

Apple Computer Inc. v. Burst.com, Inc.

Doc. 108 Att. 7

topic of this section. The name follows because the encoder output is "fed back" for use in selecting the new codebook. A feedback vector quantizer can be viewed as the vector extension of a scalar adaptive quantizer with backward estimation (AQB) [3]. The second approach is the vector extension of a scalar adaptive quantizer with forward estimation (AQF) and is called simply adaptive vector quantization. Adaptive VQ will be considered in a

later section. Observe that systems can combine the two techniques and use both feedback and side information. We also point out that unlike most scalar AQB and AQF systems, the vector analogs considered here involve no explicit estimation of the underlying densities.

It should be emphasized that the results of information theory imply that VQ's with memory can do no better than memoryless VQ's in the sense of minimizing average distortion for a given rate constraint. In fact, the basic mathematical model for a data compression system in information theory is exactly a memoryless VQ and such codes can perform arbitrarily close to the optimal performance achievable using any data compression system. The exponential growth of computation and memory with rate, however, may result in nonimplementable VQ's. A VQ with memory may yield the desired distortion with practicable complexity.

A general feedback VQ can be described as follows [22]: Suppose now that we have a space  $S$  whose members we shall call states and that for each state  $s$  in  $S$  we have a separate quantizer: an encoder  $\gamma_s$ , decoder  $\beta_s$ , and codebook  $C_s$ . The channel codeword space  $M$  is assumed to be the same for all of the VQ's. Consider a data compression system consisting of a sequential machine such that if the machine is in state  $s$ , then it uses the quantizer with encoder  $\gamma_s$  and decoder  $\beta_s$ . It then selects its next state by a mapping called a next-state function or state-transition function  $f$  such that given a state  $s$  and a channel symbol  $v$ , then  $f(v, s)$  is the new state of the machine. More precisely, given a sequence of input vectors  $\{x_n; n = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  and an initial state  $s_0$ , then the subsequent state sequence  $s_n$ , channel symbol sequence  $v_n$ , and reproduction sequence  $\hat{x}_n$  are defined recursively for  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  as

$$v_n = \gamma_{s_n}(x_n), \quad \hat{x}_n = \beta_{s_n}(v_n), \quad s_{n+1} = f(v_n, s_n). \quad (5)$$

Since the next state depends only on the current state and the channel codeword, the decoder can track the state if it knows the initial state and the channel sequence. A general feedback vector quantizer is depicted in Fig. 10. The freedom to use different quantizers based on the past without increasing the rate should permit the code to perform better than a memoryless quantizer of the same dimension and rate.

An important drawback of all feedback quantizers is that channel errors can accumulate and cause disastrous reconstruction errors. As with scalar feedback quantizer systems, this must be handled by periodic resetting or by error control or by a combination of the two.

If the state space is finite, then we shall call the resulting system a finite-state vector quantizer or FSVQ. For an FSVQ, all of the codebooks and the next-state transition table can all be stored in ROM, making the general FSVQ structure amenable to LSI or VLSI implementation [43].

Observe that a memoryless vector quantizer is simply a feedback vector quantizer or finite-state vector quantizer with only a single state. The general FSVQ is a special case

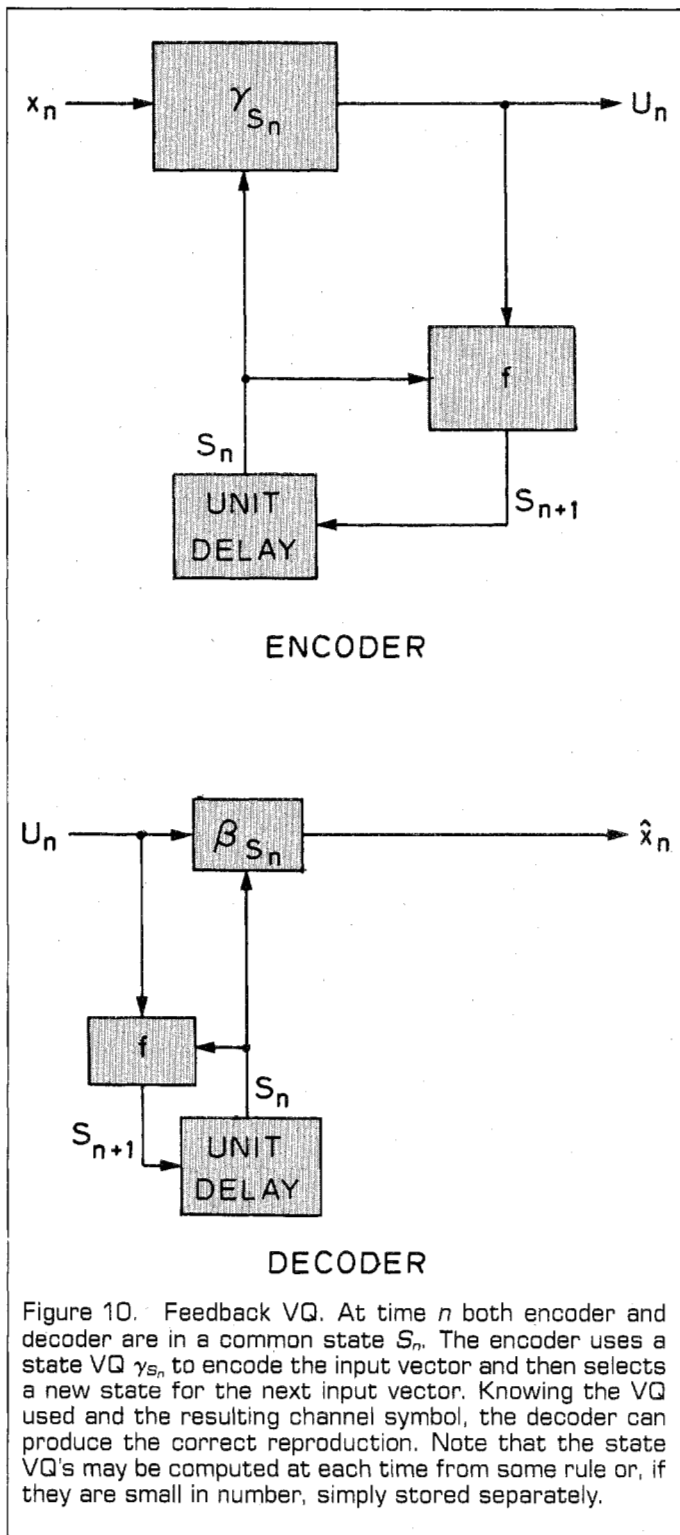


Figure 10. Feedback VQ. At time  $n$  both encoder and decoder are in a common state  $S_n$ . The encoder uses a state VQ  $\gamma_{s_n}$  to encode the input vector and then selects a new state for the next input vector. Knowing the VQ used and the resulting channel symbol, the decoder can produce the correct reproduction. Note that the state VQ's may be computed at each time from some rule or, if they are small in number, simply stored separately.

Three design algorithms for feedback vector quantizers using variations on the generalized Lloyd algorithm have been recently developed. The remainder of this section is devoted to brief descriptions of these techniques.

**Vector predictive quantization**

Cuperman and Gersho [45, 46] proposed a vector predictive coder or vector predictive quantizer (VPQ) which is a vector generalization of DPCM or predictive quantization. A VPQ is sketched in Fig. 11. For a fixed predictor, the VQ design algorithm is used to design a VQ for the prediction error sequence. Cuperman and Gersho considered several variations on the basic algorithm, some of which will be later mentioned.

Chang [47] developed an extension to Cuperman and

**Product/multistep FVQ**

A second basic approach for designing feedback vector quantizers which is quite simple and works quite well is to use a product multistep VQ such as the gain/shape VQ or the separating mean VQ and use a simple feedback quantizer on the scalar portion and an ordinary memoryless VQ on the remaining vector. This approach was developed in [10] for gain/shape VQ of LPC parameters and in [37] for separating mean VQ of images. Both efforts used simple scalar predictive quantization for the feedback quantization of the scalar terms.

**FSVQ**

The first general design technique for finite-state vector quantizers was reported by Foster and Gray [50, 51]. There are two principal design components: 1. Design an initial set of state codebooks and a next-state function using an *ad hoc* algorithm. 2. Given the next-state function, use a variation of the basic algorithm to attempt to improve the state codebooks. The second component is accomplished by a slight extension of the basic algorithm that is similar to the extension of [52] for the design of trellis encoders: Encode the data using the FSVQ and then replace all of the reproduction vectors by the centroids of the training vectors which map into those vectors; now, however, the centroids are conditioned on both the channel symbol and the state. While such conditional averages are likely impossible to compute analytically, they are easily computed for a training sequence. For example, in the case of a squared error distance one simply forms the Euclidean centroid of all input vectors which correspond to the state  $s$  and channel symbol  $v$  in an encoding of the training sequence.

As with ordinary VQ, replacing the old decoder or codebook by centroids cannot yield a code with larger distortion. Unlike memoryless VQ, however, replacing the old encoder by a minimum distortion rule for the new decoder can in principal cause an increase in distortion and hence now the iteration is somewhat different: Replace the old encoder (which is a minimum distortion rule for the old decoder) by a minimum distortion rule for the new decoder. If the distortion goes down, then continue the iteration and find the new centroids. If the distortion goes up, then quit with the encoder being a quantizer for the previous codebook and the decoder being the centroids for the encoder. By construction this algorithm can only improve performance. It turns out, however, that in

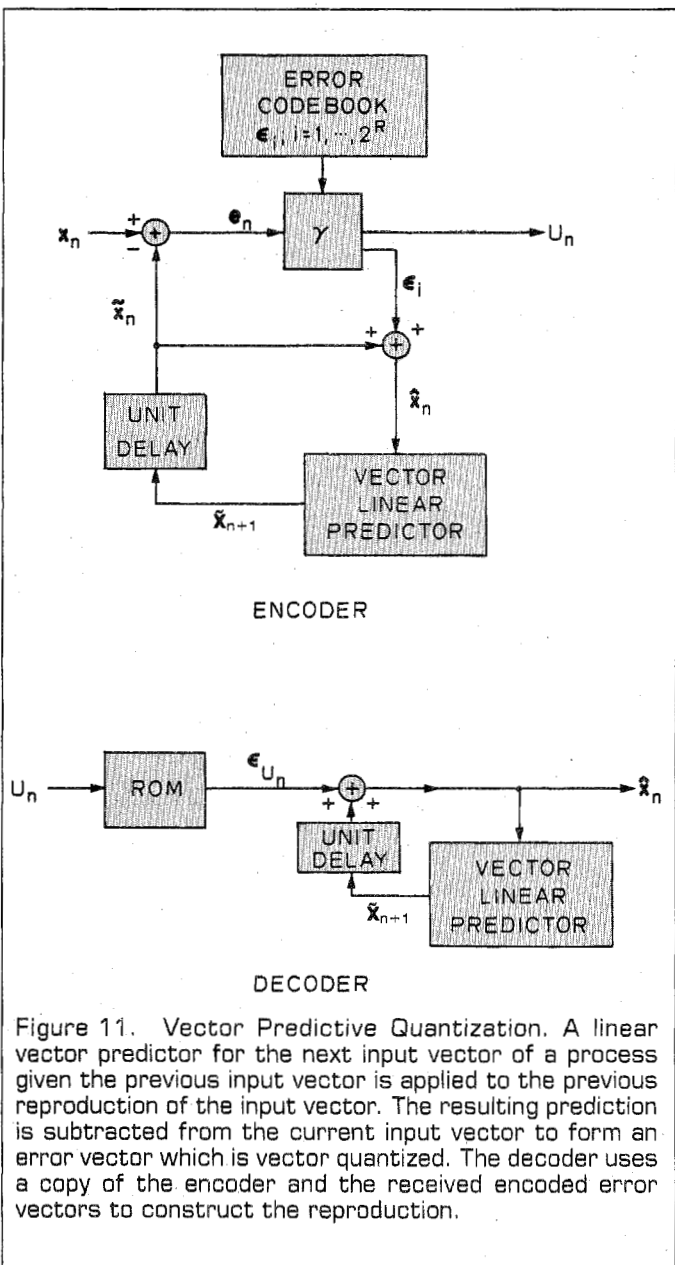


Figure 11. Vector Predictive Quantization. A linear vector predictor for the next input vector of a process given the previous input vector is applied to the previous reproduction of the input vector. The resulting prediction is subtracted from the current input vector to form an error vector which is vector quantized. The decoder uses a copy of the encoder and the received encoded error vectors to construct the reproduction.



practice it is a good idea to not stop the algorithm if the distortion increases slightly, but to let it continue: it will almost always eventually drop back down in distortion and converge to something better.

The first design component is more complicated. We here describe one of the more promising approaches of [51] called the omniscient design approach. Say that we wish to design an FSVQ with  $K$  states and rate  $R$  bits per vector. For simplicity we label the states as 0 through  $K-1$ . First use the training sequence to design a memoryless VQ with  $K$  codewords, one for each state. We shall call these codewords state labels and this VQ the state quantizer. We call the output of the state VQ the "ideal next state" instead of a channel symbol. Next break up the training sequence into subsequences as follows: Encode the training sequence using the state VQ and for each state  $s$  collect all of training vectors which follow the occurrence of this state label. Thus for  $s$  the corresponding training subsequence consists of all input vectors that occur when the current ideal state is  $s$ . Use the basic algorithm to design a rate  $R$  codebook  $C_s$  for the corresponding training sequence for each  $s$ .

The resulting state VQ and the collection of codebooks for each state have been designed to yield good performance in the following communication system: The encoder is in an ideal state  $s$  chosen by using the state VQ on the last input vector. The encoder uses the corresponding VQ encoder  $\gamma_s$  described by the codebook  $C_s$ . The output of  $\gamma_s$  is the channel symbol. In order to decode the channel symbol, the decoder must also know the ideal state. Unfortunately, however, this ideal state cannot be determined from knowledge of the initial state and all of the received channel symbols. Thus the decoder must be omniscient in the sense of knowing this additional side information in order to be able to decode. In particular, this system is not an FSVQ by our definition. We can use the state quantizer and the various codebooks, however, to construct an FSVQ by approximating the omniscient system: Instead of forming the ideal next state by using the state VQ on the actual input vector (as we did in the design procedure), use the state VQ on the current reproduction vector in order to choose the next state. This will yield a state sequence depending only on encoder outputs and the original state and hence will be trackable by the decoder. This is analogous to the scalar practice of building a predictive coder and choosing the predictor as if it knew the past inputs, but in fact applying it to past reproductions.

Combining the previously described steps of (1) initial (state label) codebook design, (2) state codebooks and next-state function design, and (3) iterative improvement of code for given next-state function, provides a complete design algorithm.

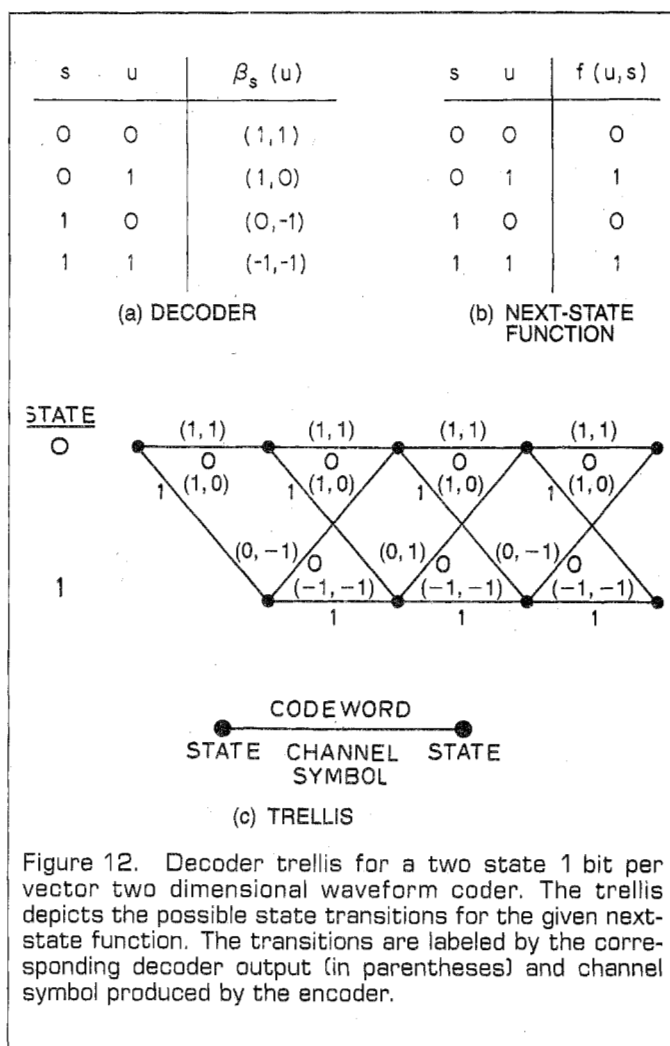
In addition to the above design approach, techniques have been developed for iterating on (2) and (3) above in the sense of optimizing the next-state function for a given collection of codebooks. These algorithms, however, are more complicated and require ideas from the theory of

adaptive stochastic automata. The reader is referred to [53] for a discussion of these improvement algorithms.

### VECTOR TREE AND TRELLIS ENCODERS

As with scalar feedback quantizers, the actions of the decoder of a feedback VQ can be depicted as a directed graph or tree. A simple example is depicted in Fig. 12, where a merged tree or trellis can be drawn since the feedback VQ has only a finite number of states.

Instead of using the ordinary VQ encoder which is only permitted to look at the current input vector in order to decide on a channel symbol, one could use algorithms such as the Viterbi algorithm,  $M$ -algorithm or  $M,L$ -algorithm, Fano algorithm, or stack algorithm for a minimum cost search through a directed graph and search several levels ahead into the tree or trellis before choosing a channel symbol. This introduces an additional delay into the encoding of several vectors, but it ensures better long run average distortion behavior. This technique is called tree or trellis encoding and is also referred to as look-ahead coding, delayed decision coding, and multipath search coding. (See, e.g., [54, 52] for surveys.) We point out that a tree encoding system uses a tree to denote the



operation on successive vectors by the decoder at successive times while a tree-searched VQ uses a tree to construct a fast search for a single vector at a single time.

A natural variation of the basic algorithm for designing FSVQ's can be used to design trellis encoding systems: Simply replace the FSVQ encoder which finds the minimum distortion reproduction for a single input vector by a Viterbi or other search algorithm which searches the decoder trellis to some fixed depth to find a good long term minimum distortion path. The centroid computation is accomplished exactly as with an FSVQ: each branch or transition label is replaced by the centroid of all training vectors causing that transition, that is, the centroid conditioned on the decoder state and channel symbol. Scalar and simple two dimensional vector trellis encoding systems were designed in [52] using this approach.

Trellis encoding systems are not really vector quantization systems as we have defined them since the encoder is permitted to search ahead to determine the effect on the decoder output of several input vectors while a vector quantizer is restricted to search only a single vector ahead. The two systems are intimately related, however, and a trellis encoder can always be used to improve the performance of a feedback vector quantizer. Very little work has yet been done on vector trellis encoding systems.

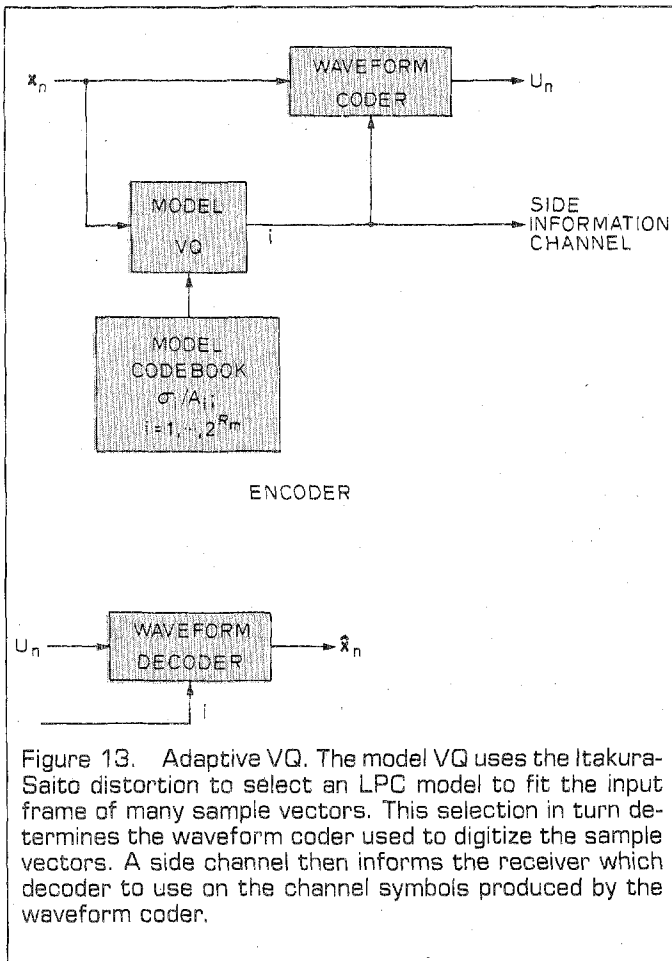


Figure 13. Adaptive VQ. The model VQ uses the Itakura-Saito distortion to select an LPC model to fit the input frame of many sample vectors. This selection in turn determines the waveform coder used to digitize the sample vectors. A side channel then informs the receiver which decoder to use on the channel symbols produced by the waveform coder.

ADAPTIVE VQ  
As a final class of VQ we consider systems that use one VQ to adapt a waveform coder, which might be another VQ. The adaptation information is communicated to the receiver via a low rate side information channel.

The various forms of vector quantization using the Itakura-Saito family of distortion measures can be considered as model classifiers, that is, they fit an all-pole model to an observed sequence of sampled speech. When used alone in an LPC VQ system, the model is used to synthesize the speech at the receiver. Alternatively, one could use the model selected to choose a waveform coder designed to be good for sampled waveforms that produce that model. For example, analogous to the omniscient design of FSVQ one could design separate VQ's for the subsequences of the training sequence encoding into common models. Both the model index and the waveform coding index are then sent to the receiver. Thus LPC VQ can be used to adapt a waveform coder, possibly also a VQ or related system. This will yield a system typically of much higher rate, but potentially of much better quality since the codebooks can be matched to local behavior of the data. The general structure is shown in Fig. 13. The model VQ typically operates on a much larger vector of samples and at a much lower rate in bits per sample than does the waveform coder and hence the bits spent on specifying the model through the side channel are typically much fewer than those devoted to the waveform coder.

There are a variety of such possible systems since both the model quantizer and the waveform quantizer can take on many of the structures so far considered. In addition, as in speech recognition applications [55] the gain-independent variations of the Itakura-Saito distortion measure which either normalize or optimize gain may be better suited for the model quantization than the usual form. Few such systems have yet been studied in detail. We here briefly describe some systems of this type that have appeared in the literature to exemplify some typical combinations. All of them use some form of memoryless VQ for the model quantization, but a variety of waveform coders are used.

The first application of VQ to adaptive coding was by Adoul, Debray, and Dalle [32] who used an LPC VQ to choose a predictor for use in a scalar predictive waveform coder. Vector quantization was used only for the adaptation and not for the waveform coding. An adaptive VQ generalization of this system was later developed by Cuperman and Gersho [45,46] who used an alternative classification technique to pick one of three vector predictors and then used those predictors in a predictive vector quantizer. The predictive vector quantizer design algorithm previously described was used, except now the training sequence was broken up into subsequences corresponding to the selected predictor and a quantizer was designed for each resulting error sequence. Chang [47] used a similar scheme with an ordinary LPC VQ as the classifier and with a stochastic gradient algorithm run on each of the vector predictive quantizers in order to im-

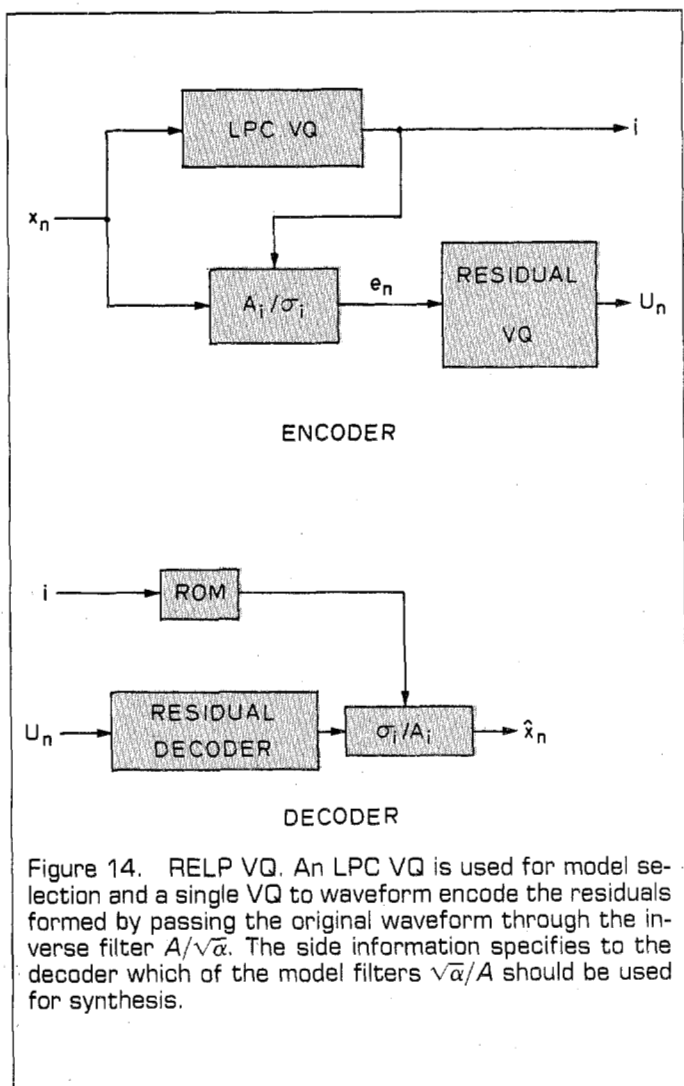


Figure 14. RELP VQ. An LPC VQ is used for model selection and a single VQ to waveform encode the residuals formed by passing the original waveform through the inverse filter  $A/\sqrt{\alpha}$ . The side information specifies to the decoder which of the model filters  $\sqrt{\alpha}/A$  should be used for synthesis.

prove the prediction coefficients for the corresponding codebooks.

Rebolledo *et al.* [56] and Adoul and Mabillean [57] developed vector residual excited linear predictive (RELP) systems. (See Fig. 14.) A similar system employing either a scalar or a simple vector trellis encoder for the waveform coder was developed by Stewart *et al.* [52]. Both of these systems used the basic algorithm to design both the model VQ and the waveform coders.

The RELP VQ systems yielded disappointingly poor performance at low bit rates. Significantly better performance was achieved by using the residual codebooks produced in the RELP design to construct codebooks for the original waveform, that is, instead of coding the model and the residual, code the model and use the selected model to construct a waveform coder for the original waveform as depicted in Fig. 15 [52]. For lack of a better name, this system might be called an inverted RELP because it uses residual codebooks to drive an inverse model filter in order to get a codebook for the original waveform.

Yet another use of LPC VQ to adapt a waveform coder was reported by Heron, Crochiere, and Cox [58] who used

a subband/transform coder for the waveform coding and used the side information to adapt the bit allocation for the scalar parameter quantizers.

Many other variations on the general theme are possible and the structure is a promising one for processes such as speech that exhibit local stationarity, that is, slowly varying short term statistical behavior. The use of one VQ to partition a training sequence in order to design good codes for the resulting distinct subsequences is an intuitive approach to the computer-aided design of adaptive data compression systems.

**EXAMPLES**

We next consider the performance of various forms of vector quantizers on three popular guinea pigs: Gauss Markov sources, speech waveforms, and images. For the speech coding example we consider both waveform coders using the squared error distortion measure and vocoders using the Itakura-Saito distortion. The caveats of the introduction should be kept in mind when interpreting the results.

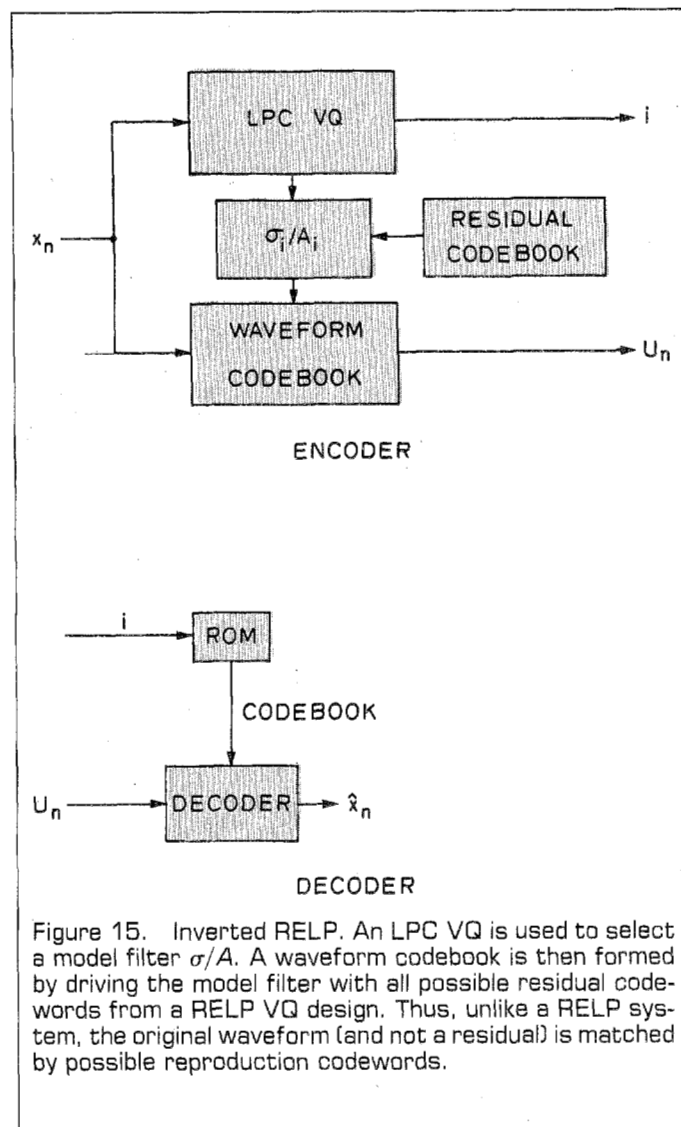


Figure 15. Inverted RELP. An LPC VQ is used to select a model filter  $\sigma/A$ . A waveform codebook is then formed by driving the model filter with all possible residual codebooks from a RELP VQ design. Thus, unlike a RELP system, the original waveform (and not a residual) is matched by possible reproduction codewords.



The performance of the systems are given by SNRs in squared error and by an analogous quantity for the Itakura-Saito distortion: In both cases we measure normalized average distortion on a logarithmic scale, where the normalization is by the average distortion of the optimum zero rate code—the average distortion between the input sequence and the centroid of the entire input sequence. This quantity reduces to an SNR in the squared error case and provides a useful dimensionless normalized average distortion in general. We call this quantity the SNR in both cases. The SNR is given in tables instead of graphs in order to facilitate quantitative comparisons among the coding schemes.

**Gauss Markov sources**

We first consider the popular guinea pig of a Gauss Markov source. This source is useful as a mathematical model for some real data sources and its information theoretic optimal performance bounds as described by the distortion-rate function are known. For this example we consider only the squared error distortion. A Gauss Markov source or a first order Gauss autoregressive source  $\{X_n\}$  is defined by the difference equation  $X_{n+1} = aX_n + W_n$ , where  $\{W_n\}$  is a zero mean, unit variance, independent and identically distributed Gaussian source. We here consider the highly correlated case of  $a = 0.9$  and vector quantizers of 1 bit/sample. The maximum achievable SNR as given by Shannon's distortion-rate function for this source and rate is 13.2 dB [7].

Various design algorithms were used to design vector quantizers for several dimensions for this source. Table I describes the results of designing several memoryless vec-

**TABLE II**  
FEEDBACK VQ OF A GAUSS MARKOV SOURCE.

k	FSVQ1				FSVQ2				VPQ			
	SNR	K	n	M	SNR	K	n	M	SNR	n	M	
1	10.0	64	2	64	9.5	16	2	16	10.0	2	2	
2	10.8	256	4	512	10.8	32	4	64	11.2	4	8	
3	11.4	512	8	1536	11.1	64	8	192	11.6	8	24	
4	12.1	512	16	2048	11.3	128	16	512	11.6	16	64	

Signal to Noise Ratios (SNR), number of states (K), number of multiplications per sample (n), and storage (M) for feedback quantizers: FSVQ with number of states increased until negligible change (FSVQ1), FSVQ with fewer states (FSVQ2), VPQ. Rate = 1 bit/sample. k = vector dimension. Training Sequence = 60000 samples from a Gauss Markov Source with correlation coefficient 0.9.

tor quantizers for a training sequence of 60,000 samples. Given are the design SNR (code performance on the training sequence), the number of multiplications per sample required by the encoder, and the number of real scalars that must be stored for the encoder codebook. The number of multiplications is used as a measure of encoder complexity because it is usually the dominant computation and because the number of additions required is usually comparable. It is given by  $n = (\text{the number of codewords searched}) \times (\text{dimension}) / (\text{dimension}) = \text{the number of codewords searched}$ . The actual storage required depends on the number of bytes used to store each floating point number. Many (but not all) of the final codes were subsequently tested on different test sequences of 60,000 samples. In all cases the open test SNR's were within .25 dB of the design distortion. The systems considered are full search VQ's [25], binary tree-searched VQ's [59], binary multistage VQ's [47], and gain/shape VQ's [36]. The gain and codebook sizes for the gain/shape codes were experimentally optimized.

As expected, the full search VQ yields the best performance for each dimension, but the tree-searched VQ is not much worse and has a much lower complexity. The multistage VQ is noticeably inferior, losing more than 1 dB at the higher dimensions, but its memory requirements are small. The gain/shape VQ compares poorly on the basis of performance vs. rate for a fixed dimension, but it is the best code in the sense of providing the minimum distortion for a fixed complexity and rate.

For larger rates and lower distortion the relative merits may be quite different. For example, the multistage VQ is then capable of better performance relative to the ordinary VQ since the quantization errors in the various stages do not accumulate so rapidly. (See, e.g., [34].) Thus in this

**TABLE I**  
MEMORYLESS VQ FOR A GAUSS MARKOV SOURCE.

k	VQ				TSVQ				MVQ				G/SVQ			
	SNR	n	M		SNR	n	M		SNR	n	M		SNR	n	M	
1	4.4	2	2		4.4	2	2		4.4	2	2					
2	7.9	4	8		7.9	4	12		7.6	4	8		7.9	1	3	
3	9.2	8	24		9.2	6	42		8.6	6	18		9.3	1	5	
4	10.2	16	64		10.2	8	120		8.4	8	32		9.4	2	10	
5	10.6	32	160		10.4	10	310		9.3	10	50		9.8	3	17	
6	10.9	64	384		10.7	12	756		9.1	12	72		9.9	4	26	
7	11.2	128	896		11.0	14	1778		9.4	14	98		10.2	4	31	
8									9.9	16	128		10.6	5	43	
9													10.9	6	57	

Signal to Noise Ratios (SNR), number of multiplications per sample (n), and storage requirements of memoryless vector quantizers: full search memoryless VQ (VQ), binary tree-searched (TSVQ), binary multistage VQ (MVQ), and gain/shape VQ (G/SVQ). Rate = 1 bit/sample. k = vector dimension. Training Sequence = 60000 samples from a Gauss Markov Source with correlation coefficient 0.9.

TABLE III  
MEMORYLESS VQ OF SAMPLED SPEECH.

k	VQ				TSVQ			
	SNR <sub>in</sub>	SNR <sub>out</sub>	n	M	SNR <sub>in</sub>	SNR <sub>out</sub>	n	M
1	2.0	2.1	2	2	2.0	2.1	2	2
2	5.2	5.3	4	8	5.1	5.1	4	12
3	6.1	6.0	8	24	5.5	5.5	6	42
4	7.1	7.0	16	64	6.4	6.4	8	120
5	7.9	7.6	32	160	7.1	6.9	10	310
6	8.5	8.1	64	384	7.9	7.5	12	756
7	9.1	8.4	128	896	8.3	7.8	14	1778
8	9.7	8.8	256	2048	8.9	8.0	16	4080

k	MVQ				G/SVQ			
	SNR <sub>in</sub>	SNR <sub>out</sub>	n	M	SNR <sub>in</sub>	SNR <sub>out</sub>	n	M
1	2.0	2.1	2	2				
2	4.3	4.4	4	8				
3	4.3	4.4	6	18	4.5	4.6	4	14
4	4.4	4.5	8	32	6.0	6.1	4	20
5	5.0	5.0	10	50	7.2	6.9	8	44
6	5.0	4.9	12	72	7.7	7.4	16	100
7	5.3	5.1	14	98	8.2	7.7	16	120
8	5.6	5.5	16	128	8.8	8.1	32	264
9					9.3	8.5	64	584
10					9.8	8.9	128	1288
11					10.4	9.3	256	2824

Signal to Noise Ratios inside training sequence (SNR<sub>in</sub>) of 640000 speech samples, Signal to Noise Ratios outside training sequence (SNR<sub>out</sub>) of 76800 speech samples, number of multiplications per sample (n), and storage requirements of memoryless vector quantizers: full search memoryless VQ (VQ), binary tree-searched (TSVQ), binary multistage VQ (MVQ), and gain/shape VQ (G/SVQ). Rate = 1 bit/sample. k = vector dimension.

case multistage VQ may be far better because of its much smaller computational requirements.

Table II presents results for three feedback VQ's for the same source. In addition to the parameters of Table I, the number of states for the FSVQ's are given. The first FSVQ and the VPQ were designed for the same training sequence of 60,000 samples. Because of the extensive computation required and the shortness of the training sequence for a feedback quantizer, only dimensions 1 through 4 were considered. The first FSVQ was designed using the omniscient design approach for 1 bit per sample, dimensions 1 through 4, and a variety of numbers of states. For the first example, the number of states was chosen by designing FSVQ's for more and more states until further increases yielded negligible improvements [51]. It was found, however, that the performance outside

of the training sequence for these codes was significantly inferior, by 1 to 2 dB for the larger dimensions. From the discussion of average distortion, this suggests that the training sequence was too short. Hence the second FSVQ design (FSVQ2) was run with a larger training sequence of 128,000 samples and fewer states. The test sequence for these codes always yielded performance within .3 dB of the design value. The VPQ test performance was within .1 dB of the design performance. The scalar predictive quantizer performance and the codebook for the prediction error quantizer are the same as the analytically optimized predictive quantization system of Arnstein [60] run on the same data.

Observe that the scalar FSVQ in the first experiment with 64 states yielded performance quite close to that of the scalar VPQ, which does not have a finite number of states. Intuitively the FSVQ is trying to approximate the infinite state machine by using a large number of states. The VPQ, however, is less complex and requires less memory and hence for this application is superior.

For comparison, the best 1 bit/sample scalar trellis encoding system for this source yields 11.25 dB for this source [52]. The trellis encoding system uses a block Viterbi algorithm with a search depth of 1000 samples for the encoder. It is perhaps surprising that in this example the VPQ and the FSVQ with the short delay of only 4 samples can outperform a Viterbi algorithm with a delay of 1000 samples. It points out, however, two advantages of feedback VQ over scalar trellis encoding systems: 1. The decoder is permitted to be a more general form of finite-state machine than the shift-register based nonlinear filter usually used in trellis encoding systems; and 2. the encoder performs a single full search of a small vector codebook instead of a Viterbi algorithm consisting of a tree search of a sequence of scalar codebooks. In other words, single short vector searches may yield better performance than a "look ahead" sequence of searches of scalar codebooks.

#### Speech waveform coding

The second set of results considers a training sequence of 640,000 samples of ordinary speech from four different male speakers sampled at 6.5 kHz. The reader is reminded that squared error is not generally a subjectively good distortion measure for speech. Better subjective quality may be obtained by using more complicated distortion measures such as the general quadratic distortion measures with input dependent weightings such as the arithmetic segmented distortions. The VQ design techniques extend to such distortion measures, but the centroid computations are more complicated. (See [30] for the theory and [45, 46] for the application of input-weighted quadratic distortion measures.)

Tables III and IV are the counterparts of Tables I and II for this source. Now, however, the SNR's of the codes on test sequences of samples outside of the training sequence (and by a different speaker) are presented for comparison. In addition, some larger dimensions are con-



TABLE IV

FEEDBACK VQ OF SAMPLED SPEECH.

k	FSVQ			VPQ					
	SNRin	SNRout	K	n	M	SNRin	SNRout	n	M
1	2.0	2.0	2	2	2	2.1	2.6	2	2
2	7.8	7.5	32	4	64	6.4	6.2	4	8
3	9.0	8.3	64	10	192	7.3	6.8	8	24
4	10.9	9.4	512	16	2048	8.0	7.6	16	64
5	12.2	10.8	512	32	2560				

Signal to Noise Ratios inside training sequence (SNRin) of 640000 speech samples, Signal to Noise Ratios outside training sequence (SNRout) of 76800 speech samples, number of states (K), number of multiplications per sample (n), and storage (M) for feedback quantizers: Rate = 1 bit/sample. k = vector dimension.

considered because the longer training sequence made them more trustworthy. Again for comparison, the best known (nonadaptive) scalar trellis encoding system for this source yields a performance of 9 dB [52]. Here the trellis encoder uses the M-algorithm with a search depth of 31 samples. The general comparisons are similar to those of the previous source, but there are several differences. The tree-searched VQ is now more degraded in comparison to the full search VQ and the multistage VQ is even worse, about 3 dB below the full search at the largest

TABLE V

LPC VQ AND FSVQ WITH AND WITHOUT NEXT STATE FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT.

R	r	VQ		FSVQ1		FSVQ2		K
		SNRin	SNRout	SNRin	SNRout	SNRin	SNRout	
1	.008	3.7	2.9					
2	.016	6.1	5.2	7.2	4.3	7.5	6.1	16
3	.023	7.3	6.2	8.4	5.9	9.0	7.5	16
4	.031	8.8	7.9	9.5	7.8	9.6	8.7	4
5	.039	9.7	8.8	10.6	8.9	10.7	9.3	4
6	.047	10.5	9.5					
7	.055	11.6	10.1					
8	.062	12.6	10.7					

Signal to Noise Ratios inside training sequence (SNRin) of 5000 vectors of 128 samples each, Signal to Noise Ratios outside training sequence (SNRout) of 600 vectors of 128 samples each: memoryless VQ, omniscient FSVQ design (FSVQ1), and for omniscient FSVQ design with next-state function improvement (FSVQ2). K = number of states in FSVQ, R = rate in bits/vector, r = rate in bits/sample. Itakura-Saito distortion measure.

dimension in 0.072 seconds to about 1 dB for the Gauss Markov case. The complexity and storage requirements are the same except for the shape/gain VQ where different optimum selections of gain and shape codebook size yield different complexity and storage requirements. The VPQ of dimension 4 is inferior to the trellis encoder and the FSVQ of the same dimension. The four dimensional FSVQ, however, still outperforms the scalar trellis encoder.

Observe that an FSVQ of dimension 4 provides better performance inside and outside the training sequence than does a full search memoryless vector quantizer of dimension 8, achieving better performance with 16 4-dimensional distortion evaluations than with 512 8-dimensional distortion computations. The cost, of course, is a large increase in memory. This, however, is a basic point of FSVQ design—to use more memory but less computation.

**LPC VQ (vocoding)**

Table V presents a comparison of VQ and FSVQ for vector quantization of speech using the Itakura-Saito distortion measure or, equivalently, vector quantization of LPC speech models [16, 14, 53]. The training sequence and

TABLE VI  
ADAPTIVE VPQ.

k	VPQ	
	SNRin	SNRout
1	4.12	4.34
2	7.47	7.17
3	8.10	7.67
4	8.87	8.30

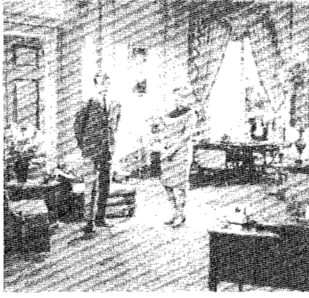
Signal to Noise Ratios inside training sequence (SNRin) of 5000 vectors, and Signal to Noise Ratios in test sequence (SNRout) of 600 vectors, rate = 1.023 bits/sample.

test sequence are as above, but now the input dimension is 128 samples and the output vectors are 10th order all-pole models. The training sequence is now effectively shorter since it contains only 5000 input vectors of this dimension. As a result the test results are noticeably different than the design results. Because of the shortness of the training sequence, only FSVQ's of small dimension and few states were considered.

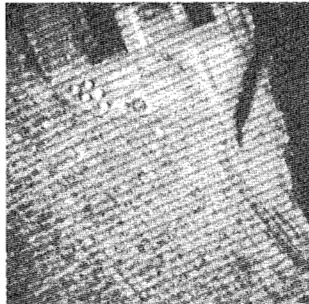
The table summarizes memoryless VQ and two FSVQ designs: the first FSVQ design used was a straightforward application of the design technique outlined previously and the second used the stochastic iteration next-state improvement algorithm of [53]. Observe that the next-state function improvement yields codes that perform better outside of the training sequence than do the ordinary FSVQ codes.



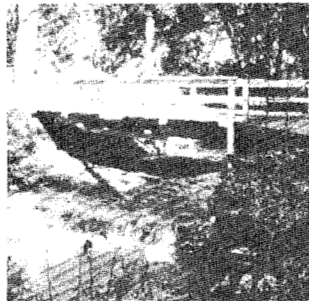
a)



b)



c)



d)



e)



Figure 16. Image Training Sequence. The training sequence consisted of the sequence of  $3 \times 4$  subblocks of the five  $256 \times 256$  images shown.

Gain/shape VQ's for this application are developed in [16] and [36]. Tree-searched LPC VQ is considered for binary and nonbinary trees in combination with gain/shape codes in [16] and [10].

#### Adaptive coding

Table VI presents the results of a simple example of an adaptive VQ, here consisting of an LPC VQ with 8 code-words every 128 samples combined with VPQs of dimensions 1–4. Each of the 8 VPQs is designed for the subsequence of training vectors mapping into the corresponding LPC VQ model [47]. The rate of this system is  $1 + 3/128 = 1.023$  bits/sample. The performance is significantly worse than the 10 dB achieved by a hybrid scalar trellis encoder of the same rate [52], but it improves on the nonadaptive VPQ by about  $\frac{3}{4}$  dB. Adaptive vector quantizers are still quite new, however, and relatively little work on the wide variety of possible systems has yet been done.

#### Image coding

In 1980–1982 four separate groups developed successful applications of VQ techniques to image coding [61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 37]. The only real difference from wave-form coding is that now the VQ operates on small rectangular blocks of from 9 to 16 pixels, that is, the vectors are really 2-dimensional subblocks of images, typically squares with 3 or 4 pixels on a side or 3 by 4 rectangles. We here consider both the basic technique and one variation. We consider only small codebooks of 6 bits per  $4 \times 3$  block of 12 pixels for purposes of demonstration. Better quality pictures could be obtained at the same rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  bit per pixel by using larger block sizes and hence larger rates of, say, 8 to 10 bits per block. Better quality could also likely be achieved with more complicated distortion measures than the simple squared error used.

Fig. 16 gives the training sequence of five images. Fig. 17a shows a small portion of the fifth image, an eye, magnified. Fig. 17b is a picture of the  $2^6 = 64$  codewords. Fig. 17c shows the decoded eye. Fig. 18 shows the original, decoded image, and error image for the complete picture. The error image is useful for highlighting the problems encountered with the ordinary memoryless VQ. In particular, edges are poorly reproduced and the code-word edges make the picture appear "blocky." This problem was attacked by Ramamurthi and Gersho [62, 67] by constructing segmented (or union or composite) codes—separate codebooks for the edge information and the texture information where a simple classifier was used to distinguish the two in design. In [37] a feedback vector quantizer was developed by using a separating mean VQ with a predictive scalar quantizer to track the mean. Fig. 19 shows the original eye, ordinary VQ, and the feedback VQ. The improved ability to track edges is clearly discernible. Fig. 20 shows the full decoded image for feedback VQ together with the error pattern.

Although image coding using VQ is still in its infancy,



The basic structure of all of the VQ systems is well suited to VLSI implementation: a minimum distortion search algorithm on a chip communicating with off-board storage for codebooks and next-state transition functions. As new and better design algorithms are developed, the chips can be updated by simply reburning the codebook and transition ROM's.

The basic approach can also be incorporated into the design of some traditional scalar data compression schemes, an approach which Gersho calls "imbedded

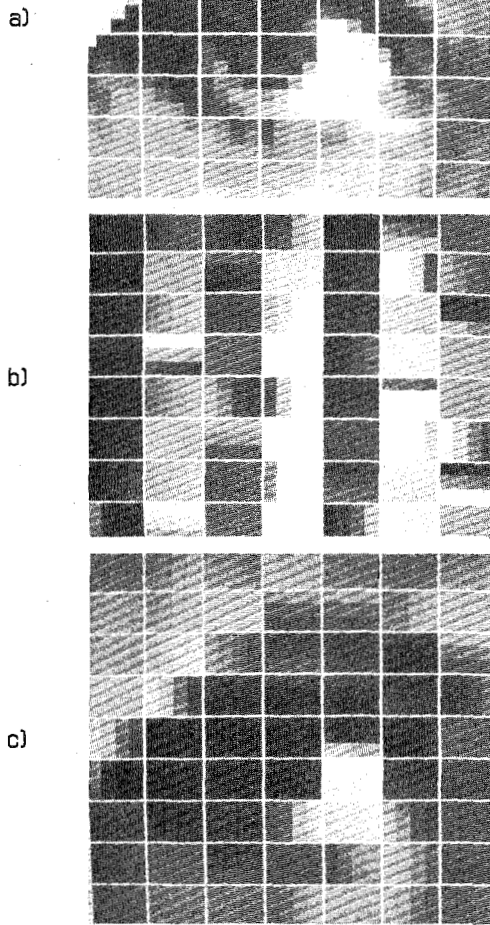


Figure 17. Basic Image VQ Example at 1/2 bit per pixel. (a) Original Eye Magnified (b) 6 bit codebook VQ codebook for 4 x 3 blocks (c) Decoded Image.

these preliminary experiments using only fairly simple memoryless and feedback VQ techniques with small codebooks demonstrate that the general approach holds considerable promise for such applications.

**COMMENTS**

We have described Lloyd's basic iterative algorithm and how it can be used to improve the performance of a variety of vector quantization systems, ranging from the fundamental memoryless full search VQ that serves as the basic model for data compression in information theory to a variety of feedback and adaptive systems that can be viewed as vector extensions of popular scalar compression systems. By a variety of examples of systems and code design simulations we have tried to illustrate some of

a)



b)



c)

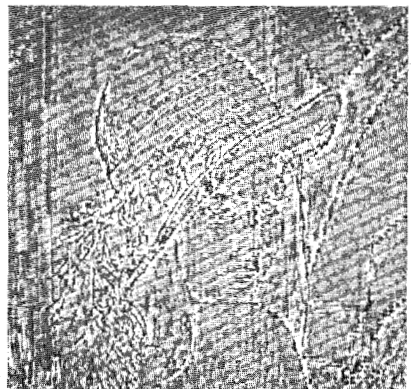
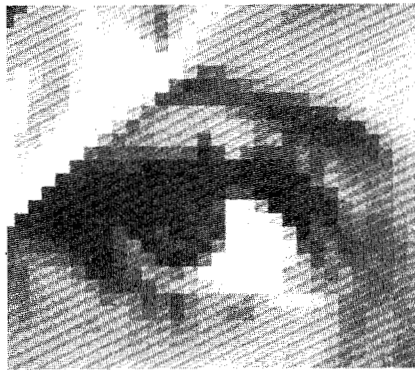
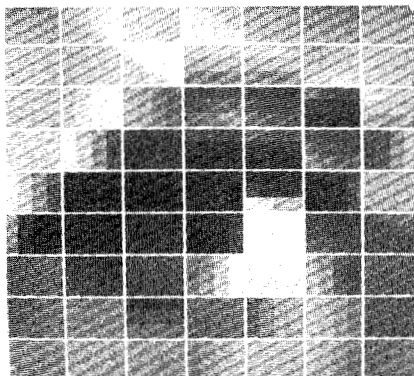


Figure 18. Full Image for Basic Example (a) Original (b) Decoded Image (c) Error Image.

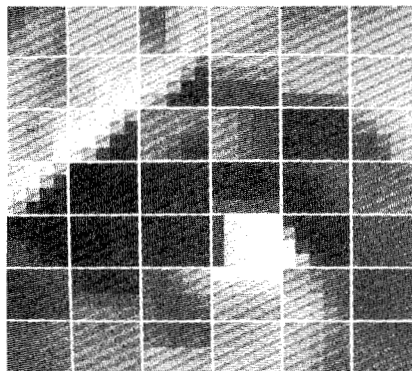




a)



b)

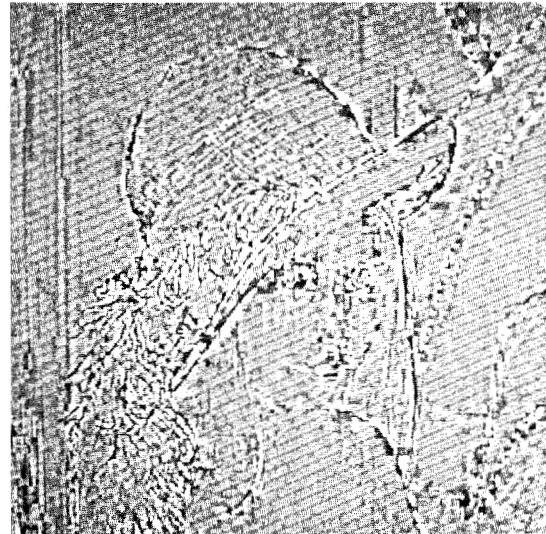


c)

Figure 19. VQ vs. Separating Mean VQ at Rate  $\frac{1}{2}$  bit per pixel (a) Original Eye Magnified (b) VQ Decoded Image (c) Separating Mean VQ with DPCM Mean Coding Decoded Image.



a)



b)

Figure 20. Full Image for Separating Mean Example (a) Decoded Image using Separating Mean VQ with DPCM Mean Coding (b) Error Image.

VQ" [11]. Such schemes typically enforce additional structure on the code such as preprocessing, transforming, splitting into subbands, and scalar quantization, however, and hence the algorithms may not have the freedom to do as well as the more unconstrained structures considered here. Even if the traditional schemes prove more useful because of existing DSP chips or intuitive variations well matched to particular data sources, the vector quantization systems can prove a useful benchmark for comparison.

Recently VQ has also been successfully used in isolated word recognition systems without dynamic time warping by using either separate codebooks for each utterance or by mapping trajectories through one or more codebooks [68, 69, 70, 71, 55, 72]. Vector quantization has also been used as a front end acoustic processor to isolated utter-

ance and continuous speech recognition systems which then do approximately maximum likelihood linguistic decoding based on probabilities estimated using "hidden Markov" models for the VQ output data. [73, 74, 75].

Variations of the basic VQ design algorithm have been tried for several distortion measures, including the squared error, weighted squared error, the Itakura-Saito distortion, and an (arithmetic) segmented signal to noise ratio. (See, e.g., [30, 45, 46]). Other distortion measures are currently under study.

The algorithm has not yet been extended to some of the more complicated distortion measures implicit in noise masking techniques for enhancing the subjective performance of scalar quantization speech coding systems. Whether scalar systems designed by sophisticated techniques matched to subjective distortion measures will sound or look better than vector systems designed for mathematically tractable distortion measures remains to be seen. Whenever the subjective distortion measures can be quantified and a means found to compute centroids, however, the vector systems will yield better quantitative performance. Since the centroid computation is only done in design and not in implementation, it can be quite complicated and still yield useful results.

The generalized Lloyd algorithm is essentially a clustering algorithm and we have attempted to demonstrate its applicability to the design of a variety of data compression systems. Other clustering algorithms may yield better codes in some applications. For example, Freeman [76] proposed a design algorithm for scalar trellis encoding systems using the squared error distortion measure which replaced the Lloyd procedure by a conjugate gradient procedure for minimizing the average distortion for a long training sequence. He found that for a memoryless Gaussian source the resulting codes were superior to those obtained by the Lloyd procedure. It would be interesting to characterize the reasons for this superiority, e.g., the procedure may find a better local minimum or it may simply be numerically better suited for finding a continuous local minimum on a digital computer. It would also be interesting to consider variations of this approach for the design of some of the other systems considered here.

A survey article with many topics cannot provide complete descriptions or exhaustive studies of any of systems sketched. It is hoped, however, that these examples impart the flavor of vector quantizer design algorithms and that they may interest some readers to further delve into the recent and current work in the area.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author gratefully acknowledges the many helpful comments from students and colleagues that aided the preparation of this paper.

Portions of the research described here were supported by the Army Research Office, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the National Science Foundation, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the Joint Services Electronics Program at Stanford University.

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Notes added in proof: A similar design technique for FSVQ was independently developed by Haoui and Messerschmidt [77]. It should be pointed out that the FSVQ design algorithm described here is incomplete in that it does not describe the methods used to avoid non-communicating collection of states and wasted states. These issues are discussed in [51].