

QOIE

QOI Lossless Image Compression Encoder



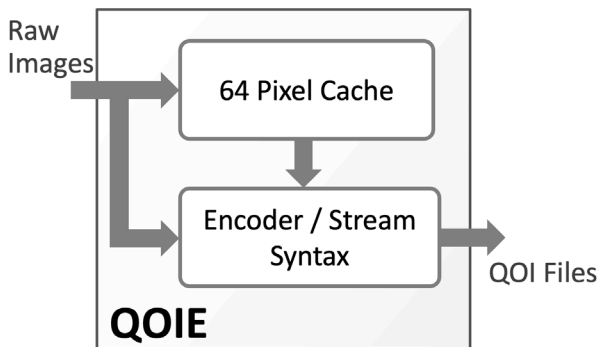
The QOIE Core is an encoder that implements a highly efficient, low-power, lossless image compression engine compliant with the Quite OK Image format (QOI) specification, version 1.0.

The QOI algorithm compresses RGB or RGBA images with 8 bits per color without any loss. It has a compression efficiency close to that of PNG compression, but with a fraction of the computational complexity.

Capitalizing on the simplicity of the QOI algorithm, the QOIE encoder core can compress images at a very high speed and with minimal silicon resources. The core occupies approximately 250 ALMs and can process one pixel per clock cycle. A single core instance can decompress images at rates sufficient for UHD 4k60 on Agilex™ devices and 4k50 on Arria 10 GX.

The core is designed for ease of use and integration and adheres to coding and verification best practices. It requires no assistance from a host processor and uses simple handshake interfaces for input and output data. Technology mapping, timing closure, and scan insertion are trouble-free, as the core contains no multi-cycle or false paths, and uses only rising-edge-triggered D-type flip-flops, no tri-states, and a single-clock/reset domain. Its reliability and low risk have been proven through rigorous verification and FPGA validation.

Block Diagram



Applications

Numerous applications can benefit from the tiny silicon footprint and ultra-low-power consumption of the QOI compression and decompression cores CAST offers. Typical uses include frame buffer compression for video processing SoCs; graphic elements or display buffer compression; and image storage and transmission for medical, aerospace, and other systems.

Sample Implementation Results

The QOIE is a digital core and can be mapped to any Altera® FPGA device (provided sufficient resources are available). The following are sample implementation results. These sample results do not represent the minimum area or the fastest clock speed for the QOIE core. Please contact CAST to get accurate characterization for your target device and throughput requirements.

Target Family/Device	Logic Resources	Memory Resources	Freq. (MHz) / Mpixels/s
AGILEX™ Speed grade -2	256 ALMs	2 RAMB	600
Arria® 10 GX Speed grade -1	204 ALMs	2 RAMB	450

FEATURES

QOI Image Format

- Lossless Image Compression
- Supports RGB and RGBA, 8-bit per color images
- Compression performance similar to that of PNG with a fraction of the computational complexity

QOIE IP Core

- QOI compression with a compact and high-throughput hardware encoder
- Outputs raw header-less QOI files
 - Optional QOI header generation
- Supports RGB images
 - RGBA support can be added on request

High-Throughput

- 1 pixel per clock-cycle throughput
- A single core is UHD/4k-capable

Compact and Low-Power

- Approximately 250 ALMs

Deliverables

- VHDL or Verilog RTL source code or targeted FPGA netlist
 - Verilog can be made available on request
- C-model for test vectors generation
- Integration Test-Bench
- Simulation & synthesis scripts
- User documentation