

Medical Image Compression using Improved EZW and New Lifting Based Wavelets

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Abstract

Embedded Zerotree Wavelet (EZW) coding was proved to be one of the best schemes for compressing wavelet decomposed image data. The symbols were generated systematically by defining a scanning pattern and predetermined symbols. These symbols are then coded by using any symbol coder. In this paper, the standard EZW algorithm was modified in three ways. First, the HH band of wavelet decomposition was ignored. Second, HH, HL and LH bands are ignored. In third, two newly added symbols are used each for positive and negative coefficients with zerotrees as descendants. These three schemes are used on 'bior4.4' wavelet decomposed data as was done with original EZW algorithm and on new lifting based wavelet decomposed data. The code sequence and outcomes of subordinate passes are presented by taking an example for the standard EZW coding and proposed schemes. The simulation results shows that the proposed algorithms exhibit better results compared to most of the works available in the literature.

Keywords

EZW, Wavelet, Compression, Subband, Zerotree

1. Introduction

Wavelet based image compression schemes prove to be more prominent since the inception of wavelet in one form or other. On the direct spatial form of image data, a number of coding algorithms are proposed in the literature. But the wavelet domain of image data for that matter some kinds of hierarchical tree based representation eases the coding operation as it shifts down all the correlation or redundancy in to a single block. The embedded zerotree wavelet coding [1], proposed in 1993, was modified in a number of works.

Ouafi. A, et. al, proposed a new study to image compression based on the principle of Shapiro's EZW [2]. The proposed EZW distributes entropy differently than Shapiro's and also optimizes the coding. This work has produced results that are a significant improvement on PSNR and compression ratio obtained in standard EZW. Nizar Mohammed Ameen Ahmed et. al, in [3] exploited the main classification rules used in EZW and Modified EZW (MEZW) presented in 2008. The new modification distributes the entropy among eight symbols instead of four in EZW and six in MEZW. Also, the generated symbols are binary regrouped before entropy coding, which is an additional pass implemented in MEZW too. NMEZW Image coding results are compared to those obtained by EZW, MEZW, SPIHT and SPIKE algorithms.

Ganesh D. Bhokare et. al, in [4], extended the standard EZW to M-band wavelet transform. Through this scheme the efficiency of the embedded zero wavelet tree coding, that finds extensive application as a variable bit-rate coder. Aiswarya S, Dr. S. Veni in [5], described the hardware implementation of EZW encoding algorithm along with Huffman encoding and decoding architectures. After performing lifting based DWT technique

and EZW algorithm, Huffman coding was used to ensure further compression of the image. In Huffman coding no bit string is a prefix of any other bit string. Hence each code is uniquely decodable. T. Celine Therese Jenny et.al, proposed a vector quantization as a post processing step to reduce the coded file size [6]. Vector Quantization method can reduce redundancy of the image data in order to be able to store or transmit data in an efficient form. It is demonstrated by experimental results that the proposed method outperforms several well-known lossless image compression techniques for still images that contain 256 colors or less.

Venkata Sainath Gupta et.al's [7] deals with the image security along with compression. An algorithm using chaos on EZW compression technique was proposed to provide security along with image compression. The process of providing image security starts with compressing the image using EZW. The output sequence of EZW is converted to 2-D data and on this 2-D data row and column scrambling algorithm based on chaos was applied.

Ktata. S, Mahjoubi. H in [8] evaluated the compression performance and characteristics of zerotree coding compression schemes of ECG applications. Modified EZW and SPIHT algorithms are proposed for compression of ECG data. Both methodologies were evaluated using the percent root mean square difference (PRD) and the Compression Ratio (CR). Theoretical results are contrasted with a simulation study with actual ECG signals from MIT-BIH arrhythmia database. The simulation results show that the both methods achieve a very significant improvement in the performances of compression ratio and error measurement for ECG, as compared with some other compression methods.

Zhang Wei proposed an EZW and Huffman joint encoding algorithm In order to reduce the desired number of digits used in coding [9]. The experimental results shows, compared with the independent EZW algorithm, the joint encoding algorithm can improve the efficiency of image compression and coding. Kancelkis. D, Kančelkis. D proposed a new approach to the analysis of quad-trees in the discrete wavelet spectrum of a digital image [10]. The developed scheme can be applied to any iterative zero-tree based image coding procedure, i.e. to the EZW algorithm, to the SPIHT algorithm, etc. The key point of the proposal - on each iteration, the scheme generates information bitwise variable values for the whole set of quad-tree roots and gathers data on the significance of respective descendants. Exceptionally high-performance of the proposed approach is demonstrated using the EZW algorithm and the reversible Le Gall wavelet transform.

Some of the modifications of EZW, implementations of EZW and similar algorithms and application of EZW and modified EZW in different fields are presented in [11]-[19]. While this paper presents modification of EZW and application of EZW and modification of EZW on the image decomposition using new wavelet proposed. The rest of the paper is organized as follows.

In the next section, new wavelet and the corresponding lifting schemes are presented. In section III, the standard EZW algorithm was present with examples. Section IV presents the modified EZW with an illustrated example. Section V presents the simulation results. Section VI concludes the paper.

II. New Wavelet & Lifting Scheme

The main intension of this paper is to improve the compression performance of EZW coding algorithm, and it was achieved and implemented on existing traditional wavelets and lifting version of new wavelet proposed in [20-21]. The new wavelet proposed in [20] was described below for convenience. The phi(Φ) and psi(Ψ) functions and the four filters associated with new wavelets are plotted in the fig. 1.

The lifting scheme proposed in [21], was presented here again for convenience.

Forward Wavelet Transform:

Split :

$$\lambda_k \leftarrow x(2k), \gamma_k \leftarrow x(2k+1)$$

Dual Lifting (Predict):

$$\gamma_k \leftarrow \gamma_k + [A_1 \gamma_{k-1} + A_2 \gamma_k + A_3 \gamma_{k+1}]$$

Primal Lifting (Update):

$$\lambda_k \leftarrow \lambda_k + [C_1 \lambda_{k+1} + C_2 \lambda_{k+2} + C_3 \lambda_{k+3}]$$

Inverse Wavelet Transform:

Inverse Primal Lifting (Update):

$$\lambda_k \leftarrow \lambda_k - [C_1 \lambda_{k+1} + C_2 \lambda_{k+2} + C_3 \lambda_{k+3}]$$

Inverse Dual Lifting (Predict):

$$\gamma_k \leftarrow \gamma_k + [A_1 \gamma_{k-1} + A_2 \gamma_k + A_3 \gamma_{k+1}]$$

Merge : $x(2k) \leftarrow \lambda_k$

$$x(2k+1) \leftarrow \gamma_k$$

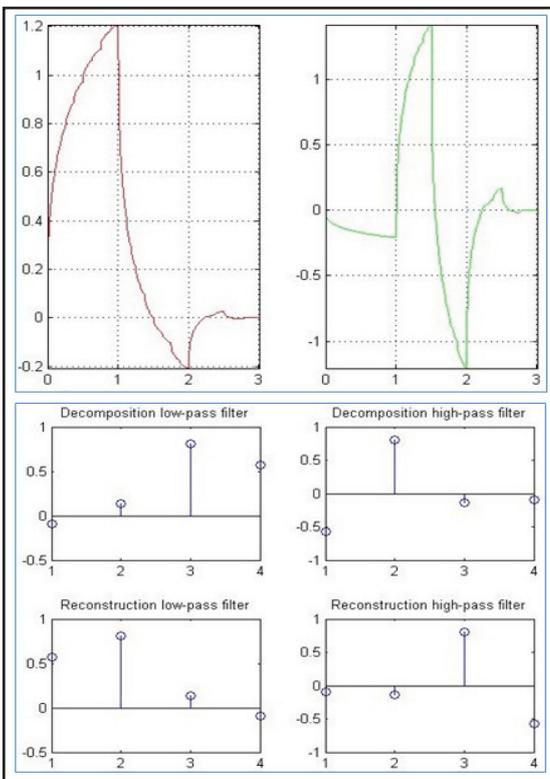


Fig. 1: Phi, Psi Functions and Filter Banks Associated With New Wavelet

Refer [21] for the details of the constants $A_1, A_2, A_3, C_1, C_2,$ and C_3 .

III. EZW

The embedded zerotree wavelet coding was impressed by the properties of subband coding of wavelet transform. The wavelet transformed coefficients will have less energy as the decomposition level increases. But as the decomposition level increases the complexity associated with working with minute details increases. The transmission of wavelet coefficients, some form of generic coding of raw data as well as subband coefficients through the channel was considered in a number of previous works.

If the value of the coefficient is equal to that of its neighbor, it is said to possess a property by on which a coding scheme may be developed, as is a Run-length coding. But, if the run value is zero or insignificant and if a mechanism to intimate that a coefficient is insignificant or vice versa then it is possible to reduce the cost of transmission of the image data. At times the message of insignificant map or significant map may be higher than the data itself. The embedded zerotree wavelet coding was designed to track the significant map by using a hierarchical structure. The EZW uses the wavelet domain data of an image, a scanning pattern and an algorithm which designate a particular coefficient as either significant or not. In this paper the wavelet domain was obtained from different kinds of wavelets as mentioned previously. The scanning pattern is shown in fig. 2 below.

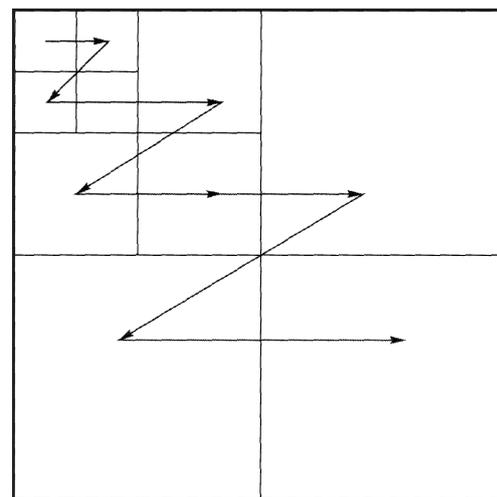


Fig. 2: Scanning Pattern in EZW

The coefficients are related in a hierarchical manner and a coefficient is designated as root, and some coefficients are designated as descendants or children of the root as shown in the fig. 3. As shown in the fig. 3, a_1, a_2 and a_3 are the children of a . a_{11}, a_{12}, a_{13} and a_{14} are the children of a_1 and so on. As shown in the scanning pattern, the children will be scanned only after their root was scanned. It is also assumed that all the children of a root will have lesser value than that of root. Based on the values of the wavelet coefficients a threshold will be defined. Then, based on this threshold the coefficients will be verified and coded as and when required according to the following algorithm. First, a coefficient (beginning from the top leftmost coefficient as shown in the scanning pattern) will be compared with the threshold.

If the coefficient is significant with respect to the threshold in that iteration, based on the sign of the coefficient, a positive/negative (p/n) symbol will be coded. On the other hand, if the coefficient is insignificant with respect to the threshold, then it will be verified whether it is a descendant from a zerotree root. If it is so, then the coefficient will not be coded with any symbol,

otherwise the descendants of this coefficient will be compared against the threshold. If all the descendants are insignificant then a zerotree root symbol will be coded for the coefficient. Otherwise, an isolated symbol will be coded for the coefficient. Likewise all the coefficients will be scanned according to the scanning pattern and will be coded. This process is called dominant pass (because it is the first pass, it is called first dominant pass). Following the dominant pass is a subordinate pass. In the subordinate pass will refine the magnitudes and makes the coefficient chart ready for second dominant pass. Following example gives better idea of EZW. Consider the wavelet decomposition shown in fig. 4.

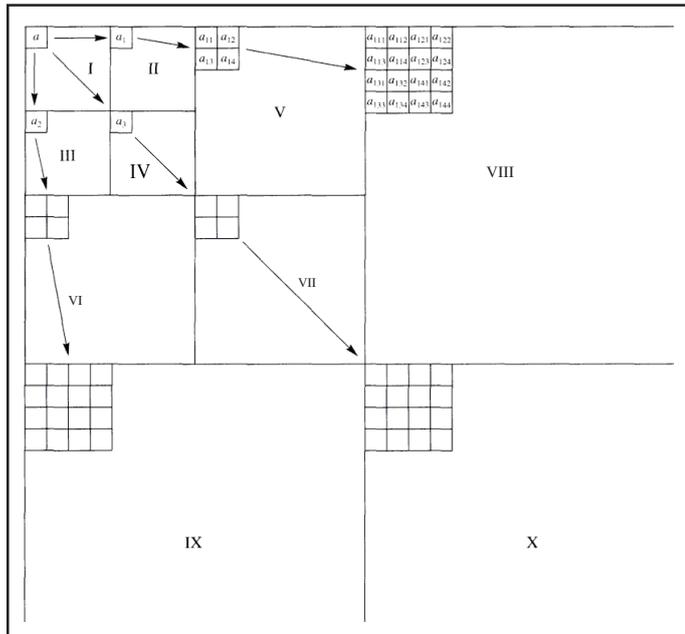


Fig. 3: Hierarchical relation among the wavelet coefficients in a 10 – band wavelet decomposition

59	-26	36	17	5	13	-12	7
15	33	12	-16	3	4	6	-1
16	17	13	-16	8	17	-3	5
-7	3	-14	18	14	2	-3	21
-2	-3	-6	7	56	17	-3	6
-5	3	4	8	6	3	8	6
21	-39	7	-6	3	9	8	-2
-3	8	6	-6	2	-2	-8	5

Fig. 4: Sample Wavelet Decomposition

The initial threshold is 32. The codes allotted to the image data with different thresholds in different passes is given in the table 1 [22].

Table 1: Results of Dominant Pass

T	Codes
32	pzzppttttzttttttntpttt
16	znztpznpzpntptttttptttttpttttttttt
8	zzpzzpztztpznztpntttptttptttptttptttptnt
4	zzzzzzzzzzzzztppttpptttntnppttttppnttp tptpttp
2	zzzzzzzzztpzzztpptttntntnptttttttptnttpt pntntt
1	zzttzttttn

Results of subordinate passes are shown in figure 5. In the standard EZW coding scheme, adaptive arithmetic coding was used to code the coded symbols. This is because the symbol sequence may have redundancy.

IV. Modified EZW

The EZW can be improved (or modified) by incorporating some modification in the standard algorithm. First consider the value of threshold. The initial threshold was calculated based on the initial wavelet coefficients of the input image. In the subsequent dominant passes, the threshold was simply factored by 2 and not considered the remaining coefficients in the decomposition.

If one considers the present (remaining) coefficients and then evaluate the new threshold, it better quantizes and approximates the coefficient values. The convergence rate will also be higher. But a question arises. How the decoder knows the threshold value? To inform the new threshold value every time some bits need to be spent. In [1], it was already mentioned that factoring by 3 may give better results. However it is observed that for different initial thresholds, the compression results are different. Also, if the threshold value is less then, in the application of compressing images, high quality is obtained and at higher initial thresholds, high compression was achieved. If it is possible to reduce the number of codes generated in the dominant pass without losing much of the image information then the memory required can be reduced drastically.

48	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	56	-24	32	16	0	0	0	0
0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	-16	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16	0	-16	0	16	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	16
0	0	0	0	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	16	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	-32	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	-32	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
56	-24	32	16	0	12	-12	0	58	-26	36	16	4	12	-12	6
12	32	12	-16	0	0	0	0	14	32	12	-16	0	4	6	0
16	16	12	-16	8	16	0	0	16	16	12	-16	8	16	0	4
0	0	-12	16	12	0	0	20	-6	0	-14	18	14	2	0	20
0	0	0	0	56	16	0	0	0	0	-6	6	56	16	0	6
0	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	-4	0	4	8	6	0	8	6
20	-36	0	0	0	8	8	0	20	-38	6	-6	0	8	8	0
0	8	0	0	0	0	-8	0	0	8	6	-6	0	0	-8	4
59	-26	36	17	5	13	-12	7	59	-26	36	17	5	13	-12	7
15	33	12	-16	3	4	6	0	15	33	12	-16	3	4	6	-1
16	17	13	-16	8	17	-3	5	16	17	13	-16	8	17	-3	5
-7	3	-14	18	14	2	-3	21	-7	3	-14	18	14	2	-3	21
-2	-3	-6	7	56	17	-3	6	-2	-3	-6	7	56	17	-3	6
-5	3	4	8	6	3	8	6	-5	3	4	8	6	3	8	6
21	-39	7	-6	3	9	8	-2	21	-39	7	-6	3	9	8	-2
-3	8	6	-6	2	-2	-8	5	-3	8	6	-6	2	-2	-8	5

Fig. 5: Results of Subordinate Passes of Standard EZW

The wavelet transformation performs subband coding by splitting the signal/image into different bands. The LL band is said to contain the maximum of image data, while the HH band is said to have no or very less image data. The plan here is to check the number of the codes generated if the HH band was nullified or ignored.

The following example gives more information regarding the application of the above said plan. Consider the same example as it was considered in the previous section. But make the HH band coefficients a zero. The resulting set of coefficients is given in fig. 6, the codes allotted to the coefficients are given in Table 2 and the results of subordinate passes are given in fig. 7.

V. Results & Discussion

For comparison, consider the tables IV and V, which give the compression performance of various techniques on ‘HeartCT2’ image. At the threshold of 10, the standard EZW with ‘bior4.4’ wavelet produces a PSNR of 28.58dB with compression ratio of 7.14bpp. The same standard EZW with new wavelet produces a PSNR of 30.38dB with a compression ratio of 6.61bpp. The technique-1 with ‘bior4.4’ wavelet produces 28.69dB of PSNR and 7.48bpp of compression ratio. While with new wavelet, the technique-1 produces 30.16dB of PSNR and 7.02bpp of compression ratio. The technique-2 with ‘bior4.4’ wavelet produces 30.45dB of PSNR and 10bpp of compression ratio. While with new wavelet, the technique-2 produces 29.06dB of PSNR and 10bpp of compression ratio. The technique-3 with ‘bior4.4’ wavelet along with technique-2 produces 31.73dB of PNSR at 10bpp of compression ratio, while with new wavelet these are 44.45dB at 10bpp.

48	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	56	-24	32	16	0	0	0	0
0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	-16	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16	0	-16	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
56	-24	36	16	0	0	0	0	58	-24	36	16	0	0	0	0
12	32	12	-16	0	0	0	0	14	32	12	-16	0	0	0	0
16	16	12	-16	0	0	0	0	16	16	12	-16	0	0	0	0
0	0	-12	16	0	0	0	0	-6	0	-14	18	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
59	-26	36	17	0	0	0	0	59	-26	36	17	0	0	0	0
15	33	12	-16	0	0	0	0	15	33	12	-16	0	0	0	0
16	17	13	-16	0	0	0	0	16	17	13	-16	0	0	0	0
-7	3	-14	18	0	0	0	0	-7	3	-14	18	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Fig. 9: Results of Subordinate Passes of Technique-2

Table 4: Simulation Results of all the Techniques on ‘HeartCT2’ Image

Threshold	EZW, Technique 1 and 2 with ‘bior4.4’						Technique 3 with ‘bior4.4’					
	Normal (EZW)		HH=0		HH=HL=LH=0		Normal		HH=0		HH=HL=LH=0	
	CR	PSNR	CR	PSNR	CR	PSNR	CR	PSNR	CR	PSNR	CR	PSNR
10	7.14	28.58	7.48	28.69	10.00	30.45	7.14	29.37	7.48	29.50	10.00	31.73
20	16.00	28.72	16.00	28.74	18.60	29.44	16.00	29.53	16.00	29.56	18.60	30.42
30	16.00	28.72	16.00	28.74	18.60	29.44	16.00	29.53	16.00	29.56	18.60	30.42
40	44.44	27.54	44.44	27.54	47.06	27.46	44.44	28.15	44.44	28.15	47.06	28.06
50	44.44	27.54	44.44	27.54	47.06	27.46	44.44	28.15	44.44	28.15	47.06	28.06
75	133	25.14	133	25.14	133	25.14	133	25.48	133	25.48	133	25.48
100	133	25.14	133	25.14	133	25.14	133	25.48	133	25.48	133	25.48
200	400	23.09	400	23.09	400	23.09	400	23.30	400	23.30	400	23.30
300	800	21.13	800	21.13	800	21.13	800	21.26	800	21.26	800	21.26

Table 5: Simulation Results of all the Techniques on ‘HeartCT2’ image (Contd..)

Threshold	EZW, Technique 1 and 2 with new wavelet						Technique 3 with new wavelet					
	Normal		HH=0		HH=HL=LH=0		Normal		HH=0		HH=HL=LH=0	
	CR	PSNR	CR	PSNR	CR	PSNR	CR	PSNR	CR	PSNR	CR	PSNR
10	6.61	30.38	7.02	30.16	10	29.06	6.61	44.26	7.02	44.41	10.00	44.45
20	14.55	29.97	14.81	29.91	18	29.89	14.55	42.72	14.81	46.79	18.18	36.01
30	14.55	29.97	14.81	29.91	18	29.89	14.55	42.72	14.81	46.79	18.18	36.01
40	38.10	33.46	38.10	33.43	40	33.71	38.10	32.99	38.10	32.63	40	30.7
50	38.10	33.46	38.10	33.43	40	33.71	38.10	32.99	38.10	32.63	40	30.7
75	100	31.43	100	31.43	100	31.43	100	27.76	100	27.65	100	27
100	100	31.43	100	31.43	100	31.43	100	27.76	100	27.65	100	27
200	267	25.94	267	25.94	267	25.94	267	24.56	267	24.50	267	24.18
300	800	22.63	800	22.63	800	22.63	800	21.93	800	21.90	800	21.72

Table 6: Average CR and PSNR Values with SPIHT Coding with Different Medical Images [21]

	CR	PSNR
Haar	3.62	23.10
Daubechies	3.48	23.74
Biorthogonal	3.53	24.07
Demeyer	2.12	23.77
Coiflet	3.20	40.00
Symlet	3.57	23.70
NewWa1	2.88	34.73
NewWa2	3.32	25.83
NewWa3	2.88	34.68
NewWa4	2.70	30.88

For a comparison, table VI shows the average Compression ratio and PSNR values when SPIHT coding used on different medical images [21].

VI. Conclusion

The paper presents the modified EZW and applied on existing and new lifting based wavelets. The wavelet decomposition transforms the image raw data to a structured manner by dividing into a number of subbands. The decomposition is usually iterative. The wavelet decomposition first divides the data into two bands, then again decomposes one of the bands into two more bands and continues in the same manner. The resulting structure will perfectly reconstructs the original image. But the left over bands in early stages will involve only a part in the reconstruction process and in the EZW coding these subbands incurs same computational complexity as the useful bands. Hence, in this paper these insignificant bands are neglected. Secondly, two more symbols are used in addition to the four symbols originally used in standard EZW. Because of the property of wavelet decomposition and ignoring some of the bands the total number of symbols produced was reduced by a significant margin. Along with this, the usage of entropy coding has compensated the extra symbol burden. The simulation results show that these techniques outperform all the existing techniques.

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