

# A Robust Image Hiding Scheme based on Vector Quantization

Hao-Cheng Wang<sup>1</sup>, Hsien-Chu Wu<sup>2</sup>\*, Chung-Ming Wang<sup>1</sup>, and Chwei-Shyong Tsai<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Computer Science and Engineering,  
National Chung Hsing University,  
Taichung 402, Taiwan  
{phd9516, cmwang}@cs.nchu.edu.tw

<sup>2</sup>Graduate School of Computer Science and Information Technology,  
National Taichung Institute of Technology,  
Taichung 404, Taiwan  
wuhc@ntit.edu.tw

<sup>3</sup>Department of Management Information Systems,  
National Chung Hsing University,  
Taichung 402, Taiwan  
tsaics@nchu.edu.tw

*Received 20 September 2009; Revised 5 March 2010; Accepted 5 April 2010*

**Abstract.** This paper proposes a robust image hiding scheme based on vector quantization (VQ) technique. This scheme can resist the damages resulting from the processing of lossy image compression in stego-images. This scheme first compresses a secret image by VQ technique, and generates the parity codes for the compression data of the secret image. It then transforms the spatial-formatted cover image into a frequency-formatted one by discrete wavelet transform (DWT). The compression data of the secret image and the parity codes are then hidden in the DWT-formatted cover image. Experimental results tell that this scheme gives a high visual quality stego-image. After lossy compressing in the stego-image, the extracted secret image from the stego-image also has an acceptable visual quality.

**Keywords:** image data hiding, vector quantization (VQ), discrete wavelet transformation (DWT)

## References

- [1] F.A.P. Petitcolas, R.J. Anderson, M.G. Kuhn, "Information Hiding - A Survey," *Proceedings of the IEEE*, Vol. 87, pp. 1062-1078, 1999.
- [2] W. Bender, "Techniques for Data Hiding," *IBM Systems Journal*, Vol. 35, pp. 313-336, 1996.
- [3] C.K. Chan and L.M. Cheng, "Hiding Data in Images by Simple LSB Substitution," *Pattern Recognition*, Vol. 37, pp. 469-474, 2004.
- [4] C.C. Chang and H.W. Tseng, "A Steganographic Method for Digital Images using Side Match," *Pattern Recognition Letters*, Vol. 25, pp. 1431-1437, 2004.
- [5] J. Mielikainen, "LSB Matching Revisited," *IEEE Signal Processing Letters*, Vol. 13, pp. 285-287, 2006.
- [6] X. Li, B. Yang, D. Cheng, T. Zeng, "A Generalization of LSB Matching," *IEEE Signal Processing Letters*, Vol. 16, pp. 69-72, 2009.
- [7] Y.H. Yu, C.C. Chang, Y.C. Hu, "Hiding Secret Data in Images via Predictive Coding," *Pattern Recognition*, Vol. 38, pp. 691-705, 2005.
- [8] X. Zhang and S. Wang, "Steganography using Multiple-base Notational System and Human Vision Sensitivity,"

---

\* Correspondence author

- IEEE Signal Processing Letters*, Vol. 12, pp. 67-70, 2005.
- [9] J.S. Pan, F.H. Wang, L. Jain, I. Nikhil, "A Multistage VQ based Watermarking Technique with Fake Watermarks," *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, Vol. 2613, pp. 81-90, 2003.
- [10] T.S. Chen, C.C. Chang, M.S. Hwang, "A Virtual Image Cryptosystem Based upon Vector Quantization," *IEEE Transactions on Image Processing*, Vol. 7, pp. 905-910, 1998.
- [11] Y.C. Hu and C.C. Chang, "Low Complexity Index-compressed Vector Quantization for Image Compression," *IEEE Transactions on Consumer Electronics*, Vol. 45, pp. 219-224, 1999.
- [12] Z.H. Wei, P. Qin, Y.Q. Fu, "Perceptual Digital Watermark of Images Using Wavelet Transform," *IEEE Transactions on Consumer Electronics*, Vol. 44, pp. 1267-1272, 1998.
- [13] J. Fridrich and M. Goljan, "Practical Steganalysis of Digital Images - State of the Art," *SPIE Photonics West*, pp. 1-13, 2002.