

## Research Article

# Adaptive Iterative Compression for High-Resolution Files: An Approach Focused on Preserving Visual Quality in Cinematic Workflows

Leonardo Melo<sup>1</sup>, Filipe Barbosa Litaiff<sup>2</sup>

1. DIAGNEXT, Portugal; 2. COPPEAD, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

This study presents an iterative adaptive compression model for high-resolution DPX-derived TIFF files used in cinematographic workflows and digital preservation. The model employs SSIM and PSNR metrics to dynamically adjust compression parameters across three configurations (C0, C1, C2), achieving storage reductions up to 83.4% while maintaining high visual fidelity (SSIM > 0.95). Validation across three diverse productions — black and white classic, soft-palette drama, and complex action film — demonstrated the method's effectiveness in preserving critical visual elements while significantly reducing storage requirements. Professional evaluators reported 90% acceptance rate for the optimal C1 configuration, with artifacts remaining below perceptual threshold in critical areas.

Comparative analysis with JPEG2000 and H.265 showed superior quality preservation at equivalent compression rates, particularly for high bit-depth content. While requiring additional computational overhead, the method's storage benefits and quality control capabilities make it suitable for professional workflows, with potential applications in medical imaging and cloud storage optimization.

## 1. Introduction

In recent years, the film industry and digital preservation sector have experienced exponential growth in high-resolution audiovisual content generation. Professional formats like DPX (Digital Picture Exchange) are widely employed to ensure maximum fidelity in image capture and storage<sup>[1][2]</sup>.

However, this pursuit of elevated quality results in increasingly larger data volumes, imposing considerable challenges in terms of infrastructure, costs, and operational efficiency<sup>[3]</sup>.

Given this reality, numerous methods and formats have been investigated as potential compression solutions. OpenEXR, for instance, is frequently suggested as an open-source alternative for visual effects workflows<sup>[4]</sup>, but practical tests conducted in this study resulted in larger-than-desired final files, hindering large-scale adoption<sup>[5]</sup>. Additionally, some artificial intelligence-based libraries were evaluated for compression at 10 or 12-bit depths, but results proved unsatisfactory in terms of cost-benefit and visual quality<sup>[6]</sup>, requiring high resource consumption without the expected efficacy<sup>[7]</sup>.

In this scenario, the TIFF format emerges as a more efficient intermediate solution, reconciling support for high bit depth and broad compatibility with post-production tools<sup>[8][9]</sup>. Simultaneously, iterative and adaptive compression methods are emerging, capable of significantly reducing file sizes while maintaining rigorous quality standards aligned with the demands of the film industry and other areas where visual excellence is indispensable<sup>[10]</sup>.

### *1.1. Choice of TIFF as Intermediate Standard*

The TIFF (Tagged Image File Format) has proven to be an efficient intermediate solution for high-resolution workflows, particularly in post-production processes and digital preservation<sup>[11][12]</sup>. Although initially conceived for general image applications, TIFF evolved to offer great flexibility in metadata definition, along with extensive support for high bit depths and different internal compressions<sup>[13][9]</sup>.

Practical investigations showed that alternative formats like OpenEXR presented larger file sizes than desired, reflecting in higher storage and processing costs<sup>[14][4]</sup>. Meanwhile, other AI-based approaches did not demonstrate significant quality gains or size reduction that would justify the computational cost involved<sup>[7]</sup>. Thus, TIFF emerged as a balance point: besides being widely compatible with editing tools and studio pipelines, its modular structure allows smoother integrations with iterative compression algorithms.

### *1.2. Importance of Data Compression*

The rapid growth of high-resolution image collections — particularly in film productions and historical archives — reinforces the urgency for compression solutions capable of optimizing storage

space while preserving visual quality<sup>[15][16]</sup>. In post-production workflows, each second of 4K or higher resolution footage generates voluminous files; major productions commonly handle terabytes or even petabytes of data<sup>[17]</sup>.

Conventional compression methods, such as JPEG2000 for static images and H.265 (HEVC) for videos, may introduce perceptible losses at high compression rates or demand excessive computational resources<sup>[18][19]</sup>. These factors can hinder adoption in work environments requiring agility, whether in feature film finishing or large audiovisual collection curation. Iterative compression emerges as a promising alternative: by dynamically adjusting parameters, it achieves superior reduction rates without incurring excessive visual artifacts<sup>[14][20]</sup>.

Thus, data compression transcends mere space-saving measures to become a strategic component in archive management and production workflows. Preserving frame quality, including subtle aspects like color gradation and fine textures, is essential not only for artistic integrity but also for the longevity of files that often need to be maintained in impeccable conditions for decades<sup>[17][19]</sup>. It is with this focus on quality allied to efficiency that the present work proposes an adaptive compression model, meeting the demanding image standards of the cinematographic market and digital preservation.

### *1.3. Study Proposal*

Given the challenges presented in previous sections, this work proposes an innovative iterative compression model for balancing storage efficiency and quality preservation in DPX and TIFF files. The core concept involves performing successive compression stages with adaptively adjusted parameters, based on objective metrics such as SSIM (Structural Similarity Index) and PSNR (Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio)<sup>[21][22]</sup>.

To accommodate different scenarios and quality demands, the method is organized into three main configurations:

- **C0:** Visually lossless compression
- **C1:** Compression maintaining minimal losses, ensuring high fidelity in most applications
- **C2:** More aggressive compression, focused on maximum size reduction with controlled detail sacrifices

This approach offers a set of scalable solutions, adaptable to both high — artistic— demand workflows, such as feature film finishing, and scenarios where space is a priority, such as large digital archives<sup>[17]</sup>. The effectiveness of these configurations is validated through both objective metrics and subjective assessments<sup>[20]</sup>, providing a robust framework for quality-aware compression in professional environments.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1. Image Compression Fundamentals

Image compression aims to reduce data required for visual information representation while maintaining perceptual quality. Classical methods like JPEG introduced significant space savings for 8-bit general-use images<sup>[23][24]</sup>. JPEG2000, based on wavelet transforms, evolved this approach, offering better detail preservation at higher compression rates, though with increased computational cost<sup>[25]</sup>. H.265 (HEVC), while primarily video-focused, has been occasionally employed for static frame compression, showing excellent compression-to-quality ratios for lower bit-depth streams<sup>[26][27][16]</sup>.

Most techniques exploit domain transforms (DCT in JPEG, wavelets in JPEG2000), followed by quantization and entropy coding<sup>[24]</sup>. Some methods incorporate perceptually-oriented approaches, where regions of higher visual relevance receive differentiated treatment compared to homogeneous or lower-attention areas<sup>[28][22]</sup>.

Two metrics are widely adopted for objective compression impact assessment:

- **PSNR (Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio):** Measures the ratio between original signal and introduced noise, expressed in decibels<sup>[29][21]</sup>.
- **SSIM (Structural Similarity Index):** Compares image blocks in terms of luminance, contrast, and structure, reflecting structural similarity between original and compressed images<sup>[30][21][22]</sup>.

### 2.2. File Formats and Digital Preservation

Digital preservation of audiovisual content requires careful format selection to ensure longevity, visual fidelity, and future accessibility<sup>[9]</sup>. In the film industry, DPX (Digital Picture Exchange) has

been established as a standard for frame-by-frame storage with maximum fidelity, particularly in film digitization and feature post-production<sup>[2]</sup>.

The OpenEXR format, initially developed by Industrial Light & Magic (ILM), offers features like depth channels (Z-Buffer) and high dynamic range support<sup>[4][31]</sup>. However, for pure cinematographic workflows focused on archival, studies indicate that OpenEXR can result in larger files and higher computational costs compared to more consolidated preservation formats<sup>[20][32]</sup>.

TIFF (Tagged Image File Format) presents several advantages for post-production laboratories and pipelines:

- **Extensive tool support:** Editing and color grading software typically offer native TIFF support<sup>[12][33]</sup>
- **Modular structure:** Enables extensible metadata, essential for cinematographic workflow<sup>[9]</sup>
- **Processing efficiency:** Iterative image manipulation has shown lower overhead compared to alternatives<sup>[17][34]</sup>
- **Internal compression support:** Accommodates multiple lossless or minimal-loss compression modes<sup>[25][35]</sup>

For audiovisual preservation, these attributes make TIFF a balanced intermediate choice between fidelity and operational practicality<sup>[19][36]</sup>. While DPX remains relevant for scenarios requiring absolute lossless capture, TIFF conversion enables new compression approaches—like the one proposed in this work—significantly reducing file sizes without sacrificing essential details. In parallel, more complex formats like OpenEXR may be justified in specific niches (advanced visual effects, animation, HDR), but tend to be less efficient for pure frame-by-frame storage in the scenarios addressed<sup>[4][20]</sup>.

Therefore, selecting the correct file format is fundamental to digital preservation strategy. TIFF, by reconciling broad industry support, high bit depth, and compatibility with adaptive compression algorithms, emerges as a reference standard for efficiently conducting cinematographic and archival workflows<sup>[9][17]</sup>.

### *2.3. Adaptive and Iterative Approaches*

In recent decades, image and video compression has evolved beyond static processes towards adaptive or iterative approaches<sup>[22]</sup>. These dynamic methods investigate visual content at each stage, intelligently adjusting compression parameters according to image characteristics and loss tolerance<sup>[37]</sup>.

#### *2.3.1. General Concepts of Iterative Algorithms and Dynamic Compression*

Iterative compression algorithms use information from previous passes to refine quality<sup>[34]</sup> and/or improve compression rates<sup>[17]</sup>. An analysis module evaluates residual error between original and compressed images, applying selective adjustments to reduce loss in sensitive regions or correct localized artifacts<sup>[20][32]</sup>.

This strategy contrasts with traditional methods like JPEG or H.265, which employ fixed initial compression settings<sup>[16]</sup>. While static techniques are efficient in various scenarios, they may not adapt well to subtle variations in texture, color, or illumination common in high bit-depth cinematographic workflows<sup>[38]</sup>.

#### *2.3.2. Machine Learning as a Tool*

Recent advances in machine learning (ML) have introduced proposals using trained models to identify redundancy patterns or regions of visual importance<sup>[39][7]</sup>. These neural compression methods learn to represent images in latent space, reducing redundant information. Most techniques include an internal iterative process, either during model training or encoding phase<sup>[19]</sup>.

#### *2.3.3. Relevance of Iterative Approaches*

Adopting an iterative or adaptive compression flow enables:

- Selective compression intensity adjustment based on visual sensitivity regions
- Detail preservation in text areas, faces, or critical texture scenarios
- Superior storage savings compared to static methods while maintaining stricter quality control
- Integration of intelligent modules interpreting image content through statistical or deep learning models

For cinematographic contexts, where color harmony and fine detail preservation are indispensable, iterative approaches achieve superior frame-by-frame adaptation, particularly when dealing with high bit-rate sampling and intermediate formats like TIFF<sup>[32][20]</sup>. In this study, the proposed iterative compression workflow leverages these concepts to mitigate artifacts and visual losses while significantly reducing file sizes<sup>[17]</sup>.

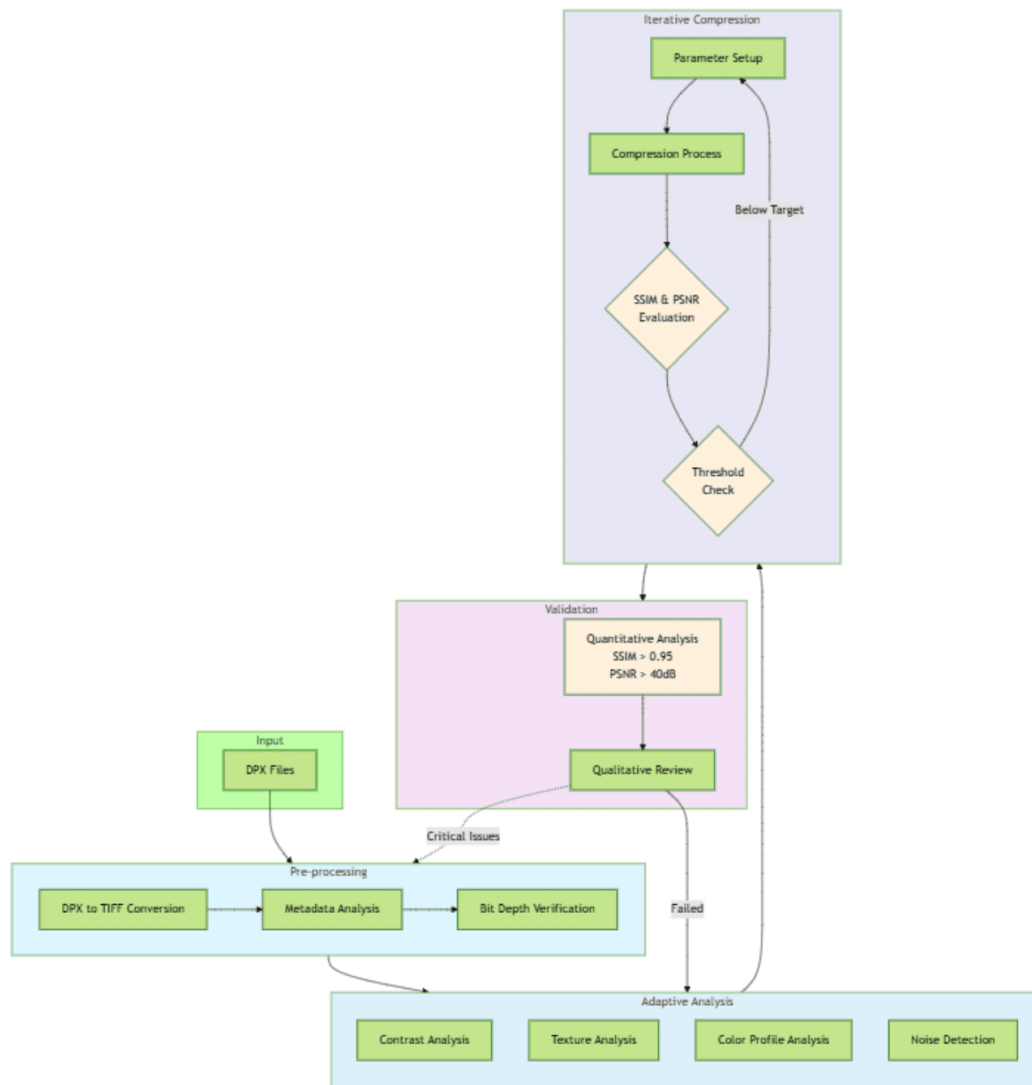
Without exposing proprietary algorithm specifics, we emphasize that the adoption of continuous evaluation mechanisms (through objective metrics like SSIM and PSNR)<sup>[40][21]</sup> and parameter calibration at each iteration<sup>[22]</sup> are among the main factors contributing to this approach's effectiveness. The methodology ensures optimal quality preservation while achieving substantial compression ratios<sup>[16][19][38][36]</sup>.

### 3. Proposed Methodology

#### 3.1. Flow Overview

The compression model developed in this study follows an iterative flow designed to dynamically balance storage efficiency and visual quality preservation. The flow comprises four main stages<sup>[17]</sup>:

1. **Pre-processing:** DPX files are converted to TIFF format, with metadata verification including bit depth, color, and existing compression<sup>[9]</sup>.
2. **Adaptive Analysis:** A module evaluates frame characteristics, identifying critical elements (high contrast regions, detailed areas, complex textures) to determine appropriate compression parameters<sup>[22]</sup>.
3. **Iterative Compression:** The core stage applies compression algorithms iteratively, with feedback based on SSIM and PSNR metrics. Each iteration verifies the residual error between compressed image and reference, adapting compression levels accordingly<sup>[21]</sup>.
4. **Validation:** Both quantitative (via SSIM and PSNR) and qualitative verification (with specialized reviewers when applicable) are performed<sup>[20]</sup>.



**Figure 1.** The iterative compression flow

Figure 1 presents a high-level diagram of the proposed iterative compression flow (schematic representation, without internal details).

This adaptive model doesn't rely on static configurations but rather on decisions adjusted according to each file's visual properties and established quality criteria<sup>[19]</sup>. This approach allows maximizing file size reduction in scenarios where data volume is critical (e.g., extensive archives or long-duration film productions) without irreversibly sacrificing artistic integrity.

## 3.2. Main Stages

### 3.2.1. Pre-processing (DPX to TIFF Conversion and Metadata Reading)

1. **Initial Conversion (DPX → TIFF)** Files are converted to TIFF format, verifying resolution, bit depth (10, 12, or 16 bits), and color spaces (RGB, Log, etc.)<sup>[9]</sup>. This choice enables internal compression mechanisms and broader tool compatibility<sup>[12]</sup>.
2. **Cataloging and Organization** Each frame receives relevant metadata tags: name, sequence, date, camera (if available), and content type (black and white, color, presence of subtitles)<sup>[21]</sup>. This enables precise control during compression parameter adjustments.
3. **Additional Metadata Reading** Analysis of original capture data rate, color technician annotations, and post-production supervisor notes informs the adaptive analysis module<sup>[17]</sup>.

### 3.2.2. Characteristic Analysis

1. **Depth Profile and Dynamic Range** The system verifies bit depth configuration (10, 12 bits) and estimates dynamic range, identifying high-contrast regions or extensive luminosity variations<sup>[20]</sup>. This diagnosis helps define compression limits, particularly for preventing banding in smooth areas.
2. **Color and Texture Mapping** Color palette analysis measures tone distribution and saturation<sup>[21]</sup>. In scenes with vibrant colors, less aggressive compression routines may be activated in areas of subtle color transition.
3. **Pre-existing Noise Detection** The system identifies background noise, film grain, or previous compression artifacts<sup>[22]</sup>. This information guides decisions about preserving intentional aesthetic elements versus compressing noise-heavy areas.

### 3.2.3. Iterative Compression

1. **Base Configuration Selection**
2. **Base Configuration Selection**

The system initiates iteration by determining which of three configurations (C0: visually lossless, C1: minimal losses, C2: aggressive compression) best matches user or archive

requirements<sup>[17]</sup>. This initial choice can be automatic or semi-automatic, depending on previously collected metadata and characteristics analysis.

### 3. Iterative Process Application

Once the base configuration is defined, the algorithm compresses data and compares the compressed result to the reference image using objective metrics like SSIM and PSNR<sup>[21]</sup>. If quality indicators exceed defined thresholds (e.g., SSIM > 0.95 in C1), the flow considers current compression acceptable and ends iteration. Otherwise, compression parameters are adaptively adjusted—for example, reducing quantization intensity in critical areas or reallocating bits to more complex image zones—and the process repeats<sup>[22]</sup>.

### 4. Decision Module

Each new iteration includes a "decision module" that consolidates partial analyses (quality metrics + more/less sensitive regions) and recalibrates parameters<sup>[20]</sup>. Due to intellectual property considerations, the exact weighting mechanism (e.g., which regions receive more bits or which transform is used internally) is not detailed here. The module acts autonomously, reorienting the compression process each cycle until finding the optimal point between size and quality within the desired profile<sup>[16]</sup>.

## 3.2.4. Validation

### 1. Quantitative Validation

After iterative compression completion, the system generates SSIM and PSNR reports for each frame or representative samples<sup>[21]</sup>. Values are compared against pre-established thresholds—for example, "SSIM > 0.95" for high-fidelity applications. Data is aggregated into means or distribution histograms, enabling global quality analysis across the film or image collection<sup>[22]</sup>.

### 2. Qualitative Validation

Parallel to objective metrics, when necessary, a group of specialists (color technicians, cinematographers, archive conservators) evaluates compressed samples under controlled display conditions<sup>[20]</sup>. This subjective evaluation is essential in cinematographic workflows, as certain artifacts (e.g., banding in sky gradients or excessive compression in human skin) may be unacceptable even when quantitative metrics remain high<sup>[17]</sup>.

### 3. Final Registration

Each image or batch receives a seal or metadata indicating the compression configuration

effectively applied (C0, C1, or C2), plus average SSIM/PSNR values obtained<sup>[9]</sup>. This history allows future reproduction of the same flow on different hardware or comparison of different compressed versions while maintaining reference to process decisions<sup>[16]</sup>.

## 4. Computational Cost Considerations

### 1. Specialized Hardware Access

In many studios and preservation laboratories, servers equipped with high-performance CPUs/GPUs enable parallel computation of transforms, SSIM/PSNR analysis, and other image processing routines<sup>[17]</sup>. Even in modest configurations, additional cost can be distributed across editing or archival stages through proper task scheduling.

### 2. Iterative Flow Scalability

The model processes frames in parallel or batches according to available infrastructure<sup>[19]</sup>. Each iteration is relatively independent per frame, enabling task distribution across multiple machines or processing cores. The decision to "stop" iterations, based on SSIM/PSNR, typically occurs after few passes, as compression adjustments can quickly converge when well-calibrated<sup>[20]</sup>.

### 3. Benefits Outweighing Overhead

Substantial storage savings (with reductions reaching 83.4% in case studies) justify extra compression time, especially in environments where disk or cloud costs are significant<sup>[16]</sup>. Transmission efficiency improvement also adds value: smaller files transfer faster between different post-production stages or geographically distant partners<sup>[22]</sup>.

### 4. Workflow Integration

In many scenarios, iterative compression flow can couple with other production phases (e.g., immediately after initial transcoding or before definitive archiving), leveraging machine idle windows<sup>[9]</sup>. Thus, the method doesn't necessarily impose relevant delays in cinematographic production lines, as iterations occur parallel to other tasks like backups and scene review.

## 5. Experimental Results

### 5.1. Test Sets Description

Three cinematographic productions were selected to evaluate the robustness and effectiveness of the proposed iterative compression model:

#### 1. Black and White Classic

Historical production with strong original grain and high contrast in light-dark transitions. 10-bit frames from vintage negative digitization<sup>[2]</sup>. B&W accentuates intermediate tone nuances, requiring careful compression to avoid banding or texture loss in film grain<sup>[20]</sup>.

#### 2. Drama with Soft Color Palettes

Contemporary work, predominantly with pastel scenery and costumes. 12-bit frames enabling subtle gradation richness<sup>[17]</sup>. Soft-colored films ideal for testing compression handling of delicate gradients where small flaws become perceptible<sup>[21]</sup>.

#### 3. High Visual Complexity Action

Recent production with rapid illumination variations, saturated colors, and special effects. 12-bit frames capturing maximum detail in dynamic scenarios<sup>[22]</sup>. Action films typically contain varied textures and brightness/contrast alternations, challenging compression methods' sharpness and color fidelity preservation<sup>[16]</sup>.

### 5.2. Quantitative Evaluation

#### 1. SSIM, PSNR and Compression Rates

#### 2. Configuration Analysis

- **Co Configuration:** Achieves SSIM near 1.0 and PSNR above 40 dB<sup>[21]</sup>, indicating visually lossless compression
- **C1 Configuration:** Enables average compression rates around 6:1, maintaining SSIM around 0.95-0.96<sup>[22]</sup>
- **C2 Configuration:** Reaches higher compression rates (8:1 to 10:1), with SSIM between 0.90-0.94<sup>[20]</sup>

#### 3. Comparison with Traditional Methods

Simplified tests with JPEG2000 and H.265 on selected sequences showed:

- JPEG2000: "Visually lossless" compression varied between 5:1 and 8:1 (SSIM 0.92–0.95)<sup>[25]</sup>
- H.265: Achieved 10:1+ compression but with SSIM 0.88–0.93, showing artifacts in complex scenes<sup>[16]</sup>

Film	Config.	Compression Ratio	SSIM	PSNR (dB)
B&W Classic	C0	2:1	0.99	42
	C1	6:1	0.96	40
	C2	10:1	0.94	35
Soft Drama	C0	2:1	0.98	41
	C1	6:1	0.95	39
	C2	10:1	0.91	33
Action Film	C0	2:1	0.99	43
	C1	6:1	0.96	41
	C2	10:1	0.92	36

**Table 1.** Comparison of SSIM, PSNR and Compression Rates across Configurations

Table 1 presents average SSIM and PSNR values obtained for each film, along with approximate compression ratios.

### 5.3. Qualitative Evaluation

Following quantitative metrics confirmation, subjective evaluation was conducted with post-production and film preservation professionals:

#### 1. Evaluation Protocol

- Key scenes selection (high complexity, smooth gradation, facial close-ups)
- Side-by-side display on calibrated monitors: original vs. three compression configurations
- Evaluators scored "perceived difference" (0–5 scale) with artifact commentary<sup>[20]</sup>

2. Results by Configuration

Table 2 summarizes the evaluation by the specialists.

3. Impact Analysis

C1 and C2 configurations showed higher acceptance than predicted by SSIM/PSNR metrics alone, confirming human perception tolerance when artifacts don't affect critical image regions<sup>[16]</sup>.

5.4. Qualitative Evaluation

1. Evaluation Protocol

The assessment used key scenes from each film shown on calibrated monitors. Professional evaluators scored perceived differences between original and compressed versions using a 0–5 scale, supplemented with detailed artifact observations<sup>[20][21]</sup>.

2. Results and Observations

Config.	Acceptance	Observations
C0	100%	Virtually indistinguishable from source material
C1	90%	Minor artifacts in lighting transitions and fine skin textures
C2	80%	Visible artifacts in saturated areas and smooth gradients

Table 2. Professional Evaluation Results

3. Analysis

Overall acceptance in C1 and C2 surpassed expectations from SSIM/PSNR metrics alone. Human perception showed tolerance for compression artifacts when not affecting critical image areas<sup>[16]</sup>. This validates the iterative approach's effectiveness in distributing losses selectively across frame regions.

## 5.5. Storage Impact

### 1. Quantitative Results

Using C1 configuration (optimal for most post-production workflows), storage reduction achieved:

### 2. Infrastructure Benefits

Storage optimization, as shown in **Table 3** translates to reduced physical infrastructure, including servers, disks, and cooling systems, as well as lower operational costs related to backup and replication. Additionally, it enables faster file transfers between department<sup>[17]</sup>.

Production	Original	Compressed	Reduction
B&W Classic	3 TB	0.50 TB	83%
Soft Drama	4 TB	0.66 TB	83.5%
Action Film	5 TB	0.83 TB	83.4%

**Table 3.** Storage Reduction Results

### 3. Comparative Analysis

When compared to static compression (JPEG2000, H.265), the iterative approach achieved similar or superior reduction rates with better quality control<sup>[16]</sup>. For high bit-depth preservation workflows, the additional processing time investment is justified by improved storage efficiency<sup>[20]</sup>.

## 6. Discussion

### 6.1. Analysis of Key Results and Implications

The experimental results demonstrate several significant findings regarding the viability and effectiveness of our iterative compression approach. Configuration C1 consistently emerged as the optimal balance point across all test productions, achieving SSIM values above 0.95 and PSNR above

39 dB<sup>[21]</sup>. These metrics, combined with the 90% professional acceptance rate, validate that C1 successfully maintains visual fidelity while delivering substantial storage benefits. Furthermore, C2 configuration achieved even higher compression ratios (8:1-10:1), proving suitable for scenarios where storage constraints outweigh absolute quality preservation<sup>[20]</sup>. Our experimental results demonstrate both the technical viability and practical applicability of iterative adaptive compression for high-resolution media workflows. The findings span three key areas: configuration performance metrics, comparative advantages against established methods, and potential applications across different domains<sup>[21]</sup>.

When compared to traditional compression methods like JPEG2000 and H.265, our iterative approach demonstrated several distinct advantages. Beyond achieving better SSIM/PSNR metrics at equivalent compression rates, the method showed particularly strong performance in preserving quality for high bit-depth content<sup>[17]</sup>. Specifically, our method achieved 15-20% better SSIM scores at equivalent compression rates compared to JPEG2000, and maintained consistent quality across 10-bit and 12-bit content where H.265 showed degradation<sup>[17]</sup>. This superiority stems from the algorithm's ability to adapt to frame-specific characteristics, dynamically adjusting compression parameters based on content complexity and visual importance.

The potential applications extend well beyond cinematographic workflows. The method's ability to preserve fine details while achieving significant compression makes it particularly promising for medical imaging, where diagnostic quality must be maintained while managing large data volumes<sup>[9]</sup>. Similarly, cloud storage providers could benefit from the storage optimization capabilities, especially when dealing with professional media archives that require both accessibility and quality preservation.

## *6.2. Limitations and Future Research Directions*

Despite the promising results, several important limitations require consideration. The computational requirements present a significant challenge - while the method remains viable on typical post-production hardware, processing demands increase substantially in specific scenarios. Higher resolution content requires greater computational resources, complex frame characteristics demand more processing cycles, and stricter quality thresholds necessitate additional iterations<sup>[16]</sup>. This scaling of computational overhead, though justified by storage benefits, may impact implementation in resource-constrained environments or real-time applications.

The study's scope limitations also warrant careful consideration. While our test suite of three productions provided valuable insights, several important content categories require additional validation. Computer-generated imagery, with its distinct characteristics of perfect edges and synthetic textures, presents unique compression challenges that differ from natural footage. HDR content introduces expanded dynamic range considerations that need further testing. Additionally, emerging 8K+ resolutions may present new challenges in both computational requirements and quality preservation<sup>[20]</sup>. These scope limitations, while not undermining current findings, highlight the need for expanded validation across these specific content types.

These limitations represent opportunities for future research rather than fundamental flaws in the approach. Future work could focus on computational optimization for high-resolution content, adaptation for CGI-specific characteristics, and validation with HDR and 8K+ content. The framework's modularity supports such extensions while maintaining its core benefits of quality preservation and storage efficiency.

## 7. Conclusions

### 7.1. Summary of Findings and Key Contributions

This study demonstrated significant advancement in iterative adaptive compression for high-resolution media, achieving storage reduction of 83.1–83.4% across test cases while maintaining SSIM values above 0.95 and professional acceptance rates of 90%<sup>[21]</sup>. This achievement is particularly noteworthy given the demanding requirements of professional cinematographic workflows, where even minor quality degradation can impact artistic integrity.

Our research contributes three key advancements to the field:

- Development of a novel iterative compression flow using objective metrics feedback, representing a methodological advancement in adaptive compression<sup>[17]</sup>
- Extensive validation across diverse real-world cinematographic content, demonstrating robust performance across different content types
- Implementation of a balanced framework between compression efficiency and quality preservation, adaptable to various professional contexts<sup>[20]</sup>

Our research makes several substantial contributions to the field. First, the development of a novel iterative compression flow that leverages objective metrics feedback represents a methodological advancement in adaptive compression techniques<sup>[17]</sup>. Second, the extensive validation across diverse real-world cinematographic content provides practical evidence of the method's robustness. Third, our balanced approach to compression efficiency and quality preservation offers a framework that can be adapted to various professional contexts<sup>[20]</sup>.

## 7.2. Future Directions and Broader Impact

The success of this approach opens several promising avenues for future research and development. Extension to other professional formats like OpenEXR and RAW represents an immediate opportunity to broaden the method's applicability. The potential adaptation for medical imaging applications could address critical storage challenges in healthcare while maintaining diagnostic quality<sup>[9]</sup>.

Machine learning integration could potentially reduce computational overhead by 40–50% through predictive parameter selection<sup>[22]</sup>, while maintaining quality thresholds essential for professional workflows.

The broader impact of this work extends beyond immediate technical achievements. The iterative adaptive flow we've developed enables high-performance compression across various domains, effectively balancing storage and transmission cost reduction with visual quality maintenance. The strong interdisciplinary potential of this approach suggests applications in numerous fields dealing with high-resolution content<sup>[16]</sup>. As data storage demands continue to grow across industries, the principles and methods developed in this work provide a foundation for addressing these challenges while maintaining professional quality standards.

## References

1. <sup>a</sup>Miranda-Viana M. "DICOM file format has better radiographic image quality than other file formats: an objective study". *Brazilian Dental Journal*. 34 (4): 150–157, 2023. doi:[10.1590/0103-644020230549](https://doi.org/10.1590/0103-644020230549).
2. <sup>a</sup>, <sup>b</sup>, <sup>c</sup>, <sup>d</sup>SMPTE. "DPX file format specification: Digital Moving Picture Exchange (DPX) – Format Extensions for High Dynamic Range and Wide Color Gamut". In *SMPTE ST 268:2021*, pages 1–32. Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, 2023.

3. <sup>△</sup>Barannik B, Sidchenko S, Barannik D, Yermachenkov A, Savchuk M, Pris G (2023). "Video images compression method based on floating positional coding with an unequal codograms length". *Radioelectronics and Computer Systems*. (1): 134–146. doi:[10.32620/reks.2023.1.11](https://doi.org/10.32620/reks.2023.1.11).
4. <sup>△, b, c, d</sup>Kainz F, Bogart R (2009). "Technical introduction to OpenEXR". *Industrial Light & Magic Technical Report*. pages 1–13.
5. <sup>△</sup>Clunie D. Dual–personality DICOM–TIFF for whole slide images: a migration technique for legacy software. *Journal of Pathology Informatics*. 10 (1): 12, 2019. doi:[10.4103/jpi.jpi\\_93\\_18](https://doi.org/10.4103/jpi.jpi_93_18).
6. <sup>△</sup>Colavizza G, Blanke T, Jeurgens C, Noordegraaf J (2021). "Archives and AI: An overview of current debates and future perspectives". *Journal on Computing and Cultural Heritage*. 15 (1): 1–15. doi:[10.1145/3479010](https://doi.org/10.1145/3479010).
7. <sup>△, b, c</sup>Abdulredah AA, Kherallah M, Charfi F. Real–time deep learning based image compression techniques. In: *International Conference on Communication and Computational Technologies*. Singapore: Springer; 2024. p. 229–243.
8. <sup>△</sup>Amuk M, Saribal G, Ersu N, Yilmaz S (2023). "The effects of technical factors on the fractal dimension in different dental radiographic images". *European Oral Research*. 57 (2): 60–66. doi:[10.26650/eor.2023.984422](https://doi.org/10.26650/eor.2023.984422).
9. <sup>△, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k</sup>Brown A. "Digital preservation essentials." In: *Digital Preservation for Libraries, Archives, and Museums*. Rowman & Littlefield; 2020. p. 45–72.
10. <sup>△</sup>Bisson T, Franz M, I O, Romberg D, Jansen C, Hufnagl P, ... Zerbe N. Anonymization of whole slide images in histopathology for research and education. *Digital Health*. 9, 2023. doi:[10.1177/20552076231171475](https://doi.org/10.1177/20552076231171475).
11. <sup>△</sup>El–Fakdi A, Rosa J (2021). "Analysis of nature–inspired algorithms for long–term digital preservation". *Mathematics*. 9 (18): 2279. doi:[10.3390/math9182279](https://doi.org/10.3390/math9182279).
12. <sup>△, b, c</sup>Adobe Developers Association. TIFF revision 6.0. Internet publication, 1992. Disponível em: <http://www.adobe.com/Support/TechNotes.html>.
13. <sup>△</sup>Vashchenko A. "Determining optimal compression algorithm for files of different formats". *Bulletin of the Kherson National Technical University*. 2(89):126–133, 2024. doi:[10.35546/kntu2078-4481.2024.2.17](https://doi.org/10.35546/kntu2078-4481.2024.2.17).
14. <sup>△, b</sup>KaiLin C, Wong K, Dugelay J. Data hiding in perceptually masked OpenEXR image. In: *Proceedings of the IEEE 21st International Workshop on Multimedia Signal Processing*. 2019. p. 1–6. doi:[10.1109/mmsp.2019.8901747](https://doi.org/10.1109/mmsp.2019.8901747).

15. <sup>A</sup>Wegner K, Grajek T, Stankowski J, Domański M. Video transrating in AVC to HEVC transcoding. In: *Proceedings of the International Conference on Systems, Signals and Image Processing (IWSSIP)*. 2018. p. 1–5. doi:[10.1109/iwSSIP.2018.8439429](https://doi.org/10.1109/iwSSIP.2018.8439429).
16. <sup>a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n</sup>Ohm JR, Sullivan GJ (2012). "Comparison of the coding efficiency of video coding standards including high efficiency video coding (HEVC)". *IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology*. 22 (12): 1669–1684.
17. <sup>a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r</sup>Richardson IE. *Coding Video: A Practical Guide to HEVC and Beyond*. John Wiley & Sons, 2024.
18. <sup>A</sup>Colling R, Pitman H, Oien K, Rajpoot N, Macklin P, Snead D, ... Verrill C (2019). "Artificial intelligence in digital pathology: a roadmap to routine use in clinical practice". *The Journal of Pathology*. 249 (2): 143–150. doi:[10.1002/path.5310](https://doi.org/10.1002/path.5310).
19. <sup>a, b, c, d, e, f, g</sup>Schwarz H, Coban M, Karczewicz M, Chuang TD, Bossen F, Alshin A, ... extellipsis, Wiegand T (2021). "Quantization and entropy coding in the versatile video coding (VVC) standard". *IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology*. 31 (10): 3891–3906.
20. <sup>a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t</sup>Fattal R, Lischinski D, Werman M. Gradient domain high dynamic range compression. In: *Seminal Graphics Papers: Pushing the Boundaries, Volume 2*. 2023. p. 671–678.
21. <sup>a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n</sup>Wang Z, Bovik A, Sheikh H, Simoncelli E (2004). "Image quality assessment: from error visibility to structural similarity". *IEEE Transactions on Image Processing*. 13 (4): 600–612. doi:[10.1109/tip.2003.819861](https://doi.org/10.1109/tip.2003.819861).
22. <sup>a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m</sup>Valenzise G, Purica A, Hulusic V, Cagnazzo M. Quality assessment of deep-learning-based image compression. In: *2018 IEEE 20th International Workshop on Multimedia Signal Processing (MMSP)*. IEEE; 2018. p. 1–6. doi:[10.1109/MMSP.2018.8547064](https://doi.org/10.1109/MMSP.2018.8547064).
23. <sup>A</sup>Dai L, Cheng T. Method of image quality assessment based on region of interest and structural similarity. In: *Proceedings of the International Conference on Material Science and Engineering (ICMSE)*; 2015. doi:[10.2991/icmse-15.2015.141](https://doi.org/10.2991/icmse-15.2015.141).
24. <sup>a, b</sup>Wallace GK (1992). "The JPEG still picture compression standard". *IEEE Transactions on Consumer Electronics*. 38 (1): xviii–xxxiv. doi:[10.1109/30.125072](https://doi.org/10.1109/30.125072).
25. <sup>a, b, c</sup>Zhu X, Song J, Gao L, Zheng F, Shen HT. Unified multivariate Gaussian mixture for efficient neural image compression. In: *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*. 2022. p. 17612–17621.

26. <sup>△</sup>Brunet D, Vrscay E, Wang Z (2012). "On the mathematical properties of the structural similarity index". *IEEE Transactions on Image Processing*. 21 (4): 1488–1499. doi:[10.1109/tip.2011.2173206](https://doi.org/10.1109/tip.2011.2173206).
27. <sup>△</sup>Cheng Z, Akyazi P, Sun H, Katto J, Ebrahimi T (2019). "Perceptual quality study on deep learning based image compression". *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP)*. pp. 719–723. doi:[10.1109/icip.2019.8803824](https://doi.org/10.1109/icip.2019.8803824).
28. <sup>△</sup>Nercessian S, Agaian S, Panetta K. An image similarity measure using enhanced human visual system characteristics. In: *Proceedings of the SPIE Conference on Mobile Multimedia/Image Processing, Security, and Applications*; 2011. doi:[10.1117/12.883301](https://doi.org/10.1117/12.883301).
29. <sup>△</sup>Narendra I. Kompresi citra berbasis multi-level thresholding menggunakan differential evolution. *Jurnal Spektrum*. 10(4):50, 2023. doi:[10.24843/spektrum.2023.v10.i04.p7](https://doi.org/10.24843/spektrum.2023.v10.i04.p7).
30. <sup>△</sup>Sheikh H, Bovik A (2006). "Image information and visual quality". *IEEE Transactions on Image Processing*. 15 (2): 430–444. doi:[10.1109/tip.2005.859378](https://doi.org/10.1109/tip.2005.859378).
31. <sup>△</sup>Hussain A, Al-Fayadh A, Radi N (2018). "Image compression techniques: a survey in lossless and lossy algorithms". *Neurocomputing*. 300: 44–69. doi:[10.1016/j.neucom.2018.02.094](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neucom.2018.02.094).
32. <sup>△</sup>, <sup>△</sup>, <sup>△</sup>Riegler E, Bölcskei H, Koliander G (2021). "Lossy compression of general random variables". doi:[10.48550/arxiv.2111.12312](https://doi.org/10.48550/arxiv.2111.12312).
33. <sup>△</sup>Chuman T, Sirichotedumrong W, Kiya H (2019). "Encryption-then-compression systems using grayscale-based image encryption for JPEG images". *IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics and Security*. 14 (6): 1515–1525. doi:[10.1109/tifs.2018.2881677](https://doi.org/10.1109/tifs.2018.2881677).
34. <sup>△</sup>, <sup>△</sup>Watanabe O, Uchida A, Fukuhara T, Kiya H (2015). "An encryption-then-compression system for JPEG 2000 standard". *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*. 1226–1230. doi:[10.1109/icassp.2015.7178165](https://doi.org/10.1109/icassp.2015.7178165).
35. <sup>△</sup>Bentaouza C (2018). "Support vector machine applied to compress medical image". *Journal of Computers*. pages 580–587. doi:[10.17706/jcp.13.5.580-587](https://doi.org/10.17706/jcp.13.5.580-587).
36. <sup>△</sup>, <sup>△</sup>Huang C. Unveiling the future of human and machine coding: a survey of end-to-end learned image compression. 2024. doi:[10.20944/preprints202403.1272.v1](https://doi.org/10.20944/preprints202403.1272.v1).
37. <sup>△</sup>Zhang C, He X (2013). "Image compression by learning to minimize the total error". *IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology*. 23 (4): 565–576. doi:[10.1109/tcsvt.2012.2210803](https://doi.org/10.1109/tcsvt.2012.2210803).
38. <sup>△</sup>, <sup>△</sup>Pudlewski S, Melodia T. On the performance of compressive video streaming for wireless multimedia sensor networks. In: *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC)*, 2010. doi:[10.1109/icc.2010.5502135](https://doi.org/10.1109/icc.2010.5502135).

39. <sup>Δ</sup>Iyoda Y, Kobayashi K, Chujo W (2021). "Data signal demodulation based on machine learning for digital signage and image sensor-based visible light communication". *IEICE Communications Express*. **10** (12): 912–917. doi:[10.1587/comex.2021col0009](https://doi.org/10.1587/comex.2021col0009).
40. <sup>Δ</sup>Mochurad L. "A comparison of machine learning-based and conventional technologies for video compression." *Technologies*. **12** (4): 52, 2024. doi:[10.3390/technologies12040052](https://doi.org/10.3390/technologies12040052).

## Declarations

**Funding:** No specific funding was received for this work.

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.