

A Semi Blind Self Reference Image Watermarking in Discrete Cosine Transform using Singular Value Decomposition

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ABSTRACT

An approach to self reference image watermarking scheme based on Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) and Singular Value Decomposition (SVD). First, the original image is segmented into blocks by using ZIG - ZAG sequence. Then find the edges in each block and kept a threshold on these number of edges in each block. Using this threshold, get the essential blocks. A reference image is formed by taking these essential blocks. Reference image is transformed into DCT domain and then SVD is performed on both reference and watermarked image. Embedding is done by modifying singular values of the reference image using singular values of watermark. After embedding, modified reference image is segmented into blocks and these modified blocks are mapped into their original places for constructing watermarked image. For extraction, the watermarked reference image is constructed by the watermarked image using the positions of the selected blocks and the reverse process is used for extracting the singular values of the watermark from watermarked reference image. Robustness of proposed scheme is carried out by a variety of attacks.

Keywords

DCT, SVD, Zig-Zag, Robust, edges

1. INTRODUCTION

The success of the Internet, cost-effective and popular digital recording and storage devices, and the promise of higher bandwidth and quality of service (QoS) for both wired and wireless networks has made it possible to create, replicate, transmit, and distribute digital content in an effortless way. So the protection of digital multimedia content has become an increasingly important issue for content owners and service providers. As watermarking is identified as a major technology to achieve copyright protection, the relevant literature [1-6] includes several distinct approaches for embedding data into a multimedia element. The major applications of digital watermarking were copyright protection, authentication, fingerprinting, broad cast monitoring etc, [7-12]. Watermarking can be implemented in spatial domain, frequency domain and hybrid domain. The simple technique in spatial domain was Least Significant Bit (LSB) technique [13, 14]. Transform domain watermarking is useful for taking advantage of perceptual criteria in the embedding process, for designing watermarking techniques which are robust to common compression techniques, and for direct watermark embedding of compressed bit streams. A common transform framework for images is the block-based DCT which is a fundamental building block of current image

coding standards such as JPEG and video coding standards such as the MPEG video coders. The DCT is performed on 8x8 blocks of data, pseudorandom subsets of the blocks are chosen and a triplet of midrange frequencies is slightly altered to encode a binary sequence. This is a reasonable heuristic watermarking approach since watermarks inserted in the high frequencies are vulnerable to attack whereas the low frequency components are perceptually significant and sensitive to alterations. A DCT is performed on the whole image and the watermark is inserted in a predetermined range of low frequency components minus the DC component. The watermark consists of a sequence of real numbers generated from a Gaussian distribution which is added to the DCT-coefficients. The watermark signal is scaled according to the signal strength of the particular frequency component. This is a reasonable and simple way to introduce some type of perceptual weighting into the watermarking scheme [15-29]. Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) [30-36] is available in the literature. The basic philosophy in majority of the transform domain watermarking schemes is to modify transform coefficients based on the bits in watermark image.

A semi-blind digital watermarking scheme based on DCT-SVD is proposed. The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 describes related work, in section 3 the proposed watermarking method, section 4 contains our experimental results followed by conclusions in Section 5 and references in section 6.

2. RELATED WORK

Alexander Sverdlov et al [37], proposed a new robust hybrid watermarking scheme based on DCT and SVD. After applying the DCT to the cover image, they map the DCT coefficients in a zig-zag order into four quadrants, and apply the SVD to each quadrant. These four quadrants represent frequency bands from the lowest to the highest. The singular values in each quadrant are then modified by the singular values of the DCT-transformed visual watermark. They assume that the size of the visual watermark is one quarter of the size of the cover image. They show that embedding data in lowest frequencies is resilient to one set of attacks while embedding data in highest frequencies is resilient to another set of attacks. They compare their hybrid algorithm with a pure SVD-based scheme.

Liu Quan, and AI Qingsong [38], proposed a new watermarking algorithm which combines both merits of the algorithm based on discrete cosine transform (DCT) and the algorithm based on singular value decomposition.

Fangjun Huang and Zhi-Hong Guan [39], a new hybrid SVD-DCT watermarking method is presented. The SVD transform and the DCT are performed on the watermark and the original image, respectively. Only the SVs of the watermark are embedded into the DCT coefficients of original image. For convenience, they divide the SVs into two groups. The group including the bigger elements is named Group A, and the group including the remaining ones is named Group B. The elements in Group A which comprise most energy of the watermark are embedded into the DC components of the sub-blocks of the original image. The elements in Group B are embedded into the remaining significant DCT components.

Feng Liu, and Yangguang Liu [40], proposed a watermarking algorithm for digital image based on DCT and SVD. This

algorithm demonstrates that the watermarking is robust to the common signal processing techniques including JPEG compressing, noise, low pass filter, median filter, contrast enhance. They compare their work with the existing SVD methods.

3. PROPOSED ALGORITHM

A semi-blind watermarking scheme using DCT and SVD is proposed. The host and watermark images are gray scale images of size $M \times N$ and $m \times n$ respectively, which are denoted by F and W . Block diagram of proposed watermarking scheme is shown in figure 1

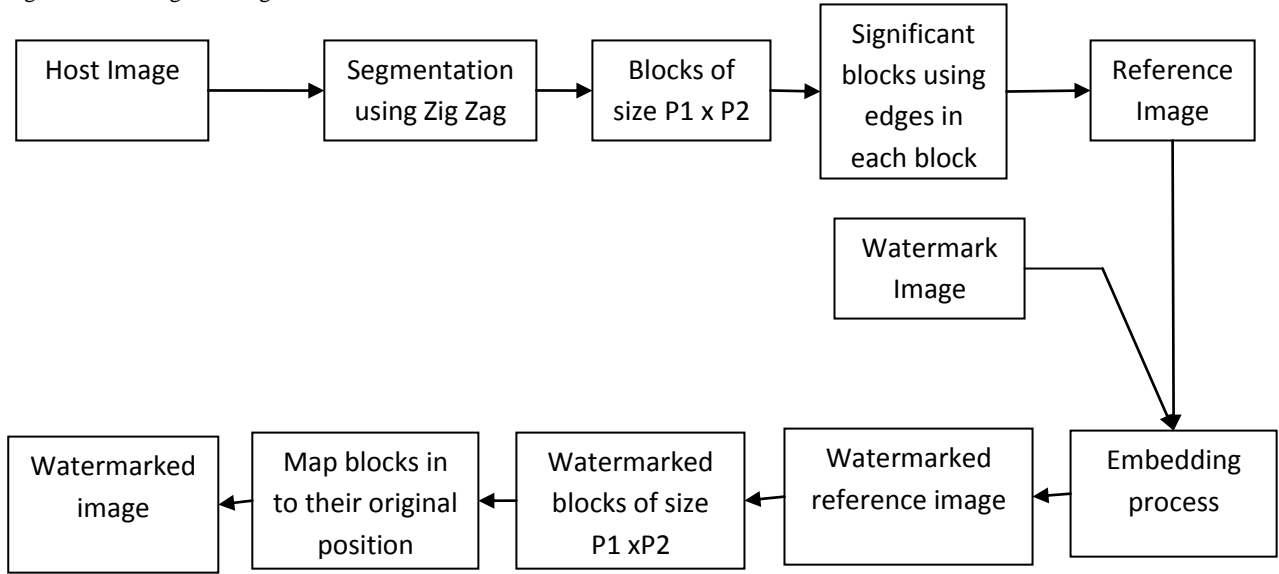


Figure 1: Embedding process

3.1 Watermark embedding procedure

First, the original image is segmented into blocks of size $p_1 \times p_2$ via ZIG_ZAG sequence denoted by F^l , where l is the number of blocks.

Step1: Find out the number of edges in each block.

Step2: The numbers of edges in each block are stored in descending order. Then make a threshold on the number of edges in each block. Those blocks, which have number of edges less than or equal to threshold, are considered as significant blocks and are used for making reference image, F_{ref} which is a size of $m \times n$.

Step3: Perform DCT on the reference image, which is denoted by f_{DCT}

Step4: Perform SVD on f_{DCT} , which is denoted by

$$f_{DCT}^{SVD} = U_{DCT} * S_{DCT} * V_{DCT}^T \quad (1)$$

3.2 Watermark extraction procedure

Watermark extraction procedure as follows:

Step4: Perform SVD transform on watermark image W , which is denoted by

$$f_W^{SVD} = U_W * S_W * V_W^T \quad (2)$$

Step5: Modify the singular values of reference image with the singular values of watermark as

$$(S_{ref})^* = S_{DCT} + \beta * S_w \quad (3)$$

Where, β gives the watermark depth.

Step7: Perform inverse SVD,

$$f_{isvd}^* = U_{DCT} * S_{ref}^* * V_{DCT}^T \quad (4)$$

Step8: Perform inverse DCT to construct the modified reference image, denoted by F_{ref}^* . Again F_{ref}^* is segmented into blocks of size $p_1 \times p_2$ and mapped onto their original positions for constructing the watermarked image.

We save the positions of the significant blocks and reference image for the extraction process.

Step1: Using the positions of significant blocks, make the reference image from the watermarked image, denoted by F_W^{ref}

Step2: Perform DCT on reference image, which is denoted by f_{DCT}^{ref}

Step3: Perform SVD transform on f_{DCT}^{ref} .

$$f_{SVD}^{ref} = U_{ref} * S_{ref} * V_{ref}^T \quad (5)$$

Step4: Extract the singular values of the watermark.

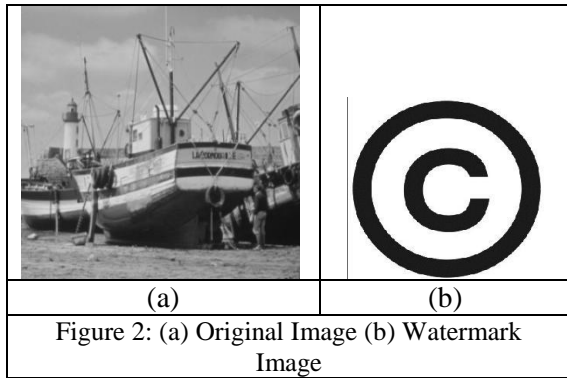
$$S_W^{ext} = \frac{S_{ref} - S_W}{\beta} \quad (6)$$

Step5: Obtain the extracted watermark as:

$$W^{ext} = U_W * S_W^{ext} * V_W^T \quad (7)$$

4. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The algorithm discussed in the above section has been implemented in MATLAB for the gray scale Boat image of size 512×512 . For watermark, Lena gray scale image of size 256×256 is used. Both have showed in figure 2.



In this experiment, the size of blocks is taken to be 8×8 . It is investigated the robustness of the algorithm by considering Average filtering, Median filtering, Compression, Cropping, Gaussian noise, Histogram Equalization, Resize, Rotate, contrast adjustment, wrapping and Sharpening attacks.

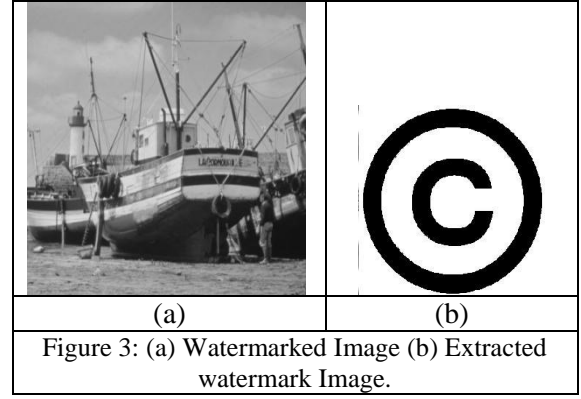
Imperceptibility means that the perceived quality of the image should not be distorted by the presence of the watermark. The peak signal to noise ratio (PSNR) is typically used to measure the degradation between original image and watermarked image.

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{[f(i,j) - F(i,j)]^2}{N^2}} \quad (8)$$

$$PSNR = 20 \log \frac{255}{RMSE} \text{ db} \quad (9)$$

RMS is the Root Mean Square Error and is a comparison between the host image and watermarked image. $f(i, j)$ and $F(i, j)$ represent host and watermarked images respectively. Size of the host image is $N \times N$.

Watermarked Boat image has the PSNR value of 48.68 db. If it observed that the original and watermarked images couldn't find any perceptual degradation. Watermarked boat image and extracted watermark are shown in figure 3.

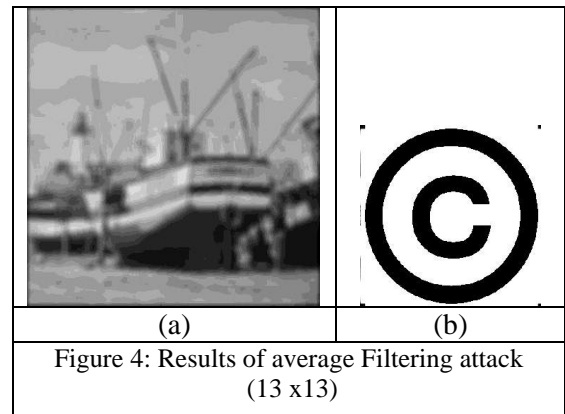


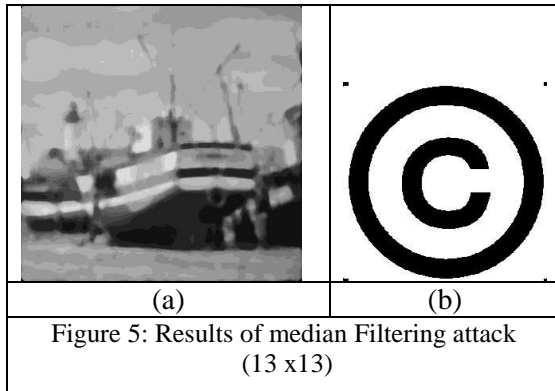
Robustness of a watermarking algorithm is that the embedded data should survive any signal processing operation. The similarity between the original watermark and the extracted watermark from the attacked watermarked image was measured by using the correlation factor ρ , which is computed using the following Equation:

$$\rho(w, \tilde{w}) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N w_i \tilde{w}_i}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N w_i^2} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N \tilde{w}_i^2}} \quad (10)$$

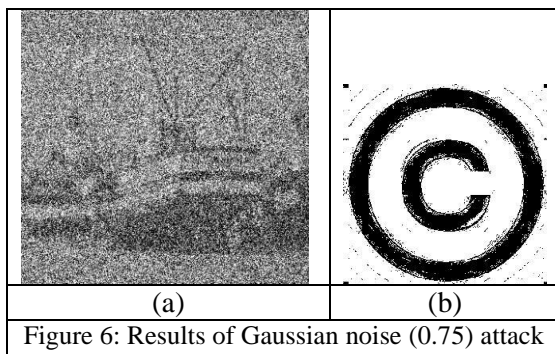
Where N is the number of pixels in watermark, w and \tilde{w} is the original and extracted watermarks respectively. The correlation factor ρ , may take values between -1 and 1.

The most common manipulation in digital image is filtering. In this work two types of filtering attacks have been considered. Average Filtering attack on watermarked image and extracted watermark after applying 13×13 averaging filtering are shown in fig 4(a) and fig 4(b) respectively. In fig 5(a) and fig 5(b) shows the median Filtering attack on watermarked image and extracted watermark after applying 13×13 median filtering.

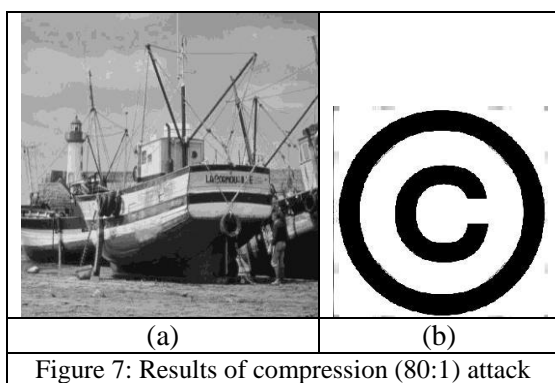




To verify the robustness of the watermarking scheme, another measure is noise addition. In real life, the degradation and distortion of the image come from noise addition. In this experiment, it is added 75% additive Gaussian noise on the watermarked image. In fig 6(a) was the median filtering attack on watermarked image and fig 6(b) was extracted watermark.



In real life applications, storage and transmission of digital data, a lossy coding operation is often performed on the data to reduce the memory and increase efficiency. Hence, this algorithm was tested for the JPEG compression (80:1) and the tested results are shown in figure 7(a) compression attacked image and fig 7(b) extracted watermark.



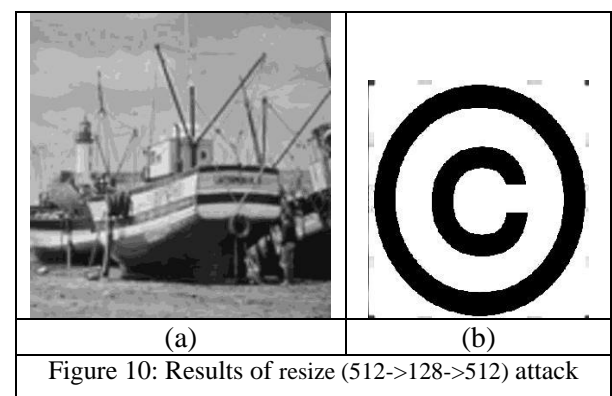
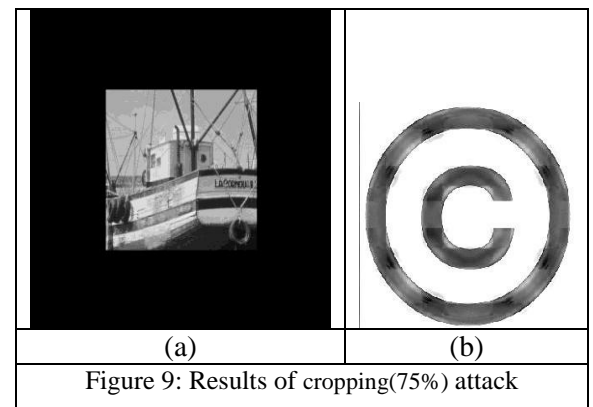
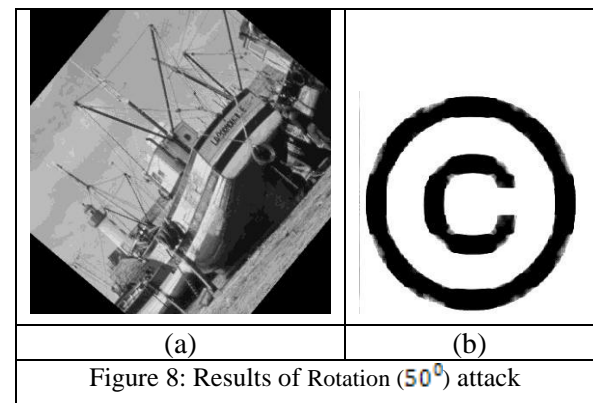
This algorithm also tested for rotation, cropping, and resizing attacks. For rotation, results for 50° are shown in figure 8. Cropping is very frequently used action on images in figure 9, results for cropping has shown when only 25% area is remaining.

For resizing in fig 10, first the size of image is reduced to 128×128 and again carried back to original size 512×512 . Simultaneously histogram equalization, sharpening and

contrast adjustment attacks are performed. For histogram equalization the result has showed in figure 11. For sharpening attack, the sharpness of watermarked host image is increased by a factor 80 and the result has showed in figure 12. For contrast adjustment, the contrast of watermarked host image is decreased by 50% and the result has shown in fig13. Another important attack was image distort. A distort operation wrapping was performed on watermarked image and the corresponding images have shown in fig 14.

To verify the presence of watermark the correlation coefficient between original and extracted watermarks is given by the equation 10 and results are tabulated in table 1.

The proposed algorithm results also compared with other existing algorithms. Those have been shown in table-2 and table-3.



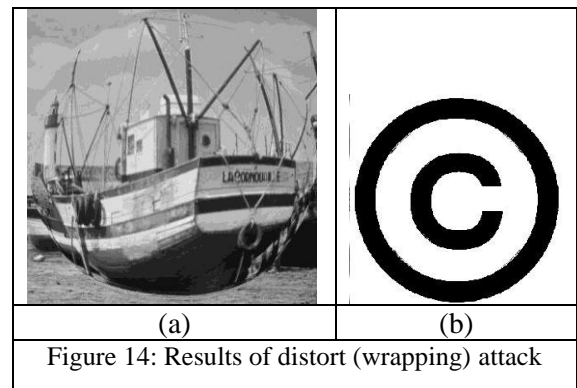
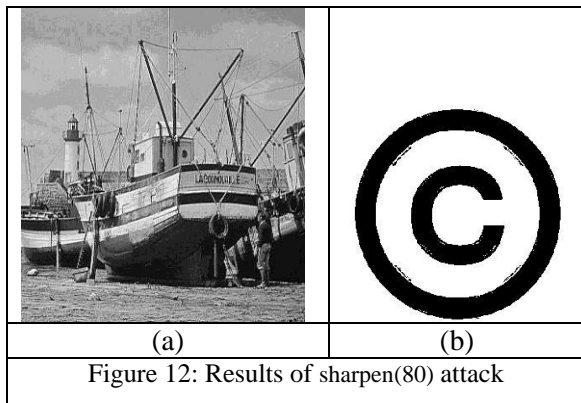
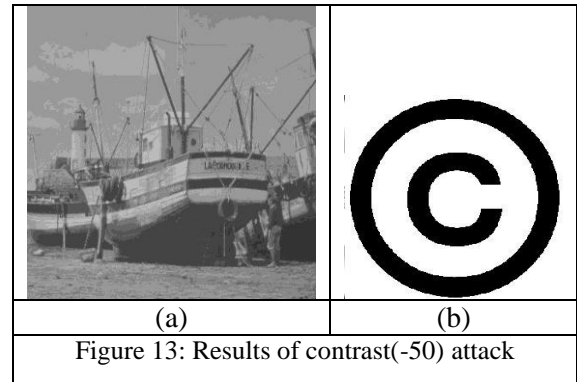
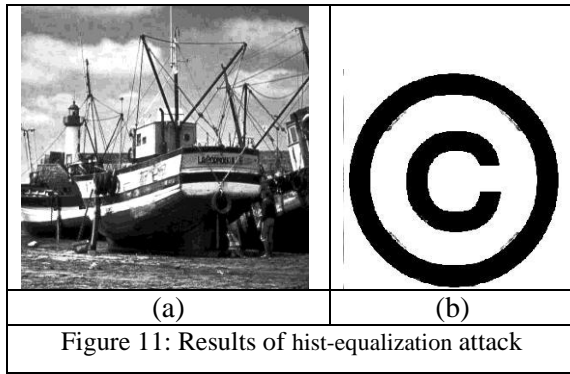


Table -1 : Comparison of NCC values						
Attacks	Existing method FrFt-SVD (ref 42)		Existing method DCT-SVD (ref 41)		Proposed method DCT-SVD	
	Boat	Mandrill	Boat	Mandrill	Boat	Mandrill
Average Filtering (13 x 13)	-0.3163	-0.1281	-0.1603	-0.2066	0.9893	0.9871
Median Filtering (13 x 13)	-0.3158	-0.1016	0.0184	-0.1318	0.9868	0.9857
Additive Gaussian noise(75%)	0.1833	0.1656	0.2514	0.3469	0.8949	0.8882
JPEG compression (80:1)	0.8929	0.7865	0.9119	0.5648	0.9924	0.9680
Rotation (50°)	-0.5470	-0.3626	0.3702	0.2404	0.9395	0.8351
Cropping (25% area remaining)	-0.1232	-0.1704	0.1735	0.0127	0.9688	0.9518
Resizing (512 -> 128 -> 512)	0.4897	0.0560	-0.1036	-0.1880	0.9925	0.9859
Histogram equalization	0.6009	0.7032	0.6932	0.6499	0.9874	0.9197
Sharpening (by factor 80)	0.1607	0.1881	0.2758	0.2955	0.9811	0.9229
Wrapping	0.2385	0.5486	0.4719	0.2306	0.9893	0.9722
Contrast adjustment(-50)	-0.7616	-0.5952	0.6554	-0.7272	0.9909	0.9776

Table -2 : Comparison of NCC values

Attacks	Existing Method (ref 37)	Proposed method
	DCT-SVD	DCT-SVD
Gaussian Blur(5 x 5)	0.9894	0.9917
Gaussian Noise (0.3)	0.9942	0.9093
Pixelate-2	0.9939	0.9947
JPEG compression (30:1)	0.9998	0.9910
Sharpening (by factor 80)	0.9275	0.9811
Resizing (512 -> 256 -> 512)	0.9957	0.9937
Rotation (20°)	0.7617	0.9723
Cropping (25% area remaining)	0.9990	0.9183
Contrast adjustment(-20)	0.9941	0.9943
Histogram equalization	9148	0.9874
Gamma Correction (0.6)	0.9993	0.9995

Table -3 : Comparison of NCC values

attacks	DCT-SVD Ref (40)	DCT-SVD Proposed
PSNR	68.94	78.25
NCC	0.9648	0.9906
Gaussian Noise	0.8651	0.9889
Low Pass Filter	0.5447	0.9881
Pepper salt	0.8494	0.9713
Contrast Enhancement	0.1096	0.9958
JPEG-60	0.9645	0.9899
JPEG-80	----	0.9905
JPEG-100	-----	0.9906
Cutting	0.0291	0.9906
Rotation-45°	0.0256	0.9762
Rotation-30°	-----	0.9750

Rotation-60°	-----	0.9651
Rotation-90°	-----	0.9921

5. CONCLUSIONS

A new semi-blind reference watermarking scheme based on DCT and SVD is presented in which the watermark is visually meaningful gray scale image instead of a noisy-type Gaussian sequence. For the extraction of watermark a reliable watermark extraction scheme is constructed. Robustness of proposed method is carried out by a variety of attacks. The proposed algorithm results were compared with existing papers [41, 42]. No one can extract watermark without knowing the value of β . Hence the security is increased. The security of proposed method lies in the original reference image since no attacker can extract the data without access the original reference image. The robustness of proposed method was also compared with other existing algorithms [37, 40]. When comparing results with ref paper [37], the proposed results are superior in Gaussian blur, pixelated, sharpening, rotation, contrast adjustment, histogram equalization and gamma correction. But other attacks the existing algorithm was superior to proposed algorithm.

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