

ABSTRACT**A Method for Computational Graceful Degradation in an
Audiovisual Compression System**

The invention disclosed here is a method for an encoder to encode audiovisual information for transmission to the decoder without any prior knowledge of the computational capabilities of the decoder. A descriptor containing parameters that can be used to estimate the complexity of the decoding process is embedded in the system stream. The encoder also encodes the video information in such a manner that the decoder can choose to ignore some of the information and only decode a subset of the encoded information in order to reduce the computational requirements. This method allows more than one decoder to decode the same bitstream giving different resolutions depending on the computational capability of the decoder.

Figure 1