

A NOVEL SYNTAX CLASS BASED ADAPTIVE ENCODING TECHNIQUE FOR CONTRAST STRETCHED MULTISPECTRAL IMAGES

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ABSTRACT

Multispectral images are images with high spatial and spectral resolution. Efficient multispectral image compression plays a key role in most of the geographical applications. The three important phases involved in the proposed adaptive technique are contrast stretching, clustering and encoding based on the resultant clusters. The contrast stretching results in a very clear image and the image is then clustered into smooth and textured regions based on K means algorithm. The spatial orientation tree (STW) wavelet algorithm and the wavelet difference reduction (WDR) algorithm are applied to the smooth and textured regions respectively. The results are compared using the Compression ratio, Peak Signal to Noise Ratio (PSNR) and Structural Similarity (SSIM) Index metrics. It reflects the quality of the proposed work as betterment than the existing state of art techniques with very high compression ratio and minimum image distortion.

Key-Words: STW, WDR, Contrast Stretching, K-Means, PSNR, SSIM

1. INTRODUCTION

Multispectral images are images with high spatial, spectral and radiometric resolution. It is of interest for a large number of applications like detection and identification of surface and atmospheric constituents present, analysis of soil type, environmental studies, military surveillance etc. Multispectral images contain a wealth of data. With the increasing performance of remote sensing systems and the wide diffusion of the images acquired, transmitting such images to the end users on common transmission facilities deserves a high quality compression standard.

Multispectral images mainly differ from other images by its statistical features. But, the existing standard compression algorithms, like the JPEG, JPEG2000, or MPEG standards, do not provide satisfactory results for multispectral data, because they do not focus on the statistical features. Thus, several wavelet compression techniques have been proposed in the last few years.

Decorrelating the spatial and spectral dependencies plays a key role in the success of

efficient compression. It is achieved through transformation. It packs as much information as possible into the smallest number of transform coefficients.

To cover more dynamic range of data, contrast stretch is used thereby enhancing the image. The resultant image is a very clear image which is the preprocessing step in the proposed adaptive encoding technique. Even the infra red bands are made clearly visible.

Among the transformations like Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) [2], Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT), Walsh Hadamard Transform (WHT), the information packing ability of the DCT is superior to that of the DFT and WHT. Although this condition holds for most images, Reddy P.J and Wintz [13] showed that the Karhunen Loeve Transform (KLT) is the optimal transform in an information packing sense for multispectral images. Initially the transformation is applied only in spatial domain. Later, to improve the performance, both spatial and spectral domains are considered. Recently the transformation is adapted to local image content and thereby uses the

concept, adaptive transformation. The compression techniques STW and WDR are basically transform coding techniques and therefore apply default transformation.

The encoding algorithm shows its performance on the basis of content. An image can be categorized as semantic classes or datatype classes. Semantic classes are nothing but the regions like clouds, mountains, rivers etc. Datatype classes are smooth regions and textured regions. If a particular region of interest is concerned for the application, semantic classes are exposed and compressed.

The paper deals with datatype classes since the whole image is considered for compression. In the research work, the image decomposition is based on the statistical texture feature and the encoding is by two different algorithms based on the regions identified. STW, SPIHT [11], SPIHT-3D[10], parallel SPIHT [5], scalable SPIHT [8], WDR, ASWDR are the latest wavelet compression algorithms. Among these techniques, STW and WDR are considered in the proposed work.

In this paper, section 2 describes spectral bands, section 3 deals with image enhancement and section 4 deals with clustering where the image is decomposed into smooth and textured regions using K means clustering algorithm. Section 5 exposes the adaptive encoding technique and compares the various existing techniques that guide towards the choice of suitable compression algorithm. Section 6 briefly describes the proposed work. Section 7 shows the results of the proposed adaptive encoding technique for enhanced multispectral images and comparative analysis is based on PSNR, compression ratio, bits per pixel and SSIM and is followed by conclusion and future work.

2. SPECTRAL BANDS

Multispectral images are the main type of images acquired by remote sensing (RS) radiometers. Dividing the spectrum into many bands, multispectral is the opposite of panchromatic, which records only the total intensity of radiation falling on each pixel.

Usually, satellites have three or more radiometers (Landsat has seven). Each one acquires a scene in a small band of visible spectra, ranging from 0.7 μm to 0.4 μm , called red-green-blue (RGB) region, and going to infrared wavelengths of 0.7 μm to 10 or more μm , classified as near infrared (NIR), middle infrared (MIR) and far infrared (FIR or thermal).

Variations in the reflectivity of surface materials across different spectral bands provide a fundamental mechanism for understanding features in remotely-sensed multispectral imagery.

In the Landsat case, the seven scenes comprise a seven-band multispectral image. The sample images considered for the proposed work includes several bands. The images and its spectral dimension are tabulated in Table I.

Table I Test Images And Its Spectral Resolution

Image	Spectral Dimension
Auburn	22
Kilauae	22
Mississippi	15
Little Co River	17
LosAngels	22
Mount Rainer	22

3. IMAGE ENHANCEMENT

The following section deals with enhancing the acquired multispectral image. The importance of image enhancement is to improve the visual appearance of the image. Not only the visual quality plays the key role but it also provides "better" preprocessed transform representation for future automated image processing. Transform coding better suits for multispectral images. Transformation is done to identify the hidden information from an image. Image resolution enhancement techniques generate sharper high resolution image. It may use Discrete Wavelet Transform, Discrete Cosine Transform or Karhunen Loeve Transform based on the application of images.

The proposed work uses contrast stretch to enhance the multispectral image. It maximizes the difference between the multiple bands of data. Each and every band has its unique spectral characteristics and specific application. For example, vegetation can be clearly identified in the spectrum, near infrared, 750-900 nm. Similarly, soil moisture content, forest fires can be clearly identified in mid-infrared, 1550-1750 nm, spectrum.

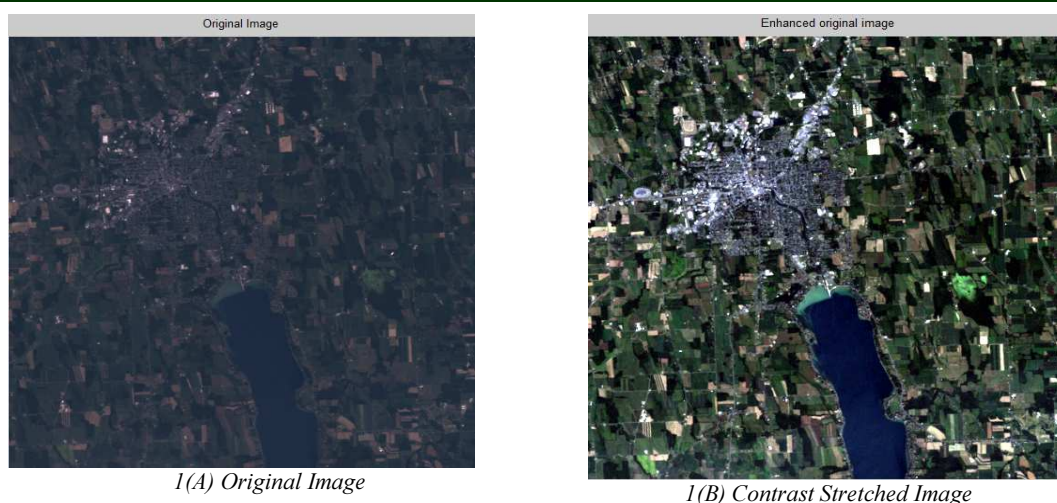


Fig 1: Test Image – Auburn

Table Ii Comparative Results – Existing Coding Techniques

Image	SPIHT				SPIHT-3D				ASWDR			
	PSNR	CR	BPP	SSIM	PSNR	CR	BPP	SSIM	PSNR	CR	BPP	SSIM
Auburn	26.80	8.68	2.08	0.9901	21.90	6.79	1.63	0.9215	27.55	13.69	3.37	0.9514
Kilauae Volcano	25.98	1.72	0.41	0.9264	25.98	1.40	0.33	0.7768	29.13	6.53	1.60	0.8917
Mississippi	22.55	3.02	0.72	0.9365	22.55	2.46	0.59	0.7955	25.90	14.67	3.57	0.9182
Little Co River	23.57	3.47	0.83	0.9424	23.57	2.39	0.57	0.8093	24.10	5.38	1.32	0.8270
LosAngels	21.71	4.44	1.07	0.9612	21.71	3.03	0.73	0.4322	25.78	19.33	4.72	0.9240
Mount Rainer	27.86	7.32	1.76	0.9767	27.86	11.15	1.26	0.9338	28.74	11.93	2.94	0.9322

Image	STW				WDR			
	PSNR	CR	BPP	SSIM	PSNR	CR	BPP	SSIM
Auburn	27.69	13.15	3.15	0.9532	27.55	14.05	3.37	0.9514
Kilauae Volcano	26.49	2.50	0.60	0.7920	29.13	6.67	1.60	0.8917
Mississippi	22.92	4.35	1.04	0.8134	25.90	14.86	3.57	0.9182
Little Co River	24.16	5.09	1.22	0.8289	24.10	5.48	1.32	0.8270
LosAngels	22.10	6.33	1.52	0.7607	25.78	19.69	4.72	0.9240
Mount Rainer	28.90	11.15	2.68	0.9338	28.74	12.24	2.94	0.9322

The contrast stretch uses distinct block processing for image. The stretched image is very much improved with the data covering more of the dynamic range which results in a very clear image. Block procedure is used to compute statistics from large images and hence well suited for multispectral images. The enhancement technique is applied to the image block wise, and the results are combined and returned as a new enhanced multispectral image.

The following steps briefly describe the method used for image enhancement based on contrast stretch using MATLAB.

The original image is shown in Fig 1(a). The resulting contrast stretched image is much improved, with the data covering more of the dynamic range and the resultant contrast stretched image is shown in Fig 1(b). It can be clearly seen

that the image has been enhanced for better visualization.

4. CLUSTERING

Multispectral images can be classified as syntax data classes and semantic data classes. Semantic data classes deal with the regions like mountains, rivers, clouds etc., which are available in the acquired multispectral image. It deals with object classification and identification. Syntax data classes are based on the texture. It deals with smooth and textured regions. Smooth regions are also termed as textureless regions. The proposed work concentrates on syntax classes for classification and encoding.

Segmentation of a multispectral image may be pixel based or region based. Water shed algorithm is a region based segmentation algorithm.

Algorithms like K means clustering, Fuzzy C Means clustering, stereo vision algorithms[1] follow pixel based segmentation. Pixel based image segmentation is used in the proposed work. It plays a key role in adaptive image compression technique. If and only if the image is properly segmented as smooth and textured regions, the compression can evolve better results.

The simplest method of pixel based image segmentation is called the thresholding method. The key behind the method is to select the threshold value. Several popular methods like the

Maximum entropy method, K-means clustering etc., rely on pixel based segmentation. K-means when combined with parameter weighting can be used for noise suppression in multispectral images[18] and different versions of K-Means are being developed[14]. K-Means can be combined with Principal Component Analysis(PCA) or robust PCA[12] for better results.

The K-means clustering algorithm is an iterative technique that is used to partition an image into K clusters.



2(A) Smooth Region

2(B) Textured Region

Fig 2: Segmented Clusters Using K-Means

The basic algorithm is:

1. Assign the value of K as 2.
2. Pick K cluster centers randomly.
3. Assign each pixel in the image to the cluster that minimizes the distance between the pixel and the cluster center
4. Re-compute the cluster centers by averaging all of the pixels in the cluster
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until no pixels change clusters

Internal representation of clustering is used

In the proposed work, the multispectral image is first enhanced using contrast stretching. The enhanced image is now segmented into two clusters, namely, smooth and texture clusters/regions. Fig 2 shows the result of clustering for the test multispectral image. Since the image is preprocessed with contrast stretching, the clustering result is better.

5. ENCODING TECHNIQUES

5.1 Existing Encoding Techniques – STW, ASWDR, WDR, SPIHT, SPIHT_3D

The recent wavelet compression techniques like SPIHT, SPIHT 3D, STW, WDR, ASWDR are used in our proposed work. The techniques are compared and tabulated in Table II. A brief description on the encoding techniques is given below.

The wavelet compression methods involve zerotree method [9] to transmit the positions of significant transform values. The zerotree method gives an implicit, very compact description of the location of significant values by creating a highly compressed description of the location of insignificant values.

To define a zerotree, a quadtree must be defined prior. A quadtree is a tree of locations in the wavelet transform with a root $[i,j]$, and its children located at $[2i,2j]$, $[2i+1,2j]$, $[2i,2j+1]$ and

[$2i+1, 2j+1$], and each of their children and so on. These descendants of the root reach all the way back to the 1st level of the wavelet transforms.

A zerotree is a quadtree which, for a given threshold T , has insignificant wavelet transform values at each of its locations. Zerotrees can provide very compact descriptions of the locations of insignificant values because it is only necessary to encode one symbol, R say, to mark the root location. The decoder can infer that all other locations in the zerotree have insignificant values, so that their locations are not encoded.

STW (Spatial-orientation Tree Wavelet) uses a different approach to encode the zerotree information [7]. It uses a state transition model. From one threshold to the next, the locations of transform values undergo state transitions. This model allows *STW* to reduce the number of bits needed for encoding. The core feature of *STW* is its simplicity and it suits well for multispectral images. The number of bits needed for encoding in *STW* is lesser than Embedded Zerotree Wavelet algorithm

SPIHT stands for Set Partitioning In Hierarchical Trees [3]. The term Hierarchical Trees refer to the quadtrees. Set Partitioning refers to the way these quadtrees divide up, partition the wavelet transform values at a given threshold. By carefully analyzing the partitioning of transform values, *SPIHT* is able to significantly increase the compressive power. It always uses wavelet transformation and for color conversion either 'KLT' [16] or 'RGB' is used in MATLAB implementation. It outperforms *STW* with the binary code for the transition states being output one bit at a time. The memory intensive nature of *SPIHT* can be reduced by using a context-based arithmetic coder [6] and thereby can be used for high speed real-time applications. It suits well for high dimensional data and outperforms JPEG2000. But it involves memory intensive work and compressed images have lesser edge correlations than *WDR* and *ASWDR*

WDR (Wavelet Difference Reduction) is used in image processing applications which select region of interest from a compressed image to increase its resolution. The term, difference reduction refers to the way in which *WDR* [17] encodes the locations of significant wavelet transform values. It includes a significance pass to identify the significant values. The output from the significance pass consists of the signs of significant values along with the sequences of bits which concisely describe the precise locations of significant values. At high compression ratios, the visual quality of *WDR*

compression is superior to *SPIHT*. The advantages are Low complexity, Region of Interest capability, embeddedness, progressive SNR.

Adaptively Scanned Wavelet Difference Reduction (*ASWDR*) is one of the most recent wavelet compression algorithms. The adjective 'adaptively scanned' says that the algorithm adapts the scanning order so as to predict locations of new significant values [15]. If the prediction is correct, then the output specifying that location will just be the sign of the new significant value – the reduced binary expansion of the number of steps will be empty. Therefore good prediction schemes will significantly reduce the coding output. Its advantages include *WDR* advantages with better perceptual qualities, better rate distortion performance, higher the edge correlation. But it is memory intensive

SPIHT is an efficient embedded technique. The original *SPIHT* was proposed for 2-dimensional image compression, and it has been extended to 3D applications. 3D-*SPIHT* [10] is the modern-day benchmark for three dimensional image compressions. It has been applied on multispectral image compression. Various advanced versions of 3D – *SPIHT* [19] are being developed and its main applications are in video coding. The results for the existing wavelet compression algorithms are shown in Table II.

All the specified techniques are applied to the sample images and compared using Peak Signal to Noise Ratio (PSNR) and Compression Ratio (CR). The results are shown for the test image Auburn of size 512 x 1536 with 22 spectral bands. Comparative results show that the techniques Spatial orientation Tree Wavelet (*STW*) and Wavelet Difference Reduction (*WDR*) are better than the other techniques in terms of both PSNR and Compression Ratio. Fig 3 shows the



Fig 3: Results Using Spiht, Spiht_3d, Aswdr, Stw And Wdr

resultant images and the corresponding quality metric values like PSNR, Bits per pixel (BPP), Compression ratio and Structural Similarity Index Metric (SSIM) in Table II. SSIM value closer to 1 indicates that both the original image and compressed image are closer.

Since STW and WDR shows better results than the other techniques, the proposed work encompasses both STW and WDR to incorporate the advantages of both the techniques.

5.2 Adaptive Encoding Technique – Basic Algorithm

The paper proposes a new adaptive encoding technique which is based on the datatype classes identified in the image. The semantic classes in an image say about the objects involved in the image. The syntax datatype classes deal with the texture content. If the texture is uniform, the region

is said to be smooth and if not, the region is said to be highly textured. The following steps explore the algorithm for the proposed work.

1. Read the multispectral image.

2. Segment the image into smooth and textured regions.

3. For smooth and textured regions apply different wavelet encoding techniques

Table Iii Comparative Results – Adaptive Encoding Technique Vs Existing Coding Techniques

Image	Adaptive				STW				WDR			
	PSNR (dB)	CR	BPP	SSIM	PSNR (dB)	CR	BPP	SSIM	PSNR (dB)	CR	BPP	SSIM
Auburn	32.90	56.60	13.58	0.9901	27.69	13.15	3.15	0.9532	27.55	14.05	3.37	0.9514
Kilauea Volcano	29.54	16.26	3.90	0.9264	26.49	2.50	0.60	0.7920	29.13	6.67	1.60	0.8917
Mississippi	27.07	57.73	13.86	0.9365	22.92	4.35	1.04	0.8134	25.90	14.86	3.57	0.9182
Little Co River	27.80	31.66	7.60	0.9424	24.16	5.09	1.22	0.8289	24.10	5.48	1.32	0.8270
LosAngels	26.81	61.99	14.88	0.9612	22.10	6.33	1.52	0.7607	25.78	19.69	4.72	0.9240
Mount Rainer	33.31	36.94	8.87	0.9767	28.90	11.15	2.68	0.9338	28.74	12.24	2.94	0.9322

6. ADAPTIVE ENCODING TECHNIQUE

The following steps briefly describe the method used for image enhancement based on contrast stretch using MATLAB followed by adaptive encoding.

- Step 1: Read the LANDSAT multispectral image using LanAdapter class
- Step 2: Create an object for the HistogramAccumulator class
- Step 3: Setup blockproc with addToHistFcn function handle
- Step 4: Compute histogram of the red channel.
- Step 5: Compute histogram for green channel
- Step 6: Compute histogram for blue channel
- Step 7: Compute the Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF) of each histogram
- Step 8: Compute the global stretch limits with CDF results.
- Step 9: Perform contrast stretch using the block procedure with the computed global stretch limits.
- Step 10: The contrast stretched enhanced image is segmented into two smooth and textured clusters using K-Means clustering algorithm. Internal representation of clustering is used
- Step 11: Apply STW compression technique in the smooth cluster
- Step 12: Apply WDR compression technique in the textured cluster.
- Step 13: The results are then compared with existing techniques using the metrics PSNR, bits per pixel, Compression ratio and SSIM

The metrics PSNR and compression ratio are compared for the test image and, the fact inferred is, among the existing techniques considered, STW and WDR shows better PSNR results. Thus the proposed adaptive encoding scheme uses the spatial orientation tree(STW) wavelet technique

for smooth regions and the wavelet difference reduction(WDR) for textured regions.

Not only the PSNR but also the new metric Structural Similarity Index (SSIM) metric is also considered for evaluating the technique. SSIM value ranges between -1 and 1. If both images, the original image and the decompressed image, are identical and same, SSIM value results in 1. A value closer to 1 implies that the images vary with little deviation in structure. Table III shows the results using four metrics, Peak Signal to Noise ratio (PSNR), SSIM, bits per pixel (bpp) and compression ratio.

The sample multispectral images are found in [20]. Table III explores the advantage of adaptive encoding technique in terms of higher PSNR, bpp, SSIM and Compression Ratio

7. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The performance analysis of the proposed adaptive encoding techniques is done using PSNR, SSIM, bpp and CR (Compression Ratio).

Fig 4 shows the image compressed by Adaptive encoding technique, STW, WDR and the adaptively encoded images. Table II shows the Compression ratio, PSNR values and SSIM for the adaptive encoding technique.

The Adaptive encoding method is the one which outperforms all other existing adaptive encoding techniques in terms of the metrics considered. Consider the compression ratio for the test image Auburn. On an average, CR=14 for the existing techniques. In case of the proposed work, CR=57

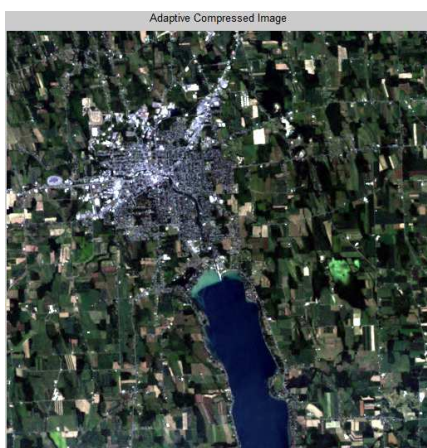


Fig 4: Result By Applying Adaptive Encoding Technique

which is thrice of existing techniques. The ultimate aim of the work is the usage of multispectral images in ground stations with efficient encoding technique. The compression ratio ensures the fact that the heavily loaded multispectral images have been compressed well and the better PSNR values intimate the image quality retention.

Better PSNR shows better visual quality. Better SSIM shows better structural similarity between original and compressed images. In general, PSNR is used to compare two images. But it has been proved to be inefficient in terms of human perception and there comes the SSIM. A new and better metric, the Structural Similarity Index Metric is defined to describe the structural similarity between the compressed and original images. It is based on the fact that spatially closer pixels have strong inter-dependencies which carry important information about the structure of the objects in the image and is calculated as follows for the images x and y :

$$\text{SSIM}(x,y) = \frac{(2M_x M_y + c_1)(2S_{xy} + c_2)}{(M_x^2 + M_y^2 + c_1)(S_x^2 + S_y^2 + c_2)}$$

where

M_x is the mean of x ,

M_y is the mean of y ,

S_x^2 is the variance of x ,

S_y^2 is the variance of y ,

S_{xy} is the covariance of x and y

$c_1 = (k_1 L)^2$

$c_2 = (k_2 L)^2$

L is $2^{\text{no. of bits per pixel} - 1}$

$k_1 = 0.01$ and $k_2 = 0.03$ by default

The SSIM index value ranges between -1 and 1. The value will be exactly 1 if both x and y are same images. It is closer to 1 if both the images are with more or less similar structure. The

implementation of SSIM calculation is available online at [21]. From Table III, it can thereby easily concluded that Adaptive encoding technique results better than the other existing encoding techniques like STW and WDR.

In case of PSNR value, if STW and WDR results in approximately equal values, then the adaptive encoding technique results in a higher value. If WDR results in a noticeable higher value than STW, then, adaptive encoding technique results in a value approximate which shows the dependency of the distribution of smooth and textured regions.

Thus, not only in terms of PSNR, but also in terms of SSIM, Compression Ratio, bits per pixel, the proposed technique shows advantages over the existing techniques. Thereby the proposed work shows better compression ratio with minimum image distortion.

8. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The multispectral image compression plays a key role in the success of remote sensing applications. The proposed work shows good compression ratio with minimum image distortion. The image is enhanced and segmented into smooth and textured regions. Based on the regions identified various adaptive encoding scheme is applied and a comparative analysis has been done. The Adaptive encoding technique incorporates the advantages of both STW and WDR which results in high PSNR, SSIM values and in turn better visual quality. The work can be enhanced by enhancing the resultant compressed image, reducing the noise and thereby efficiently used for applications like object identification, ore mining, vegetation etc.

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