

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF JPEG IMAGE COMPRESSION USING SYMBOL REDUCTION TECHNIQUE

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ABSTRACT

Lossy JPEG compression is a widely used compression technique. Normally the JPEG technique uses two process quantization, which is lossy process and entropy encoding, which is considered lossless process. In this paper, a new technique has been proposed by combining the JPEG algorithm and Symbol Reduction Huffman technique for achieving more compression ratio. The symbols reduction technique reduces the number of symbols by combining together to form a new symbol. As a result of this technique the number of Huffman code to be generated also reduced. The result shows that the performance of standard JPEG method can be improved by proposed method. This hybrid approach achieves about 20% more compression ratio than the Standard JPEG.

KEYWORDS

Image Compression, JPEG, Source Reduction, Entropy Encoder, Huffman coding.

1. INTRODUCTION

Image compression has a fundamental importance in image communication and storage. A typical image compression scheme first manipulates the input image data in a way to obtain more compact and/or uncorrelated representation. This manipulation may be in the form of a mapping, transformation, quantization or a combination of these. The manipulated data is then fed to an entropy encoder [1-2]. Recent research in the field of image compression focuses more on data manipulation stage, and a growing number of new techniques concerning this stage are introduced in the recent year. Conventional technique used in the entropy encoding stage and there are relatively less innovation in this stage. Thus the performance of most image compression scheme can be improved by utilizing an entropy encoder.

In most general terms, an entropy coder is an invertible mapping from a sequence of events to a sequence of bits. The objective of entropy coding is the minimization of the number of bits in the bit sequence, while maintaining the invertibility of the mapping. The way of defining the

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particular events can also be considered a part of entropy coding. The entropy coding can be considered to define its own set of intermediate events, based on the input sequence of events as define externally. Entropy coding has been extensively studies in the literature, particularly under the discipline of information theory.

Let $X = x_1x_2x_3\dots\dots\dots x_n$ be a sequence of independent input symbols, each symbol taking on values from a finite alphabet $A = \{ a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m \}$. Let p_{ij} denote the probability that x_i , the i^{th} symbol in the sequence, takes the value a_j . Thus the entropy of the sequence is defined as

$$H(X) = - \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m p_{ij} \log_2 p_{ij} \quad (1)$$

Shannon's source coding theorem [1] states that the entropy of the sequence is the lower bound on the expected value of the number of bits that is required to encode the sequence [2].

It's well known that the Huffman's algorithm is generating minimum redundancy codes compared to other algorithms [3-7]. The Huffman coding has effectively used in text, image, video compression, and conferencing system such as, JPEG, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, and H.263 etc. .The Huffman coding technique collects unique symbols from the source image and calculates its probability value for each symbol and sorts the symbols based on its probability value. Further, from the lowest probability value symbol to the highest probability value symbol, two symbols combined at a time to form a binary tree. Moreover, allocates zero to the left node and one to the right node starting from the root of the tree. To obtain Huffman code for a particular symbol, all zero and one collected from the root to that particular node in the same order [8-11].

There are numerous amount of work on image compression is carried out both in lossless and lossy compression [11-14]. Very limited research works are carried out for Hybrid Image compression[21-27]. Hsien Wen Tseng and Chin-Chen Chang proposed a very low bit rate image compression scheme that combines the good energy-compaction property of DCT with the high compression ratio of VQ-based coding[15]. Lenni Yulianti and Tati R.Mengko proposed a hybrid method to improve the performance of Fractal Image Compression (FIC) technique by combining FIC (lossy compression) and lossless Huffman coding[16].A novel hybrid image compression technique for efficient storage and delivery of data is proposed by S.Parveen Banu and Dr.Y.Venkataramani based on decomposing the data using daubechies-4 wavelet in combination with the lifting scheme and entropy encoding[17].

In the proposed work, for image compression, symbol reduction technique is applied in Standard JPEG lossy method. The results provide better compression ratio compare to JPEG technique.

2. BACKGROUND OF OUR WORK

2.1. Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG)

A common characteristic of most images is that the nearby pixels are associated and therefore comprise redundant information. The primary task then is to find less associated representation of the image. Two essential attributes of compression are redundancy and irrelevancy reduction. Redundancy reduction aims at removing repetition from the signal source. Irrelevancy reduction omits parts of the signal that will not be discerned by the signal receiver, namely the Human Visual System (HVS). JPEG Compression method is one of the commonly recognized and used procedures for image compression. JPEG stands for Joint Photographic Experts Group. JPEG standard has been established by ISO (International Standards Organization) and IEC

(International Electro-Technical Commission) [18]. The JPEG Image compression system consists of three closely connected constituents specifically

- Source encoder (DCT based)
- Quantizer
- Entropy encoder [18]

Figure 1 shows the block diagram of a JPEG encoder, which has the following components [18]

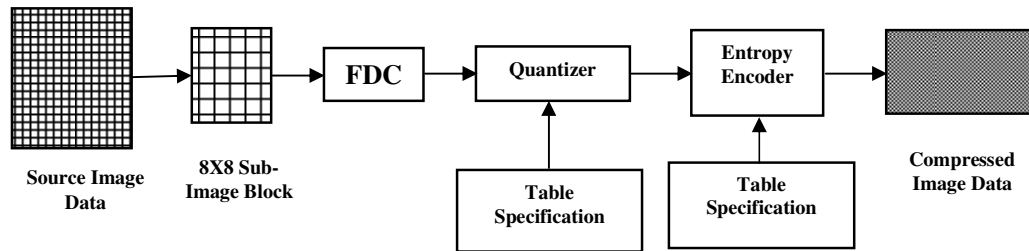


Figure 1. Block Diagram of JPEG Encoder [18]

2.1.1 Forward Discrete Cosine Transform (FDCT)

The still images are first partitioned into non-overlapping blocks of size 8x8 and the image samples are shifted from unsigned integers with range $[0 \text{ to } 2^p - 1]$ to signed integers with range $[-2^{p-1} \text{ to } 2^{p-1}]$, where p is the number of bits. It should however be mentioned that to preserve freedom for innovation and customization within implementations, JPEG neither specifies any unique FDCT algorithm, nor any unique IDCT algorithms [18]. Because adjacent image pixels are highly correlated, the 'forward' DCT (FDCT) processing step lays the foundation for achieving data compression by concentrating most of the signal in the lower spatial frequencies. In principle, the DCT introduces no loss to the source image samples; it merely transforms them to a domain in which they can be more efficiently encoded [20].

2.1.2 Quantization

After output from the FDCT, each of the 64 DCT coefficients block is uniformly quantized according to a quantization table. Since the aim is to compress the images without visible artifacts, each step-size should be chosen as the perceptual threshold or for "just noticeable distortion". Psycho-visual experiments have led to a set of quantization tables and these appear in ISO-JPEG standard as a matter of information, but not a requirement [18]. At the decoder, the quantized values are multiplied by the corresponding QT elements to recover the original unquantized values. After quantization, all of the quantized coefficients are ordered into the *zigzag* sequence. This ordering helps to facilitate entropy encoding by placing low-frequency non-zero coefficients before high-frequency coefficients. The DC coefficient, which contains a significant fraction of the total image energy, is differentially encoded [20].

2.1.3 Entropy Coder

This is the final processing step of the JPEG encoder. Entropy Coding (EC) achieves additional compression lossless by encoding the quantized DCT coefficients more compactly based on their statistical characteristics. The JPEG standard specifies two entropy coding methods – Huffman and arithmetic coding. The baseline sequential JPEG uses Huffman only, but codecs with both methods are specified for the other modes of operation. Huffman coding requires that one or more sets of coding tables are specified by the application. The same table used for compression is used

needed to decompress it. The baseline JPEG uses only two sets of Huffman tables – one for DC and the other for AC. Figure 2 shows the block diagram of the JPEG decoder. It performs the inverse operation of the JPEG encoder [18].

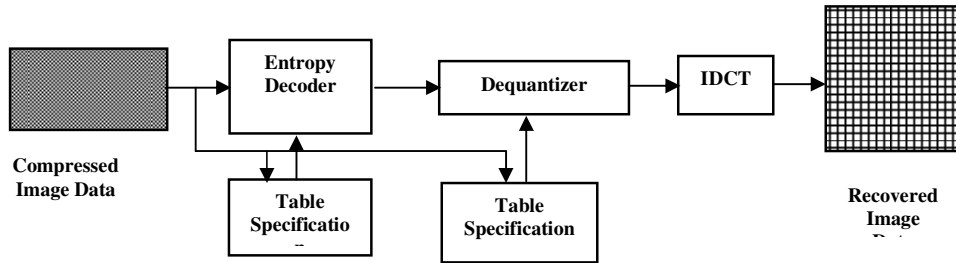


Figure 2. Block Diagram of JPEG Decoder

The use of uniformly sized blocks simplified the compression system, but it does not take into account the irregular shapes within the real images[20]. Degradation occurs which is known as blocking effect and it depends on the block size. A larger block leads to more efficient coding but requires more computational power. Image distortion is less annoying for small than for large DCT blocks. Therefore more existing systems use blocks of 8x8 or 16x16 pixels as a compromise between coding efficiency and image quality [28-29].

2.2 Symbol Reduction Method

The number of source symbols is a key factor in achieving compression ratio. A new compression technique proposed to reduce the number of source symbols. The source symbols combined together in the same order from left to right to form a less number of new source symbols. The source symbols reduction explained with an example as shown below. The following eight symbols are assumed as part of an image, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H. By applying source symbols reduction from left to right in the same sequence, four symbols are combined together to form a new element, thus two symbols ABCD and EFGH are obtained[8]. This technique helps to reduce 8 numbers of source symbols to 2 numbers i.e. 2^n symbols are reduced to $2^{(n-2)}$ symbols. For the first case, there are eight symbols and the respective Symbols and Huffman Codes are A-0, B-10, C-110, D-1110, E-11110, F-111110, G-1111110, H-1111111. The proposed technique reduced the eight symbols to two and the reduced Symbols and Huffman codes are ABCD-0, EFGH-1.

The average number L_{avg} of bits required to represent a symbol is defined as,

$$L_{avg} = \sum_{k=1}^L l(r_k) p(r_k) \quad (2)$$

where, r_k is the discrete random variable for $k=1,2,\dots,L$ with associated probabilities $p_r(r_k)$. The number of bits used to represent each value of r_k is $l(r_k)$ [9]. The number of bits required to represent an image is calculated by number of symbols multiplied by L_{avg} [1-2]. In the Huffman coding, probability of each symbols is 0.125 and $L_{avg} = 4.375$. In the proposed technique, probability of each symbol is 0.5 and $L_{avg} = 1.0$. The L_{avg} confirms that the proposed technique achieves better compression than the Huffman Coding.

8 rows and 8 columns of eight bits grey-scale image having 64 symbols considered to calculate required storage size. In the coding stage these two techniques make difference [9]. In the first case, 64 symbols generate 64 Huffman codes, whereas the proposed technique generates 16

Huffman codes and reduces L_{avg} . Therefore, the experiment confirms that the source symbols reduction technique helps to achieve more compression [9].

Since the source images firstly divided in 8x8 sub-block, will have totally 64 symbols. The images are 8 bit grey-scale and the symbol values range from 0 to 255. To represent each symbol eight bit is required [9]. Therefore, size of an image becomes $64 \times 8 = 512$ bit.

3. PROPOSED JPEG IMAGE COMPRESSION METHOD

The image is subdivided into non-overlapping 8x8 sub-image blocks and DCT coefficients are computed for each block. The quantization is performed conferring to quantization table. The quantized values are then rearranged according to zigzag arrangement. After getting zigzag coefficients the remaining coefficients are compressed by the proposed entropy encoder. The block diagram of our proposed method is shown in figure 3.

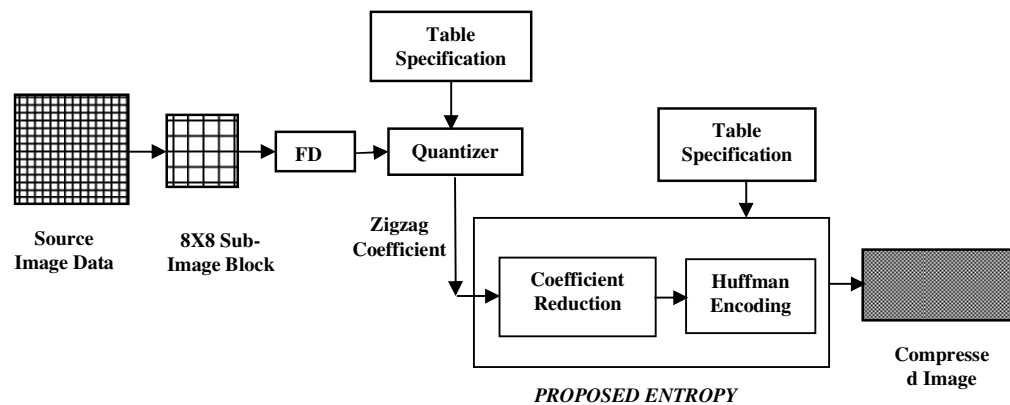


Figure 3. Block Diagram of Proposed JPEG Encoder

3.1 Algorithm

1. Input the image data to be compressed.
1. Divide the image into non-overlapping 8x8 sub images blocks.
2. Shift the gray-levels in the range between [-128, 127].
3. Apply DCT on the each sub-image.
4. Quantize the coefficients and the less significant coefficients are set to zero.
5. Order the coefficients using zigzag ordering and the coefficients obtained are in order of increasing frequency.
6. Compress remaining quantized values by applying proposed entropy encoder.

To reconstruct the image, reverse process of our proposed algorithm are carried out.

As an example, let us consider the 8 X 8 block of pixel value component samples shown in Table 1. This block is extracted from one of the images used in the experiments. Table 2 shows the corresponding coefficients obtained by applying the DCT transform to the block in Table 1.

Table 1. An example of pixel values of 8X8 image block

58	45	29	27	24	19	17	20
62	52	42	41	38	30	22	18
48	47	49	44	40	36	31	25

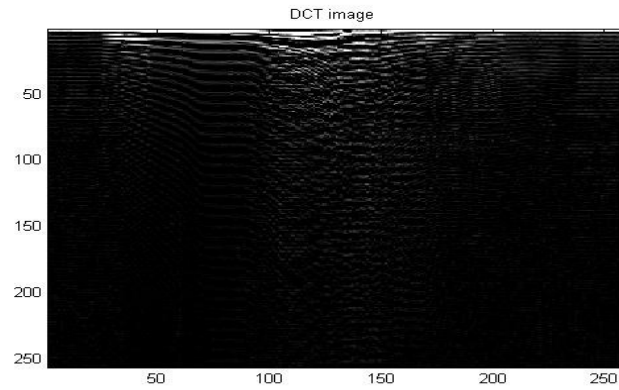


Figure 6. After applying DCT



Figure 7. After applying IDCT



Figure 8. Reconstructed image

The results obtained from the implementation of the proposed algorithm are shown in the table 5. The compressed ratio of the four test images are calculated and presented in table 5.

Table 5. Compression Ratio of Standard JPEG and Proposed Method

Test Images	JPEG Method	Proposed Method
Cameraman	4.13	4.94
Rice	5.68	6.45
Coin	3.84	4.73
Tree	2.53	3.08

The result shows that for all test images the compressed size obtained from the proposed technique better than the Standard JPEG method. The proposed compression technique achieves better compression. The results obtained from the present analysis are shown in figure 5.

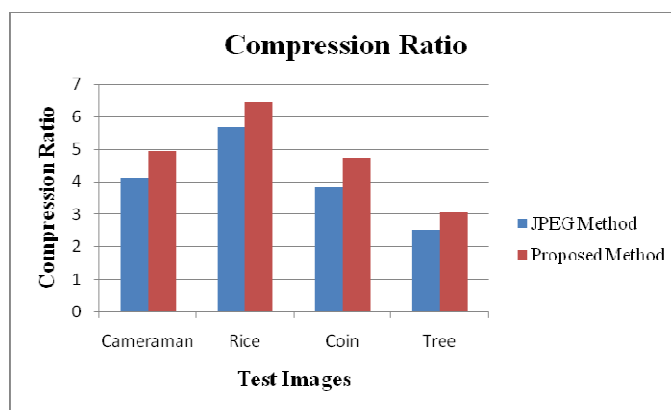


Figure 5. Compression Ratio of Standard JPEG and Proposed Method

Since it is found that the two compression techniques are lossless compression technique, therefore the compression error not considered. So the picture quality (PSNR) values are common to both Standard JPEG method and Proposed JPEG compression method.

5. CONCLUSION

The experimentation in present paper reveals that the compression ratio of the proposed technique achieves better than the standard JPEG method. The proposed entropy encoding technique enhances the performance of the JPEG technique. Therefore, the experiment confirms that the proposed technique produces higher lossless compression than the Huffman Coding and this technique will be suitable for compression of all type of image files.

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