



A Multiple Image Watermarking With Fuzzy C-Means (FCM) Clustering Scheme for Copyright Prevention and Image Authorization

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Abstract—Watermarking software is one of the most important methods for protecting copyrights, certifying ownership, and combating software piracy. The advancement of communication technology has resulted in an enormous amount of digital data that needs to be protected. Watermarking is a technique for concealing private information in an original signal while improving its overall performance. Multiple watermarking, which involves inserting more than one watermark into a single multimedia product, is another hot topic in the world of digital picture watermarking. Using simply a digital watermarking approach, a trademark or copyright message is discreetly inserted in the medical image. Many academics have collaborated to create ANFIS, which includes a watermark in the principal (cover) image. Watermarking embedding locations can be chosen based on regions of interest (ROIs). We first deconstruct the cover image into four sub-bands with 3-L LWT, then modify the singular values inside each band with SVD. Following various attacks on the watermarked image, such as blurring, adding noise, pixelation, rotation, rescaling, contrast adjustment, gamma correction, histogram equalisation, cropping, sharpening, lossy compression, and so on, the original inserted watermark image is extracted from all bands and compared using MSE and PSNR values. The trials reveal that changing all frequencies makes our watermarked image more resistant to a wide range of image processing attacks (including standard geometric attacks), i.e. we can effectively recover the watermark from some of the four sub-bands using LSTM Neural Network.

I. INTRODUCTION

Due to the rapid growth of internet activity, a great deal of digital information is widely distributed. Digital watermarking was developed to hide digital data while protecting the copyright of multimedia signals including audio, video, and photos. Because the discrete-time wavelet transform (DWT) provides a useful platform, many DWT-based algorithms for digital watermarking have been presented in recent years.

Watermarking in the spatial domain [1–11] is often more fragile than watermarking in the frequency domain [12–29] with the same embedding capacity, due to the fact that spatial-domain approaches are generally more vulnerable to image-processing operational processes and other attacks [23–25]. The spatial-domain singular value decomposition (SVD) for picture watermarking was first introduced by Liu et al. [8]. By modifying the singular values of the host image in the spatial domain using a spread-spectrum approach, the authors were able to insert a watermark in this work. Some authors attached watermarks to U and V components to boost embedding capacity [9, 10], whereas Ghazy et al. [11] suggested a block-by-block SVD-based image-watermarking approach. The spatial domain robustness of SVD-based picture watermarking, on the other hand, is restricted. In recent years, many image-watermarking techniques have merged DWT with SVD to improve transparency and robustness [17, 18, 24, 25]. Bao et al. [17] proposed a novel, yet basic, picture-adaptive watermarking system for image authentication by employing a simple quantization index-modulation technique on each single unique value of the blocks in the wavelet domain. Their watermarking method is blind and resistant to JPEG compression, but it is especially prone to malicious manipulations such as filtering and random noise. Ganic et al. [18] applied SVD to all details, approximating a portion of the DWT, and the watermark picture to increase embedding capability. Gaurav and Balasubramanian [24] implanted a watermark into the reference image by replacing the singular values of the reference image with the singular values of the watermark. The robustness has been improved slightly. On the other hand, the computation has been substantially improved. Lai and Tsai [25] simplified the algorithm in [24] by directly embedding the watermark into the singular values in the wavelet domain. We divide the DWT middle frequency components LH3 and HL3 into several square blocks to obtain huge embedding capacity. Rather than employing a spread-spectrum technique on single singular values, we use several singular value quantizations to include a watermark bit [24, 25]. While keeping a high embedding capacity, it achieves remarkable resistance to median filtering. On the other hand, an optimal quality formula is proposed by reducing the difference between original and watermarked singular values. As a matrixed performance statistic, the peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR) is first established. Using an optimised quality functional, the performance index is then linked to the quantization technique. Finally, the Lagrange Principle is employed to generate a high-quality formula that is then used to make watermarks. Experiments show that the watermarked image can maintain a high PSNR and achieve a better bit error rate

even as the number of coefficients for embedding a watermark bit rises (BER). The resistance to median filtering, in particular, has improved dramatically.

The following is a breakdown of the structure of the paper. In Section II, we go through some mathematical fundamentals. Section III goes over the suggested watermark embedding and extraction methods. In Section IV, PSNR is rebuilt as a performance index. The optimized-quality issue, which is based on an optimized-quality equation that relates the performance index to the quantization restriction, is frequently solved using the Lagrange Principle. The solution is used to embed the watermark, and the effect is fantastic: the watermark can be retrieved without the original image being removed. In Section V, we present some experiments and a performance table to evaluate the proposed scheme's performance. Finally, conclusions are drawn in Section VI.

II. PRELIMINARIES

Some associated stages for the suggested image watermarking technique are reviewed in this section.

DISCRETE-TIME WAVELET TRANSFORM (DWT)

The wavelet transform (WT) is widely used in signal analysis, both stationary and nonstationary. The removal of electrical noise from signals, the detection of abrupt discontinuities, and the compression of vast volumes of data are all examples of these uses. As seen by publications published in the literature [31–33], the use of WT in corrosion experiments is not uncommon.

Similar to the Fourier transform (FT), which represents a signal with sine and cosine functions of limitless duration, the WT can split a signal into a number of constituent signals known as wavelets, each with a well defined, dominating frequency. Wavelets are short-duration transient functions in WT, that is, functions with a restricted duration centred around a certain time. The FT's drawback is that information about what happens in time is lost while moving from the time domain to the frequency domain. It is straightforward to discern the frequency content of the signal being studied by looking at the frequency spectrum acquired using the FT, but it is not able to determine when the components of the signal in the frequency spectrum appear or depart. Unlike the FT, the WT allows for analysis in both the time and frequency domains, providing data on the evolution of a signal's frequency content over time [34].

The WT has been discretized, just like the FT, and is now known as a discrete wavelet transform (DWT), which offers a significant benefit over classic FT approaches. The WT decomposes a signal into numerous scales representing distinct frequency bands, and the position of the WT at each scale can be established at the critical time characteristic with which the electrical noise may be identified and removed successfully. Information can be retrieved from high-frequency components using short-time wavelets. Electrical noise is more likely to exhibit high-frequency variations, therefore this knowledge is crucial for removing it [35]. Low-frequency information can be extracted using long-term wavelets. We can create a threshold and zero the frequencies below the unwanted threshold of the electric noise using the high and low frequency information [36].

Donoho and Johnstone [36] proposed the use of a threshold for the removal of Gaussian white electrical noise in signals, which led to the pioneering work of removing electrical noise from signals using the WT. Similar works, but using the undecimated discrete wavelet transform (UWT), are presented subsequently, allowing for the elimination of electrical noise using a nonlinear technique proposed by Coifman and Donoho [37].

The DWT is considered a suitable tool for the elimination of electric noise as a novel alternative to procedures of attenuation of electrical noise with the use of low-pass filters of systems Lock-In Amplifier or fast Fourier transform (FFT) that alone can be used in circumstances where the electrical noise has a very small overlap of bands or is completely different and separated from the signal and noise to be able to use the method of filtering.

The Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) decomposes a signal into sinusoidal basis functions of various frequencies in Fourier analysis. This transformation does not lose any information; in other words, the original signal may be fully recovered from its DFT (FFT) representation. The Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT) decomposes a signal into a set of mutually orthogonal wavelet basis functions in wavelet analysis. These functions differ from sinusoidal basis functions in that they are spatially localised, meaning that they are nonzero only across a portion of the whole signal duration. Wavelet functions are also dilated, translated, and scaled variants of the mother wavelet, which is a common function. The DWT is invertible, just like Fourier analysis, therefore the original signal can be reconstructed completely from its DWT form. Unlike the DFT, the DWT refers to a collection of transforms, each with its own set of wavelet basis functions. The Haar wavelets and the Daubechies wavelets are two of the most popular.

It is important to note the following important properties:

1. Wavelet functions are spatially localized;
2. Wavelet functions are dilated, translated and scaled versions of a common mother wavelet; and
3. Each set of wavelet functions forms an orthogonal set of basis functions.

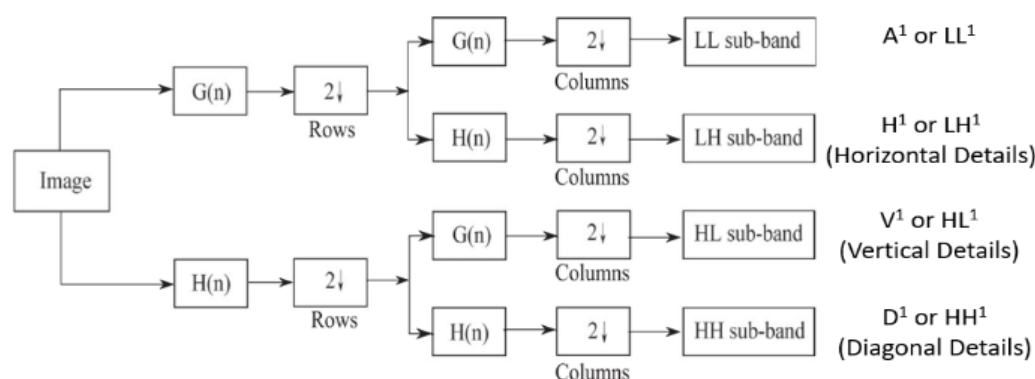


Figure 1: One-level, two-dimensional DWT.

The fundamental, one-level, two-dimensional DWT technique is shown in Figure 1. First, we run a one-level, one-dimensional DWT across the image's rows. Second, along the columns of the altered image from the first step, we apply a one-level, one-dimensional DWT. The consequence of these two sets of processes, as shown in Figure 2 (left), is a modified image with four unique bands: (1) LL, (2) LH, (3) HL, and (4) HH. The letters L and H stand for low-pass and high-pass filtering, respectively. The LL band generally corresponds to a two-fold downsampled rendition of the original image. In the original image, the LH band tends to maintain localised horizontal characteristics, while the HL band tends to preserve localised vertical features. Finally, the HH band isolates high-frequency point features in the image that are confined.

We don't necessary want to stop there, as in the one-dimensional example, because the one-level, two-dimensional DWT retrieves only the highest frequencies in the image. Lower frequency features in the image can be extracted using additional layers of decomposition; these new levels are applied solely to the LL band of the converted image at the previous level. Figure 2 (right) shows a three-level, two-dimensional DWT applied to a sample image.

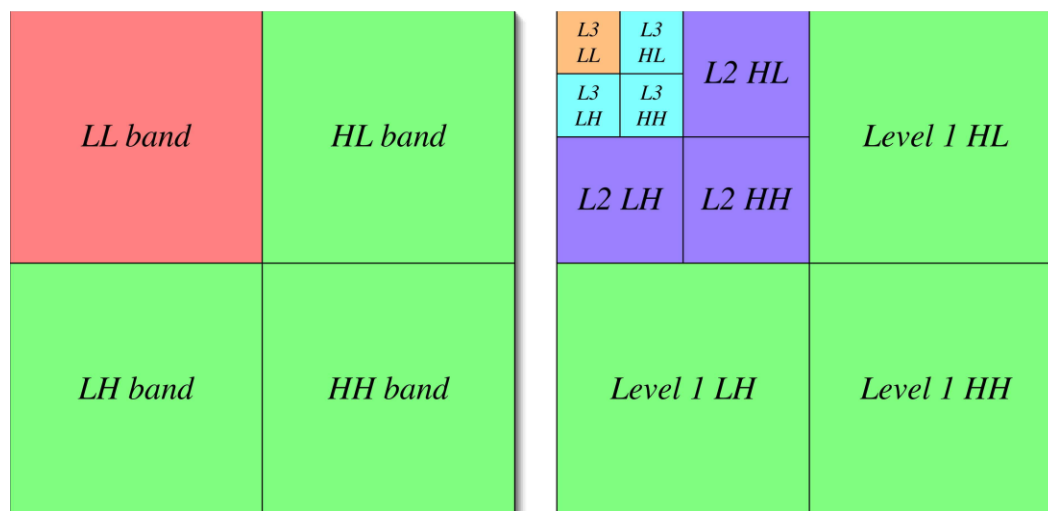


Figure 2: Two-dimensional wavelet transform: (left) one-level 2D DWT of sample image, and (right) three-level 2D DWT

SINGULAR VALUE DECOMPOSITION (SVD)

The singular value decomposition (SVD) of a mn real - valued function matrix A with m n continues to perform analogous row and column functions on A in such a manner that the ensuing matrix is tangential, and diagonal results (singular values) are organised in reducing value and relate with the square root of $AT* T$ Eigen values [49]. The columns of the millimeter, U matrix, as well as the sections of the nn , V structure, have mutually perpendicular unit vectors. The matrix U and V are diagonal, i.e.

$$U^T * U = V^T * V = V V^T = 1 \quad (1)$$

S is a pseudo-diagonal matrix with absolute scores for main diagonal. We can re-create the diagonal A by adopting following method:

$$A = USV^T \quad (2)$$

The SVD approach has a few key qualities that make it ideal for digital watermarking:

III. ADAPTIVE NEURO FUZZY INFERENCE SYSTEMS (ANFIS)

An ANFIS blends fuzzy logic with neural network techniques to create a fuzzy inference system. ANFIS is a fuzzy logic inference system based on Takagi-Sugeno fuzzy logic inference systems. To get the best value for the fuzzy inference system's design variables, an artificial neural network is used. By training the artificial neural network with data sets, the fuzzy inference system has acquired an adaptable property. A hybrid strategy is used to train the neural network, which combines the well-known back-propagation active learning method with the regression method [38].

The following features of ANFIS controllers make them ideal for nonlinear and time-varying applications:

- Because of its adaptable capability, it is directly applicable to adaptive control.
- Capacity to learn
- Effective Knowledge representation that is structured
- Improved compatibility with various control design techniques
- Parallel operation flexibility.

ANFIS permits data sets to be used to determine the rule base and membership functions for this purpose.

Because of the ANFIS design, the rules can be built but with a decompositional technique. ANFIS is a multi-layer feed-forward network that can be divided into two types: adaptive and fixed networks. On the received signal, each node (neuron) performs a specific function. The rules are retrieved at the neural network's individual node level, then aggregated to reflect the system's overall dynamics (Jang 1993). Fuzzy if-then rules with appropriate membership functions provide the first stated input-output pairings, and these membership functions acquire their final forms over training thanks to regression and optimization approaches. The gradient vector is a measurement of how effectively the system imitates the specified training data set for a variety of parameters. Optimization methods are used to change the parameters after getting the gradient vector in order to decrease a defined error criteria. The system conforms whenever the training and checking mistakes are still within an acceptable range.

The first-order Sugeno fuzzy model will be used to illustrate the blind control system because it is a first-order process. We shall employ the first order Sugeno fuzzy model for dynamic application again because of its effectiveness and accountability (Zilouchian and Howard 2001). Sugeno models with more levels of complexity add to the system's complexity without adding much value. As a result, the blind control system [66] is configured as a first-order system.

Because there is no computationally difficult defuzzification technique, each rule has crisp output, as illustrated in Figure 4.4 (a) on the linked page, and the total output is calculated using a weighted average to reduce calculation time. The crisp output was necessary whenever the fuzzy system was employed as a controller. Because of these features, the Sugeno system is the most popular choice for sample-based fuzzy modelling, which we used in our study.

A two-input first-order sugeno fuzzy model with two rules is shown in Figure 3. (a). The rule basis of a two-rule fuzzy set is supplied by

$$\text{If } x \text{ is } A_1 \text{ and } y \text{ is } B_1 \text{ then } Z_1 = p_1 * x + q_1 * y + r_1 \quad (3)$$

$$\text{If } x \text{ is } A_2 \text{ and } y \text{ is } B_2 \text{ then } Z_2 = p_2 * x + q_2 * y + r_2 \quad (4)$$

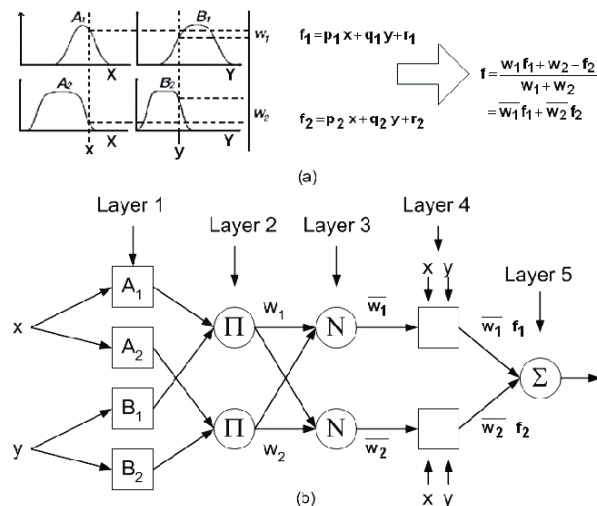


Figure 3: (a) Two Input Fuzzy Reasoning for a Sugeno System (b) Equivalent ANFIS Architecture (Jang et al. 1997)

IV. OPTIMIZATION SOLVER

Some optimization strategies are given in [29–31] to identify the extreme of the matrix function. The matrix function's operations are first demonstrated as follows:

- (1) Extract a four-bit block from the secret image in question (s)
- (2) Create a four-bit covert image block set for each block.
- (3) Retrieve the next progressively possible 2x2inon overlapping sub block matrix of either the cover image and apply forward transformation with the very first three pixel bytes as shown here, leaving the fourth pixel byte alone, in row major order. Consider that the digits to the right of the relevant sub matrix number M are [D5D4D3D2D1D0], with a 512x512 colour cover image having up to 6 digits.
- (4) Extract the concealed bits one by one, starting with four-bit blocks.

Calculate the next immediate bigger multiple value of $(N+4)$ w.r.t the matrix integer M as R as well as the LSB location P for bit placement utilising the two top right MSB bits of the transformed pixel byte to conceal a bit throughout the first transformed matrix element.

Determining the LSB position L value for bit insertion as a means of hiding a bit in the second conversion element

$$L = (((D5+D4+D3+D2+D1+D0)\%4 + (D1D0)\%4) \times (D5+D4+D3+D2+D1+D0) + K^e + K^f) \% 4.$$

There's a little something concealed inside the third modified matrix element. A concealed bit is hidden using the fourth matrix element. Execute inverse transformation on the initial three bit embedded matrix component data.

If necessary, change the values of the intermediate matrix components to keep their exact values inside the spatial domain ranges (0-255).

- (5) Repeat the first and second stages until all of the hidden image's secret bits have been devoured.

- (6) Stop.

The steps of extraction process are as follows,

1. Read next consecutive 2x2 non overlapping sub matrix.
2. For each such sub block matrix do the following tasks
 - 2.1 Apply forward transform on the first three matrix elements as in Fig1 and separate their integer part.
 - 2.2. Extract bit from the first coded matrix element.
 - 2.3 Extract bit from the second coded matrix element.

- 2.4 Extract bit from the third coded matrix element.
- 2.5 Extract bit from the fourth coded matrix element.
- 2.3 Arrange the four extracted secret bits in proper order or sequences to form the secret watermark image.
3. Repeat step1 and step2 for completion of the total secret bit extraction process as per the size of the watermark images.
4. Stop.

V. PROPOSED WATERMARKING SCHEMES

The proposed watermarking scheme is introduced in this section. The watermark is extracted without the original image. The Fuzzy C-Means (FCM) Clustering technique has been used as a proposed work.

Fuzzy C-Means (FCM) Clustering

The objective of color clustering is to divide a color set into C homogeneous color clusters. Color clustering is used in a variety of applications, such as color image segmentation and recognition [33]. Color clustering is an inherently ambiguous task because color boundaries are often blurred. For example, consider the task of dividing a color image into color objects. In color images, the boundaries between objects are blurred and distorted due to the imaging acquisition process. Furthermore, object definitions are not always crisp, and knowledge about the objects in a scene may be vague. Fuzzy set theory and fuzzy logic are ideally suited to deal with such uncertainties. Fuzzy clustering models have proved a particularly promising solution to the color clustering problem. Such unsupervised models can be used with any number of features and clusters. In addition, they distribute membership values across the clusters based on natural groupings in feature space. In fuzzy clustering, the uncertainty inherent in a system is preserved as long as possible before decisions are made. Of the fuzzy clustering algorithms proposed to date, the Fuzzy C-Means (FCM) algorithm proposed by Bezdek is the most widely used in image segmentation because it has robust characteristics for ambiguity and can retain much more information than hard segmentation methods.

Fuzzy c-means is an unsupervised technique that has been successfully applied to feature analysis, clustering, and classifier designs in fields such as astronomy, geology, medical imaging, target recognition, and image segmentation. An image can be represented in various feature spaces, and the FCM algorithm classifies the image by grouping similar data points in the feature space into clusters. This clustering is achieved by iteratively minimizing a cost function that is dependent on the distance of the pixels to the cluster centers in the feature domain [65].

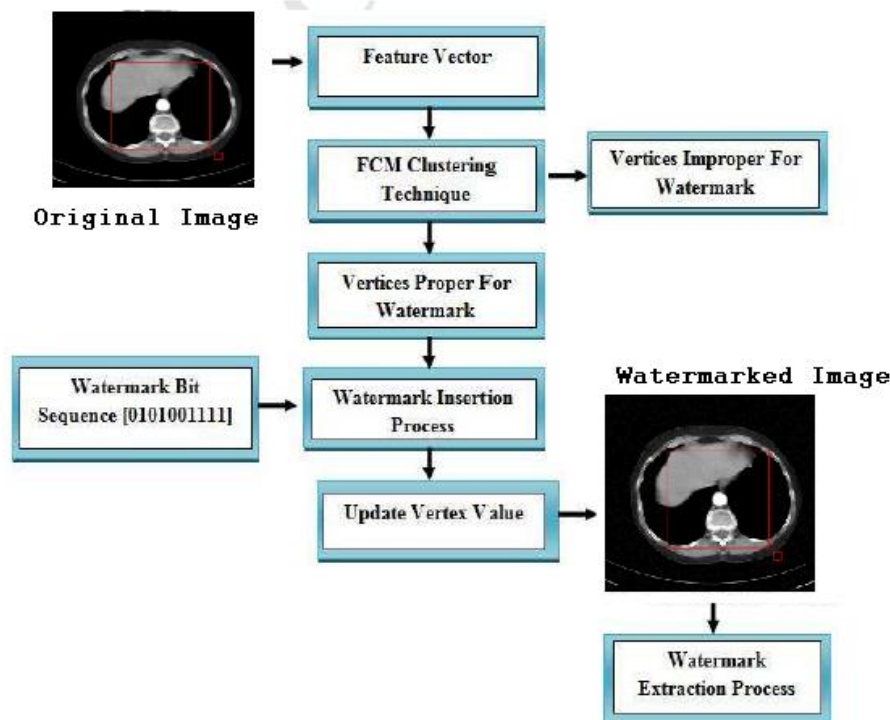


Figure 4: Flowchart of Watermarking Algorithm

A. Embedding Algorithm

Input: Cover Image and Watermark Image

Output: Watermarked Image

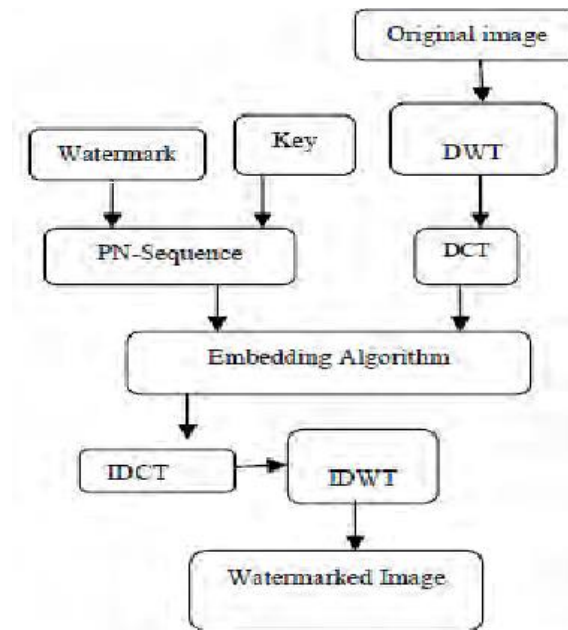


Figure 5: Embedding Process

Read cover image 'P' and watermark image 'WI' with NXN size. The cover image and watermark image is converted into YCbCr colour space from RGB colour space and one of the channel is chosen for embedding. Perform 1-LWT on the Y channel of P and WI to split into four groups. Perform 2-LWT on the HL band of P and WI to split into four groups. Apply WHT on HL band of cover and watermark image.

for $x, m = 0, 1, 2, \dots, M-1$, and $y, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1$. For MxM square images the above transform pair is reduced to

$$H(m, n) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{x=0}^{M-1} \sum_{y=0}^{N-1} HL(x, y) (-1)^{\sum_{i=0}^{u-1} [b_i(x)b_i(m) + b_i(y)b_i(n)]} \quad (5)$$

$b_z(k)$ is the k^{th} bit in the binary representation of z , $HL(x, y)$ is the HL band of cover and watermark image in rows and columns. For $(m, n) = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1$, n is order of sequence

Perform SVD on the WHT coefficient of the P and WI image.

$$[U_j, S_j, V_j] = \text{svd}(X(k)) \quad (6)$$

Modify the singular value of S_i by embedding the singular value of watermark image such that

$$S_e = S_i + \alpha * S_j \quad (7)$$

Where WI is modified matrix of S_i and α denotes the scaling factor, is used to have power over the signal S_j power of watermark.

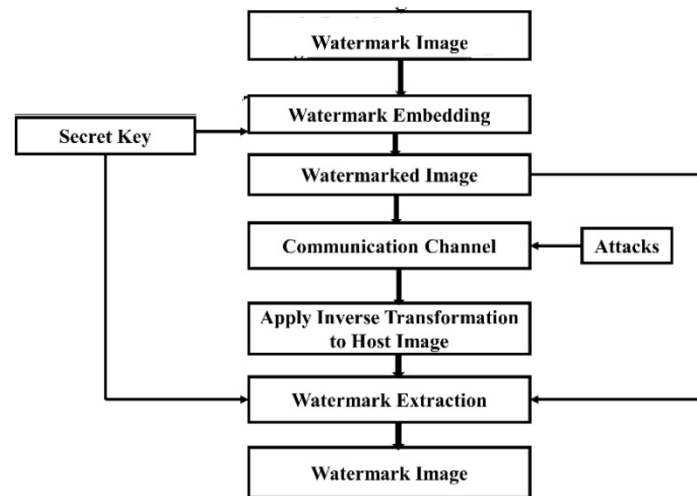
Embed singular matrices with orthogonal matrices for final watermark image as W with below formula:

$$W = U_i * S_e * V_i' \quad (8)$$

Apply 2D-IWHT to reconstruct the matrix.

$$HL(x, y) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{x=0}^{M-1} \sum_{y=0}^{N-1} H(m, n) (-1)^{\sum_{i=0}^{u-1} [b_i(x)b_i(m) + b_i(y)b_i(n)]} \quad (9)$$

Perform the two level inverse LWT (ILWT) on the LWT transformed image, to obtain the watermarked image on four coefficients.

B. Extraction Algorithm**Input: Watermarked Image****Output: Attacked Image****Figure 6:** Extraction Process

Step 1: Apply Gaussian Attack and Crop Attack on watermarked image for security and robustness.

Input: Watermarked Image**Output: Extracted Watermark Image**

Apply two levels LWT transform to decompose the watermarked image W into four overlapping sub-bands. Apply WHT to HL sub band using equation (4.1). Apply SVD to X_m sub band i.e.

$$[U_m, S_m, V_m] = \text{svd}(X_m) \quad (10)$$

Modify the singular value of S_i by extracting the singular value of watermarked image such that

$$S_j = (S_m - S_i) / \alpha \quad (11)$$

Extract singular matrices with orthogonal matrices for final extracted watermark image and cover image as W with below formula:

$$W = U_m * S_j * V_m' \quad (12)$$

Apply 2D-IWHT to reconstruct the matrix in equation (4.5).

To produce the watermarked image with four factors, do the two-level inverted LWT (ILWT) on the LWT converted image as well as the ANFIS operation.

For protection and robustness, use Motion Blur (MB) and Average Attack (AA) just on watermarked image.

Calculate PSNR and RMSE value of watermarked and cover image.

$$RMSE(Y) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{M} \|Y - Y^\wedge\|^2} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M (Y - Y^\wedge)^2 \quad (13)$$

Where x is cover image, $x^\wedge$ is watermarked image, N is the size of the cover image

$$PSNR(Y) = \frac{10 \log((255)^2)}{RMSE(Y)} \quad (14)$$

Where m is the maximum value of the cover image

VI. RESULTS

Original image or input images have a RGB combination. Image processing begins with an image acquisition process. The two elements are required to acquire digital images.

The following figure 7 has been taken to test the system.



Figure 7: Experimental Dataset

Now here, we have use Gaussian Blur and Average Attack while watermarking the images.

Figure 8 shows the cover image as a Brain and the watermark image as Lena, both of which were blurred utilising ref methods.

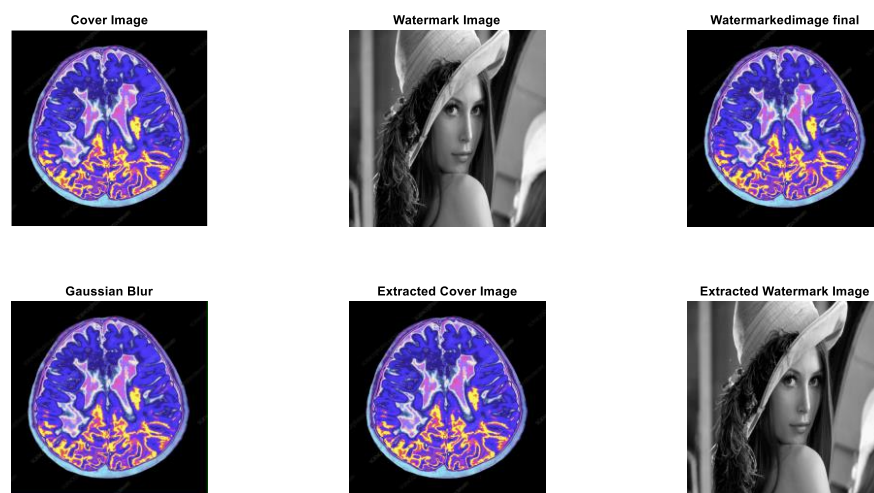


Figure 8: Watermarking Procedure with Gaussian Blur attack

In Figure 9, we used Average Attack with ref methods to create a cover image of a Brain and a watermark image of Lena.

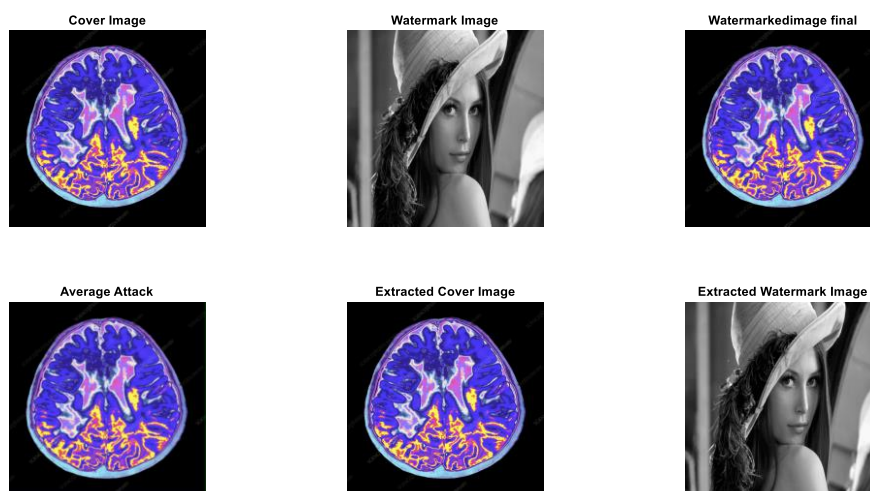


Figure 9: Ref Watermarking Procedure with Average Attack

Figure 10 shows the cover picture as an Petect and the watermark image as Modi, both of which were blurred utilising similar methods.

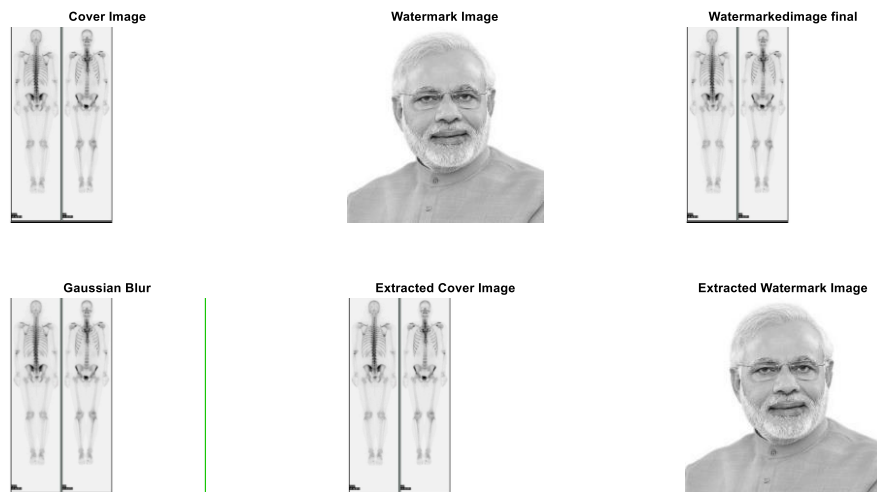


Figure 10: Ref Watermarking Procedure with Gaussian Blur

Figure 11 shows the cover image as an Petect and the watermark image as Modi, both of which were created utilising Average Attack and ref approaches.

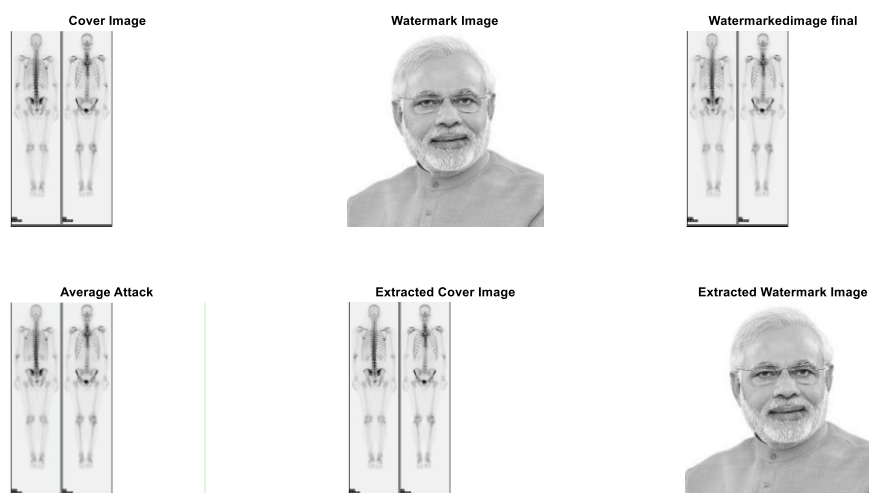


Figure 11: Ref Watermarking Procedure with Average Attack

In Figure 12, we used Proposed methods to create a cover image that looks like an CT Scan and a watermark image that looks like Murmu.



Figure 12: Proposed Watermarking Procedure with Gaussian Blur

Figure 13 shows a cover image of an CT Scan and a watermark image of Murmu utilising Proposed approaches and an Average Attack.



Figure 13: Proposed Watermarking Procedure with Average attack

Similarly, we can test with different images; the following table illustrates the performance.

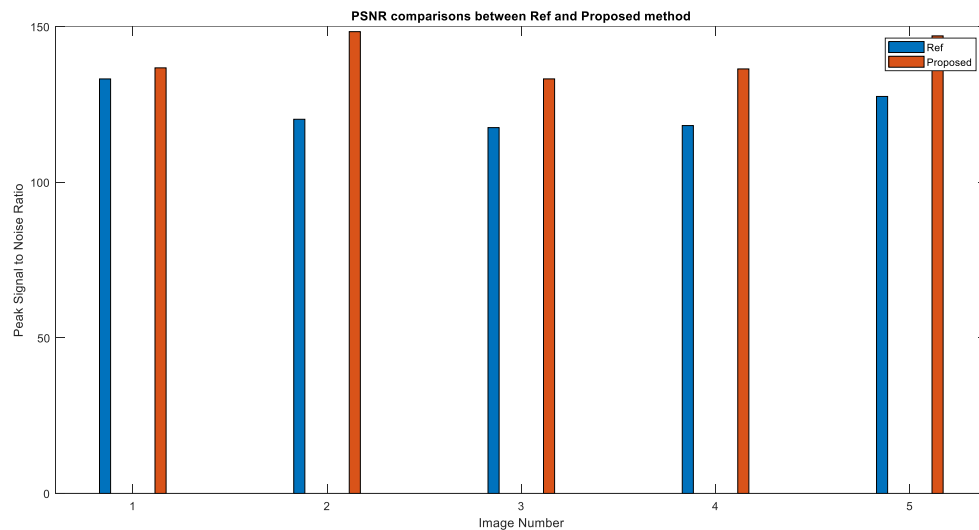
Table 1: PSNR comparison between ref and proposed for watermarking with different Attack

Tick Label	Images		Ref PSNR		Proposed PSNR	
	Cover Image	Watermark Image	Gaussian Blur Attack	Average Attack	Gaussian Blur Attack	Average Attack
A	Brain	Lena	120.0182	133.1981	136.7505	136.7559
B	Petect	Modi	120.2331	120.2335	148.2704	148.3877
C	CT Scan	Murmu	117.5502	117.5504	133.1926	133.2073
D	Tulip	Baboon	118.2061	118.2059	136.4092	136.4107
E	Aktu	Peppers	127.5711	127.5712	147.0277	147.0314

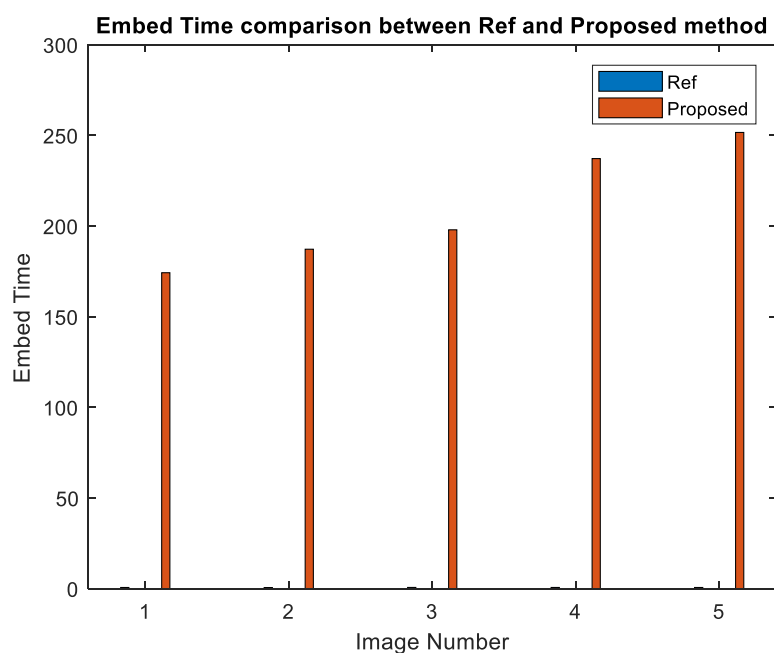
Table 2: Time comparison between ref and proposed for embedding

Tick Label	Cover Image	Watermark Image	Ref Embedding Time	Proposed Embedding Time
A	Brain	Lena	0.6475	174.2120
B	Petect	Modi	0.6179	187.1888
C	CT Scan	Murmu	0.6707	197.8825
D	Tulip	Baboon	0.6615	237.1501
E	Aktu	Peppers	0.6490	251.5760

Here in Figure 14, we have compared the PSNR for ref and proposed techniques.

**Figure 14:** PSNR comparisons between Ref and Proposed method

Here in Figure 15, we have compared the embed time for ref and proposed techniques.

**Figure 15:** Time comparison between Ref and Proposed for embed

The comparison between the existing and proposed approaches will reveal which method is superior for picture watermarking following the calculation of the image's performance. Such a method is mostly the result of extremely precise detection using different attacks. Peak signal to noise ratio (PSNR), signal to noise ratio (SNR), and mean square error (MSE) all show high values. The suggested technique for watermarking images is quick.

VII. CONCLUSION

This study used optimization-based quantization on multiple singular values in the wavelet domain to increase the robustness of classical LSTM-based Digital image watermarking. Experiments indicate that even when the number of coefficients for embedding a watermark bit increases, the watermarked image can maintain a high PSNR and obtain a lower MSE. The robustness against JPEG compression, Gaussian noise, and median filtering has all improved greatly. The topic of strengthening robustness against rotation will be the focus of future work.

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