

ENHANCING THE ROBUSTNESS OF DIGITAL VIDEO  
WATERMARKING FOR COPYRIGHT PROTECTION AGAINST  
COLLUSION ATTACK

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## ABSTRACT

In the digital world, due to the ease of creating, publishing and tampering of works, copyright protection became a major issue. This issue is much significant in movie industry which cause millions of dollars loses. With new technologies almost everybody are able to produce, edit and share videos. Thanks to the Internet the sharing of works also, become a breeze. Hence, there should be a mechanism to prove the ownership and make sure of the integrity. Watermarking is one of the effective ways to help copyright protection. According to this problem, this project is defined to enhance the current copyright protection. We narrow down the project to a specific attack. Collusion attack is the main problem for video watermarking for copyright protection. In this attack, colluders try to estimate and remove the watermark by comparing as many as watermarked materials. By increasing in number of watermarked materials, the estimation becomes more accurate. The proposed method is a frame-by-frame video watermarking. To address the collusion attack, each frame receives a different watermark. Since each frame has a unique watermark, it is impossible for the attack to estimate it. In this project Block Truncation Coding (BTC), Discrete wavelet transform (DWT) and Singular value decomposition (SVD) are combined to achieve the required robustness against the attack as well as maintaining quality. The BTC is used in watermark generation. DWT and SVD are used to prepare the frames and embed the watermark. The robustness is tested using Bit Error Rate (BER) and the quality is checked using Peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR). The results of the project, in compare with related works, shows that the proposed method is robust against all types of collusion attack, and at the same time, the quality of the video is remain in a satisfactory level. Meanwhile, it is proved that the method is robust against some other attacks as well.

## ABSTRAK

Dalam dunia digital, disebabkan kesenangan mencipta, menyebarkan dan mengganggu kerja-kerja, hakcipta terpelihara menjadi satu isu besar. Isu ini menjadi banyak terlibat dalam industri perfileman yang menyebabkan kerugian jutaan dollar. Dengan teknologi baru, hampir kesemua manusia kini mampu menghasil, mengubahsuai, dan berkongsi video. Terima kasih kepada internet, perkongsian kerja menjadi lebih mudah. Oleh itu, terdapat satu mekanisma untuk membuktikan hakmilik dan integriti. Watermaking adalah satu cara yang efektif untuk menolong perlindungan hakmilik. Berdasarkan masalah ini, projek ini didefinisikan untuk meningkatkan perlindungan hakmilik semasa. Kita kecilkan skop projek kepada satu serangan. Collusion attack masalah utama untuk video Watermaking untuk perlindungan hakmilik. Dalam serangan ini, peniru cuba untuk menganggarkan dan membuang watermark dengan membandingkan sebanyak mungkin bahan-bahan watermark. Dengan meningkatkan bahan-bahan watermark, anggaran menjadi lebih tepat. Caranya adalah dengan frame-by-frame video watermaking. Berdasarkan collusion attack, setiap frame menerima watermark yang berbeza. Setiap frame mempunyai watermark yang unik untuk mengelakkan serangan dari berlaku. Dalam projek Block Truncation Coding (BTC), Discrete wavelet transform (DWT), dan Singular value decomposition (SVD) digabungkan untuk mendapat perlindungan yang secukupnya daripada serangan dan juga mengekalkan kualitinya. BTC digunakan dalam generasi watermark. DWT dan SVD digunakan untuk menyediakan frame dan mengabungkan watermark. Ketahanan diuji dengan Bit Error Rate (BER) dan kualiti diuji menggunakan Peak Signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR). Hasil projek dibandingkan dengan hasil kerja lain yang menunjukkan tujuan cara ketahanan daripada semua jenis collusion attack, dan pada waktu yang sama, kualiti video adalah sentiasa dalam tahap kepuasan. Sementara itu, ia membuktikan cara ketahanan terhadap serangan lain juga.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATION

BER	Bit Error Rate
BTC	Block Truncation Coding
DCT	Discrete Cosine Transform
DFT	Discrete Fourier Transform
DWT	Discrete Wavelet Transform
HVS	Human Visual System
IDE	Integrated Development Environment
iDWT	Inverse Discrete Wavelet Transform
iSVD	Inverse Singular Value Decomposition
LSB	Least Significant Bit
PSNR	Peak signal-to-noise ratio
SVD	Singular Value Decomposition

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Overview

This chapter has eight main sections. The first section is the overview, which is explaining the content of the chapter. The second section is problem background. This section gives a brief background of the situation of the problem. Third section talks about the issues. Background of the issue is focusing on all issues that are recognized on the topic. Then we continue with problem statement to declare which problem is going to be solved in this work. The next two sections, express the objectives and aim of the project. In scope section, we narrow down the experiment to a feasible level. The last section explains the expected outcomes.

### 1.2 Problem Background

According to the current information explosion rate, one of the major issues that producers are facing is ownership identification and proofing it, in other word copyright (Lee and Jung, 2001). In addition, digital media, which become the main mean of information sharing, make the issue even worse. The reason is the original work can be copied, modified and exchanged over peer-to-peer networks while this can happen repeatedly with the same quality despite the analog copying which is lossy. The main copyright consideration is copying the movies though out the

internet (Cisco, 2011). Nevertheless, watermarking which is an information hiding method is hired to address this issue (Barni *et al.*, 2000; Eskicioglu and Delp, 2001).

Watermarking is able to help about ownership identification and approval, in addition to copy control and modify prevention. As soon as the second step of watermarking is applied to a medium, it becomes a carrier. The three steps are generating the watermark, embedding it and retrieving (Bruce, 2001). In the digital world there are many different types of carriers such as text, image, audio, video etc. (Lee and Jung, 2001); even human DNA can be used as carrier (Heider and Barnekow, 2008).

Watermarking is a compound of data payload, fidelity and robustness. The trade-off between these three factors is very important. By data payload, we are talking about the amount of information (the number of bits). Fidelity describes the watermarking only allowed to change the carrier imperceptibly. The ability of watermark to remain unchanged against attack is called robustness (Doërr and Dugelay, 2003).

### **1.3 Issues**

The main issue in watermarking with the purpose of copyright protection is the security. Robust watermarking creates a channel to communicate or store information inside the carrier. In order to copy control, this channel should be secure. In other words, the aim is preventing unauthorized user from detecting, adding, modifying or removing the watermark (Kalker, 2001). Moreover, the security is not limited to robustness only. Capacity, imperceptibility and prevailing design issues are also part of the security which has to be addressed (Li *et al.*, 2006).

Although video watermarking is based on the same techniques, applied on images but it has its very own issues. As videos usually have a bigger size in comparison with other media and they have inherent redundancy information which

is repeated between sequential frames, removal attacks still remains a big problem in video watermarking (Gosavi and Warnekar, 2010). Among these removal attacks, collusion attack is the trading one (ed eric Deguillaume *et al.*, 2012).

The next major issue in video copyright watermarking is the number of producers. Each of these producers needs a specific watermark to make sure of the owner identification and proofing.

#### **1.4 Problem Statement**

According to the CISCO's white paper, since 2011 video has the leading account for internet traffic usage. Moreover it is predicted that the 90% of the internet traffic will be video in three years (Cisco, 2011). Therefore, the copyright, which is currently main issue, probably gets worse. As the watermarking can address this issue, this project tries to design a new watermarking method based on the current methods in the way that the new method be able to improve copyright protection by enhancing the robustness against collusion attack.

Collusion attack is one of the major threats for copyright. In this attack, one or more colluders try to collect as many as possible watermarked material. Then by comparing these materials, it is possible to estimate the watermark. If the estimation is accurate enough a watermark removal can perform. This attack has a very close relation with the number of watermarked materials that are collected by colluders. By increasing the number of collected material, the possibility of the attack is also increases. Therefore, addressing the collusion attack by providing more robust watermarking methods, can improve the copyright protection.

## 1.5 Objectives

- To study following watermarking methods over video for copyright purposes:
  - Block Truncation Coding (BTC)
  - Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)
  - Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT)
- To propose an enhanced robust model of digital video watermarking to address the collusion attack and eventually copyright protection.
- To evaluate proposed digital video watermarking method in terms of robustness against collusion attack.

## 1.6 Research question

- What are the current watermarking solutions for copyright protection of digital video?
- How it is possible to improve the copyright protection for digital video using watermarking?
- How to evidence the improvement and prove that the attack is disabled?

## 1.7 Project Aim

In this project, we try to compare three current main digital video watermarking for copyright protection methods in order to find out their characteristics, strengths and weaknesses. Then design an enhanced watermarking model for protecting copyright over digital video. Finally, evaluate the method to show the improvement.

## 1.8 Project Scope

- Limit the watermarking application to copyright protection.
- Using Matlab® IDE (one of the strongest tools in image processing) to implement the design.
- Limit the experiments to only H.264 video format.
- Assumes that the watermark is a 100\*100 pixel black and with image.
- The watermark is the output of the watermark preparation instead of the original image since the compression method is loopy.
- Using Bit Error Rate (BER) to evaluate the robustness.
- Using Peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR) to evaluate the quality.
- Limit the evaluation to intra-video collusion in terms of attacks.
- The evaluation is based on Checkmark.

## 1.9 Expected Outcome

We expect to get to know BTC, SVD and DWT methods very well. Design an enhanced model for digital video watermarking for copyright protection. Then show the real improvement in terms of the targeted issues.



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