

The electronic file directory “bitstreams” forms an integral part of this part of ISO/IEC 13818.

Annexes A to E of this part of ISO/IEC 13818 are for information only.

Introduction

Parts 1, 2 and 3 of ISO/IEC 13818 specify a multiplex structure and coded representations of audio-visual information. Parts 1, 2 and 3 of ISO/IEC 13818 allow for large flexibility, achieving suitability of ISO/IEC 13818 for many different applications. The flexibility is obtained by including parameters in the bitstream that define the characteristics of coded bitstreams. Examples are the audio sampling frequency, picture size, picture rate and bitrate parameters.

This part of ISO/IEC 13818 specifies how tests can be designed to verify whether bitstreams and decoders meet the requirements as specified in parts 1, 2 and 3 of ISO/IEC 13818. These tests can be used for various purposes such as:

- manufacturers of encoders, and their customers, can use the tests to verify whether the encoder produces valid bitstreams.
- manufacturers of decoders and their customers can use the tests to verify whether the decoder meets the requirements specified in parts 1, 2 and 3 of ISO/IEC 13818 for the claimed decoder capabilities.

Information technology — Generic coding of moving pictures and associated audio information —

Part 4: Conformance testing

1 General

1.1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 13818 specifies how tests can be designed to verify whether bitstreams and decoders meet requirements specified in parts 1, 2 and 3 of ISO/IEC 13818. In this part of ISO/IEC 13818, encoders are not addressed specifically. An encoder may be said to be an ISO/IEC 13818 encoder if it generates bitstreams compliant with the syntactic and semantic bitstream requirements specified in parts 1, 2 and 3 of ISO/IEC 13818.

Characteristics of coded bitstreams and decoders are defined for parts 1, 2 and 3 of ISO/IEC 13818. The characteristics of a bitstream define the subset of the standard that is exploited in the bitstream. Examples are the applied values or range of the picture size and bitrate parameters. Decoder characteristics define the properties and capabilities of the applied decoding process. An example of a property is the applied arithmetic accuracy. The capabilities of a decoder specify which coded bitstreams the decoder can decode and reconstruct, by defining the subset of the standard that may be exploited in decodable bitstreams. A bitstream can be decoded by a decoder if the characteristics of the coded bitstream are within the subset of the standard specified by the decoder capabilities.

Procedures are described for testing conformance of bitstreams and decoders to the requirements defined in parts 1, 2 and 3 of ISO/IEC 13818. Given the set of characteristics claimed, the requirements that must be met are fully determined by parts 1, 2 and 3 of ISO/IEC 13818. This part of ISO/IEC 13818 summarises the requirements, cross references them to characteristics, and defines how conformance with them can be tested. Guidelines are given on constructing tests to verify bitstream and decoder conformance. This document gives guidelines on how to construct bitstream test suites to check or verify decoder conformance. In addition, some test bitstreams implemented according to those guidelines are provided in the electronic file directory called "Test bitstreams".

1.2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO/IEC 13818. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of ISO/IEC 13818 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 639:1988, *Code for the representation of names of languages*.

ISO/IEC 8859-1:1998, *Information technology — 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets — Part 1: Latin alphabet No. 1*.

ISO/IEC 10918-1:1994, *Information technology — Digital compression and coding of continuous-tone still images: Requirements and guidelines*. (See also ITU-T Rec. T.81.)

ISO/IEC 11172-1:1993, *Information technology — Coding of moving pictures and associated audio for digital storage media at up to about 1,5 Mbit/s — Part 1: Systems*.

ISO/IEC 11172-2:1993, *Information technology — Coding of moving pictures and associated audio for digital storage media at up to about 1,5 Mbit/s — Part 2: Video*.

ISO/IEC 11172-3:1993, *Information technology — Coding of moving pictures and associated audio for digital storage media at up to about 1,5 Mbit/s — Part 3: Audio*.

ISO/IEC 11172-4:1995, *Information technology — Coding of moving pictures and associated audio for digital storage media at up to about 1,5 Mbit/s — Part 4: Conformance testing.*

ISO/IEC 13818-1:1996, *Information technology — Generic coding of moving pictures and associated audio information: Systems.*

ISO/IEC 13818-2:1996, *Information technology — Generic coding of moving pictures and associated audio information: Video.*

ISO/IEC 13818-3:1998, *Information technology — Generic coding of moving pictures and associated audio information — Part 3: Audio.*

Recommendations and reports of the CCIR, 1990.

XVIIth Plenary Assembly, Dusseldorf, 1990 Volume XI - Part 1.

Broadcasting Service (Television) Rec. 601-2, *Encoding parameters of digital television for studios.*

CCIR Volume X and XI Part 3 Recommendation 648: *Recording of audio signals.*

CCIR Volume X and XI Part 3 Report 955-2: *Sound broadcasting by satellite for portable and mobile receivers, including Annex IV Summary description of advanced digital system II.*

IEEE Standard Specifications for the Implementations of 8 by 8 Inverse Discrete Cosine Transform, IEEE Std 1180-1990, December 6, 1990.

IEC 461:1986, *Time and control code for video tape recorders.*

IEC 908:198, *Compact disk digital audio system.*

ITU-T Recommendation H.261 (Formerly CCITT Recommendation H.261) "Codec for audiovisual services at px64 kbit/s" Geneva, 1990.

2 Technical elements

2.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO/IEC 13818, the following definitions apply.

2.1.1 16x8 prediction [video]: A prediction mode similar to field-based prediction but where the predicted block size is 16x8 luminance samples.

2.1.2 AC coefficient [video]: Any DCT coefficient for which the frequency in one or both dimensions is non-zero.

2.1.3 access unit [systems]: A coded representation of a presentation unit. In the case of audio, an access unit is the coded representation of an audio frame.

In the case of video, an access unit includes all the coded data for a picture, and any stuffing that follows it, up to but not including the start of the next access unit. If a picture is not preceded by a `group_start_code` or a `sequence_header_code`, the access unit begins with the picture start code. If a picture is preceded by a `group_start_code` and/or a `sequence_header_code`, the access unit begins with the first byte of the first of these start codes. If it is the last picture preceding a `sequence_end_code` in the bitstream all bytes between the last byte of the coded picture and the `sequence_end_code` (including the `sequence_end_code`) belong to the access unit.

2.1.4 adaptive bit allocation [audio]: The assignment of bits to subbands in a time and frequency varying fashion according to a psychoacoustic model.

2.1.5 adaptive multichannel prediction [audio]: A method of multichannel data reduction exploiting statistical inter-channel dependencies.

2.1.6 adaptive noise allocation [audio]: The assignment of coding noise to frequency bands in a time and frequency varying fashion according to a psychoacoustic model.

2.1.7 adaptive segmentation [audio]: A subdivision of the digital representation of an audio signal in variable segments of time.

2.1.8 alias [audio]: Mirrored signal component resulting from sub-Nyquist sampling.

2.1.9 analysis filterbank [audio]: Filterbank in the encoder that transforms a broadband PCM audio signal into a set of subsampled subband samples.