



Domain-Specific Language Abstractions for Compression

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The Case for a Compression DSL

DSL = domain-specific language

- **Motivation: Experts should be able to focus on the compression and not have to worry about implementation details**
 - Overall lack of programming language support
 - Current hand-crafted compression systems are exceedingly complex, non-malleable, and non-portable
 - Implementation often requires efforts of many people
- **Problem: Primitives in C/C++ are a poorly matched to the structure of compression algorithms**
 - Lack multidimensional data structures, cannot natively capture the complex data dependencies, mismatched control flow, require manual optimization
 - Higher-level languages (Julia, Python/Numpy, etc) provide more multidimensional support
 - Still lack ability to capture the dependencies, control flow, optimizations
- **DSL Benefit: DSLs provide a more intuitive programming interface**
 - Data structures that model the multidimensional structure, data access, dependencies
 - Control flow designed for iterating through the data structures
 - Provides concise, high-level syntax
- **Problem: Optimizations**
 - Optimizations are necessary for getting practical run-time performance
 - Currently, optimizations are hand-coded, often in assembly--significantly increases the complexity factor
- **DSL Benefit: DSLs enable development of an optimizing compiler**
 - Can automatically generate high-performance code
 - Has intrinsic knowledge of the domain-specific abstractions, opening the door for compression-specific optimizations
 - Ex: wavefront parallelism, non-SIMD vectorization
- **Primary goals**
 1. (This work) Develop domain-specific abstractions for block-based compression
 - The abstractions are the main building blocks of DSLs
 - Focusing on image and video: JPEG, WebP, AVC/H.264, HEVC/H.265, VVC/H.266
 2. Develop an optimizing compiler based around the abstractions
 3. Extend the abstractions for other categories of compression

```
INIT_YM8 avx2
cglobal pixel_sad_64x64, 4,7,6
    xorps    m0, m0
    xorps    m5, m5
    mov     r4d, 8
    lea    r5, [r1 * 3]
    lea    r6, [r3 * 3]
.loop:
    movu   m1, [r0]
    movu   m2, [r2]
    movu   m3, [r0 + 32]
    movu   m4, [r2 + 32]
    psadbw m1, m2
    psadbw m3, m4
    paddb  m0, m1
    paddb  m5, m3
    paddb  m1, [r0 + r1]
    movu   m2, [r2 + r3]
    movu   m3, [r0 + 32 + r1]
    movu   m4, [r2 + 32 + r3]
    psadbw m1, m2
    psadbw m3, m4
    paddb  m0, m1
    paddb  m5, m3
    movu   m1, [r0 + 2 * r1]
    movu   m2, [r2 + 2 * r3]
    movu   m3, [r0 + 2 * r1 + 32]
    movu   m4, [r2 + 2 * r3 + 32]
    psadbw m1, m2
    psadbw m3, m4
    paddb  m0, m1
    paddb  m5, m3
    movu   m1, [r0 + r5]
    movu   m2, [r2 + r6]
    movu   m3, [r0 + 32 + r5]
    movu   m4, [r2 + 32 + r6]
    psadbw m1, m2
    psadbw m3, m4
    paddb  m0, m1
    paddb  m5, m3
    lea    r2, [r2 + 4 * r3]
    lea    r0, [r0 + 4 * r1]
    dec    r4d
    jnz    .loop
    pshufb m0, m5
    vextracti128 xml1, m0, 1
    pshufb  xml1, xml1
    pshufb  xml1, xml1, 2
    paddb  xml0, xml1
    movd   eax, xml0
    RRR
```

Hand-coded assembly for the simple
sum-of-absolute-differences operation
(from x265 software)

Framework Code Size

JM (H.264 reference)

> 120,000 lines of C/C++

x264

> 68,000 lines of assembly
> 37,000 lines of C/C++

libvpx (vp8)

> 47,000 lines of assembly
> 5,000 lines of C/C++

HM (H.265 reference)

> 60,000 lines of C/C++

x265

> 179,000 lines of assembly
> 96,000 lines of C/C++

aom (AV1 reference)

> 215,000 lines of C/C++

VTM (H.266 reference)

> 134,000 lines of C/C++

kvazaar (H.265 encoder)

> 2,800 lines of assembly
> 32,000 lines of C/C++

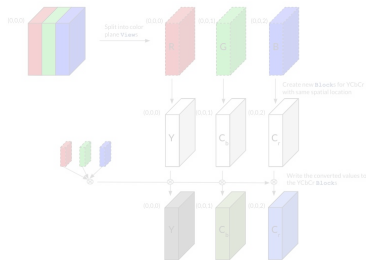
WebP

> 50,000 lines of C/C++

Compression Abstractions

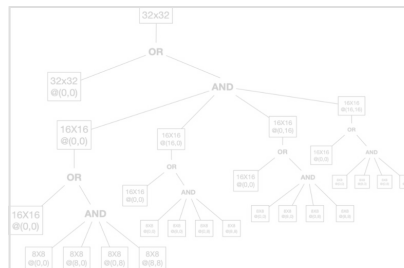
Data Representation

- Goals
 - Provide multidimensional data structures
 - Capture spatial information
 - Provide intuitive data access
 - Support elementwise and reduction operations
- Our abstractions
 - **Block, View, Stream, BitStream**



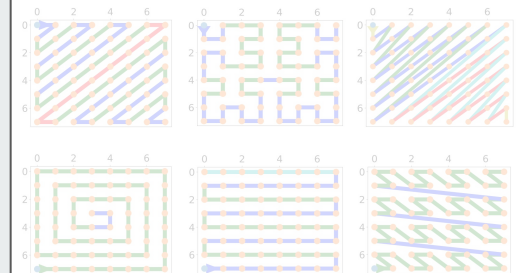
Data Partitioning

- Goals
 - Capture partition options in single tree structure
 - Provide high-level syntax for creating the tree
 - Support tree iteration
 - Preserve spatial information
- Our abstractions
 - **PTree, AndTree**



Data Traversals

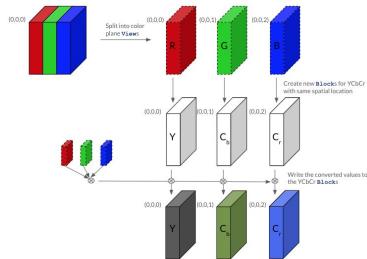
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 - **UnitTraversal**



Compression Abstractions

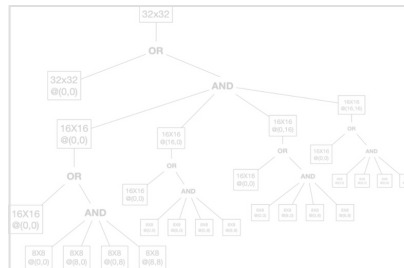
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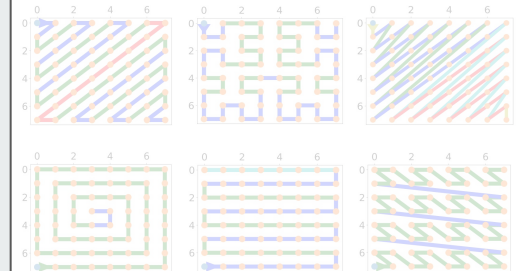
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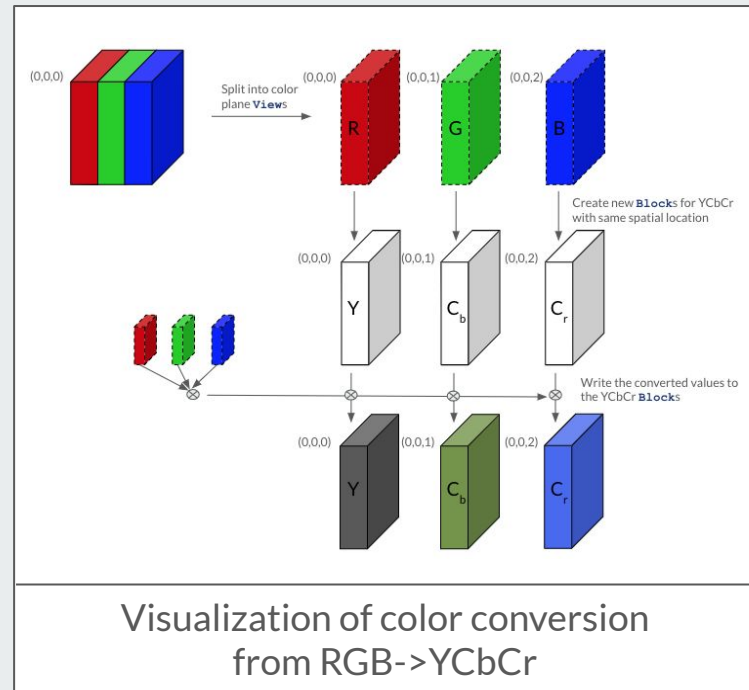
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Data Representation

- **Abstraction goals**
 - Provide multidimensional data structures
 - Capture the spatial information in regions of data
 - Hide the underlying data storage format
 - Provide more intuitive access to data
 - Prevent unnecessary data copies
 - Support elementwise and reduction operations on data
- **Block abstraction**
 - A multidimensional region of data with an underlying buffer
- **View abstraction**
 - Represents a shared copy of some part of a **Block**'s buffer
 - Reads/writes automatically propagated to the underlying **Block**
 - Allows for a different data representation without copying
 - Has a flexible slicing syntax for extracting arbitrary regions of data with varying strides
- **Stream/BitStream abstraction**
 - Models the input/output as a possibly infinite series of data elements
 - Bit-level version provides support for common bit operations such as slicing, masking, packing, shuffling, etc
- **Existing implementations**
 - Rely on low-level types like arrays which do not provide any spatial information
 - Programmer has to track all dependencies manually



RGB->YCbCr Color Conversion

Color conversion function

```
def rgb_to_ycc(R_plane, G_plane, B_plane, rescale, rgb_ycc):
    Y_plane = Block(R_plane)
    Cb_plane = Block(G_plane)
    Cr_plane = Block(B_plane)
    Domain i,j
    Y_plane[i,j] = (rgb_ycc[rescale[R_plane[i,j]],0] +
    rgb_ycc[rescale[G_plane[i,j]],1] +
    rgb_ycc[rescale[B_plane[i,j]],2]) >> 16 - 128
    Cb_plane[i,j] = (rgb_ycc[rescale[R_plane[i,j]],3] +
    rgb_ycc[rescale[G_plane[i,j]],4] +
    rgb_ycc[rescale[B_plane[i,j]],5]) >> 16 - 128
    Cr_plane[i,j] = (rgb_ycc[rescale[R_plane[i,j]],6] +
    rgb_ycc[rescale[G_plane[i,j]],7] +
    rgb_ycc[rescale[B_plane[i,j]],8]) >> 16 - 128
    return Y_plane,Cb_plane,Cr_plane
```

```
image = Stream(w,h,3)
```

Separate image into separate color planes

```
R = image[:, :, 0] # View
G = image[:, :, 1] # View
B = image[:, :, 2] # View
```

Color conversion

```
Y, Cb, Cr = rgb_to_ycc(R, G, B, 3, rescale_values, rgb_ycc_table)
```

Signal the type of padding to use

```
Y_padded = (8 * round(Y.dims[0] / 8), 8 * round(Y.dims[1] / 8))
Y = Block(Y, Y_padded, padding_type=Block.EXTEND)
Cb_padded = (8 * round(Cb.dims[0] / 8), 8 * round(Cb.dims[1] / 8))
Cb = Block(Cb, Cb_padded, padding_type=Block.EXTEND)
Cr_padded = (8 * round(Cr.dims[0] / 8), 8 * round(Cr.dims[1] / 8))
Cr = Block(Cr, Cr_padded, padding_type=Block.EXTEND)
```

With our abstractions: concise, supports multidimensional representation, intuitive access

```
// Call color conversion, downsampling (which does right edge padding),
// and bottom edge padding
METHODDEF(void)
pre_process_data (j_compress_ptr cinfo,
                  JSAMPARRAY input_buf, JDIMENSION *in_row_ctr,
                  JDIMENSION in_rows_avail,
                  JSAMPIMAGE output_buf, JDIMENSION *out_row_group_ctr,
                  JDIMENSION out_row_groups_avail) {
    my_prep_ptr prep = (my_prep_ptr) cinfo->prep;
    int numrows, ci;
    JDIMENSION inrows;
    jpeg_component_info *comp_ptr;
    // Iterate through the image rows
    while (*in_row_ctr < in_rows_avail &&
          *out_row_group_ctr < out_row_groups_avail) {
        // Color conversion
        inrows = in_rows_avail - *in_row_ctr;
        numrows = cinfo->max_v_samp_factor * prep->next_buf_row;
        numrows = (int) MIN((JDIMENSION) numrows, inrows);
        // Calls rgb_ycc_convert(...)
        (*cinfo->convert->color_convert) (cinfo, input_buf + *in_row_ctr,
                                         prep->color_buf,
                                         (JDIMENSION) prep->next_buf_row,
                                         numrows);
        *in_row_ctr += numrows;
        prep->next_buf_row += numrows;
        prep->rows_to_go -= numrows;
        if (prep->next_buf_row == cinfo->max_v_samp_factor) {
            // Calls fullsize_downsample(...)
            (cinfo->downsample->downsample) (cinfo,
                                             prep->color_buf, (JDIMENSION) 0,
                                             output_buf, *out_row_group_ctr);
            prep->next_buf_row = 0;
            (*out_row_group_ctr)++;
        }
        // Pad the bottom
        if (prep->rows_to_go == 0 &&
            *out_row_group_ctr < out_row_groups_avail) {
            for (ci = 0, comp_ptr = cinfo->comp_info; ci < cinfo->num_components;
                 ci++, comp_ptr++) {
                numrows = (comp_ptr->v_samp_factor * comp_ptr->DCT_v_scaled_size) /
                    cinfo->min_DCT_v_scaled_size;
                expand_bottom_edge(output_buf[ci],
                                  comp_ptr->width_in_blocks * comp_ptr->DCT_h_scaled_size,
                                  (int) (*out_row_group_ctr + numrows));
            }
            *out_row_group_ctr = out_row_groups_avail;
            break;
        }
    }
}
// Pad right edge
LOCAL(void)
expand_right_edge (JSAMPARRAY image_data, int num_rows,
                  JDIMENSION input_cols, JDIMENSION output_cols) {
    register JSAMPROW ptr;
    register JSAMPLE pixval;
    register int count;
    int row;
    int numcols = (int) (output_cols - input_cols);
    if (numcols > 0) {
        for (row = 0; row < num_rows; row++) {
            ptr = image_data[row] + input_cols;
            pixval = ptr[-1];
            for (count = numcols; count > 0; count--)
                *ptr++ = pixval;
        }
    }
}
```

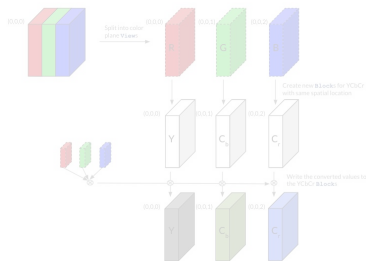
```
// Pad left edge
LOCAL(void)
expand_bottom_edge (JSAMPARRAY image_data, JDIMENSION num_cols,
                   int input_rows, int output_rows) {
    register int row;
    fprintf(stderr, "In expand %d->%d, %d\n", input_rows, output_rows, num_cols);
    for (row = input_rows; row < output_rows; row++) {
        jcopy_sample_rows(image_data, input_rows-1, image_data, row,
                          1, num_cols);
    }
}
// Copy data and pad the right edge
METHODDEF(void)
fullsize_downsample (j_compress_ptr cinfo, jpeg_component_info *comp_ptr,
                    JSAMPARRAY input_data, JSAMPARRAY output_data) {
    jcopy_sample_rows(input_data, 0, output_data, 0,
                      cinfo->max_v_samp_factor, cinfo->image_width);
    expand_right_edge(output_data, cinfo->max_v_samp_factor, cinfo->image_width,
                      comp_ptr->width_in_blocks * comp_ptr->DCT_h_scaled_size);
}
// Perform the actual color conversion
METHODDEF(void)
rgb_ycc_convert (j_compress_ptr cinfo,
                JSAMPARRAY input_buf, JSAMPIMAGE output_buf,
                JDIMENSION output_row, int num_rows) {
    my_cconvert_ptr cconvert = (my_cconvert_ptr) cinfo->convert;
    register int c, g, b;
    register INT32 *ctab = cconvert->rgb_ycc_table;
    register JSAMPROW inptr;
    register JSAMPROW outptr0, outptr1, outptr2;
    register JDIMENSION col;
    JDIMENSION num_cols = cinfo->image_width;
    // Iterate through each row of the current part of the image
    while ((-num_rows) >= 0) {
        // Pull out the sample for each color component
        inptr = *input_buf++;
        outptr0 = output_buf[0][output_row];
        outptr1 = output_buf[1][output_row];
        outptr2 = output_buf[2][output_row];
        output_rows++;
        // Iterate through the columns of the row
        for (col = 0; col < num_cols; col++) {
            // Get the individual color samples from each row
            c = GETJSAMPLE(inptr[RGB_RED]);
            g = GETJSAMPLE(inptr[RGB_GREEN]);
            b = GETJSAMPLE(inptr[RGB_BLUE]);
            inptr += RGB_PIXELSIZE;
            // Do the actual conversion
            // Y
            outptr0[col] = (JSAMPLE)
                ((ctab[+R_Y_OFF] + ctab[g+G_Y_OFF] + ctab[b+B_Y_OFF])
                 >> SCALEBITS);
            // Cb
            outptr1[col] = (JSAMPLE)
                ((ctab[+R_CB_OFF] + ctab[g+G_CB_OFF] + ctab[b+B_CB_OFF])
                 >> SCALEBITS);
            // Cr
            outptr2[col] = (JSAMPLE)
                ((ctab[+R_CR_OFF] + ctab[g+G_CR_OFF] + ctab[b+B_CR_OFF])
                 >> SCALEBITS);
        }
    }
}
```

IJG implementation: long, most code dedicated to computing appropriate 1D indices

Compression Abstractions

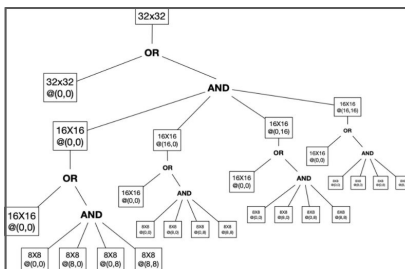
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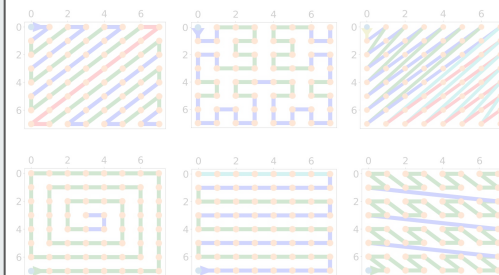
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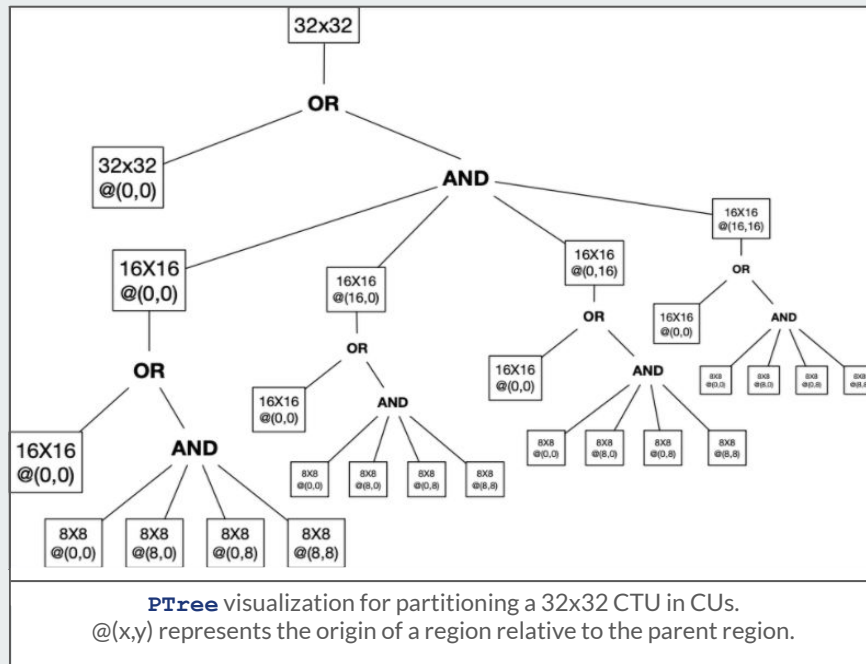
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 - **UnitTraversal**



Data Partitioning

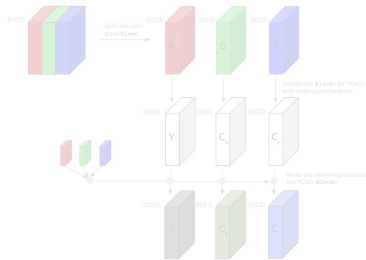
- **Abstraction goals**
 - Provide tree data structure that compactly represents all the possible ways to partition a region into sub-regions
 - Provide compact syntax for creating the tree
 - Support iteration through all sub-regions
 - Relates to data traversal abstraction described later
 - Preserve all spatial information needed for data representation
- **PTree abstraction**
 - An And-Or tree representing the partition options
 - And node: defines one way to partition a region
 - Or node: defines options for partitioning a region
 - Iteration returns each unique partition as an **AndTree**
- **AndTree abstraction**
 - Represents one unique partition of the **PTree** root
 - Iteration returns the leaf sub-regions
- **Existing implementations**
 - May not explicitly express the partition
 - Wrapped into index calculations, utilize lookup tables
 - Inflexible!



Compression Abstractions

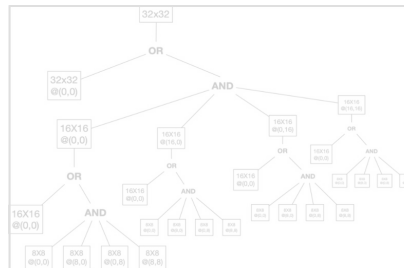
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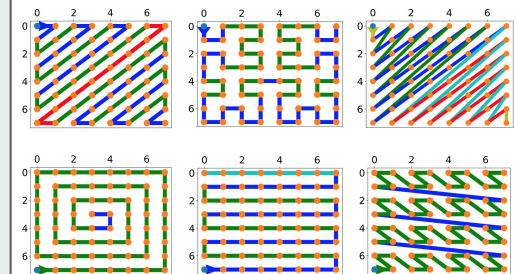
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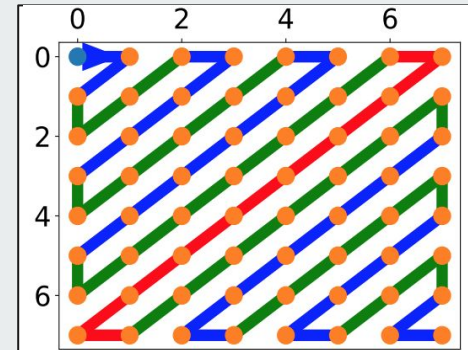
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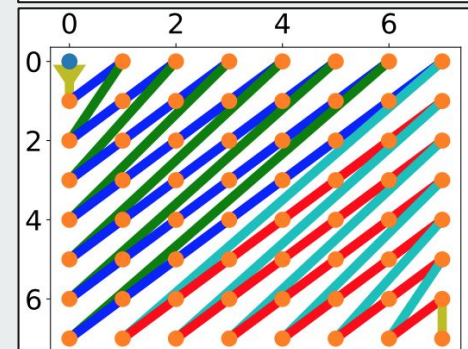


Data Traversal

- **Abstraction goals**
 - Capture the intricate temporal dependencies that define a data ordering
 - Orderings can be within or across multidimensional data regions
 - Provide syntax for succinctly representing these temporal dependencies
 - Support iteration across **Blocks**, **Views**, **Streams**, and **BitStreams** using a specified traversal
- **AndTree abstraction**
 - Same **AndTree** from data partitioning
 - The order of the leaves imposes an iteration order across regions
 - Changing the traversal order just requires changing the leaves
- **UnitTraversal abstraction**
 - Defines an iteration order within a region
 - We utilize a recursive notation based on parametric Lindenmayer systems¹ to compactly define the order
- **Existing implementations**
 - Manually enumerate each coordinate or require loop nests with many conditionals
 - Manual enumerations introduce indirect data accesses
 - Lack a common syntax

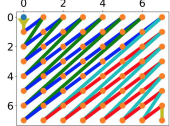
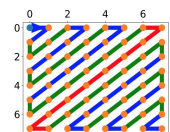


Visualization of 8x8 zigzag traversal



Visualization of 8x8 diagonal traversal

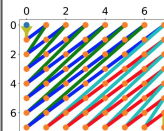
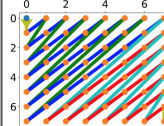
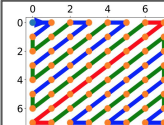
Zigzag and Diagonal Traversals



```
N = ..region size...
zz = UnitTraversal(blk)
zz.axiom([A(1)])
zz.rule(A(i), [ST,135,ST*i,315,B(i+1),45,ST*i,225,ST], i<N)
zz.rule(B(i), [ST,225,ST*i,45,A(i+1),315,ST*i,135,ST], i<N)
zz.rule(A(i), [ST,135,ST*(size-1),225,ST], i==N)
zz.rule(B(i), [ST,225,ST*(size-1),135,ST], i==N)
```

```
N = ..region size...
diagonal = UnitTraversal(blk)
diagonal.axiom([90,ST,A(1,N-1),135,ST])
diagonal.rule(A(i,j), [225,ST*i,B(i+1,j)], i<N)
diagonal.rule(B(i,j), [225,SK*(i-1),270,SK*i,A(i,j)], i<N)
diagonal.rule(A(i,j), [225,ST*(j-1),B(i,j-1)], (i==N) & (j>1))
diagonal.rule(B(i,j), [225,SK*(j-1),270,SK*j,A(i,j)], (i==N) & (j>1))
```

With our abstraction: high-level recursive notation, defines traversal as series of steps and rotations, easy to modify



```
// IJG implementation
const int jpeg_natural_order[DCTSIZE2+16] = {
0, 1, 8, 16, 9, 2, 3, 10,
17, 24, 32, 25, 18, 11, 4, 5,
12, 19, 26, 33, 40, 48, 41, 34,
27, 20, 13, 6, 7, 14, 21, 28,
35, 42, 49, 56, 57, 50, 43, 36,
22, 15, 23, 30, 37, 44, 51,
58, 59, 52, 45, 38, 31, 39, 46,
53, 60, 61, 54, 47, 55, 62, 63};
```

```
// HM implementation
if ((m_column == (m_blockWidth - 1)) || (m_line == 0)) {
m_line += m_column + 1;
m_column = 0;
if (m_line >= m_blockHeight) {
m_column += m_line - (m_blockHeight - 1);
m_line = m_blockHeight - 1;
}
} else {
m_column++;
m_line--;
}
```

```
// x265 implementation
const int i1_g_naturalOrder[16] = {
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Looking Ahead: DSL Compiler Support

- **An optimizing compiler for a DSL can automatically generate high-performance code**
 - Optimization by hand is hard, especially when there are multiple possible optimizations that can be combined
 - The DSL compiler is designed around the set of abstractions
 - Allows it to perform optimizations beyond what you would get with a general compiler
- **Three categories of optimizations we are interested in: parallelization, vectorization, speculation**
 1. Parallelization
 - Wavefront, frame/tile/slice, mode selection, etc
 2. Vectorization
 - Generate vector instructions for expensive computation kernels such as transforms
 - Provide support for both SIMD and non-SIMD vectorization
 - Reduce the reliance on hand-coded vector instructions
 3. Speculation
 - Relieve sequential bottlenecks by speculatively performing later computations

Put the Focus on the Algorithm!

- Experts should be able to focus on the compression and not have to worry about implementation details
- **Benefits of a DSL**
 - More intuitive programming interface
 - Primitive data structures, control flow, operations, etc. that capture the structure of compression algorithms
 - Automatic generation of high-performance code
- **Primary goals**
 1. (This work) Develop domain-specific abstractions for block-based compression
 - The abstractions are the main building blocks of DSLs
 - Focusing on image and video: JPEG, WebP, AVC/H.264, HEVC/H.265, VVC/H.266
 2. Develop an optimizing compiler based around the abstractions
 3. Extend the abstractions for other categories of compression
- **Faced your own compression-related implementation challenges?**
 - We'd love to hear from you!
- **Contact Jessica Ray: jray@csail.mit.edu**
- **Comparisons with existing frameworks: <http://jray.mit.edu/block-based-compression>**