

Adaptive Colour Space based Robust Image Watermarking Using Serial DWT-HD-SVD domain

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Abstract—Watermarking is used for the authentication and protection of digital image data. The color image watermarking is a challenging task and may end up to be lengthy. Various transformations based methods are used for enhancing watermark robustness and to keep it invisible. Robustness of watermarking methods have been improved using the hybrid DWT-SVD domain. In this paper an improved hybrid transformation method is proposed, using the combination of the Hessenberg Decomposition (HD) with the existing DWT-SVD method. The LAB colour space is adopted at the pre-processing stage for the entropy maximization. The entropy analysis is used for justification of the colour space adaptation. Performance of the existing and proposed method is tested on colour images using parametric analysis of normalized correlation (NC), Peak signal to noise ratio (PSNR) and SSIM. Efficiency of existing watermarking methods may deteriorate under various attacks. The Impact of the various watermark attacks are also evaluated over the extraction quality.

Keywords—Image Watermarking, Invisibility, DWT, SVD, Hessenberg Decomposition, PSNR, SSIM. Watermark attacks.

I. INTRODUCTION

The wide range of the digital true color images are stored over the Internet introduces the need image data protection. DWT-SVD based watermarking methods are widely being used in literature [1] for improving the robustness. An watermarking method must be robust against the various attacks. The prime concern of this paper is to focus on color images security. Watermarking method is used for securing true color imagery data from copy rights and protecting them from various attacks viz. Noise, median filtering, cropping, and rotation attacks. In order to improve the robustness of the watermarking, an improved hybrid transformation method is proposed using the combination of the Hessenberg Decomposition (HD) with the existing DWT-SVD method [2]. Various scanning modalities enable to capture colour true color images [2]. The color features are more precisely understood and segmented by the human eyes. For improving the performance an adaptive LAB colour space adoption is proposed for more robustness. As it is expected that entropy is improved in LAB space.

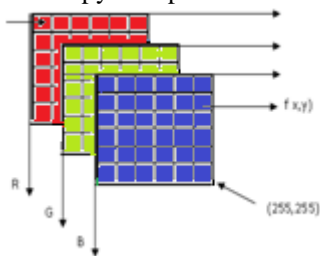


Fig.1. Color RGB image representation [3]

A color image is a 3D array of the size $m \times n \times 3$, the coordinates x and y can have values between $(0, 0)$ to $(255, 255)$ corresponding to RGB color space.

Therefore, these coloured images are more fruitful and valuable than similar gray level images. The color image is represented in matrix form as in Figure 1. The pixel value of a color image f may lie between 0 – 255 for all RGB domains and brightness is given by;

$$f(x, y) = 0 \leq g \leq 2^{n-1} \quad (1)$$

where n is the number of bits where 0 is black and 255 means pure white. The watermarking needs to satisfy the property of invisibility to have good visual quality. Usually invisibility is more in the transform domain methods thus they are our prime concern in this paper. Transform domain based methods are further classified as in Figure 2.

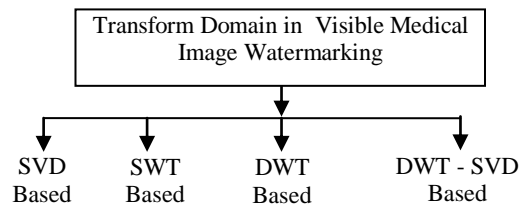


Fig.2. Classification chart of transform domain true color image watermarking methods

Transformation based true color image watermarking methods as mentioned in Figure 2 are widely used to improve robustness and invisibility of the watermark. Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT) and Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) are widely used with all three mentioned methodologies for adding robustness.

This paper reviews the limitations of existing transformation based true color image watermarking methods designed for protection of true color imaging data in section 2. The wavelet based watermarking methods and basic concepts of DWT decomposition and its benefits are briefly explored in section 3. In next section concept of color spaces and SVD along with their properties are discussed. In this paper the Lab color space is proposed to opt for watermarking and expected to improve entropy.

The luminance component L of adopted LAB color space is separated and chroma components (A and B) are preserved for reproduction. Implementing the Color Image Watermarking (CIW) in LAB color space shows the improvement over previous method [2], the proposed methodology is explained in section 5. Finally the results of CIW and entropy analysis along with watermark embedding and reconstruction are presented. The entropy and PSNR as quality measures, and conclusions are discussed in the section 6.

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II. RELATED WORK

Numerous watermarking methods were designed in the literature. This paper focuses to review the transform based methodologies based on hybrid SVD and DWT domain, Ying Huang et al [1] have proposed an spread spectrum nased method for dopting the empeding parameters. They tried to improve the gurentee of PSNR perfoamcne. Junxiu Liu et al [2] have proposed an new hybrid approach of combining the HD with DWT-SVD doain for embedding the watermark. they also evaluated thrfroamcneunser various attacks by varying the scaling parameter for embedding. They also analysed the performance under different watermark sizes. But there method shows the gray level results.Y. Tan, et al [3] have used channel coding method for embedding thusee SVD based watermarking for copyright protection application. watermark in the Y-Cb-Cr colot space. They have embedded the watermark using the SVD of the HL wavelet sub-band. Further DWT-SVD based methods are explained in [4, 5, and 6] respectively.Ramanand Singh. Paresh Rawat have proposed to use the Stationary Wavelet transform (SWT) for embedding the watermark using Edge detection. R. Rykaczewski et al [8] have used used the SVD for copy right protection.Q. Su et al [13 and 14] have used the HD decomposition for designing the watermarking method for images. Thus this papertakes advantage of Q. Su approach forimprovingrobustness.

III. WAVELET DECOMOPOSITIONS

Discrete wavelet transform (DWT) is widely being used fro improving the robustness of the watermarking methods. DWT down samples the image using low pass and high pass filter banks to multi resolution subbands as LL, LH,HL, and HH. An example of the DWT decomposition of the input image upto level 1 and level 2 are givein in the Figure 3.It is clear that thetransform domain DWT offers more robustness due to better embedding options.

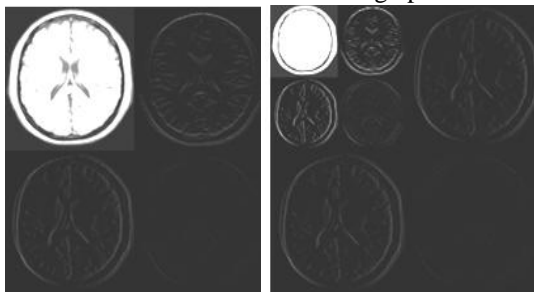


Fig.3. DWT decomposition example images a) First level, b) Second Level 2

IV. HD AND SVD FOR IMAGE PROCESSING

HD:It is representing the Hessenberg Decomposition, is a matrix decompositions usedfor only square matrix decomposition [13, 14]. A $n \times n$ square size matrix X may be decomposed using HD as given in the Eq.

$$PHP^T = HD(X); \tag{2}$$

SVD: The concept of singular value decomposition (SVD) is widely used for watermarking the images.Using the SVDcan decomposed an image matrix/of size $x * y$ as product of three matrices given by

$$I = U * S * V^T \tag{3}$$

Finalythe Smatrix is singular values.

V. PROPOSED WATERMARK EMBEDING

The proposed watermarking method embeds the watermark lpgo in decomposed DWTcoefficients followed by the HD decomposition and then replacing SVD values. There are two major contributions of this methods are: It adopts the color component adaptively based on entropy analysis.While as an improvement over [2], paper makes method more fast the DWT level are kept fixed to 2 by adjusting the size of the watermark

Watermark Embeding

The Flow Chart of proposed watermark embedding method is presented in Figure 5. The dual key are used to embede the watermark serialy every time different text numeric key is used for embedding. Sequential procedure for embedding the watermark is presented as follows;

1. Read the input true color images or cover image.
2. Convert RGB to LAB color components.
3. Use the L level DWT to tune the watermark ad cover image size.
4. Calculate HD decomposition.
5. Find the SVD values on H component.
6. Generate watermrked image by replacing SVD of coverimage from SVD of the Logo.
7. Take the inverse SVD, HD and DWT to reconstruct the watermarked true color image then merge colors.

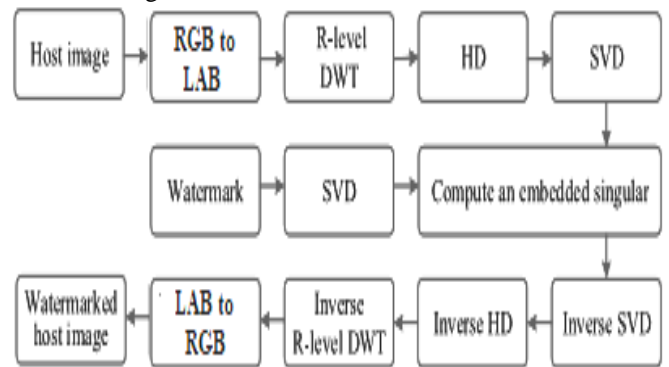


Fig.4. Block diagram of proposed watermarking methodology

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this section the expected outcomes of the proposed watermarking methodsare presented. Also in sexond part odsection the parametric evaluation of the performance is presented. The various inputcolouriimages used for the current study are presented in the Figure 5. The first stage basic watermarking and extraction results are shown in the Figure 6 for Lena image with L component. The efficiency of the waremarkretrival can be clerly observed for the Figure.



a) Lena image b) Baboon Image



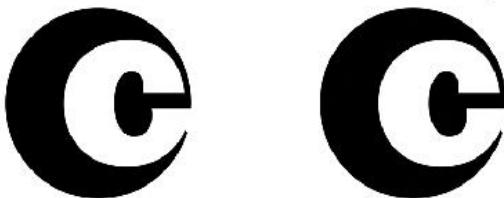
c) peppers image d) Yatch image

Fig.5. Input images used for study.



a) Cover image b) Watermarked image

DWT-HD-SVD method $\alpha =$ Sharpening attack



c) Watermark logo d) Extracted watermark

Fig.6. Results of watermarking without any attack and extracted images.

In order for performance comparison watermarking results of the Junxiu Liu at al [2] and the our proposed method with different logo size are compared in Figure 7

watermarked image of watermark size 256x256 watermarked image of watermark size 128x128 watermarked image of watermark size 64x64



PSNR= 38.1621 SSIM= 0.9992 extracted watermark PSNR= 38.1625 SSIM= 0.9992 extracted watermark PSNR= 38.2477 SSIM= 0.9991 extracted watermark



a) watermarking results of the Junxiu Liu at al [2]

watermarked image of watermark size 256x256 watermarked image of watermark size 128x128 watermarked image of watermark size 64x64



PSNR=35.0905 SSIM=0.9996 extracted watermark PSNR=41.0702 SSIM=0.9992 extracted watermark PSNR=47.0785 SSIM=0.9992 extracted watermark



NC=0.99999 NC=0.99996 NC=0.99967

b) Watermarking with proposed Lab space

Fig.7. Results comparison of watermarked and extracted logo images with proposed method in LAB space

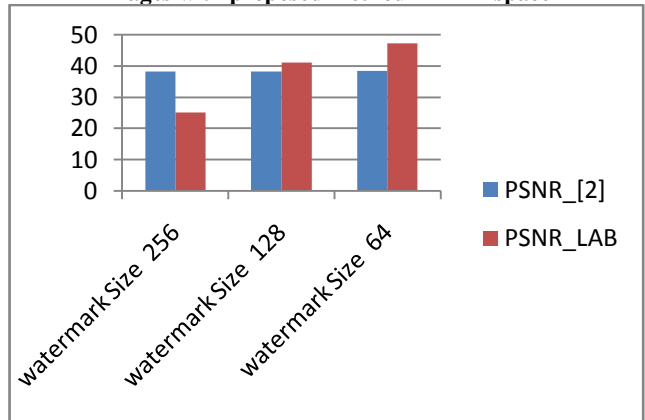


Fig.8. Comparison of the PSNR performance.

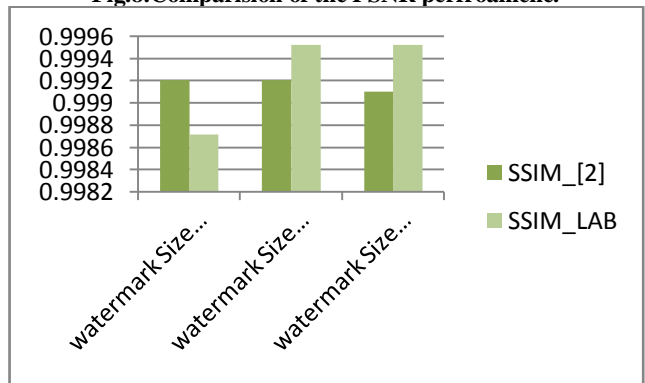


Fig.9. Comparison of the SSIM performance

The parametric performance of the comparison shown in figure 7 are evaluated and plotted in Bar chart form for the peak signal to noise ratio (PSNR) and the structure similarity index measure (SSIM) in the Figure 8 and Figure 9 respectively.

It is observed that the proposed method outperforms then existing one for different watermark size. Of 128 x128 and 64 x64. There is a significant improvement in the SSIM performance.

Performance Under Attacks

In order to show the performance under the various attacks in this section the PSNR performance is varied under the different scaling parameter embedding and plotted against different attacks.

Results of the PSNR comparison for different attacks with proposed method are presented in the Figure 10. In this paper Gaussian filter, Median filters, Gaussian noise, Average Filter and the Motion Blur attacks are considered for the evaluating the performance under the presence of Gaussian filter attack for different attacks are presented in the Figure 11.

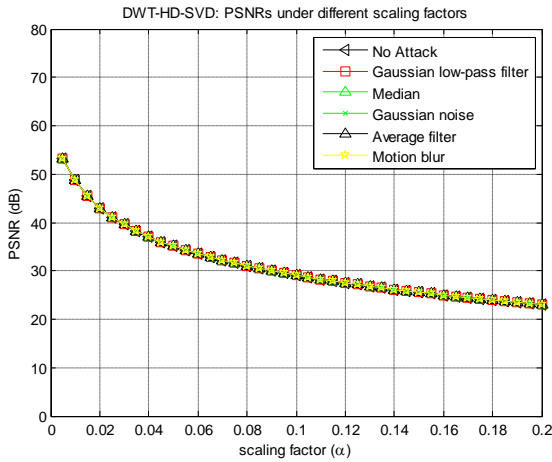


Fig.10. Results of the PSNR comparison for different attacks with proposed method.

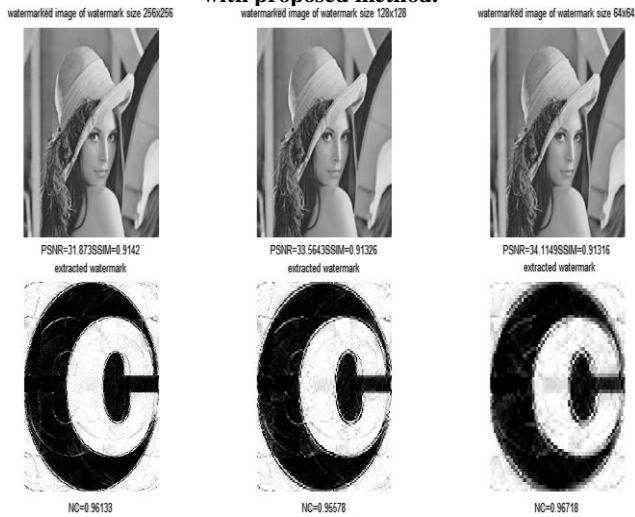
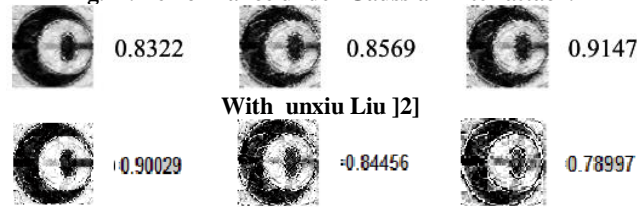
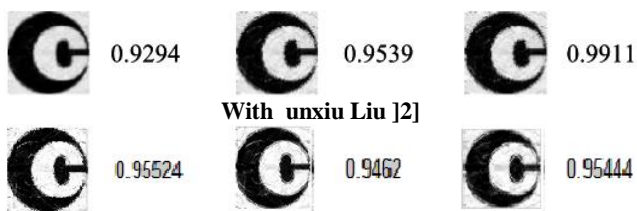


Fig.11. Performance under Gaussian filter attack.



a) Extracted With proposed method for Motion blur



b) Extracted With proposed method for Average Filter

Fig.12. Comparison of the performance under the different attacks for proposed and existing method.

The performance improvement with the proposed LAB color space based watermarking can be clearly observed from the comparison of performance under the different attacks. For proposed and existing method. As shown in Figure 12.

VII. CONCLUSION AND FUTUREWORK

In this paper an modified watermarking method is proposed for improving the robustness. As an modification the watermarking is implemented in the LAB color space instead of RGB space.

The watermarking is implemented using the DWT-HD-SVD domain. The scaling parameter alpha is varied for performance evaluation. The performance of the proposed method is compared with the existing method under the presence of different attacks.

It is observed that the proposed method outperforms as then existing one for different watermark size. of 128 x128 and 64 x64. There is a significant improvement in the SSIM performance. It is observed that for the motion blur attack the performance of proposed method for 256x256 size is improved for NC from 0.8322 to 0.9003 and for the average filter 0.9294 to 0.9552. In future various embedding rules and the wavelet filters can be evaluated for performance.

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