

Comparison of Effects of Entropy Coding Schemes Cascaded with Set Partitioning in Hierarchical Trees

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ABSTRACT

WT (Wavelet Transform) is considered as landmark for image compression because it represents a signal in terms of functions which are localized both in frequency and time domain. Wavelet sub-band coding exploits the self-similarity of pixels in images and arranges resulting coefficients in different sub-bands. A much simpler and fully embedded codec algorithm SPIHT (Set Partitioning in Hierarchical Trees) is widely used for the compression of wavelet transformed images. It encodes the transformed coefficients depending upon their significance comparative to the given threshold. Statistical analysis reveals that the output bit-stream of SPIHT comprises of long trail of zeroes that can be further compressed, therefore SPIHT is not advocated to be used as sole mean of compression. In this paper, wavelet transformed images have been initially compressed by using SPIHT technique and to attain more compression, the output bit streams of SPIHT are then fed to entropy encoders; Huffman and Arithmetic encoders, for further de-correlation. The comparison of two concatenations has been carried out by evaluating few factors like Bit Saving Capability, PSNR (Peak Signal to Noise Ratio), Compression Ratio and Elapsed Time. The experimental results of these cascading demonstrate that SPIHT combined with Arithmetic coding yields better compression ratio as compared to SPIHT cascaded with Huffman coding. Whereas, SPIHT once combined with Huffman coding is proved to be comparatively efficient.

Key Words: Wavelet Transform, Set Partitioning in Hierarchical Trees, Huffman and Arithmetic Coding.

1. INTRODUCTION

Image compression plays a vital role in terms of saving storage space and reduction in transmission time. Wavelet Transform, a mathematical scheme developing rapidly in the field of image compression, is a successor of DCT (Discrete Cosine Transform) in which low frequencies are exploited efficiently and high frequencies are quantized coarsely [1]. In this technique

translated and scaled version of particular wavelets are employed to decompose an image [2]. It is preferred because of its inherent property of being redundant and shift invariant [3].

Nowadays DWT (Discrete Wavelet Transformed) based various image compression techniques are being used to

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attain better PSNR and CR (Compression Ratio). One of the progressive encoding techniques to underline is EZW (Embedded Zero-Tree Wavelet) which was introduced by Jorome [4]. This is a very simple technique that generates an embedded bit stream as output [5]. In this scheme, higher energized coefficients are encoded first and encoding process can be terminated at any point when the distortion metric or a target rate is achieved [4].

SPIHT, an improved version of EZW, was proposed by Amir and William [6]. It is WT based image compression algorithm that generates an embedded bit stream, gives better PSNR and CRs for different types of gray scale images [7]. Although with SPIHT, better compression is achieved by searching more zero-trees and denoting them by separate tree root from the tree [8] yet memory requirements of SPIHT are large enough to handle [9-10]. It has also been observed that most of the values of wavelet coefficients are below the given threshold; hence output of SPIHT consists of a number of binary strings of zeros and ones that contains similarity and provides room for further compression [11]. This additional compression on the output stream of SPIHT can be achieved by using various types of entropy encodings.

In this paper output of SPIHT algorithm has been cascaded with two types of entropy encoders; Arithmetic and Huffman encoder, to evaluate their performance in terms of compression and efficiency. The paper has been organized in 6 sections in a way that Section-1 introduces image compression using DWT and embedded encoding. Section-2 enunciates SPIHT algorithm in detail. Section 3 and 4 describe about the cascading of SPIHT with Arithmetic and Huffman coding respectively. This is followed by simulation and results in section-5. Section-6 concludes the paper.

2. SET PARTITIONING IN HIERARCHICAL TREES

SPIHT yields high PSNR than EZW because of a special symbol that indicates the significance of child nodes of significance parent, and separation of child nodes from second generation descendants [12-14]. After wavelet transformation of pictorial data, the decomposed image consists of sub-bands, where coefficients form a tree like structure. In Fig. 1 a SOT (Spatial Orientation Tree) is shown which exhibits the relationship between the sub-bands present in the pyramidal structure, where coefficients divided into four bands repeatedly. In this spatial orientation tree every node of the tree consists of coordinates values of pixel of the image. Every node further consists of either no or four branches and each branch depicts corresponding off-springs of same spatial location present in pyramid structure, represented by same color in Fig. 1. The peak level of the pyramidal structure comprises on LL band.

Only three sub-bands participate to establish the descendants i.e. only three pixels contribute to form off-springs in HH, HL and LH bands at similar spatial location. The remaining pixel out of these four is marked as star ‘*’, as shown in Fig. 1, and does not participate in establishing the descendants. Here we need to define a data structure based on sets:

$H(x,y)$: Four Root coefficients in LL band at highest level of SSOT.

$O(x,y)$: Set consisting offspring of coefficient at (x,y) i.e. $\{(2x,2y), (2x,2y+1), (2x+1,2y), (2x+1,2y+1)\}$

$D(x,y)$: Set comprises on descendants of location (x,y)

$L(x,y)$: $D(x,y) - O(x,y)$

The rules of set partitioning technique are employed in SPIHT algorithm. This technique has outperformed EZW. Both encoding and decoding are achieved using SPIHT algorithm. This algorithm works more effectively, as it does not require ordering information in explicit manner for transmission like other progressive transmission algorithms. In this algorithm three lists are employed which are continuously updated by encoder and decoder in order to enhance compression ratio:

LIS (List of Insignificant Sets)

LIP (List of Insignificant Pixels)

LSP (List of Significant Pixels)

Every element of these sets is represented by coordinate values of the pixel (x,y). Elements in LSP and LIP comprise on coordinates of single pixel while in case of LIS element is set L(x,y) or the descendants D(x,y). SPIHT segregates the decomposed wavelets into significant and insignificant partitions based on the following functions:

$$S_n(Z) = \begin{cases} 1 & \max_{(i,j \in Z)} \{c_{i,j}\} \geq 2^n \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

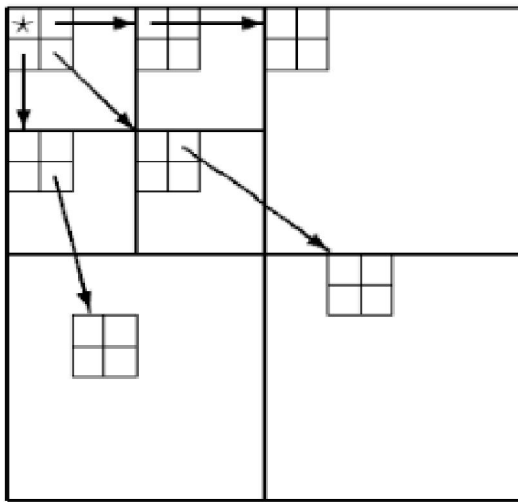


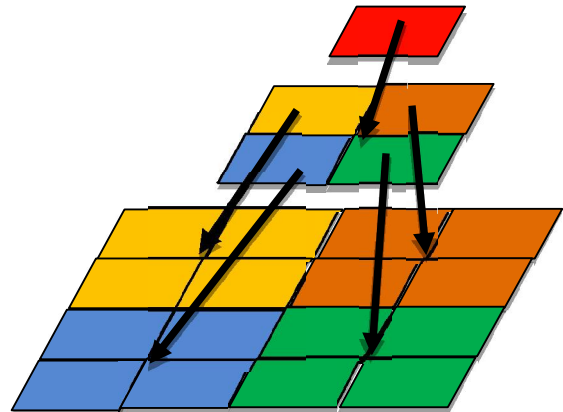
FIG. 1. SPACIAL ORIENTATION TREE AND PYRAMIDAL STRUCTURE

Here $S_n(Z)$ is a set of significant coordinates Z , and $c_{i,j}$ is the coefficient value at coordinate (i,j) [4].

Initially every pixel consider as insignificant pixel with reference to calculated threshold. This algorithm comprises of different passes, given as follows:

- Sorting pass
- Refinement pass
- Updating of Quantization Step Pass

These three passes recur unless encoder continues to send least significant refinement bits. Insignificance of the pixels of LIP is checked during the sorting pass. During the sorting pass, the pixels greater than the given threshold for this particular pass, are termed to be significant. These significant pixels are then passed to the LSP. Similarly, pixels of set present in LIS are checked, if it is significant then partition it and finally remove from this list. Those subsets which have more than one entry are put in LIS. Similarly, single pixels are put in the LSP or LIP, according to the significance. In magnitude refinement pass, the significant pixels of LSP are encoded for most significant 'jth' position. After the above discussion, we can summarize the encoding algorithm as follows:



2.1 Initialization

Output $j = \lfloor \log_2 (\max_{(x,y)} \{ |c_{x,y}| \}) \rfloor$

LSP = { }

LIP = $\{(x,y) \in H\}$

LIS = $\{D(x,y), (x,y) \in H\}$

2.2 Sorting Pass

Verify for significance of each entry of the LIP. Transmit '1' if the entry is found significant as compared to threshold and transmit '0' if insignificant. Remove the entry from the LIP if it is found significant and insert it in the LSP. Then verify for significance of each entry of the LIS with respect to threshold. If the entry is found significant, transmit its sign of significance, partition this entry depending upon the set if it is L(x,y) or D(x,y). Continue updating all three lists LSP, LIS and LIP relevant to their significance.

2.3 Refinement Pass

For all the entries present in the LSP, Transmit MSB found at i^{th} location.

2.4 Renewing Quantization Step Pass

Decrease values of 'j' by 1 during this pass and repeat steps of sorting pass, refinement pass and quantization steps pass of the algorithm. Keep repeating unless 'j' becomes zero. At the decoder end same procedure is repeated in reverse order. The output of encoder is fed to the decoder. By employing further entropy coding for the output of the SPIHT encoder more compression is achieved.

2.5 Analysis of SPIHT

We illustrate the concept of this algorithm with the help of this example given in Tables 1-2.

TABLE 1. THE ORIGINAL MATRIX

34.2329	22.9106	8.0819	-9.5783	2.4702	9.6024	17.4720	20.9260
3.1444	0.0473	-10.7578	5.7983	15.2621	5.7212	-6.8773	-26.2526
-9.4979	-7.2971	8.1126	10.0352	10.4049	3.1472	-12.044	-15.2028
6-7.7991	1.9334	12.7445	13.1993	11.3390	6.9783	4.1331	5.5305
12.7476	13.6053	24.2530	24.4590	21.2853	16.8028	13.9673	14.3350
0.4514	7.7005	16.9633	23.2157	20.2790	16.1249	13.9673	14.3350
7.9368	-4.9201	2.2329	0.4116	29.5710	22.8518	22.6126	6.1349

TABLE 2. DWT COEFFICIENTS OF ARBITRARY DATA SET

34.2329	22.9106	8.0819	-9.5783	2.4702	9.6024	17.4720	20.9260
3.1444	0.0473	-10.7578	5.7983	15.2621	5.7212	-6.8773	-26.2526
-9.4979	-7.2971	8.1126	10.0352	10.4049	3.1472	-12.044	-15.2028
6-7.7991	1.9334	12.7445	13.1993	11.3390	6.9783	4.1331	5.5305
12.7476	13.6053	24.2530	24.4590	21.2853	16.8028	13.9673	14.3350
0.4514	7.7005	16.9633	23.2157	20.2790	16.1249	13.9673	14.3350
7.9368	-4.9201	2.2329	0.4116	29.5710	22.8518	22.6126	6.1349

The encoder transmits the bit-stream after one pass and then the decoder decodes it. For Threshold = 2n and n=5 (according to the previously stated explanation). So the output bit stream is '11100011100010000001010110000'. It is evident from result that there is large number of series of '0' situation. Statistical analysis reveals that in most digital image that '000' comes with the probability larger than 1/4. At this stage further compression can be achieved by concatenating Entropy coding schemes with SPIHT.

3. CASCADING WITH ARITHMETIC CODING

To understand Arithmetic coding following concept should be kept in mind:

In this algorithm variable length of Symbols are encoded using variable length code-words.

A single Arithmetic code-word is allocated to all the symbols in the message jointly.

The symbol and code-word has no one to one correspondence.

The code-word exist from the class of real numbers [0,1] with one open interval. As the coding progresses this interval becomes smaller and smaller.

A flowchart in Fig. 2 shows how algorithm runs. To perform cascading initially the output bit-stream of the SPIHT is first symbolized i.e. all bit stream is divided in sets of three bits forming 2³ symbols given as 000, 001, 010, 011, 100, 101, 110 and 111. Then the probabilities of these symbols are calculated. These symbols are then fed to the Arithmetic coder block, which generate an arithmetic code-word.

During the symbolization of the SPIHT output bit-stream there remains one, two or three bits. The information of these remaining bits is added to the Bit Header as shown in Table 3.

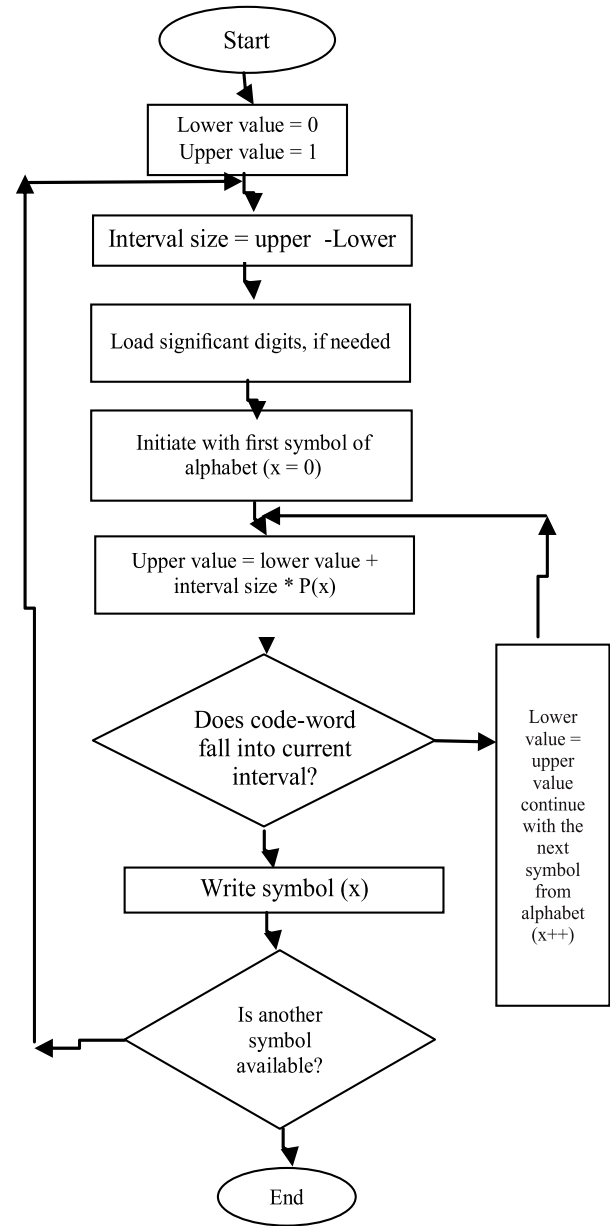


FIG. 2. FLOWCHART FOR ARITHMETIC CODING

TABLE 3. BIT HEADER OF CASCADING SPIHT AND ENTROPY CODING

Two Bits Representation of number of Remaining Bits	Entropy Coding Generated Bit-Stream	Remaining Bits
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4. CASCADING WITH HUFFMAN CODING

Huffman coding is dependent upon the frequency of appearance of pixels in an image. It has the following features:

In this algorithm variable length code-words allot fixed length of symbols [15].

This technique decode symbols uniquely i.e. no code word contains the prefix of previous code-word. Fig. 3 represents the flow of algorithm.

Cascading of SPIHT with Huffman coding is done in the same way as was done with Arithmetic coding. Initially Symbolization is done on SPIHT output bit-stream by using a combination of three bits each and then that symbol is further given to Huffman Coder block. Table 4 is drawn for the Lena Image of 512x512 at 0.5 bpp. That shows the symbols with their probabilities and allotted code-words. This cascading results with the same bit header as discussed in Table 3.

5. SIMULATION AND RESULTS

After the successful cascading of both entropy coding techniques with SPHT some measurements are

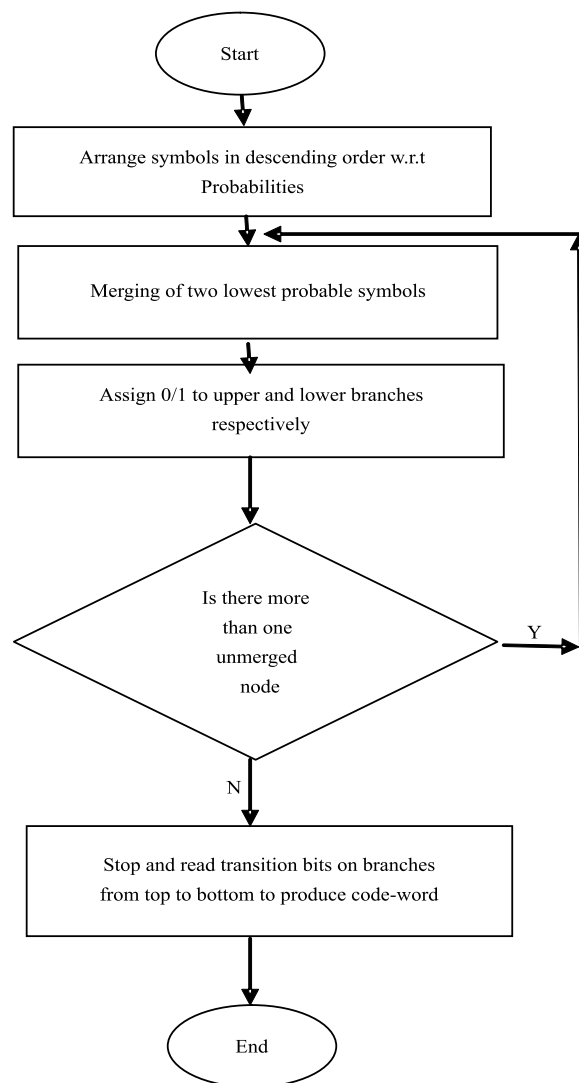


FIG. 3. FLOWCHART OF HUFFMAN CODING

TABLE 4. SYMBOLS WITH PROBABILITIES AND CODE-WORDS

Symbols	Probabilities	Code Words
000	0.24	00
001	0.14	100
010	0.12	101
011	0.1	110
100	0.15	111
101	0.08	0011
110	0.1	010
111	0.07	0110

evaluated in order to compare the performance of both cascading. In order to carry out calculation Lena image is used at different resolutions i.e. 256x256 and 512x512.

Tables 5-8 enunciate that bit saving capability and compression ratio, after cascading SPIHT with Arithmetic

encoding, are improving gradually with the increase in bit rates for two different resolution of Lena image as compared to those of SPIHT cascaded with Huffman. Whereas results of Table 5 exhibit that SPIHT concatenation with Huffman encoding is more time efficient. The results are also demonstrated with the help of Figs 4-7.

TABLE 5. BITS SAVING CAPABILITY OF BOTH ALGORITHMS

Bits Saving Capability				
Rate	Lena 256x256		Lena 512x512	
	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic
0.1	296	332	1149	1290
0.2	558	648	1888	2154
0.3	700	819	2908	3284
0.4	993	1186	3358	3838
0.5	1233	1437	4153	4810
0.6	1282	1527	4359	5150
0.7	1522	1816	3716	4851
0.8	1658	1989	4167	5570
0.9	1820	2156	5093	6676
1.0	1849	2218	5520	7224

TABLE 6. PSNR PERFORMANCES OF BOTH ALGORITHMS

PSNR Performance (Bpp)				
Rate	Lena 256x256		Lena 512x512	
	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic
0.1	24.45	24.45	28.13	28.13
0.2	27.11	27.11	31.02	31.02
0.3	28.73	28.73	32.95	32.95
0.4	30.44	30.44	34.30	34.30
0.5	31.71	31.71	35.56	35.56
0.6	32.66	32.66	36.53	36.53
0.7	33.76	33.76	37.36	37.36
0.8	34.86	34.86	38.15	38.15
0.9	35.74	35.74	38.83	38.83
1.0	36.47	36.47	39.65	39.65

Application of both cascading algorithms on different types of low and high contrast images have also substantiated above the drawn inferences. Tables 9-10 contain the results of two test images, 128x128 Lena and 256x256 Obama, of both high and low contrasts. The original and reconstructed images are given at Figs. 8-9.

Embedded coding requires least multiplication and division with focus on comparison, thus it brings efficiency. The complexity is proportional to the number of compressed bits. It is better in complexity as compared to segmentation based image coding, therefore widely adopted. In order to verify the concluding statement, a

TABLE 7. COMPRESSION RATIOS OF BOTH ALGORITHMS

Compression Ratio				
Rate	Lena 256x256		Lena 512x512	
	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic
0.1	1.0473	1.0534	1.0458	1.0518
0.2	1.0445	1.0520	1.0374	1.0428
0.3	1.0369	1.0435	1.0384	1.0436
0.4	1.0394	1.0474	1.0331	1.0380
0.5	1.0391	1.0459	1.0327	1.0381
0.6	1.0337	1.0404	1.0285	1.0339
0.7	1.0343	1.0412	1.0207	1.0272
0.8	1.0327	1.0394	1.0203	1.0273
0.9	1.0318	1.0379	1.0221	1.0291
1.0	1.0290	1.0350	1.0215	1.0283

TABLE 8. ELAPSED TIME FOR BOTH ALGORITHMS

Elapsed Time (Sec)				
Rate	Lena 256x256		Lena 512x512	
	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic
0.1	1.7089	3.3623	7.7691	9.0000
0.2	4.0136	8.4732	14.9828	21.2069
0.3	5.1116	6.5069	22.7861	31.4346
0.4	6.2057	7.4415	36.1099	41.3791
0.5	7.2749	10.7266	46.4404	51.4574
0.6	10.3345	12.1818	64.1089	74.2677
0.7	12.0107	14.2440	72.5772	89.4216
0.8	13.6070	16.9060	107.5733	106.6014
0.9	16.6915	18.8235	124.0462	120.7071
1.0	18.7386	24.2221	148.4652	151.2966

lot of statistical analyses have been carried out by taking a number of images of various sizes and resolutions. Results of the few images like Obama, Baboon, Pepper, bird and couple have been displayed in the ensuing Tables 11-14 and Fig. 10.

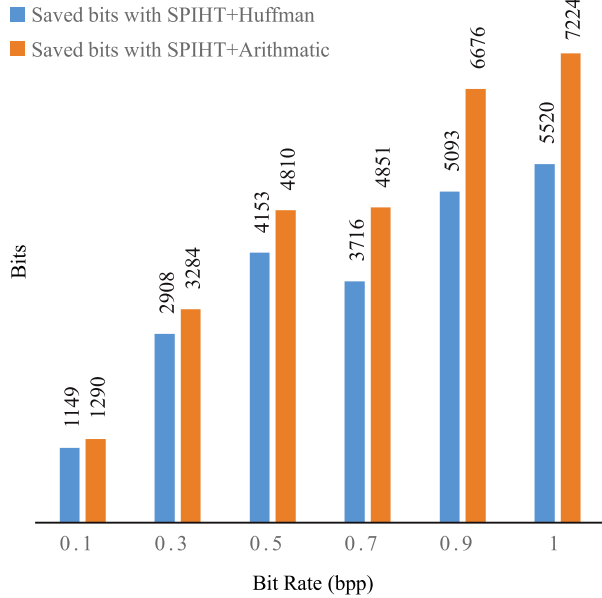


FIG. 4. HISTOGRAM FOR BITS SAVING CAPABILITY AT GIVEN RATES FOR LENA 512

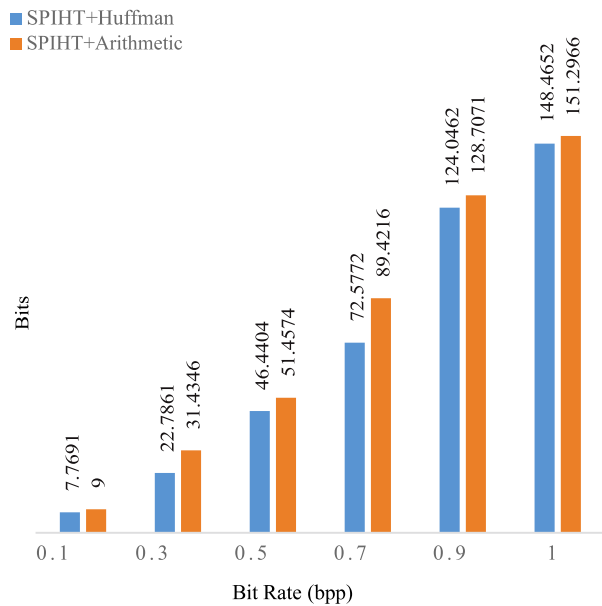


FIG. 5. HISTOGRAM FOR ELAPSED TIME AT GIVEN RATES FOR LENA 512

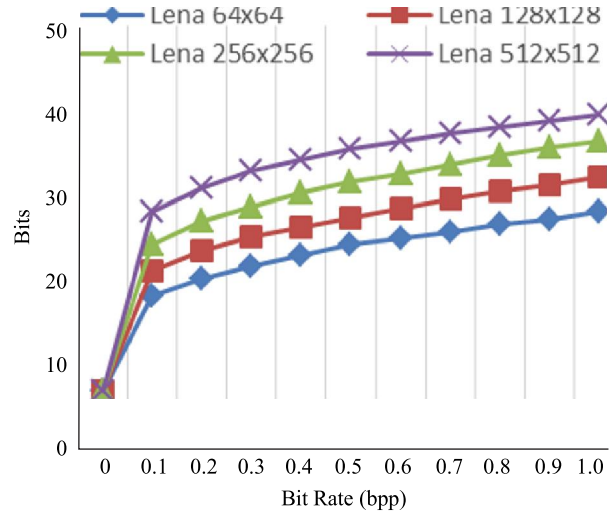


FIG. 6. PSNR PERFORMANCE FOR BOTH CASCADING AT GIVEN RESOLUTION



FIG. 7(a). ORIGINAL

FIG. 7(b). RECONSTRUCTED IMAGES OF LENA AT VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS 64X64, 128X128, 256X256 AND 512X512

TABLE 9. ELAPSED TIME FOR BOTH ALGORITHMS FOR LOW AND HIGH CONTRAST IMAGES

Elapsed Time (Sec)								
Rate	Low Contrast				High Contrast			
	Lena128x128		Obama 256x256		Lena128x128		Obama 256x256	
	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic
0.1	1.9297	3.3432	4.0748	4.8686	1.7847	2.0522	4.3770	4.8594
0.2	1.8107	2.4664	6.3330	7.8396	1.6868	2.1747	6.4340	7.6480
0.3	2.4242	2.9887	9.4621	11.8295	2.4661	3.0754	9.3433	11.0217
0.4	3.1893	3.6106	12.1901	15.1210	3.2125	3.8484	12.4466	14.9772
0.5	3.7576	5.8504	15.7590	18.9981	3.8118	4.6898	15.5798	18.4035
0.6	4.6173	5.9920	21.2084	22.7926	4.4995	5.4369	18.3400	21.6120
0.7	5.2586	6.7626	22.1881	39.3621	5.6181	6.3819	22.0686	27.1575
0.8	5.8512	7.5879	26.1461	32.3699	6.4207	7.2186	25.1197	31.5276
0.9	7.0841	8.7920	32.2327	35.0577	6.3065	7.9643	27.9584	33.0500
1.0	7.6785	9.0754	32.4269	36.5067	7.5575	8.7126	31.2239	36.6862

TABLE 10. BIT SAVING CAPABILITY FOR BOTH ALGORITHMS FOR LOW AND HIGH CONTRAST IMAGES

Bits Saving Capability								
Rate	Low Contrast				High Contrast			
	Lena128x128		Obama 256x256		Lena128x128		Obama 256x256	
	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic
0.1	78	80	358	405	65	73	224	291
0.2	104	115	629	734	143	165	599	711
0.3	205	220	967	1100	189	204	834	1011
0.4	270	300	1190	1379	262	299	1311	1550
0.5	281	315	1384	1599	343	380	1555	1826
0.6	331	386	1636	1895	410	455	1765	2087
0.7	388	453	1990	2287	463	514	2089	2476
0.8	484	555	2103	2417	540	598	2288	2707
0.9	489	579	2300	2662	588	652	2382	2817
1.0	510	615	2420	2814	679	748	2874	3326



FIG. 8(a). ORIGINAL



FIG. 8(b). RECONSTRUCTED IMAGES OF LENA 128X128 AND OBAMA 256X256 (HIGH CONTRAST)



FIG. 9(a). ORIGINAL



FIG. 9(b). RECONSTRUCTED IMAGES OF LENA 128X128 AND OBAMA 256X256 (LOW CONTRAST)



TABLE 11. BITS SAVING CAPABILITY FOR BOTH ALGORITHMS FOR OTHER IMAGES

Bits Saving Capability						
Rate	Obama 256x256		Baboon 256x256		Pepper256x256	
	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic
0.1	363	418	289	345	308	329
0.2	579	678	441	604	659	735
0.3	918	1065	734	980	851	970
0.4	1084	1305	985	1219	1130	1307
0.5	1324	1557	1152	1408	1455	1654
0.6	1611	1884	977	1311	1804	2052
0.7	1819	2154	768	1249	2000	2308
0.8	2051	2424	859	1431	2277	2618
0.9	2303	2710	918	1590	2341	2692
1.0	2403	2850	1497	2155	2538	2928

TABLE 12. BITS SAVING CAPABILITY FOR BOTH ALGORITHMS FOR OTHER IMAGES

Bits Saving Capability			
Bird 256x256		Couple 256x256	
SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic
265	297	235	291
496	552	525	639
757	843	605	739
1091	1214	668	876
1286	1434	924	1174
1498	1696	1174	1449
1594	1817	1171	1501
1452	1727	1188	1584
1599	1901	1384	1824
2018	2362	1681	2162

TABLE 13. ELAPSED TIME FOR BOTH ALGORITHMS FOR OTHER IMAGES

Elapsed Time (Sec)						
Rate	Obama 256x256		Baboon 256x256		Pepper256x256	
	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic
0.1	4.1459	4.9219	4.8016	5.5692	4.1266	5.0121
0.2	8.1190	10.9493	7.5964	8.2429	6.2027	8.9535
0.3	9.8259	24.9735	10.4751	11.9745	9.4517	16.9925
0.4	14.1936	28.3171	13.3187	15.3194	15.2937	18.9351
0.5	15.8551	25.7068	17.0699	18.8527	15.4710	25.8023
0.6	18.3362	28.1613	19.5157	24.2435	19.7451	25.5108
0.7	23.6568	36.6132	23.9589	29.6304	21.6035	30.0418
0.8	25.0496	37.7163	27.9735	32.9852	24.5320	35.8612
0.9	28.2171	55.0322	32.6721	41.7283	31.5261	35.6338
1.0	30.6170	44.2331	35.0099	40.9646	34.3293	33.3989

TABLE 14. ELAPSED TIME FOR BOTH ALGORITHMS FOR OTHER IMAGES

Elapsed Time			
Bird 256x256		Couple 256x256	
SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic	SPIHT with Huffman	SPIHT with Arithmetic
4.1948	6.2311	4.8834	5.0736
6.4673	8.0934	6.6779	8.1793
9.5165	14.0227	9.6772	11.6693
13.2360	18.3097	13.0355	16.4412
18.3087	23.9866	16.4284	19.6296
18.9635	27.5071	19.2215	23.1156
21.3482	30.9340	22.8776	27.8283
26.3532	38.5624	27.5107	34.0176
29.4676	42.2578	31.0229	36.5118
34.0882	43.3389	34.9890	40.0505



FIG. 10(a). ORIGINAL



FIG. 10(b). RECONSTRUCTED IMAGES OF COUPLE, BIRD, OBAMA, PEPPER AND BABOON

6. CONCLUSION

In this paper SPIHT technique has been combined with two schemes of entropy encoding for sparse representation of the image. It has been observed that SPIHT technique once cascaded with Arithmetic encoding performs better in terms of bits saving capability and CR but at the cost of computational complexity, as compared to SPIHT cascaded with Huffman encoding which is computationally efficient. Here, PSNR performance is preserved for both algorithms however, it increases with the increase in resolution of the image on a given rate in bpp.

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