

Medical Image Compression using Lifting based New Wavelet Transforms

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the construction of new lifting based wavelets by a new method of calculating lifting coefficients is presented. First of all, new basis functions are utilized to ease new orthogonal traditional wavelets. Then by using the decomposing poly-phase matrix the lifting steps are calculated using a simplified method. The interesting feature of lifting scheme is that the construction of wavelet is derived in spatial domain only; hence the difficulty in the design of traditional wavelets is avoided. Lifting scheme was used to generate second generation wavelets which are not necessarily translation and dilation of one particular function. Short and sharp basis functions are chosen so as to obtain the non-uniform nature of usual image classes. Implemented wavelets are applied on a number of medical images. It was found that the compression ratio (CR) and Peak Signal to Noise Ratio (PSNR) are far ahead of that are obtained with the popular traditional wavelets as well as the successful 5/3 and 9/7 lifting based wavelets. Set Partitioning in Hierarchical Trees (SPIHT) is used to incorporate compression.

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1. INTRODUCTION

From the past three decades many researchers are working on wavelets and its applications. A very fine review of applications of wavelets such as biomedical applications, wireless communications, computer graphics or turbulence is given in [1]. Image compression is one of the most dominant and visible applications of wavelets. Nowadays the digital imaging has almost supersede the print imaging, which insists large number of techniques operating on digital images. Meanwhile, the medical imaging has taken its shape from print to digital since the last decade. Hence, an attention for the design of compression techniques is required for providing lesser memory requirement with good quality in different applications. A typical image usually contains large spatial redundancy in most of the regions in image [2]. In addition to the spatial redundancy, an image contains subjective redundancy, which is determined by properties of a human visual system (HVS) [3]. An HVS permits some tolerance based on the contents of the image and viewpoints. The redundancy (both statistical and/or subjective), thus, can be eliminated to achieve compression of the image data.

The basic measure for the performance of a compression algorithm is compression ratio, defined as a ratio between original data size and compressed data size. In an image compression scheme, the image compression algorithm should attain a tradeoff between compression ratio and image quality (in the form of PSNR) [4]-[6]. Usually, if an image compression algorithm produces high CR values, then the quality

(PSNR) will be less and vice versa. Image compression is very important for effective transmission and storage of images. Demand for communication of multimedia data through the telecommunications network and retrieving the multimedia data through Internet is growing exponentially [7]. With the use of digital cameras, requirements for storage, manipulation, and transfer of digital images, has grown explosively. These image files can be very large and can occupy a lot of memory. A gray scale image of dimension 256x256 has 65,536 elements to store, and a typical colour image of dimension 640x480 has nearly a million.

Downloading of these files from internet can be very time consuming task. Image data comprise of a significant portion of the multimedia data and they occupy the major part of the communication bandwidth for multimedia communication. Therefore development of efficient techniques for image compression has become quite necessary [8]. The objective of image compression is to obtain an image representation in which pixels are less correlated. JPEG and JPEG 2000 are two important techniques used for image compression. Work on international standards for image compression started in the late 1970s with the CCITT (currently ITU-T) need to standardize binary image compression algorithms for Group 3 facsimile communications. Since then, many other committees and standards have been formed to generate de jure standards (such as JPEG), while several commercially successful initiatives have effectively become de facto standards (such as GIF). Image compression standards bring about many benefits, such as: (1) easier exchange of image files between different devices and applications; (2) reuse of existing hardware and software for a wider array of products; (3) existence of benchmarks and reference data sets for new and alternative developments.

In the field of medical, with more sophisticated medical equipment and imaging devices, the image processing has a trademark importance. With the requirement of on-demand services, teleconferencing and video conferencing image compression is essential for faster communication and quick decision on medical treatment. With the mention of Wavelet by Haar in his doctoral thesis in 1909, the era of wavelet has started. The decomposition of a signal in terms of non-sinusoidal function is the concept of a wavelet. Haar has employed a Square type waveform as the basis function, and Daubechies has used a different spike like waveform as the basis function, all targeted to extract and represent information in non-stationary and signals with sharp edges and discontinuities, which was not captured by the Fourier transform. A large number of traditional wavelets are then proposed and used on image compression.

Different lifting schemes are proposed in [9]-[13]. In [14], four new orthogonal wavelets are devised and used for image compression with SPIHT. In this paper the lifting version of these wavelets is derived. A simplified calculation of lifting steps is proposed and applied to derive the steps of the four new orthogonal wavelets. The rest of the paper is organised as follows. In the next section the lifting scheme overview was presented. In the third section, the poly-phase representation of lifting scheme is presented. In the fourth section new lifting formulation is given. The fifth section presents the simulation results and the last section concludes this paper.

Lifting Scheme

Designing wavelets with lifting scheme includes of three steps: The first, split phase that split data into odd and even sets, second predict step, in which odd set is estimated from even set and the third update phase that will update even set using wavelet coefficient to calculate scaling function. Predict phase make sure the polynomial cancellation in high pass. Update stage ensures preservation of moments in low pass.

Lifting scheme of wavelet transform is being used for digital speech compression and digital image compression for the following advantages over conventional wavelet transform technique.

- It permits a faster implementation of the wavelet transform. It requires half number of computations as compare to traditional convolution based discrete wavelet transform. This is very attractive for real time low power applications.
- The lifting scheme allows a fully in-place calculation of the wavelet transform. In other words, no auxiliary memory is required and its wavelet transform provide a substitute for the original signal.
- Lifting scheme allows us to implement reversible integer wavelet transforms. In conventional scheme it involves floating point operations, which introduces rounding errors due to floating point arithmetic. While in case of lifting scheme perfect reconstruction is possible for loss-less compression. It is easier to store and process integer numbers compared to floating point numbers.
- Easier to understand and implement.
- It can be used for irregular sampling.

The idea of wavelet transformation is to obtain correlation structure present in real life signals to build sparse approximation. The correlation structure is local in both frequency and spatial/time domain. Traditional wavelet transform use wavelet filters to build time frequency localization.

2. POLYPHASE REPRESENTATION

Let us consider the sequence of samples of signal $x(k)$. Z transform of this sequence can be given as,

$$X(z) = \sum_k x(k) z^{-k} \quad (1)$$

Let us consider finite impulse response (FIR) filter h having filter coefficients $h=\{hk1, \dots, hk2\}$. Z transform of this filter is Laurent polynomial with degree $|k2-k1|$ given by,

$$H(z) = \sum_{k=k1}^{k=k2} h_k z^{-k} \quad (2)$$

Filtering of signal $x(k)$ by filter h can be easily described in z transform by the (3)

$$Y(z) = H(z)X(z) \quad (3)$$

Sub-sampling of the signal $x(k)$ is corresponding to keeping only the even samples i.e. $x_e=x(2k)$. Z transform of such sub-sampled signal can be given as

$$X_e(z) = \sum_k x(2k) z^{-k} \quad (4)$$

$$X(z) = x(0)z^0 + x(1)z^1 + x(2)z^2 + x(3)z^3 + \dots$$

$$X(-z) = x(0)z^0 - x(1)z^1 + x(2)z^2 - x(3)z^3 + \dots$$

$$X_e(z^2) = \frac{1}{2} [X(-z) + X(z)] = \sum_k x(2k) z^{-2k} \quad (5)$$

Similarly

$$X_o(z^2) = \frac{z}{2} [-X(-z) + X(z)] = \sum_k x(2k) z^{-2k} \quad (6)$$

From (5) and (6), it is clear that the signal $X(z)$ can be decomposed into $X_e(z^2)$ and $X_o(z^2)$ as given in (7).

$$X(z) = X_e(z^2) + z^{-1}X_o(z^2) \quad (7)$$

Now let us consider that signal $X(z)$ decomposed into two parts using high pass filter g and low pass filter h , then it can be represented as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} lp(z) \\ hp(z) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} H(z) \\ G(z) \end{bmatrix} X(z) \quad (8)$$

Sub-sampling step corresponds to

$$LP(z^2) = lp_e(z^2) = \frac{lp(z) + lp(-z)}{2} = \frac{H(z)X(z) + H(-z)X(-z)}{2} \quad (9)$$

$$HP(z^2) = lp_o(z^2) = \frac{hp(z) + hp(-z)}{2} = \frac{G(z)X(z) + G(-z)X(-z)}{2} \quad (10)$$

The above equations can be written in matrix form as

$$\begin{bmatrix} LP(z^2) \\ HP(z^2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} lp_e(z^2) \\ lp_o(z^2) \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} H(-z) & H(z) \\ G(-z) & G(z) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X(-z) \\ X(z) \end{bmatrix} \quad (11)$$

In this case we first calculate all the coefficients and then throw away half of the work done. It will be more effective if we perform sampling before filtering, mean that we compute only even part of lp and hp .

$$lp_e(z) = [H(z)X(z)]_e = H_e(z)X_e(z) + z^{-1}H_o(z)X_o(z) \quad (12)$$

Similarly,

$$hp_e(z) = [G(z)X(z)]_e = G_e(z)X_e(z) + z^{-1}G_o(z)X_o(z) \quad (13)$$

Let us denote output of sub-sampler and low pass filter as $\lambda(z)$ and output of sub-sampler and high pass filter as $\gamma(z)$. Then above two equations can be represented as,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \lambda(z) \\ \gamma(z) \end{bmatrix} = P(z) \begin{bmatrix} X_e(z) \\ z^{-1}X_o(z) \end{bmatrix} \quad (14)$$

Where, $P(z)$ is a poly-phase matrix is given by

$$P(z) = \begin{bmatrix} H_e(z) & H_o(z) \\ G_e(z) & G_o(z) \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

In order to attain perfect reconstruction, filter h and g must be complementary filters that will result unity determinant of poly-phase matrix. Polyphase matrix corresponding to lazy wavelet transform will be

$$P(z) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (16)$$

This poly-phase matrix will split input samples into odd and even set.

3. CALCULATION OF LIFTING SCHEME FOR NEW WAVELETS

In this section the lifting steps for the new orthogonal wavelets proposed in [14] will be calculated by a simplified method of calculating lifting scheme. The basis functions of the orthogonal wavelets are given in the figure 1. The wavelet filters for these wavelets are calculated and for simplicity let

$$h = \{h_{-4}, h_{-3}, h_{-2}, h_{-1}, h_0, h_1, h_2, h_3, h_4\} \text{ and}$$

$$g = \{g_{-4}, g_{-3}, g_{-2}, g_{-1}, g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4\}$$

For the proposed wavelets $h_{-4}=0, g_{-4}=0$.

$$P'(z) = \begin{bmatrix} H'_e(z) & H'_o(z) \\ G'_e(z) & G'_o(z) \end{bmatrix}$$

The poly-phase matrix before the circular convolution

$$\therefore P'(z) = \begin{bmatrix} h_{-2}z^2 + h_0 + h_2z^{-2} + h_4z^{-4} & h_{-3}z^3 + h_{-1}z + h_1z^{-1} + h_3z^{-3} \\ g_{-2}z^2 + g_0 + g_2z^{-2} + g_4z^{-4} & g_{-3}z^3 + g_{-1}z + g_1z^{-1} + g_3z^{-3} \end{bmatrix} \text{ We obtain the Poly-phase matrix } P(z) \text{ by}$$

applying circular convolution to the elements of $P'(z)$. Therefore

$$P(z) = \begin{bmatrix} h_{-2}z + h_0 + h_2z^{-1} + h_4z^{-2} & h_{-3}z^2 + h_{-1}z + h_1 + h_3z^{-1} \\ g_{-2}z + g_0 + g_2z^{-1} + g_4z^{-2} & g_{-3}z^2 + g_{-1}z + g_1 + g_3z^{-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} H_e(z) & H_o(z) \\ G_e(z) & G_o(z) \end{bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

Now $P(z)$ can be decomposed into two matrices as

$$P(z) = \begin{bmatrix} H_e(z) & H_o^{New}(z) \\ G_e(z) & G_o^{New}(z) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & S(z) \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (18)$$

From equations (17) and (18),

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_o(z) &= H_0^{New}(z) + s(z)H_e(z) \\
 G_o(z) &= G_0^{New}(z) + s(z)G_e(z)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{19}$$

One can obtain S(z) and $H_0^{New}(z)$ by dividing $H_0(z)$ by $H_e(z)$. S(z) will be the quotient and $H_0^{New}(z)$ will be the remainder. Similarly $H_0^{New}(z)$ will be the remainder in the division $G_0(z)$ by $G_e(z)$. S(z), $H_0^{New}(z)$ and $G_0^{New}(z)$ can be calculated and given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 S(z) &= C_1z^{-1} + C_2z^{-2} + C_3z^{-3} \\
 H_o^{New}(z) &= C_4 + C_5z^{-1} + C_6z^{-2} \\
 G_o^{New}(z) &= C_7 + C_8z^{-1} + C_9z^{-2}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{20}$$

Where the $C_1, C_2, C_3, \dots, C_9$ are constants in terms of wavelet filter coefficients. The equation (18) becomes,

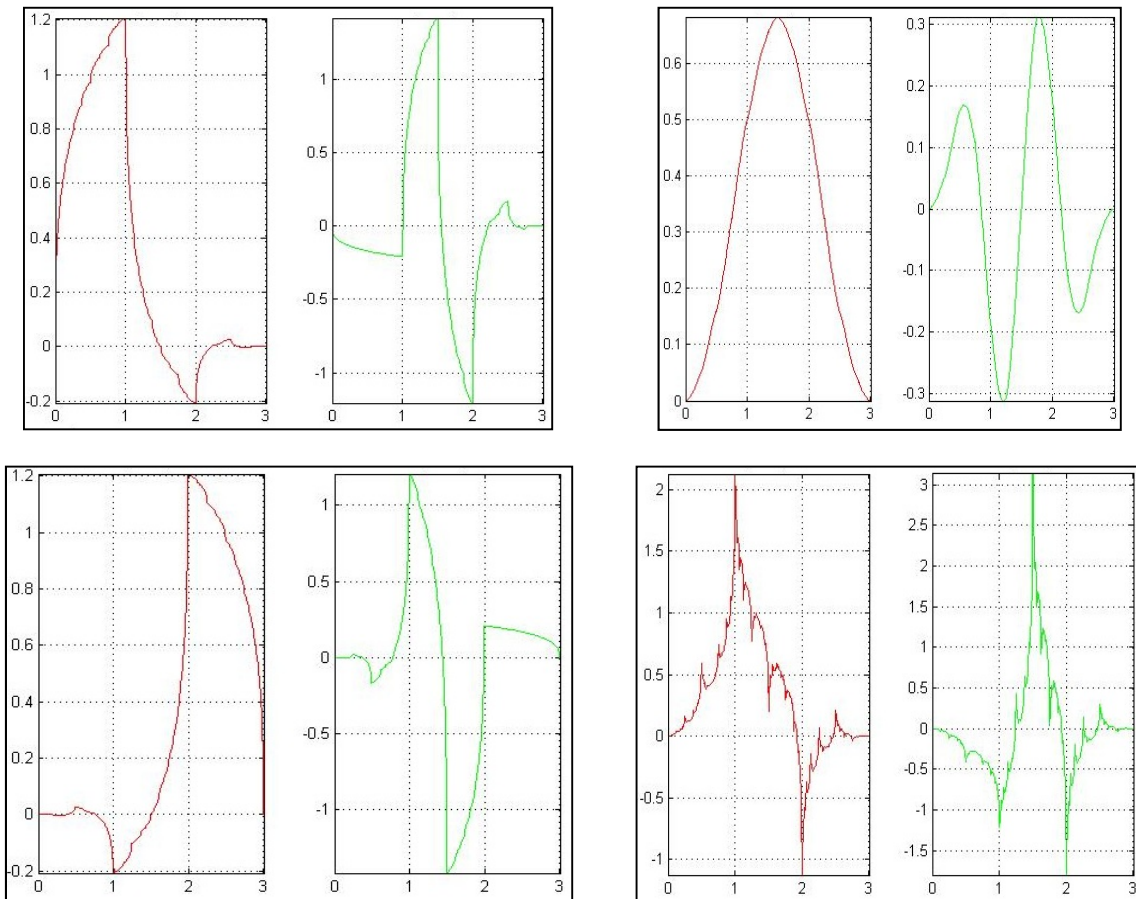


Figure 1. New Wavelets: phi and psi functions of NewWa1, NewWa2, NewWa3 and NewWa4

$$P(z) = \begin{bmatrix} H_e(z) & C_4 + C_5z^{-1} + C_6z^{-2} \\ G_e(z) & C_7 + C_8z^{-1} + C_9z^{-2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & C_1z^{-1} + C_2z^{-2} + C_3z^{-3} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}
 \tag{21}$$

Now the first matrix in the above equation can further be decomposed into two matrices as,

$$\begin{bmatrix} H_e(z) & H_o^{New}(z) \\ G_e(z) & G_o^{New}(z) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} H_e^{New}(z) & H_o^{New}(z) \\ G_e^{New}(z) & G_o^{New}(z) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ T(z) & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (22)$$

From equation (22),

$$\begin{aligned} H_e(z) &= H_e^{New}(z) + T(z)H_o^{New}(z) \\ G_e(z) &= G_e^{New}(z) + T(z)G_o^{New}(z) \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

As we have calculated $S(z)$, $H_o^{New}(z)$ and $G_o^{New}(z)$ we can calculate $T(z)$, $H_e^{New}(z)$ and $G_e^{New}(z)$ by performing divisions. The $T(z)$, $H_e^{New}(z)$ and $G_e^{New}(z)$ values are given by,

$$\begin{aligned} T(z) &= A_1z + A_2 + A_3z^{-1} \\ H_e^{New}(z) &= A_4 + A_5z^{-1} \\ G_e^{New}(z) &= A_6 + A_7z^{-1} \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Now the equation (22) becomes

$$\begin{bmatrix} H_e(z) & H_o^{New}(z) \\ G_e(z) & G_o^{New}(z) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_4 + A_5z^{-1} & H_o^{New}(z) \\ A_6 + A_7z^{-1} & G_o^{New}(z) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ A_1z + A_2 + A_3z^{-1} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (25)$$

By using the equations (21), (22) and (25) the poly-phase matrix $P(z)$ can be represented in a form, so that the lifting steps both primal and dual lifting steps can be calculated.

$$P(z) = \begin{bmatrix} A_4 + A_5z^{-1} & H_o^{New}(z) \\ A_6 + A_7z^{-1} & G_o^{New}(z) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ A_1z + A_2 + A_3z^{-1} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & C_1z^{-1} + C_2z^{-2} + C_3z^{-3} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (26)$$

Hence the lifting scheme is devised as follows:

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

4. SIMULATION RESULTS

In this section the simulation results which contains the lifting steps as well as the performance of new lifting and traditional wavelets on medical image compression is presented. Four new orthogonal wavelets proposed in [14] are considered. The lifting steps and wavelet filters for the first wavelet is presented here. The wavelet filters for the first wavelet is given by

$$\begin{aligned} h &= \{0 \quad -0.1167 \quad 0.1274 \quad 0.1838 \quad -0.2556 \quad -0.2760 \quad 0.4341 \quad 0.4443 \quad -0.6396\} \\ g &= \{0 \quad -0.6396 \quad -0.4443 \quad 0.4341 \quad 0.2760 \quad -0.2556 \quad -0.1838 \quad 0.1274 \quad 0.1167\} \end{aligned}$$

The constants C_1, C_2, \dots, C_9 for the first wavelet are given as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= -0.9155, C_2 = 8.6276, C_3 = 25.9327, \\ C_4 &= 2.7420, C_5 = -5.7385, C_6 = 16.5853, \\ C_7 &= -5.3383, C_8 = 3.7607, C_9 = -3.0254. \end{aligned}$$

The constants A_1, A_2, \dots, A_7 are given as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= 0.0465, A_2 = 0.0040, A_3 = -0.1143, \\ A_4 &= -1.3627, A_5 = 1.8961, A_6 = 0.5588, \\ A_7 &= -0.3459. \end{aligned}$$

The fundamental complexity in testing an image compression system is how to decide which test images to use for the analysis. The image content being viewed influences the perception of quality irrespective of technical parameters of the system [15]-[18]. Normally, a series of pictures, which are average in terms of how difficult they are for system being evaluated, has been chosen. To obtain a balance of critical and moderately critical material we used a wide variety of medical images.

First of all the compression performance of existing traditional wavelets, new traditional wavelets and popular 5/3 and 9/7 lifting based wavelets is presented for 'mri1.jpg'. The CR and PSNR with the above mentioned techniques are presented in the figure. The CR with the existing traditional wavelets as well as proposed traditional wavelets is about 3bpp. But with the 5/3 and 9/7 lifting based wavelets the CR is about 10bpp. The PSNR with the existing traditional wavelets is just around 23dB except for Coiflet wavelet, for which the PSNR is 40dB. PSNR with new traditional wavelets is around 30dB and with 5/3 and 9/7 lifting based wavelets it is over 37dB. In total the compression performance of new traditional wavelets is a better in terms of PSNR to that of existing traditional wavelets and the 5/3 and 9/7 lifting based wavelets completely outperform both the traditional schemes in terms of both CR and PSNR.

The proposed lifting version of the new traditional wavelets has produced even better compression results. In the figures 2 and 3, the GUI used in MATLAB and the sample medical images are shown. CT and MRI images of Brain, Heart and Head are considered as the sample images.

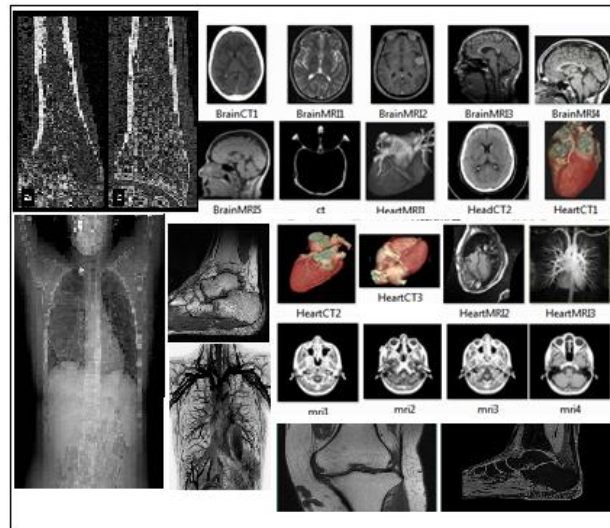


Figure 2. Sample Images for Processing

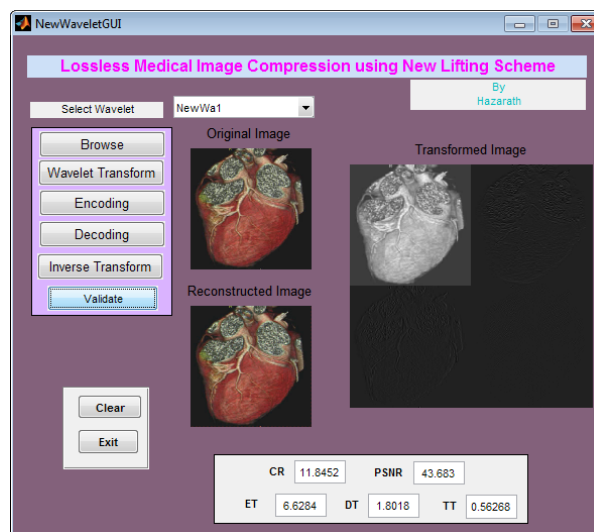


Figure 3. GUI of Proposed Algorithm

The PSNR with the lifting version of new wavelets is ranging from 40 to 44dB. The CR with the lifting version of new wavelets is about 12bpp. The comparison of performance of various transforms is plotted in figures 4. In these figures the PSNR and CRs obtained with ‘mri1.jpg’ image are plotted.

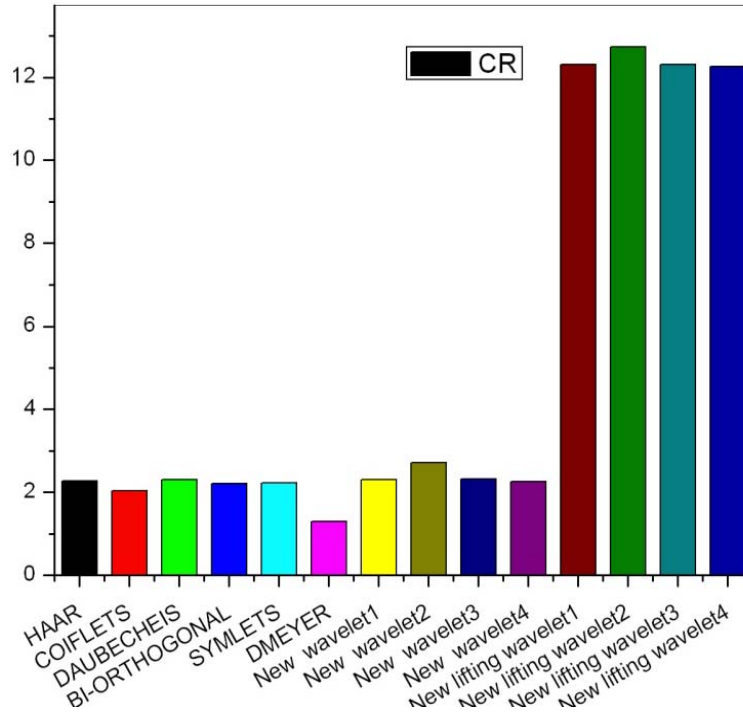


Figure 4. Comparison of CR values obtained with various transforms for ‘mri1.jpg’

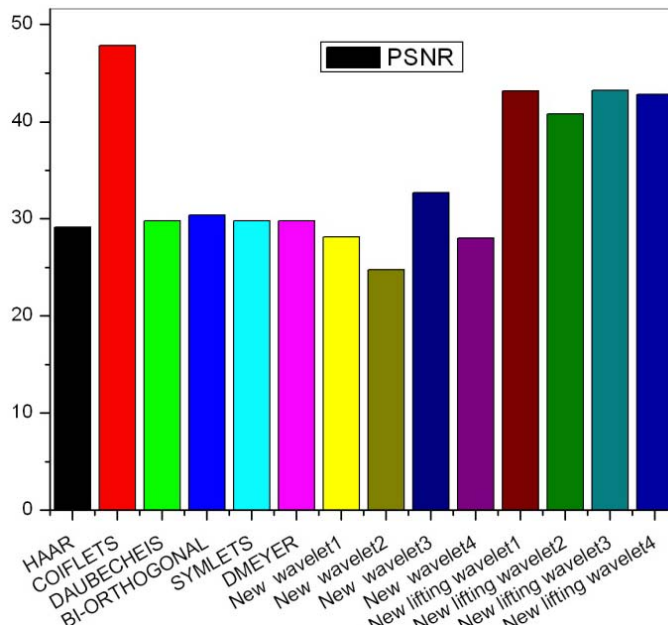


Figure 5. Comparison of PSNR values for ‘mri1.jpg’ obtained with various transforms

5. CONCLUSION & FUTURESCOPE

In this paper a new lifting mechanism was proposed. First, a new set of basis functions are selected and utilized to perceive new traditional wavelets. The wavelet filters h and g are then calculated. From these filters, the poly-phase matrix $p(z)$, by which after decomposing it into three sub-matrices, lifting steps can be calculated is formed. First this matrix is partitioned into multiplication of two sub-matrices which gives primal lifting. Then the first sub-matrix is again divided into multiplication of two more sub-matrices, whereby deriving the dual lifting. The wavelets after applying the proposed lifting scheme are applied on medical image compression. The CR, PSNR, Decoding time, Encoding time and transforming times are calculated. Except CR and PSNR the remaining design metrics are more or less the same with that of existing traditional, new traditional and the popular 5/3 and 9/7 lifting based wavelets. The CR with existing and new traditional wavelets is around 3bpp, with 5/3 and 9/7 lifting based wavelets it is 10 to 12bpp, and with the new lifting wavelets it is around 12bpp. The PSNR with existing traditional wavelets is less than 25dB except with coiflet wavelet for which the PSNR is around 40dB. With the new traditional wavelets the PSNR is around 35dB, with 5/3 and 9/7 lifting based wavelets the PSNR is ranging from 35 to 40dB. With the new lifting wavelets the PSNR is between 40 and 45dB. Hence one can say that the new lifting based wavelets are comparatively best among the mentioned wavelets. It is expected that with modified SPIHT better results will be obtained.

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