Sliding Window used for Robustness Optimization Employing Neighborhood Concept and Genetic Algorithm

Sachin Goyal and Roopam Gupta

Department of Information Technology, U.I.T, R.G.P.V, Bhopal

Abstract

Fast distribution of digital contents through open networks is not posing a significant problem due to digital media revolution. Modern technologies have also reduced the reproduction time of digital media and its fast distribution. However, this facility has also the darker side where unauthorized users can tamper its contents and manipulate the digital data thus giving rise to serious security concerns. This problem has to be addressed very seriously. Digital watermarking techniques have recently evolved to address the above problems. The usage of these digital watermarks prevent illegal reproduction and usage of digital data as well as help in identifying the origin, author, owner etc even after various manipulations or attack on the digital data. A number of watermarking techniques in spatial and frequency domain were given by various researchers which suffered from problems robustness. Genetic algorithm provides an alternative way of creating watermarks with Promising values of robustness aspect of watermarking. This paper deals with design and development of a new watermarking technique which uses genetic algorithm to identify locations within the cover image for watermark insertion in spatial domain and then apply the average neighborhood concept for the purpose of watermark insertion and extraction ensuring higher robustness and resilience to several possible image attacks. Genetic search often produces same watermark locations in different populations for watermark insertion resulting in poor value of robustness, which need to be checked. Sliding window concept introduced in this paper uses a set of a few genes which are serially shuffled to get new set of locations for watermarking during each population generation and helps in enhancing robustness aspect of watermarking. Roulette-wheel selection has been used while using the genetic algorithms developed in the paper.

Keywords: Digital watermarking, Genetic Algorithm, Robustness, Sliding window concept, Neighborhood concept

1. Introduction

There are many watermarking methods which have been developed to embed a watermark into the cover image. Some of the important contributions of various proposed methods of digital watermarking during initial research period in digital watermarking are presented here. A watermark was generated using the least significant bit of the original image by Schyndel, *et al.*, [1] to produce the watermarked image. The watermark was extracted from a suspected image by taking the least significant bits at the proper locations. Cross-correlation of the original and extracted watermark was made by Schyndel, which showed that the resulting image contained an invisible watermark with simple extraction procedures. Cox, *et al.*, [2] pointed that, in order for a watermark to be robust to attack, it must be placed in perceptually significant areas of the image. Yen and Huey, *et al.*, [3] chose pair of position with same quantization scale in standard JPEG quantization table as cover image and it use the concept of discrete cosine Transformation. Huang, *et al.*, [4] paper used a concept of DCT and proposed a Progressive watermarking Techniques with genetic algorithm. B.sikander, *et al.*, [5]

presents a new method for adaptive watermark strength optimization in discrete cosine transform domain. In this paper GA is used as to intelligently select watermark strength. Proposed method use genetic algorithm to optimize the strength of the watermark for mid band DCT coefficients. M.J Anwar, *et al.*, [6] this method is more robust against JPEG compression. In this method genetic algorithm is used to find best position in image block that the positions have a mathematical relationship. Somying Promcharoen and Yuttapong Rangsanseri [7] this approach used a fuzzy C-mean algorithm to classify 8x8 DCT block as texture or non-texture region. In this paper, a digital image watermarking by using genetic algorithm to optimize parameters used in block based DCT watermark embedding. M. Rafig [8] have proposed a watermarking algorithm in the DCT domain using an evolutionary algorithm. Wang, Yulin and Pearmain Alan [9] present two kinds of watermarking techniques. One is based on estimation of the luminance value of the central pixel with it's adjacent pixels in one area in special domain and another is based on DCT domain.

Z.wai [10], *et al.*, was proposed new embedding and extracting method with genetic algorithm. The proposed embedding and extracting method was employed to accelerate the genetic watermarking. Gu Tianming and Wang Yanjie [11] proposed a digital watermarking algorithm based on DWT coefficient.

Section 2 discusses the Algorithm for optimization of Robustness a using genetic algorithms. Section 3 and 4 discusses the Neighborhood and sliding window concept respectively. Section 5 show Experimental Result and Conclusion is given in section 6.

2. Algorithm Optimization of Robustness with Sliding Window Neighborhood Concept Using Genetic Algorithm

The following conventions and assumptions apply to the embedding algorithm and extraction algorithms given as below.

(1) cimage used as a two dimensional cover image and w used as two dimensional watermark bit.

- (2) fitness [i] return the value of i^{th} of the chromosome Robustness in the population.
- (3) Chromosome [k] returns k^{th} chromosome in the population.
- (4) new_cimage defined as a modified image after inserting a watermark in specified location, *i.e.*,

watermarked image.

(5) Population [i,j] defined jth genes of ith population.

(6) new_population (i,j) is obtained after performing crossover and mutation.

Step 1: Let the cover image used to embed the watermark be given as

$cimage = [c_{11}, c_{12}, \dots, c_{ij}, \dots, c_{mc \ x \ nc}], where \ 1 <= i < i < i < i < i < i < i < i < i < $	<=mc and
l <= j <= nc	(1)
Step 2 : cimage is now reshaped into row vector containing mc*nc entries	
cimage((i-1)*nc+j) = cimage(i,j), where, $1 <= i <= mc$ and $1 <= j <= mc$	<=nc (2)
This produces a row vector	
$cimage(c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_i, \ldots, c_{mc*nc})$	(3)
The size of the cover image is given as $s = mc*nc$	
Step 3: Let the watermark be given as	
$w = [w_{11}, w_{12}, \dots, w_{ij}, \dots, w_{mn}]$, where $1 < =i < =m$ and $1 < =j < =n$	
(4)	
Step 4: Now the array fitness is initialized with all zeros.	
fitness=[0,0,0,0pop_size times]	(5)
Step 5 : The array population is created randomly as	
$Population = [p_{11}, p_{12}, \dots, p_{ij}, \dots, p_{popsize*no_of_genes}]$	(6)

(7)

(8)

assigned)

Step 6 : Now, the watermark is converted into a single dimension vector W_{m1} as $W_{m1} = [w_1, w_2, \dots, w_i, \dots, w_{m^*n}]$

where $1 \le i \le pop_size$ and $i \le j \le no_of_genes$ And $p_{ii}=0$ or 1 (randomly

The total number of watermark locations is given by m*n.

Step 7: Now the individual chromosomes from the population are extracted.

Chromosomes $[k] = [p_{k1}, p_{k2}, \dots, p_{ki}, \dots, p_{kno_of_genes}]$

where, $1 \le k \le pop_size$ and $p_{k1}, p_{k2}, ..., p_{kb}$ are the genes of the population.

Step 8: Now, the individual chromosomes are brought into variable_range as following.

First of all, the watermark locations in the cover image x(i) are found.

$$\mathbf{x}(i) = \sum_{k=0}^{l+1} \{chromosom(2i-1+k)\} 2^{-(k+1)}$$
(9)

where $1 \le i \le watermark_location$ then

$$x(i) = 1 + fix((variable_range-1)*x(i) / (1-2^{no_of_genes/watermark_location}))$$
(10)

where 1<=i<=watermark_location

Step 9 : : Now the Pixel intensity value of the cover image as modified according to average neighborhood pixel intensity.

Firstly calculate the average pixel intensity of selected location x(i) by using neighbourhood concept.

if cimage(x(i)) < average_pixe_lintensity

if cimage(x(i)) > average_pixel_intensity
new_cimage(x(i)) = average_pixel_intensity - Es

(12)

where 1<=i<=watermark_location and Wm1(i)=0, Es is embedding strength

Step 10: Now Calculate fitness function based on Normalized Correlation(NC). NC is the correlation between the embedded watermark w and the extracted watermark w' which has been normalized by the energy watermark.

NC(w w') =
$$\frac{\sum_{i=0}^{M-1} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} W(i, j) \times W'(i, j)}{\sum_{i=0}^{M-1} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} W^{2}(i, j)}$$
(13)

Step 11: Now maxfitness and bestindividual index k is derived

fitness(i) < fitness(k) $\forall i : 1 \le 1 \le pop_size and i \le k$,

 $1 <= k <= pop_size \qquad (14)$

Step 12 :Now apply roulette-wheel selection strategy.

(a)Find the total fitness(F) of current generation as follow

$$F = \sum_{i=1}^{pop_size} fitness(i)$$
(15)

(b) calculate the probability of a selection Pi for each chromosome $P_i = fitness(i)/F$

(c) Calculate the cumulative probability q_i for each chromosome.

(16)

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$$q_i = \sum_{j=1}^i P_j \tag{17}$$

where *i* is varying from 1 to pop_size

The selection process is based on spinning the roulette-wheel pop_size times.

Step 13 : Now the crossoverpoint is selected randomly such that

1<=*crossoverpoint*<*no_of_genes* (18) Now crossover between chromosome1 & chromosome2 is performed as per following equation and new chromosome pair called newChromosome pair is generated

 $newChromosome_pair(1,j)=chromosome1(j)$ (19)

 $newChromosome_pair(2,j)=chromosome2(j)$ (20)

 $\forall j ::, 1 \le j \le crossoverpoint$

OR $newChromosome_pair(1,j)=chromosome2(j)$ $newChromosome_pair(2,j)=chromosome1(j)$ $\forall j \because, crossoverpoint < j <= no_of_genes$ (21) (22)

Step 14 : Now new_population is defined as

new_population(i,j) = newChromosome_pair(1,j)	(23)
<i>new_population</i> (<i>i</i> +1, <i>j</i>)= <i>newChromosome_pair</i> (2, <i>j</i>)	(24)
$\forall j::, 1 \leq j \leq no_of_genes$ and $r < crossoverprobability$,	where

$$\forall j$$
:, $1 < -j < -no_0j_genes and $1 < crossoverproption$$

r is random number generated between 0<=*r*<1 If *r*> crossoverprobability then crossover is not performed and new_population is

given by

new_population(i,j) = chromosome1 and	(25)
new_population (i+1,j)=chromosome2	(26)

 $\forall j ::, 1 \le j \le no_of_genes$

Step 15: Now the new_population is redefined such that each chromosome in the new_population is mutated depend on the mutation probability.

$$new_population(i,j) = 1 - (new_population(i,j))$$

$$\forall i, j :: 1 <= i <= pop_size and 1 <= j <= no_of_genes and r < mutation_probability,$$
(27)

where r is random number generated between 0 <= r < 1

Step 16: gen_count = gen_count+1

Step 17: population= new_population Repeat all step 7 to 16 for gen_count<=no_of_generation Now the maxfitness and best watermark location is obtained.

Watermark Extraction : : For the purpose of watermark extraction following formula is adapted in average neighborhood pixel insertion method. Firstly we calculate average pixel intensity of selected location

Sum_intensity = cimage(loc) + cimage(loc+1) + cimage(loc-1) + cimage(loc+ncol) + cimage(loc+nco+1) + cimage(loc+ncol-1) + cimage(loc-ncol) + cimage(loc-ncol+1) + cimage(loc-ncol-1) (28) average_pixel_intensity = sum_intensity\ 3*3 (29) If average pixel intensity value of watermarked image is grater than cover image pixel intensity then watermark bit 1 is obtained otherwise 0. Watermark bit == 1 average_pixel_intensity(loc)> cimage(loc) 0 otherwise

Where 1<=loc<mc*nc

(30)

3. Neighborhood Concept

In this concept, first of all a suitable location is selected by genetic algorithm for watermark insertion. Now, for the purpose of insertion of watermark, the neighborhood of the concerned location is utilized. A neighborhood of 3*3 pixels is chosen surrounding the concerned pixel and the average of the pixel intensity values of the neighborhood pixel is compared with the pixel intensity where the watermark has to be inserted. If the pixel intensity value is higher than this average a binary 1 is inserted else a binary 0 is inserted in the concerned pixel.

There are two Case occur when be inserted watermark bit in to cover image.

In first case, when watermark mark bit 1 is inserted if the value of selected location pixel is less then average intensity value then increase the intensity of selected location according to equation(31).

$$SL = API + Es$$
 (31)

In second case when watermark bit 0 is inserted if the value of selected location pixel is grater then average intensity value then decrease the value of selected location according to equation (32)

SL = API - Es (32)

Where SL- Selected location, API-Average Pixel Intensity and Es embedding strengths

The advantage of using neighborhood concept for watermark is reflected in terms of higher robustness. This is due to the reason that during image attacks, the average of surrounding pixels is not significantly affected and thus it prevents the watermark bit from getting modified.

4. Sliding Window Concept

When the set of number of genes remain same for each location they may leads to same set of bits giving rise to similar watermark location after decoding hence the starting location of the watermark bit along with the number of genes used for creating the location both is varied to create dissimilar location each time this will avoid the redundancy of the watermark location and help in unique and global search in watermark location. This unique concept termed as sliding window is introduced here, where the sliding window consist of the set of bits used for creating watermark location and the set is shifted horizontally to propose a new starting location and set of length increase each time. This ensures that different watermark location to be created each time after decoding.

So, mathematically expressed each value x(i) can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{i}) = \sum_{k=0}^{111} \{chromosom(2i-1+k)\} 2^{-(k+1)}$$
(33)

This can be decoded to obtain the corresponding watermark location.

 $x(i) = 1 + fix((variable_range-1)*x(i)/(1-2^{-no_of_genes/watermark_location}))$ (34) where 1<=i<=watermark_location

Equation (33) can be further analytically examined to show that the probability of repetition of same location is minimized.

(1) Case 1 Consecutive Watermark location.

(2) Case 2 Non Continuous Watermark location.

Case 1 Consecutive Watermark Location

So, i th location x(i) is given by

$$\mathbf{x}(i) = \sum_{K=0}^{i+1} \{chromosom(2i-1+k)\} 2^{-(k+1)}$$

 $i \pm 1$

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Similarly (i+1)th location

$$\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{i+1}) = \sum_{K=0}^{i+2} \{chromosom(2(i+1)-1+k)\} 2^{-(k+1)}$$

Difference between equation ii and iii is given by

$$= x(i+1) - x(i)$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{i+2} \{chromosom(2(i+1)-1+k)\}2^{-(k+1)}$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{i+2} \{chromosom(2i-1+k)\}2^{-(k+1)}$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{i+2} \{chromosom(2i-1+k)\}2^{-(k+1)}$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{i+2} \{chromosom(2i-1+k)\}2^{-(k+1)}$$
(35)
For example putting i=1, it produce 1st and 2nd location
$$= \sum_{k=0}^{3} \{chromosom(k+3)\}2^{-(k+1)} - \sum_{k=0}^{2} \{chromosom(k+1)\}2^{-(k+1)}$$

$$= [chromosome(3)*2^{-1} + chromosome(4)*2^{-2} + chromosome(5)*2^{-3} + chromosome(6)*2^{-4}]$$

$$= [chromosome(1)*2^{-1} + chromosome(1)]*2^{-1} + [chromosome(3)*2^{-3}]$$

$$= [chromosome(3) - chromosome(1)]*2^{-1} + [chromosome(4) - chromosome(3)]*2^{-3} + chromosome(6)*2^{-4}$$
To make above expression zero necessary condition required chromosome(3) = chromosome(1)(A) chromosome(4) = chromosome(3) = chromosome(3)(B) chromosome(5) = chromosome(3)(D)

It is extremely difficult and very less probability that all these condition can be satisfied simultaneously. So probability of happen of simultaneously occur condition (A)(B)(C)(D) together is given by S(U) = P(A) * P(D) * P(C) * P(D)(27)

$$S(H)=P(A)*P(B)*P(C)*P(D)$$
 (37)
Where $P(A) = Probability of occurrence of condition(A)$, $P(B) = Probability of occurrence of condition(B), P(C) = Probability of occurrence of condition(C), $P(D) = Probability of occurrence of condition(D)$$

The above product much smaller than each individual value of P(A), P(B), P(C), P(D).

Case 2 Non Continuous Watermark Location

So, (i+2)th location x(i+2) is given by

$$\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{i}) = \sum_{k=0}^{i+3} \{chromosom(2(i+2)-1+k)\} 2^{-(k+1)}$$

similarly (i+5)th location

$$\mathbf{x}(i+5) = \sum_{k=0}^{i+5} \{chromosom(2(i+5)-1+k)\} 2^{-(k+1)}$$

We take difference between equation ii and iii is given by r(i+5) = r(i+2)

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{i+5} \{chromosom(2(i+5)-1+k)\}2^{-(k+1)} - \sum_{k=0}^{i+3} \{chromosom(2(i+2)-1+k)\}2^{-(k+1)} (38)$$

Example putting i=1, it produce 4th and 6th location
$$= \sum_{k=0}^{6} \{chromosom(11+k)\}2^{-(k+1)} - \sum_{k=0}^{4} \{chromosom(k+5)\}2^{-(k+1)} - [chromosom(11)*2^{-1} + chromosom(12)*2^{-2} + chromosom(13)*2^{-3} + chromosom(14)*2^{-4} + chromosom(15)*2^{-5} + chromosom(16)*2^{-6} + chromosom(17)*2^{-7}] - [chromosom(5)*2^{-1} + chromosom(6)*2^{-2} + chromosom(6)]*2^{-2} + [chromosom(6)]*2^{-2} + [chromosom(6)]*2^{-2} + [chromosom(6)]*2^{-2} + [chromosom(6)]*2^{-2} + [chromosom(12) - chromosom(6)]*2^{-2} + [chromosom(14) - chromosom(8)]*2^{-4} + [chromosom(15) - chromosom(9)]*2^{-5} + chromosom(16)*2^{-6} + chromosom(17)*2^{-7} (39)$$

To make above expression zero necessary condition required chromosom(11) = chromosom(6)(E) chromosom(13) = chromosom(7)(G) chromosom(14) = chromosom(7)(G) chromosom(15) = chromosom(9)(I) chromosom(15) = chromosom(9)(I) chromosom(15) = chromosom(9)(I) chromosom(16) = chromosom(17)=0(J)

it is extremely difficult and very less probability that all these condition can be satisfied simultaneously. So probability of happen of simultaneously occur condition (E)(F)(G)(H)(I)(J) together is given by

S(H) = P(E)*P(F)*P(G)*P(H)*P(I)*P(J)

(40)

Where P(E) = Probability of occurrence of condition(E), P(F) = Probability of occurrence of condition(F), P(G) = Probability of occurrence of condition(G), P(H) = Probability of occurrence of condition(H), P(I) = Probability of occurrence of condition(G), P(J) = Probability of occurrence of condition(H), P(I) = Probability of P(I) = P(I) of P(I) = P(I)

The above product much smaller than each individual value of P(E), P(F), P(G), P(H), P(I), P(J).

From the analysis of difference between two continuous and non continuous location as shown by equation (35) and (38). There is a very less probability that the difference will yield to zero, there shall be at most of time some finite value of difference.

Thus all x(i) shall have some difference and this will yield to some different watermark location each time when they are decoded. This help in avoidance of redundancy of location and prevents the genetic algorithm to find local maxima while conducting search of proper locations for watermark introduce to obtain optimize in term of robustness as decided by the fitness function.

The sliding window concept can be illustrated by the following example. Let us take, for instance the number of watermark bits = 5 and the number of genes = 15

Let us take watermark bits (w)	=	5 bit	υ
No. of Genes	=	15 (5x3)	
Watermark_genes_size (z)	=	15/5 =	3 bit

Watermark_genes_size represent a number of genes construct a watermark but in sliding window concept ,size of watermark genes size increase by one every time when you insert a watermark bit and change the starting location by 2, while taking a window size as 3. So in this way we remove a repeated location this can illustrated below.

For 1 st Location Starting location = 1 Watermark_genes_size = 3
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
For 2 nd Location Starting location = 3 Watermark_genes_size = 4
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
For 3 rd Location Starting location = 5 Watermark_genes_size = 5
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
For 4 th Location Starting location = 7 Watermark_genes_size = 6
• •
For 5 th Location Starting location = 9 Watermark_genes_size = 7
• •

In General



5. Experimental Results

All experiments were conducted on genuine Intel (R) CPU T-2050 @1.60GHZ, 1GB of RAM. The operating system used was Microsoft Windows Vista, Version 2007. In all of this experiment simulation take Lena (512×512) as a cover image (Figure 1) and

different payload of binary watermark bits are embedded into cover image. Table 1 represents the various parameters setting used in the experiments for genetic algorithm. Roulette-wheel selection strategy is used to find out the desired locations for watermark insertion for Robustness optimization. Table 2 show value of NC under different type of attack. (*i.e.*, Median filter, Mean filter, Sharpening, Salt & Pepper, Gaussian attack, Low Pass Filter, JPEG Compression). Figure 2-5 show different type of simulation result. Table 3 show simulation result of extracted binary image watermark. For Comparison with other method, The NC value of Lena image (512*512) with payload 4096bits shown in Table 4. Figure 6 and 7 show watermarked image of 4096bits. Figure 8 different type of attack with varying payloads.



Figure 1. Lena Image (512X512)

Table 1. Genetic Algorithm Parameters

Parameters	Values
Generation	20-50
Population Size	6
Crossover Probability	0.90
Mutation rate	0.025
Window Size	3

Table 2. Variation	of NC with Payloa	ad
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S.No.	Payload (bits)	Median Filter Attack	Mean Filter Attack	Salt & Pepper Attack	Sharpening Attack	Gaussian Noise	Low Pass Filter	JPEG QF=50%
1	512	0.9968	1	0.9935	0.9745	0.6419	0.9417	0.9781
2	1024	0.9903	0.9887	0.9920	0.9632	0.6096	0.9289	0.9722
3	2048	0.9880	0.9840	0.9832	0.9480	0.6000	0.9125	0.9691
4	4096	0.9856	0.9820	0.9744	0.9412	0.5900	0.8971	0.9686
5	16384	0.9641	0.9767	0.9581	0.9280	0.5634	0.8615	0.8912

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Figure 3. Salt & Pepper Noise with Payload 1024 Bits



Figure 4. Mean Filter Attack with Payload 2048 bits

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Figure 5. Median Filter Attack with Payload 4096 Bits



Figure 6. Watermarked Image (Median Filter Attack)



Figure 7. Watermarked Image (Salt & Pepper Noise)

Table 3. Extracted Watermark after Different Type of At	ack
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S.N o	Cover Image (512x512)	Watermark Image(64x64)	Different Type of Attack	Extracted Watermark
1			Median Attack NC= 0.9826	

	Mean Filter Attack NC=0.9715	
	Sharpenin g NC=	
	Salt & Pepper Noise NC=0.9751	
	Gaussian Noise NC=0.6034	
	Low Pass Filter NC= 0.8890	
	JPEG QF=50% NC=0.9687	



Figure 8. Different Type of Attack with Varying Payloads

C M	Trmos of	0.115	Von	Someting	Defig	Wang
Sitz	Types of	Our	1 Ch	Somying	Kallg	wang
<u>o</u> .	Attack	Method	Method[3]	Method[7]	Method[8]	Method[9]
		(NC)	(NC)	(NC)	(NC)	
1	Salt &	0.9744	0.97	-	0.97	0.95
	Pepper					
2.	Median	0.9856	0.97	-	0.99	0.97
	Filter					
3	Mean	0.9820	0.94	0.6965	0.96	0.97
	Filter					
4	Sharpening	0.9412	0.96	-	0.98	0.98
	Filter					
5	JPEG	0.9686	0.96	0.8631	1.0	0.81
	(QF=50%)					
6	Low Pass	0.8971	-	0.6680	-	-
	Filter					

Table 3. Comparison of Robustness our Method with other Method

6. Conclusion

In this paper, we have developed and demonstrated the technique of employing genetic algorithm along with average neighborhood and sliding window concept with Roulettewheel strategy to insert a binary watermark into the gray scale cover image in spatial domain is fruitful for maintaining a higher value of robustness. The results shown in the paper indicates that the technique proposed in the paper meets its objectives in terms of providing a satisfactory value of robustness while maintaining a reasonable value of robustness and a moderate payload. The experimental results showed that the proposed method can improve the quality of the watermarked image and give more robustness of the watermark as compare with the other previous method.

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Authors



Roopam Gupta, She is a member of IETE and ISTE society. She was born in India in October1971. She has done her BE in Electronics and Communication from GEC Bhopal, M.Tech. In Digital Communication from MANIT Bhopal and PhD from Barkatullah University. Her area of interest includes watermarking, ad hoc networks and security. She is presently working as head in Department of Information Technology, UIT, Rajiv Gandhi Proudyogiki Vishwavidyalaya, Bhopal.



Sachin Goyal, He was born in India in March 1979. He has done his BE in Computer Science & Engg From ITM, RGPV, Bhopal, M. Tech in Artificial Intelligence from SATI, RGPV, Bhopal and pursuing PhD in IT from RGPV, Bhopal. His area of Interest includes Digital watermarking, Theoretical Computer science and computer network. He is presently working as a Assistant professor in Department of Information Technology, UIT, Rajiv Gandhi Proudyogiki Vishwavidyalaya, Bhopal.