

A  
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**“FOV PREDICTION FOR 360 VIDEO STREAMING IN VIRTUAL REALITY”**

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*In*

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*By*

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This is to certify that the thesis entitled "**FOV PREDICTION FOR 360 VIDEO STREAMING IN VIRTUAL REALITY**" done by me for the Major project-II for the achievement of **Master of Technology** Degree in **Software Technology** in the **Department of Computer Science & Engineering**, Delhi Technological University, Delhi is an authentic work carried out by me under the guidance of Prof. Manoj Kumar.

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## **ABSTRACT**

In the transmission and review of 360 degree videos on VR devices (HMDs) initiate numerous specialized difficulties. 360 degree video are omnidirectional spherical video and on an approximate 4~6 times high resolution than normal 2D videos of same quality. Since 360-degree video are round video so having omnidirectional perspective of the scene. However human having Field of View (FOV) approximately 90~114 degree so only 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the part is viewed at time. Moreover, VR devices require to respond within 11ms to head movements of user to show the next Field of View (FOV).

In this task I research the issue of foreseeing the Field-of-Views (FOV) of client's viewing 360° video utilizing VR gadgets ahead of time. Existing and mostly present solutions while watching the 360 video first find out the current orientation and FOV of user's and then request for high quality of video pertaining to FOV region and rest for low quality which induce bad user experience for some time called as latency to adapt the high quality.

I am developing solution to predict FOV in advance that simultaneously include content related historical data and sensor data to predict the viewer's Field of View( FOV) in advance. The sensor-related features include VR devices orientation sensor like magnetometer and accelerometer, while the historical data include the complete data of previous watching orientation of video by different users.

Based on historical data and sensor data, I shall train the system and validate design alternatives. Which will help in identify the better design to reduce the view latency and bandwidth required for 360 Video.

Advantages of this solution will be (i) Lower bandwidth usage (ii) Low latency and (iii) short running time.

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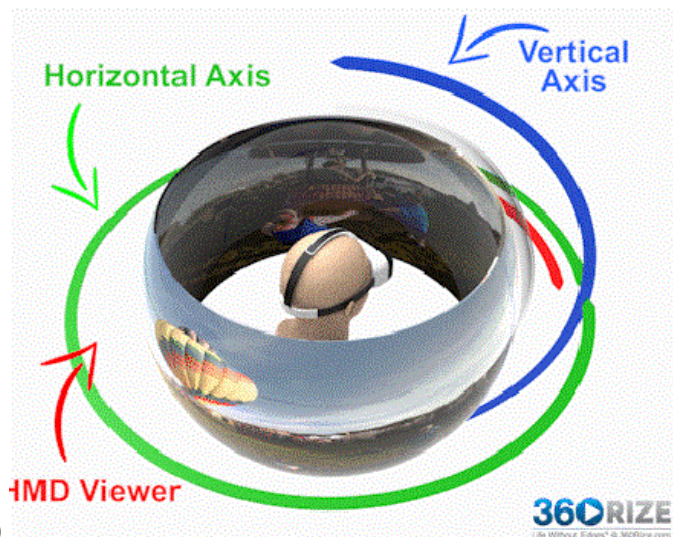
# Chapter 1: Introduction

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With the evolution of cheap, fast internet and smart devices mostly people starts sharing their experience and events of life with relatives,companions and publics over online social media whenever, anyplace. Among the content datashared in online social gatherings, video contents sharing is the most prominent and generally utilized contents. As of late, 360° videos are increasing greater ubiquity then flat videos, because they preservImmersion experience, also allowsusers to better share their experience and life events.

When we take a gander at the development projection of the VR area and industry in the course of recent years, it appears to be just incredible things lie ahead and its future looks splendid. For one, only a couple of years back (in 2013), there were around 100 thousand active virtual reality users. This expanded to 90 million dynamic users in 2017.

The whole VR industry is anticipated to be worth \$5.2 billion of every 2018, and \$45 billion by 2025 —



up from a measly \$90 million out of 2019.

Fig.1 360 Video.



360° video is in extremely high resolution, with VR devices, each viewer would be able to see a small part of the whole video approx. 1/6<sup>th</sup> based on human stereoscopic vision which is 114 deg. Accordingly, sending the total 360° video in full resolution may prompt wastage of resources, for example processing power, storage space and network bandwidth. Somostly utilized approach to stream 360° videos to VR devices is to stream the present FOV of video in full resolution and rest part in low resolution. This solution is definitely better than above solution but still it wastes the bandwidth, resources because low resolution still not seen by user most of the time and only comes into picture when user changes the FOV in that case user can see low resolution for some time until it adapts to high resolution which again degrades the user experience. So in this paper we come with a better approach in which our system predicts the user's future FOV beforehand and caches it to a buffer so that when user moves to a new FOV we don't need to fetch or show the low resolution because we already predict and cache the new FOV in advance so we show them directly, thus this solution doesn't require to keep the complete 360 video in buffer like previous method. With this approach it saves the bandwidth and resources. Our new methodology makes structuring of a live 360° video streaming system to VR devices quite complex and proficient, particularly because mostly omnidirectional 360 streaming methods currently deliver using tile based selective streams segment which last for few seconds only.

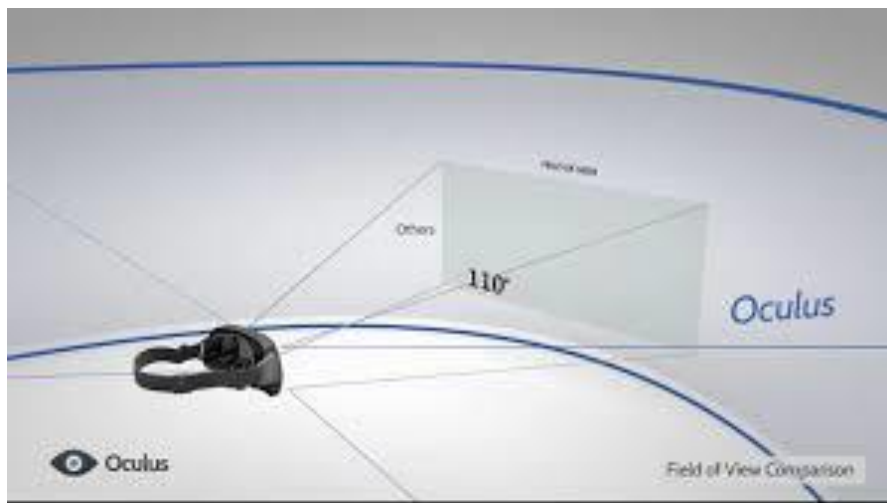


Fig 2: FOV in 360 video.

Albeit late research endeavor to anticipate the FOV ahead of time, they utilizes basic guess and presumption, which are less exact, and in this manner result in terrible user experience and wasted resources.

In this undertaking, we take care of the FOV expectation issue utilizing ML (machine learning) for higher precision. Procedure highlights of our FOV forecast systems is that we simultaneously consider both sensor and media content related attribute. Media content attribute incorporate frame based gaze historical data and sensor's attribute come from sensor present in VR devices which provides orientation and position of device at particular time.

Predicting FOV is not an easy task and thereafter showing the predicted FOV include FOV based transmission which again very complex part.

## Chapter 2:Related Work

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[1] Describes Adaptive 360 VR video streaming with immersive spherical video.

Explain about the 360 video over flat video and covers the adaptive streaming technique for transmission of 360 video also explains the problem exist in transmission of 360 video. Compare different techniques existed in market for 360 playback.

[2] Describe the FOV aware tile based adaptation in 360 virtual reality (VR) streaming. It also explains about the tiles based geometry in VR domain. Also include the tiling feature in MPEG DASH.

[3] Dash Streaming study and protocol understanding for applying it for VR streaming.

Dash streaming is adaptive streaming technology developed by MPEG. It allow high quality streaming video transmission over internet delivered by HTTP protocol. This is widely used protocol and also adapted by OMAF standard which is related to 360 video streaming playback.

[4] HEVC specification and understanding for tiling media.

Main purpose of HEVC standard to improve the compression quality and performance related to existing standard like h264 (AVC). This paper provide the knowledge on HEVC features and standard. Also provides the detail of tile mechanism in HEVC which is added to enable parallel processing in HEVC.

[5] HEVC overview

Provides the structure and architectural design of HEVC coding standard.

[6] Different Projection study for 360 video and their advantage and disadvantage.

Explain the major projection exist for 360 video which already covered in thesis with pros and cons of each projection.

[7] Fixation prediction, for predicting content related attribute and saliency map creation has been studied for static images.

This paper states the same problem as I covered in my project but using different techniques.

[8] Advance machine learning technologies with various supervised and non-supervised learning are accepted for better attribute prediction and extraction in fixation detection. Covers many types of machine learning techniques.

[9] Framework to propose to embrace the data of saliency guide and after that think about movements for dynamic saliency expectation.

[10] Perform obsession forecast in video utilizing highlights like movement vectors, thumbnail and navigation trajectory exploration.

**HMDs and VR devices.** Several VR devices are released by many companies and their applications has turned out to be progressively mainstream. Their execution has been estimated in the literature. Young et al. [12] execute subjective performance tests between two HMDs like searching sorting and provide opinion that they do better for playing videos and supporting interactive tasks. Samaraweera et al. [13] study whether mobility impaired patients are less vulnerable to cyber sickness due to the latency. Chang et al. [13] given different structure to calculate the sensitivity and precision of HMDs. A few tradeoffs are seen on item HMDs in their investigation.

# Chapter 3: Problem Statement

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## 3.1 Description of Problem

When VR video is streamed over a network, the video data transfer capacity required to transmit VR video utilizing conventional strategies can be as high as 20-50 times the transmission capacity required by non-VR (also referred to as “flat” or “normal” video) videos, depending upon **chosen resolutions**. This is because unlike traditional single view cameras that only capture light from the front, 360-degree cameras capture light from all directions and usually in stereoscopic mode. This causes an explosion in the quantity of pixels captured and transmitted.



Fig-3: 360 degree video Capture

Existing 360 Video having very large size as compared to their 2D counterpart. Unfortunately a noteworthy issue is how to transmit such cumbersome 360 video in bandwidth constraint wireless gadgets such as mobile, VR devices in wireless network given their high bitrate requirements(50~80 Mbps).

Current 4G technology provide maximum 100 Mbps speed theoretically but in practical user get around 30~40 Mbps speed only in such network transferring high bitrate 360 video seems major issue.

Especially with the 4K 360 video resolution which is considered as practically the least resolution standard for current VR devices, and 8K or higher being wanted, these new video standards are highly bandwidth intensive and hard to stream at desirable quality levels. Thus there must be a balance between the available resources and requirements of streaming on the VR devices.

One of the major challenges to achieving this balance is that we need to show the high quality to the user without negative effect in the user's viewing experience. However, VR is not supportive to current cellular systems where radio resources and data transmission is restricted. Likewise, downloading massive data continuously leads to cellular devices' power drain because cellular networks are considered to be resource-hungry when in active use, the LTE radio networks record for at least half of the whole smartphone's energy utilization.

The presentation and conveyance of 360-degree videos on VR presents numerous specialized difficulties. 360 degree videos are bulky and ultra-high resolution round videos, which contain 360 degree view of the display. **While 360 video demands high bandwidth, at any time instant users are only viewing a small portion of the video according to the HMD field of view (FOV)**

### **3.2 Hardware or Resource capability**

To match the ultra-high quality of NON VR content, VR content requires at least 12K resolution videos. To decode the 12K video device requires 12K capable hardware decoder. Current devices having support of maximum 4K decoder so decoding of 12K content not possible with current available devices.

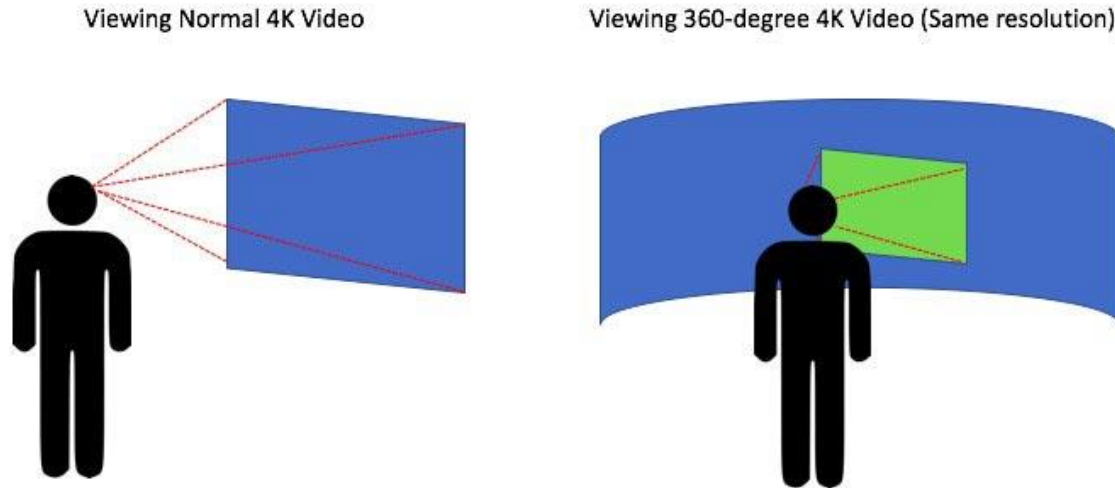


Fig-4: FOV for flat and 360 Video

4K of VR content equivalent to 1K of Non VR content which is much degraded quality in VR mode and having very bad user experience.

Currently some advance decoder (HEVC and VP9) coming with tiled based video concept. In which frames of video divided in multiple tiles and each can be played independently. Also they support the mixing of tile of different resolution and decode using single decoder.

In 360 video user can see up to 114 degree only as human stereoscopic vision have 110~120 degree field of view only. So to construct the 4K 360 frame with different resolution (12/8/4K) tiles is very tricky way which we adapt in our research and solution.

### 3.3 Low latency adaptation

**Mostly used VR solution having the concept of showing the high quality video in current FOV and rest part in Low quality.**

While watching the 360 video in HMD, if a user moves his/her head outside of the current Field of View, then low resolution video is shown to the user for sometimes, till the high resolution stream for new Field of view (FoV) from the server received to terminal and shown to the user. This approach having two disadvantages:

- (i) Changing between high and low resolutions leads to bad user experience
- (ii) Transmitting complete 360 video stream i.e. high quality at FoV and low quality for rest, still wastes precious resources. As Low quality video not seen by user at all.



# Chapter 4: Research Methodology

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## 4.1 Classification of work

We have divided our solution in various sub parts Application part, Server part and Prediction and Transmission part.

Application allow user to watch the video in 360 mode and provide way to watch anywhere in 360 view, also it capture the Field of View(FOV) of user while watching the video and transfer it to server for further processing.

Server part includes content creation for 360 video, transmission part & FOV data creation for each video in DB which further used for prediction.

Prediction and Transmission part includes training of system based on FOV data and to predict the future FOV while watching video. Transmission part includes how to transfer predicted part along with actual 360 frame. In below section we will cover every part in detail.

## 4.2 Application

360 degree video cannot be watch on normal video players. To show 360 degree video it require the video player's app having support for projection geometry. We need to first select the projection geometry in which video can be projected.

There are many types of projection geometry

- Cubical Projection
- Spherical Projection
- Pyramidal Projection
- Etc.

## Cubical Projection

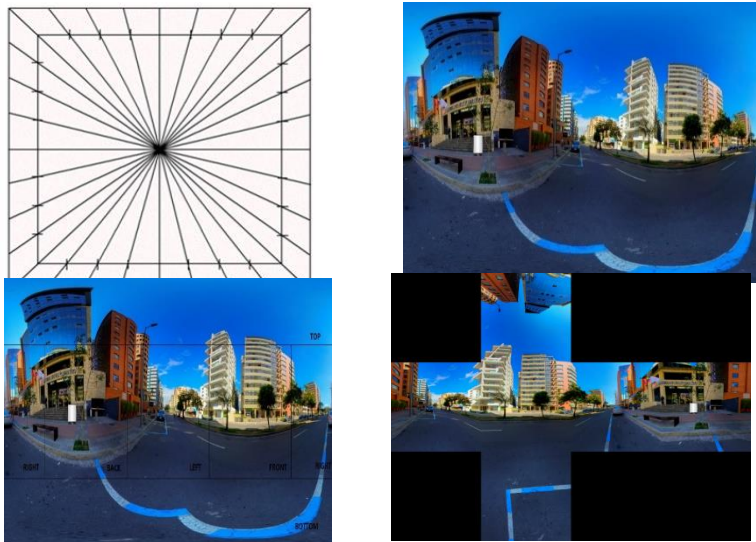


Fig-5: Cubical Projection

- *6 Faces i.e. Cubic Mapping*
- Usually some distortion observed while representing the environment as a cube because mapping from a sphere to cube is not perfect.
- Reflected vectors as shown in fig-5 are linearly interpolated in cube mapping.
- All pixels are utilized as there is no overlapping since all the environment textures are square in shape and contain images of the environment.

## Spherical Projection

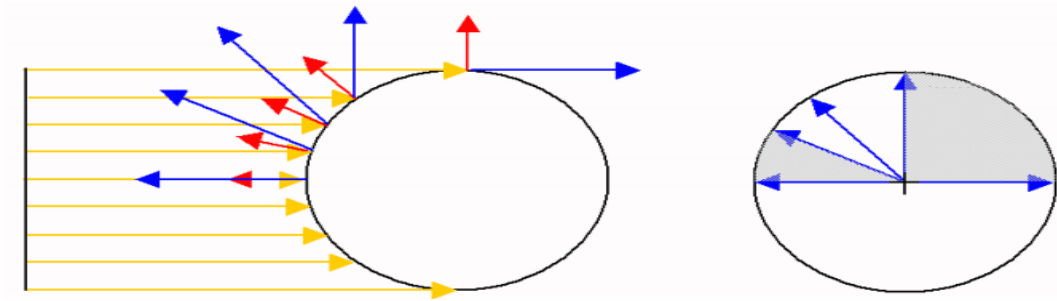


Fig-6: Sphere projection

- This is a latitude/longitude projection of the panoramic sphere.
- Standard for exchanging spherical panoramas between applications.
- Since the sphere map is a circle exist inside a square, so all of the map does not contains useful information. 21.46% of the map is wasted.
- Overrepresented at the poles; Singularity exists

## Pyramid Projection

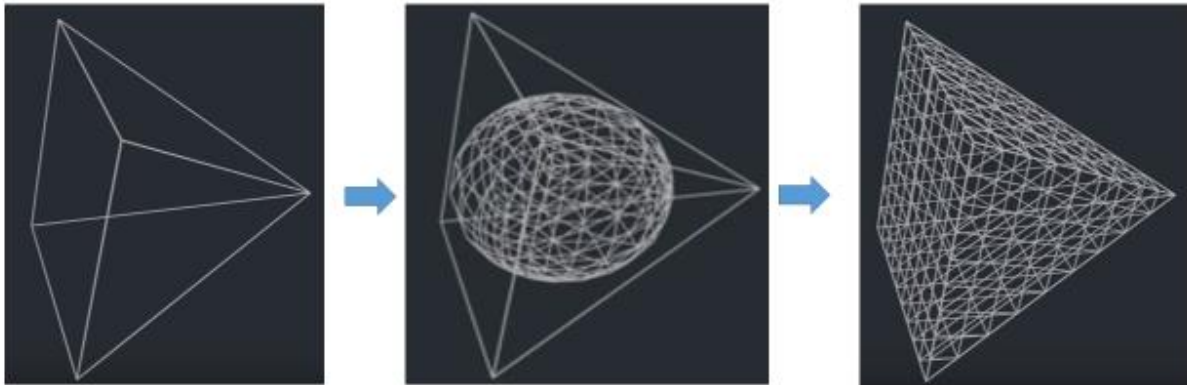


Fig-7: Pyramid Projection

- The spherical video is projected onto a pyramid layout from up to 30 central points to generate a set of video representations.
- Front face of the pyramid having the highest quality than the other faces.
- Distortion extremely high at the back and very low at the front.
- Based on user's viewport center, periodically select one of the representations in pyramid projection.

In our case we use **Spherical projection** to display the 360 degree video. We use Unity tool and Gear VR SDK for developing the application. GearVR SDK provide sensor API's which help in tracking the user's head movement. Unity tool is widely used for VR application which help in creating Screens and integrating many modules seamlessly.

Main work of Application to display the video in 360 degree view and allow user to watch video at any point in 360 mode. It collects the user orientation data from Gear VR device to predict the next look up position.

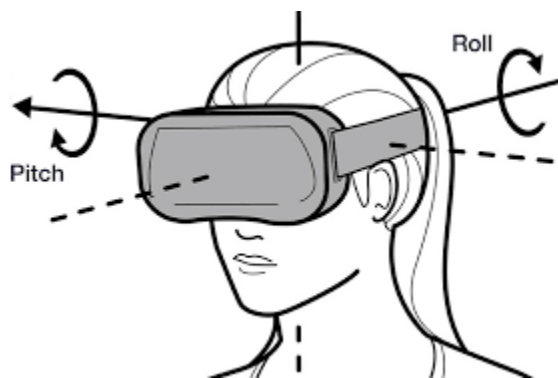


Fig-8: Rotation angle in VR.

When user start watching any video through GearVR using application. Application first setup connection with server where content actually exist and then open the database for particular video to maintain the new session of user for new FOV of that user. Application uses Oculus SDK for fetching the current gazing position of user while watching video for every frames of video and then store it in

database of particular video .This data would be used later by Prediction module for training and predicting the FOV.

So application collect two data's first user movement from sensor and gaze point for each frame and then provide it to prediction module which uses both the data for predicting the FOV.

### 4.3 Server

Server part include the module related to content creation for 360 video, Server for content delivery, server for maintaining the FOV database for each 360 content.

#### Content Creation

In our project we modified the 360 content before delivery by dividing them in tiles of different quality. Division in tiles allow to construct the frame with different quality so in case of 360 degree video as user can not watch the whole video so we construct the frame with two qualities. 1) High quality tiles in FOV region 2) Low Quality tiles for all other region. Using this technique we saves transmission bandwidth as well resource at decoder side.

Image.

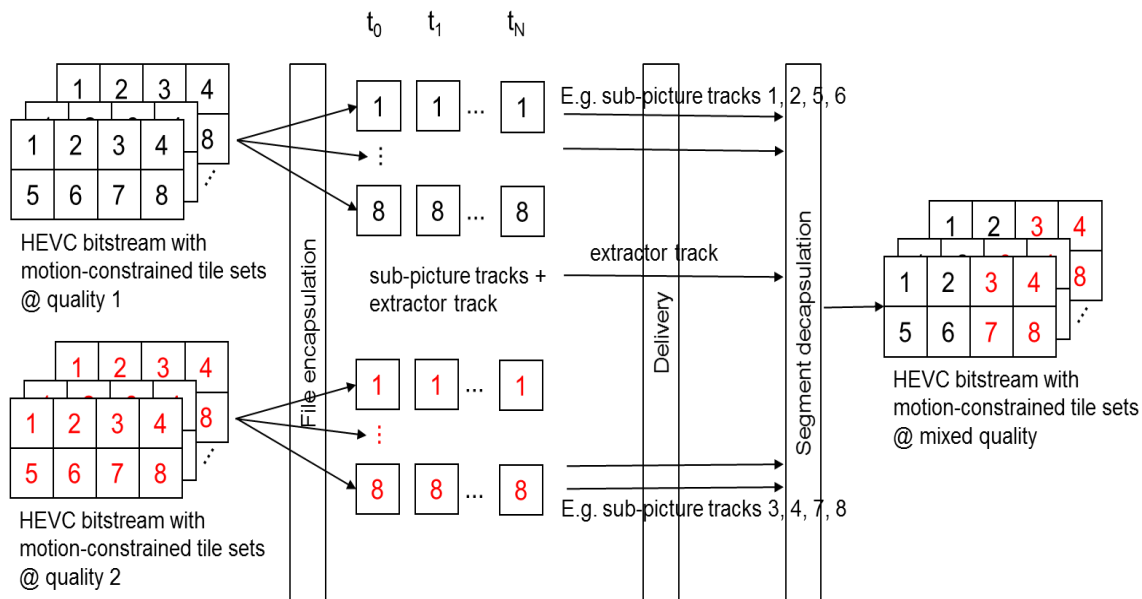


Fig-9: Content creation in 360 Video.

FOV database creation.

Client send the FOV for each user for every content looked by user, so there is PHP server which listen for request from client and capture all the information and save them in database with session wise for every frame of content. This data used later by prediction system to predict the most probable watching position in the frame by user.

Transmission of data.

Server created multiple connection with clients.

- 1) To send actual video content (high and Low quality)
- 2) Predicted data in high quality (2/3 second before the actual playback )
- 3) Fetching FOV data from client and adding value to database. Parallel.

Transmission is in HTTP protocol. We are using apache tomcat 2.0 and PHP 6.1 for this project.

#### **4.4Database**

We used Mysql database in this project for creating the dataset for prediction algorithm.

In this project we used very simple database architecture as we require to maintain the data for every content and FOV for user.

Please find the structure below.

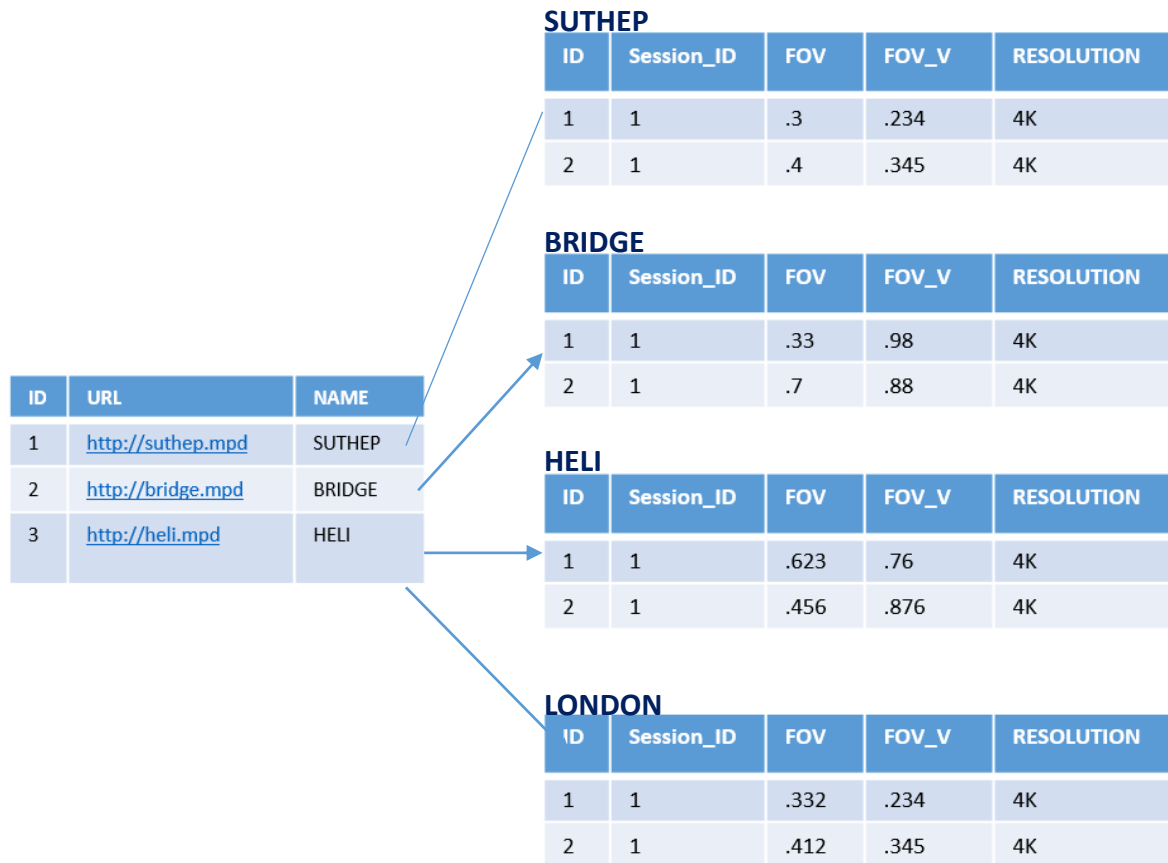


Fig-10 :DB relation and structure

## 4.5 Training and Prediction system

The gathered data in MySQL converted in to excel files for each table associated with each 360 degree video. Then this individual data corresponds to each excel send to prediction Module.

The gathered data was split into test and training data with 25% going to testing and 75%going to training. All the values were scaled between 0 and 1.

In our study following three models were applied:

- 1) **Random Forest** with 100 estimators with a minimum split of 2

Random Forest is an adaptable, simple to utilize machine learning calculation that produces, even without hyper-parameter tuning, an extraordinary outcome more often than not. It is likewise a standout amongst the most utilized calculations, since its straightforwardness and the way that it very well may be utilized for both characterization and relapse assignments.

Random Forest is a directed learning algorithm. Like we would as of now have the capacity to see from its name, it makes a forest and some way or another make it random. The “forest “it builds, is an outfit of Decision Trees, more often trained with the “bagging” technique. The common idea of the bagging technique is that a mix of learning models builds the general yield.

One major favorable noteworthy point of random forest is, that it is extremely well utilized for both regression and classification problems, which outline the lion's share of present ML (machine learning) frameworks. I will discuss about this algorithm in classification technique, since classification is considered the main pillar of ML (machine learning) frameworks. Just take a look of below diagram of two trees to understand the random forest algorithm.

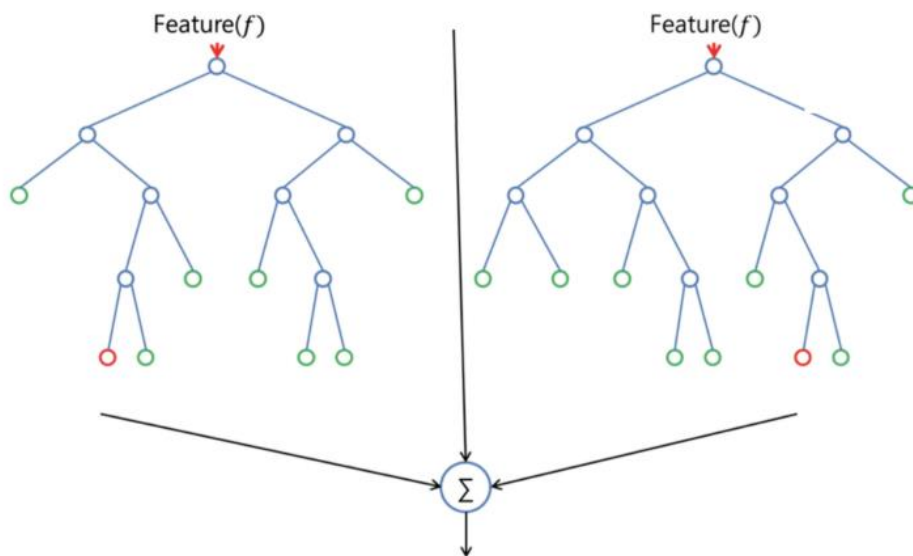


Fig-11: Random Forest

Random Forest has almost the equivalent hyper parameters as a bagging classifier or a decision tree. Luckily, we don't need to consolidate a decision tree with a bagging classifier and can just effectively



utilize the classifier-class of Random Forest. Like I previously stated, with Random Forest, we can likewise manage with Regression tasks by utilizing the Random Forest regressor.

Random Forest adds extra haphazardness to the model, while developing the trees. Rather than scanning and finding the most critical feature while dividing a node, we look for the best feature among all the features present in random subset. This outcome in a wide difference and diversity that results in a superior model.

As per the above explanation, in Random Forest, just an arbitrary subset of the features is taken into consideration by the algorithm for dividing a node. We can even make trees dynamically, by considering the dynamic thresholds for each feature rather than scanning the ideal thresholds (such as a typical decision tree does).

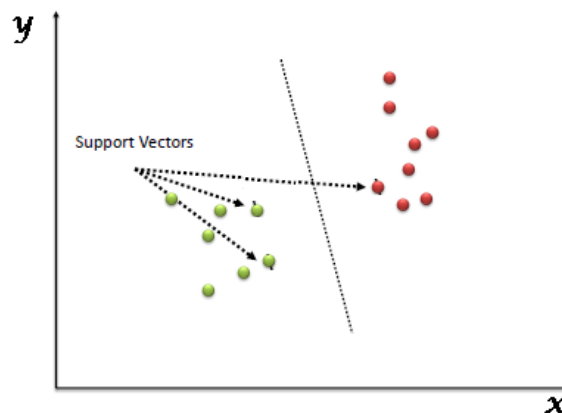
If we consider the performance parameter it is hard to beat Random Forest in terms of performance. Of course we always try to find out the model that can do better than neural network, however this approach usually takes more time in the development. What's more, in addition, they can deal with different feature properties, like categorical, numerical and binary.

Overall, Random Forest is a fast, flexible and very simple method to use, although it also comes with constraints and limitations.

2) **Random Forest** with 300 estimators with a minimum split of 2

3) **Support Vector Machine** with Radial basis function kernel with cubic polynomial as kernel function and  $1/\text{no of features}$  as kernel coefficient.

Support Vector Machine" also known as SVM in short form is a part of supervised machine learning algorithm which is best suitable for both classification and regression challenges. However, it is often considered in problems related to classification. In SVM algorithm, we consider or plot every datum thing as a point in n-dimensional space with the estimation that each feature being the estimation of a specific coordinate. Then, we create classification by searching the hyper plane that separates the two



classes exceptionally well (refer above diagram).

Fig 12: SVM

Support Vectors signifies the co-ordinates of human perception. SVM is a wilderness which best confine the two classes (line/hyperplane).

Upsides and downsides related with SVM

• Advantage:

- SVM works amazingly well with clear edge of partition ◦
- SVM is convincing in high dimensional spaces
- SVM is convincing in circumstances where number of estimations is more critical than the amount of tests.
- SVM uses a subset of getting ready concentrations in the decision limit (called support vectors), so it is in like manner memory viable.

• Disadvantage

- It doesn't perform well, when we have broad instructive gathering because the required planning time is higher
- It similarly doesn't perform uncommonly well, when the educational file has more hullabaloo for instance target classes are covering
- SVM doesn't clearly give probability measures, these are resolved using an expensive five-wrinkle cross-endorsement. It is associated SVC procedure for Python scikit-learn library.

**The models were then tested on the testing data using Mean Squared Error as loss function**

## **4.6 Transmission & Hit of Predicted data**

After completion of system training, Prediction module is able to predict the future frame will most likely be watched by user.

So our system maintain 2 caches, One is normal cache like existing system in which it contains the complete 360 data with high quality data at FOV region and low quality data for rest region of 360 video. Second cache contains 1 min of future data from current time. This future data fetch from the server on the basis of prediction module result. So if user's current FOV same as predicted FOV then 2<sup>nd</sup> cache will be utilized (hit) otherwise cache-1 will be used (miss-hit). Our prediction system accuracy is around 94% so most of the time hit occur.

# Chapter 5: Results & Analysis

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## 5.1 Data Collection and Preprocessing Details

In our project we simultaneously consider sensor and content related historical data to estimate the viewer's FOV ahead of time. The sensor related features include VR device orientation sensors like magnetometer and accelerometer, while the historical data include the complete data of previous watching orientation of video by different users.

We called around 20 colleagues to test and generate the data on 4 videos (Duck, Suthep, Helicopter and Bridge) over a period of 2 months.

### **Content related:**

The gathered data was split into test and training data with 25% going to testing and 75% going to training. All the values were scaled between 0 and 1.

- 1) Random Forest with 100 estimators with a minimum split of 2
- 2) Random Forest with 300 estimators with a minimum split of 2
- 3) Support Vector Machine with Radial basis function kernel with cubic polynomial as kernel function and  $1/\text{no of features}$  as kernel coefficient.

Please see the result from all the three models.

Collected data based on time with respect to uv mapping in 360 video in ERP mapping.

UV mapping corresponds to x and y pixel position within the image.

Please check below the result based on U and V mapping.

The models were then tested on the testing data using Mean Squared Error as loss function

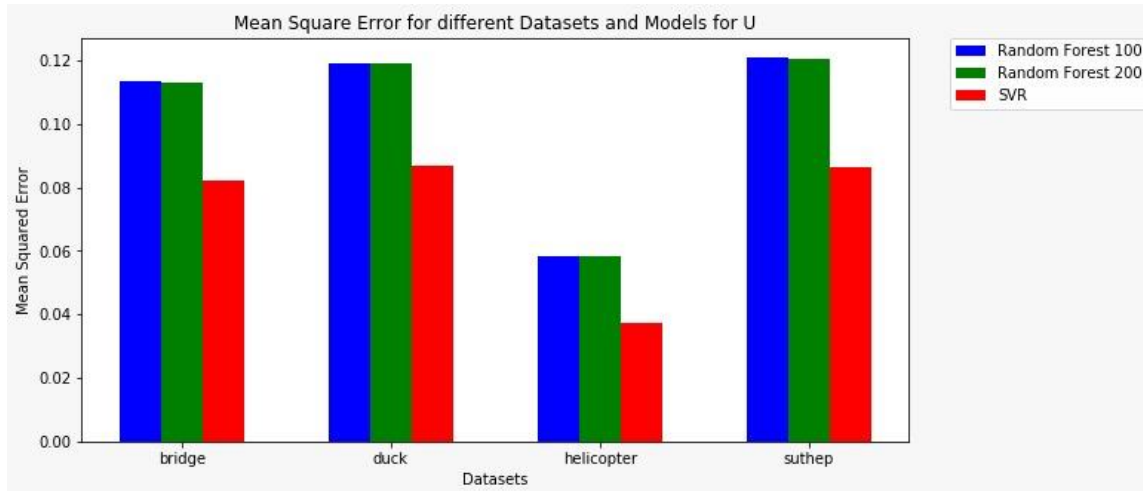


Fig-13 Result comparison for u

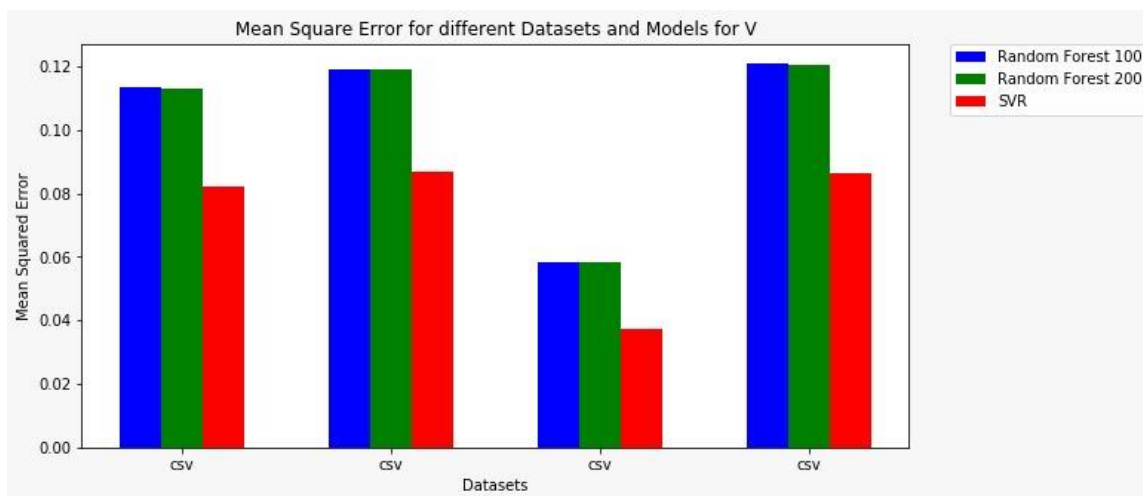


Fig-14: Result comparison for v

### Sensor based Data

For Data collection we have used Unity software initially to simulate readings of VR which contains yaw, pitch, and roll along with time-stamps, the frequency of the readings is 60Hz. We'll be observing all these 60 readings in a minute and try to predict the reading after 0.5 sec.

Approach:

So the idea is to make a best fit line out of these 60 readings, and using this best fit line to predict the reading 0.5 seconds later. (Linear Regression)

For better prediction I have given weights to readings in such a way that the readings later have more influence in predicting the output than the earlier readings. (Weighted Linear Regression).

**Accuracy:** We have defined accuracy in such a way that if the predicted angle is around 100 then it's a pass else it is a fail.

For the 1st model the total no. of readings are 412.

Count of readings which have a difference under the given angle	10°	15°	20°	30°	40°
	162	240	326	381	411

So accuracy obtained is 39.41%.

## 5.2 Field of View Prediction and Results.

Based on the two feature sets (Content and Sensor) we have applied different model to predict the future FOV.

Content Feature Set – Predict the most probable UV mapping at particular time in each video frame. Using UV mapping we found the FOV area at particular time and request the same to server in advance.

Sensor Feature Set-Here when user start moving or changing the FOV in VR devices we calculate the next coming angular position in advance based on direction and speed of turning and calculate the exact data so using advanced data we know where FOV lands next.

Using both the feature data set we can make our system more **Robust and accurate** in Future.

# Chapter 6: Conclusion

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## 6.1 Conclusive Results

In our project, we collected 20 user's 4 video viewing data on VR HMD. Our models have improved gradually. The improvements have come based on careful and smart hyper parameter tuning, architecture selection and understanding of the data we are dealing with. The accuracy has grown from 80% to 96.5% if we include all the statistical parameters with appropriate hyper parameters.

After achieving such a good accuracy for Field of View prediction, we were able to show high quality data to user always without bad experience, which is obtained using SVM algorithm. SVM is the best known algorithm till now for topic modeling and has worked well for our use project. Once we get the user's FOV in advance we will be in position to reduce the latency of showing the high quality of data always.

At the end, if we achieve the accuracy approx. 99% then we don't require the complete 360 degree data at all. We only require the FOV data at time which is approximately  $1/4^{\text{th}}$  of complete data so doing this we will be able to save the  $3/4^{\text{th}}$  of bandwidth along with best user experience.

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