

HIGH-FIDELITY GENERATIVE IMAGE COMPRESSION USING GAN'S AND XGBOOST APPROACH

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Abstract

Our research delved into the integration of Generative Adversarial Networks, XG Boost, and compression techniques to develop a sophisticated generative lossy compression system. The investigation covered various factors such as normalization layers, generator and discriminator architectures, training strategies, and perceptual losses. Our system produced visually appealing reconstructions similar to the original input, functioning effectively across a wide range of bitrates and even for high-resolution images. We evaluated the system's performance using several perceptual metrics and a user study, demonstrating our approach to be superior to existing methods, even at bitrates exceeding 2 x bitrate. In summary, our research successfully bridged the gap between rate-distortion-perception theory and practical implementation.

1Introduction

The usage of images is growing at a staggering pace, leading to an exponential rise in the storage space and bandwidth required to store and transmit them. Consequently, there has been considerable attention given to image compression methods that can eliminate redundant information and reduce data size, thereby enabling more efficient storage and transmission. The two primary digital image compression techniques are lossless and lossy. In lossless compression, the retrieved information from the compressed image is identical to the original information before compression. On the other hand, lossy compression produces similar but not identical information. However, lossy compression techniques can considerably decrease the size of the compressed image and fine-tune the balance between the produced data size and the retrieved image quality when compared to the original. As a result, several recent methods have emerged that compress the same image at various compression levels based on the significance of the available information in the image.

Recent advancements in Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs), machine learning, and deep learning have led to significant improvements in image compression performance. These techniques offer greater flexibility in terms of the type of objects in the images being compressed. Furthermore, adding new image types to the compression process only requires training the discriminator to accurately identify whether the generated image matches the original, as these networks are not limited by hand-crafted features and can learn new ones through additional training. In this study, we propose a deep learning approach that leverages GAN and XGBoost to ensure that the compressed image retains the visual appeal of the original. We also employ a training method that prevents the discriminator from being fooled

by the generator, thus preserving the clarity of the compressed image.

New research has shown that attention mechanisms can be a valuable addition to Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) for image compression tasks [7], [8]. By breaking down the generative network into separate attention and transformation networks, the attention network can identify key areas of interest, while the transformation network converts the image from one domain to another. In [7] and [8], the CycleGAN framework is enhanced with additional attention networks to preserve the background of the input image while transforming the foreground. This approach has demonstrated improved performance for image compression with GANs.

As our reliance on image grows, the demand for storage space and bandwidth to accommodate them is becoming increasingly unfeasible. This has prompted the need for compression techniques that can reduce the number of bits needed to represent an image without sacrificing its quality. Image compression plays a crucial role in numerous applications by significantly decreasing storage space and communication bandwidth requirements, making it easier to deploy imaging technologies at scale.

This paper introduces a novel approach for compressing high-resolution images while preserving their visual quality. The proposed methodology is compared to existing methods, and the results show that the proposed approach outperforms them visually, even when the previous methods used higher bitrates. The study discusses various quantitative metrics to evaluate the approach's performance such as KID,FID,PSNR,LPIPS,MSE and SSIM which demonstrate that the results align with the rate-distortion-perception theory. Although no single metric can precisely predict the user study's exact ranking, metrics such as FID and KID can be beneficial in guiding the exploration process and provide useful insights for informed decisionmaking. A comprehensive perceptual evaluation requires a diverse range of metrics that cover different aspects, including no-reference metrics, pair-wise similarities, distributional similarities, and deep feature-based metrics derived from various network architectures. By employing this ensemble of metrics, a more robust and comprehensive evaluation of perceptual qualities can be achieved. The analysis thoroughly examines the suggested architecture and its components, such as normalization layers, generator and discriminator architectures, training methods, and the loss function, based on both perceptual metrics and stability to obtain a comprehensive understanding of their effectiveness.

2 Related Work

Deep convolutional autoencoders have demonstrated significantly better compression rates than existing techniques like JPEG2000 with similar complexity [13]. This has led to the use of neural networks in various approaches to tailor their performance for specific applications. Ayoobkhan et al. [7] proposed a hybrid compression method that uses near-lossless compression for the ROI and lossy compression for the remaining parts of the image. Their

method utilizes Graph-Based Segmentation (GBS) [17] to extract the ROI, and a Feed-Forward Neural Network (FF-NN) is trained on the GBS segments to compress image data. The FF-NN provides near-lossless predictions of pixel values based on their neighbouring pixels' values. The method optimizes edge weight values using two optimization algorithms: Particle Swarm (PS) and Gravitational Search (GS) optimizers. Although this method performs well compared to previous methods, a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) can achieve better results by utilizing three-dimensional filters that consider pixel position in addition to their values, providing superior performance over FF-NN when interacting with images.

In the beginning, RNNs were utilized in the initial works [45, 47], whereas subsequent works were based on auto-encoders [5, 44, 1]. To achieve a reduced bitrate, various approaches have been employed to enhance the modelling of the probability density of auto-encoder latents, which, in turn, leads to more efficient arithmetic coding. These methods include hierarchical priors, auto-regression with different context shapes, or a combination of both [6, 31, 28, 39, 32, 26, 33]. State-of-the-art models, such as the one proposed by Minnen et al. [32], now surpass BPG in terms of PSNR.

A novel spatial attention GAN model introduced by Hajar Emami et al. [59], have facilitated significant advancements in the field of image-to-image translation.The discriminator in SPA GAN computes attention and leverages it to guide the generator to focus on the most important regions that distinguish between the source and target domains. The attention is represented by spatial maps, which highlight the areas that the discriminator considers significant in determining whether an input image is real or fake. These spatial attention maps are then fed back to the generator, resulting in higher emphasis on the discriminative regions when computing the generator loss, thereby producing more realistic output images.

CNNs have been successfully applied to compression tasks using autoencoders, which typically comprise encoding, bottleneck, and decoding layers. The encoding layers down sample the input until the bottleneck layer, the smallest in the network, is reached. The decoding layers then restore the input size until the output layer. During training, the network minimizes the difference between the output and input images, aiming to reconstruct the original image from the bottleneck layer. After training, the encoding network generates the compressed image, which can be used with the decoding network to retrieve the original. CNNs also excel at segmenting images by predicting pixel segmentation. Among the most effective networks for medical image segmentation is the U-net, which has shown excellent performance [12].

3 Method 3.1 Background

Conditional GANs are a type of generative adversarial network where the generator is conditioned on additional information, such as labels or input images. The additional information is usually fed into the generator and discriminator networks as extra inputs. The aim of the network is to learn a mapping between the additional information and the generated images, while the discriminator tries to distinguish between real and fake images. The generator tries to generate images that are realistic and similar to the target distribution while satisfying the conditions specified in the additional information. These networks have found various applications, such as image-to-image translation, super-resolution, and text-to-image synthesis.

Conditional Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) are a machine learning method that enables the learning of a generative model of a conditional distribution $p(X|S)$, where S represents additional information or context associated with a given data point X, such as class labels or semantic maps. The joint distribution $p(X, S)$ is often unknown, and Conditional GANs help in estimating it. The method has been widely used in various applications to generate images and other data that are conditioned on specific contexts. In Conditional GANs, two networks, a generator G and a discriminator D, are trained to learn a generative model of a conditional distribution $p(X|S)$. The generator G, dependent on the information s, transforms samples y from a fixed known distribution pY into $p(X|S)$. The discriminator D receives (x, s) input and evaluates the probability of it being a sample from $p(X|S)$ rather than from G's output. The goal is to train the generator G to generate samples that can deceive the discriminator D into classifying them as real data coming from the distribution $p(X|S)$. To achieve this, a "nonsaturating" loss can be optimized while keeping s constant during the process [17,58,59].

$$
V_{DG} = E_{X} P_{data(x)} [\log D(X)] + E_{Z} P_{data(z)} [\log (1 - D(G(Z))]
$$
 (1)

G- generator, X- sample from real data, Z- sample from generator, D- Discriminator, $P_{data(x)}$ distribution of real data, $P_{data (z)}$ - distribution of generator data, $D(x)$ – Discriminator network and $G(x)$ - generator network

XGBoost:

XGBoost is a popular machine learning algorithm that has been widely used for regression and classification tasks. It is an implementation of gradient boosted decision trees that is designed to be efficient, scalable, and flexible. The algorithm has several advantages over other machine learning methods, such as faster execution times, better accuracy, and the ability to handle large datasets.

In XGBoost, the objective is to minimize a loss function that measures the difference between the predicted and actual values. The loss function is defined as the sum of two terms: the first term is the training loss, which measures the difference between the predicted and actual values for each training example, and the second term is the regularization term, which helps to prevent overfitting.

The algorithm builds a model by iteratively adding decision trees to the ensemble, with each subsequent tree trying to correct the errors of the previous tree. The trees are constructed in a greedy manner, using a split finding algorithm that maximizes the reduction in the loss function at each step.

The XGBoost algorithm also includes several techniques to improve its performance and reduce overfitting, such as pruning, regularization, and early stopping. Pruning involves removing branches from the tree that do not contribute to improving the overall performance, while regularization adds penalties to the loss function to discourage overfitting. Early stopping is used to stop the training process if the performance of the model does not improve after a certain number of iterations.

Mathematically, the objective function for XGBoost can be written as:

$$
Obj = L + \Omega
$$
 (2)

where L is the training loss function and Ω is the regularization term. The training loss function can be written as:

$$
L = \sum (yi - \hat{y}i)^2
$$
 (3)

where yi is the true label of the i-th example and \hat{y} is the predicted label. The regularization term can be written as:

$$
\Omega = \gamma T + \frac{1}{2} \lambda \sum w i^2 \tag{4}
$$

where T is the number of leaves in the tree, γ is the complexity parameter that controls the size of the tree, λ is the regularization parameter that controls the amount of regularization, and wi is the weight assigned to the i-th feature.

Neural Image Compression

Neural image compression is a technique that uses deep learning models to reduce the size of digital images while maintaining their visual quality. The approach involves training an encoder-decoder network, also known as an autoencoder, to compress and decompress the images. The encoder converts the high-dimensional image data into a lower-dimensional representation, while the decoder generates a compressed version of the image from this representation. The goal is to minimize the distortion between the original and the compressed image while constraining the compression rate. This can be achieved by adding a rate-distortion trade-off term to the loss function that balances the level of compression with the amount of distortion allowed in the compressed image. Neural image compression has many practical applications, including reducing the storage and transmission requirements of large image datasets without sacrificing image quality.

Shannon's rate-distortion theory is the foundation for the concept of learned lossy compression, which involves balancing the amount of information (rate) with the acceptable level of distortion during compression. The common approach to this problem is through an autoencoder architecture comprising two components: an encoder (E) and a decoder (G). In learned lossy compression, the auto-encoder quantizes an image x into a latent representation $y = E(x)$ and uses the decoder G to reconstruct the image x' from y. The distortion incurred during lossy compression is measured using metrics like mean squared error (MSE). To store the quantized latent y, a probability model P is introduced, and an entropy coding algorithm such as arithmetic coding is used to store y losslessly. The bitrate required to store y can be calculated as $r(y) =$ $log(P(y))$, with the entropy coder incurring some overhead bits. By parameterizing E, G, and P as convolutional neural networks (CNNs), they can be simultaneously trained to optimize the trade-off between rate and distortion, with a parameter ζ controlling the balance. Shannon's rate-distortion theory [14, 58] serves as the basis for learned lossy compression.

$$
V_{EG} = E_{X \sim Px} \left[\zeta \, r(y) + d \left(x, x' \right) \right] \tag{5}
$$

3.2 Formulation and Optimization

To achieve neural image compression, we combine a conditional GAN with a learned lossy compression approach. This involves using an auto-encoder with an encoder E and a decoder G to quantize an image x into a latent representation y, and then storing y in a lossless manner, the XGBoost classifier helps to predict the neighbour in the creation of the sample copy by the generator. We train E and G, along with a discriminator D and a generator K, to minimize a trade-off between the compression rate and the distortion of the reconstructed image, as measured by a combined loss term d that includes both mean squared error and a perceptual distortion metric called LPIPS. By tuning hyperparameters, including ζ, ح, kM, and kP, we can optimize the trade-off and achieve superior compression results.

$$
L_{EGK} = E_{x \sim px} [\zeta r(y) + d(x,x') - \zeta \log D(x',y)] \tag{6}
$$

In Figure 1, we present our architecture, where ConvC denotes a convolution operation with C channels using 3x3 filters, unless otherwise specified. Strided down or up convolutions are denoted by \downarrow 2 and \uparrow 2, respectively. For normalization, we use ChannelNorm as described in the text. The activation function we use is the leaky ReLU with $\alpha=0.2$, as defined in previous studies [56,58]. We employ nearest neighbor interpolation with a factor of 16, denoted as NN↑16, for upsampling. Lastly, we use Q quantization as described in [58].

When training a neural compression model using the loss function mentioned in Equation 5, regulating the ultimate bitrate is typically done by manipulating ζ. However, our context involves multiple conflicting terms (MSE, dP , and $-log(D(x'))$) with the rate term, making it challenging to compare models with varying hyperparameters kM, kP, and τ when ζ is kept constant. To address this issue, we introduce a "rate target" hyperparameter (rt) and modify Equation 3 by replacing ζ with an adaptive term, ζ'. The value of ζ' depends on two additional hyperparameters, ζ(a) and ζ(b), and is set to ζ(a) if r(y) is greater than rt and ζ(b) otherwise. By setting ζ(a) much greater than ζ(b), we can train models with an average bitrate close to rt. This approach helps to ensure that models are optimized for a specific bitrate target while still considering multiple conflicting terms.

3.3 Architecture

Figure 1 depicts our architecture, comprising of the encoder E, generator G, discriminator D and XGBoost classifier block. We adopt the straight-through estimator, as in [44,58], for rounding y before inputting it into G. While our E, G, and D are based on [51,58,3], we introduce several distinctive modifications in the discriminator and normalization layers, which will be described in detail in the upcoming sections. While both [51,58, 3] utilize a multi-scale patch-discriminator D, we implement a single-scale patch-discriminator D and replace InstanceNorm [49,58] with SpectralNorm [36,58]. In contrast to [3], we condition D on y by concatenating an upscaled version of it with the image, as illustrated in Figure 1 [58]. This approach is inspired by the use of a conditional GAN formulation associated with XGBoost, where D can access the conditioning information (in our case, y as described in Section 3.2).

4 Experiments

In Figure 1, we present our architecture, which consists of the encoder E, generator G, discriminator D, and XGBoost classifier block. To round y, we use the straight-through estimator, similar to [44,58]. While our E, G, and D are based on [51,58,3], we introduce some unique modifications in the discriminator and normalization layers, which we will describe in detail in later sections. Unlike [51,58,3], we employ a single-scale patch-discriminator D and substitute InstanceNorm [49,58] with SpectralNorm [36,58]. In addition, we condition D on y by concatenating an upscaled version of it with the image, as shown in Figure 1 [58]. This strategy is motivated by the use of a conditional GAN formulation with XGBoost, where D can access the conditioning information (in our case, y as described in Section 3.2).

Image 7 Resolution: 2040*1152

 Table 1. Compressed size is showcased for Hi-fi-Gan's+ XGBoost high, medium and low approach vs Hi-fi-Gan's+KNN high, medium and low approach Vs Hi-fi-high, medium and low approach

https://seyboldreport.net/

Table 2: Compressed Image visual quality is showcased for Hi-fi-Gan's+XGBoost high, medium and low approach.

 \mathbf{r}

https://seyboldreport.net/

(C)

Table 3. A,B,C, Test result for proposed system for different images

 It is evident from table 3, that Hi-fi-Gan's+XG Boost high approach produces higher structural similarity index measure and lesser Mean square error when compared to Hi-fi-Gan's+XGBoost low and medium approach. The MSE decreases as the resolution increases and PSNR increases as the resolution improves. FID, or Fréchet Inception Distance, is a metric that is frequently used to assess the quality of computer-generated images in comparison to real images. This metric is based on the Fréchet distance, which measures the distance between the feature representations of the generated images and those of the real images, both of which are obtained from the Inception v3 network. When the FID score is lower, it indicates that the generated images are more similar to real images. FID is commonly used to evaluate the performance of generative models such as GANs.

KID, or Kernel Inception Distance, is another metric used to evaluate the quality of computergenerated images compared to real images. KID is based on the maximum mean discrepancy (MMD) between the feature representations of the generated and real images, both of which are obtained from the Inception v3 network. KID is considered to be more robust to noise than FID. Like FID, a lower KID score indicates that the generated images are more similar to real images.

LPIPS, or Learned Perceptual Image Patch Similarity, is a metric that measures the perceptual similarity between two images. This metric is based on the idea that the similarity between the feature representations of two images can be used to quantify their perceptual similarity. The feature representations are obtained from a pre-trained deep neural network, and LPIPS is trained to be perceptually linear. It is capable of capturing both global and local perceptual differences between two images. LPIPS has been shown to be highly correlated with human perceptual judgments and is widely used in tasks such as image quality assessment and imageto-image translation. MSE, SSIM, and PSNR are all metrics used to evaluate the quality and similarity of two images. MSE, which stands for Mean Squared Error, is calculated by finding the average of the squared differences between each pixel value of the two images. A lower MSE score indicates that the images are more similar to each other. SSIM, or Structural Similarity Index, takes into account differences in luminance, contrast, and structure between the two images. A higher SSIM score indicates that the images are more similar in terms of their structure. PSNR, or Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio, measures the quality of an image by comparing it to a reference image. It calculates the ratio between the maximum possible pixel

value and the root-mean-square error (RMSE) between the two images. A higher PSNR value indicates that the image quality is better.

Conclusion:

In this research, we propose a novel compression technique called High-Fidelity Generative Image Compression Using GAN's and XGBoost. The technique has three different variations: Hi-fi-GAN's+XGBoost High, Hi-fi-GAN's+ XGBoost Medium, and Hi-fi-GAN's+XGBoost Low. The paper discusses the architecture of our proposed system, which includes an encoder E, generator G, discriminator D, and XGBoost classifier block. Our approach has better performance and compression size, and the compressed image is clearer compared to two approaches (i) that solely uses GAN, called "High-Fidelity Generative Image Compression," in three variations: Hi-fi-low, Hi-fi-medium, and Hi-fi-high & (ii) High-Fidelity Generative Image Compression Using GAN's and KNN- high, medium and low approach. In our technique, GAN works on two parameters: x and s. x represents data point or picture location, and s represents extra information from absolute location about features. We fixed x as 7*7 (49 pixels) to avoid multiple sizes of samples generated by the generator G. This approach reduces the permutation and increases accuracy by training only one single location of the sample, 7*7 (49 pixel), instead of the whole image. We fixed Y, which represents the total number of samples, as 120, 240, 480, and 960, to avoid non-saturating loss. We employed rectified linear unit and Leaky ReLU in the discriminator part to improve accuracy. Our proposed architecture outperforms the High-Fidelity Generative Image Compression technique with Gan's network and High-Fidelity Generative Image Compression technique with Gan's and KNN approach.

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