

## Novel Method for Reversible Data Hiding using Steganography

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**Abstract:** The dire need of privacy, secrecy, security and protection has led to the substantial recognition of Steganography. Gray scale images were widely used for this purpose. Recovery of the encrypted image and hidden data without any loss has become the major requirement as, most of the previous methods could easily encrypt data and images but recovery was full of loss. By utilizing the redundancy within the image consummate performance can be attained. To obtain a massive hiding room, the pixels in the local structures such as a patch or a region can be excessively constricted because they have robust correspondence. This paper proposes to make use of a novel technique that is, sparse representation at the patch-level during the concealing of data so as to effectively investigate the association between adjacent pixels. In an over-complete dictionary, few atoms can linearly portray a patch by using sparse coding technique. The obtained residuary faults are encoded and self-embedded within the cover image because sparse coding is an estimation solution. Additionally, the encrypted image is also embedded with the learned dictionary. Due to the vigorous portrayal of sparse coding, an immense emptied room can be attained; consequently, the data hider can implant additional secret messages in the encrypted image. Commodious analysis manifest that the proposed method remarkably oversteps the state-of-the-art methods in terms of embedding rate and the image quality.

**Keywords:** Reversible Data Hiding (RDH), Image Encryption and Patch-Level Sparse Coding.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Reversible data hiding (RDH) is one of the data hiding techniques whereby the host or original cover image and embedded secret message can be recovered absolutely and without loss of information. Being lossless makes this technique suitable for medical, legal scenarios and military applications where even a single disfigurement is not endurable. Image compression-based [1], [2], difference expansion based [3]–[7], histogram shift (HS)-based [8]–[11], image pixel pair based [12], [13], and dual/multi-image [14], [15] hiding methods are few RDH algorithms. Owing to the demand of privacy preservation [16], [17], prior to sending the content to the data administrator, the cover owner customarily encrypts the primitive content. Data administrator may want to embed supplementary messages into the encrypted image for authentication or steganography [18], despite not knowing the content of the original image. It's congenial and productive to use data hiding technique in encrypted image in this state. In military and medical frameworks it becomes obligatory not only to keep the content of the image concealed but also to recover it losslessly post the data extraction. Hence, RDH in encrypted images (RDHEIs) is worthwhile and preferable. Replacement of the three LSBs of the cover image with the message bits called as pixel-level compressive method is a common technique of manipulation of the least-significant-bit (LSB). In [23], the segmentation of the encrypted image is performed by dividing it into non-overlying blocks.

These blocks are divided into two sets. Flipping of three LSBs of a set is done for predefined pixels, which in turn gives rise to a single bit in a block. Hong et al. [24] gave an improved version based on [23]. While calculating the smoothness of every block, pixels are particularly harnessed and pixel association in the border of adjoining blocks is considered. This leads to reduction in the fault rate of the withdrawn bits. In [25], the constriction of the LSBs of the encrypted image is performed in order to create a sparse space to fit in some auxiliary data. It is difficult to squeeze space by only three LSBs. That's why, Zhang et al. [26] chose a half of fourth LSB as the space to carry the data. For the enhancement, Yin et al. [27] selected the smooth blocks in the encrypted image, and by using local HS, embedded the supplementary data into the blocks in an ordered manner with respect to block smoothness. The conserved spaces are all obtained by making use of LSB manipulation or constriction albeit the methods in [23]–[27] divide the image into patches or groups. This leads to the maximization of the entropy of the encrypted image and hence, it becomes tough to vacate the room losslessly after encryption, using the mentioned methods. Methods of reserving room before encryption (RRBE) are proposed [28], [29] to subjugate the above mentioned disadvantage. To do the estimation of the pixels, before encryption a huge chunk of pixels is used. The supplementary data is embedded in the encrypted image by working on the estimating errors.

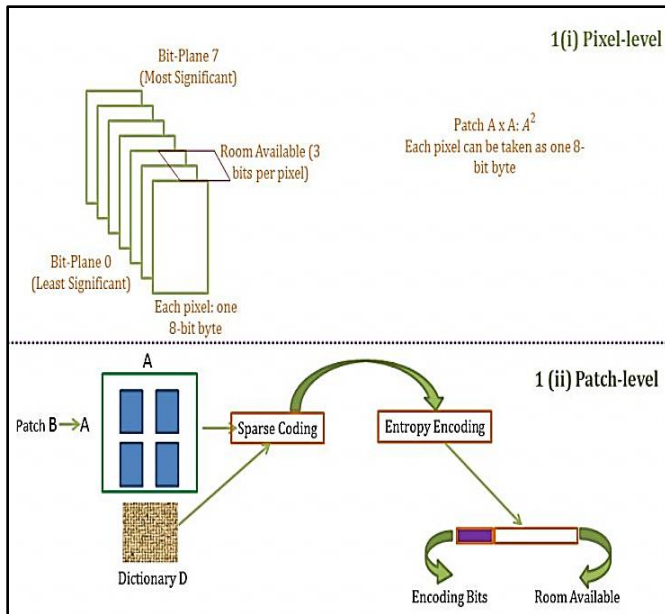
In [29], the LSBs of some pixels are embedded into the other pixels and hence a reserving room is obtained. The three LSBs of the selected pixels is the extra space emptied out. This method has acquired superlative performance. The triumph of the above methods has substantiated that the data concealing can be achieved by utilizing the redundancy within the image. To make it more indistinguishable, only three LSBs can be used for data hiding though. As shown in Fig. 1(i), one patch with size  $A \times A$  can hide  $3A^2$  bits (3 bits per pixel). The image can be scrutinized at the patch level for many computer vision applications. Patches have merits pertaining to generalization and computation and they carry contextual data. Pixels in definite areas like patches consist of strong resemblance and the data in any image is associated inevitably. This gives us the power to perform constriction that results in a massive hiding room. Contemplating the two facets, to utilize the associations of adjacent pixels in a better way this paper proposes a novel method for high magnitude divisible reversible data concealing in encrypted images (HM\_DRDCEI). As illustrated in the figure 1(ii) the substructure of room reserving before encryption is used. The image patch B is illustrated by sparse linear integrations of prototype signal atoms of an overcomplete dictionary D. Now only two things need space to record. They are: a few coefficients  $\tilde{w}$  and the corresponding residuary fault  $\tilde{r}$  Caused by sparse representation which gives rise to a higher capacity room.

recover the cover image flawlessly and further use respectively. When the recipient receives an encrypted image containing supplementary data, he/she can perform three functions. 1) He can extract the data without by using the data hiding key. 2) He can decrypt the image with a superior quality using the decryption key. 3) He can obtain both the data and cover image simultaneously provided he has both the keys.

**II. RELATED WORK**

One of the widely used techniques for Reversible Data Hiding in Encrypted Images is Reserving room before encryption. In [23], the cover image’s encryption is first performed. After that, embedding of secret data is done by adjusting a tiny section of the encrypted image. At the end, the recipient first decrypts the encrypted image, and then extricates the embedded data and finally revives the original cover image. The disadvantage of this technique is that, each block is embedded only one bit payload. Furthermore, the block size is inversely proportional to the faulty bits of the data extraction. To subjugate this disadvantage, an improved RDHEI method using side match is proposed by Hong et al. [24]. To better approximate the smoothness of the blocks which is crucial for data extrication and image revival, this technique fully utilizes the pixels by adding up perpendicular and parallel differences in image blocks. Then, it arrogates the side match technique to join up the borders of the revived blocks to the other blocks. The fault rate obtained by this method is a bit lower. The feature Divisibility/ separability of RDHEI is not taken into consideration in either of these techniques. That is, data extrication and image revival should be happening separately. Zhang [25] proposed a novel scheme for separable RDHEIs. The data owner and data hider individually encrypt the original image by making use of encryption key and constrict the LSBs of encrypted image by making use of a data hiding key respectively to accommodate the supplementary data. In the recipient’s side, three cases that the receiver has encryption and/or data hiding keys are considered.

By using LDPC code, lossless compression of the encrypted data can be performed as per Zhang’s et al. [26] proposal. By making use of a coherent embedding procedure, the data hider constricts half of the fourth LSB in the ciphertext image, and lodges the compressed data and the supplementary data into the half of the fourth LSB. A faultless data extrication technique wherein multigranularity encryption is adopted after image partition is propounded by Yin et al. [27] the data hider chooses many smoother blocks for data embedding. Due to the increment in the entropy the room vacating becomes very tough. That’s why all the above mentioned schemes obtain minute payloads. The MER in [23]–[27] are all less than 0.2 bits per second. Due to all these problems, instead of embedding data in encrypted images directly, Zhang et al. [28] proposed to estimate some pixels before encryption, and later on the supplementary data are embedded in the approximation errors. Furthermore, another technique, vacates room first by embedding LSBs of one pixel into the other. Due to which, these empty positions can b use to conceal data. This very useful scheme was put



**Fig.1. Contrast between pixel level and patch level.**

Fig2 shows the flowchart of the proposed HM\_DRDCEI method. The cover image is portrayed as per the over complete dictionary by the sparse coefficients to the data owner. Residuary faults and coefficients of the selected patches are encoded explicitly without quantization into the cover image. Doing this reduces the data size to a greater extent and therefore a massive empty room is made to conceal high magnitude data. The non-selected patches are embedded with residuary faults and learnt dictionary to

## Novel Method for Reversible Data Hiding using Steganography

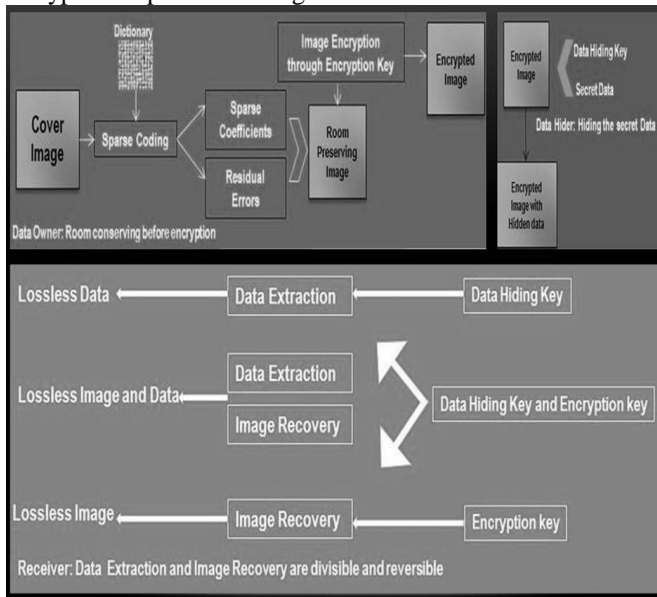
forward by Ma et al. [29] this technique can differently extricate concealed data and decrypt the image. Furthermore, more than 10 times as large payloads as those of traditional techniques can be embedded. The extra space emptied out is limited to at most three LSB-planes per pixel though. Thus, the MER is only about 0.5 bits per second in [29]. The proposed HM\_DRDCEI method inherits the merits of RRBE based on patch level sparse representation. The proposed method not only separates the data extrication from image decryption but also accomplishes excellent performance. Furthermore, unlike the previous techniques that majorly used pixel-level constriction feature, our scheme takes the patches as a whole, and represents them using sparse coding. Due to this, a high magnitude is achieved.

### III. PROPOSED METHOD

In this section, a detailed introduction about HM\_DRDCEI is given in three major aspects: 1) Generation of Encrypted Image; 2) Data concealing in the encrypted image; and 3) Data extrication and image revival. Color images with 8 bits per pixel are use.

#### A. Generation of Encrypted Image

Three phases are involved in the preparation of an encrypted image: a) Sparse representation; b) self-reversible embedding; and c) state (stream) encryption. Firstly, we take up the cover image and classify it into patches. Secondly, these patches are portrayed as per the over complete dictionary by making use of sparse coding. Thirdly, for room reservation, the smoother patches with lower residuary faults are selected. These chosen patches are illustrated by the sparse coefficients, and the corresponding residuary faults are encoded and reversibly embedded into the other not chosen patches with a standard RDH algorithm. Finally, the encryption is performed to get the final version.



**Fig.2. Block Diagram of the Proposed System.**

**Sparse Representation:** Based on K-means singular value decomposition algorithm [33], the dictionary is trained so as to reserve a room to hide data. This leads to sparse signal

representation as shown in Fig2. The training of the dictionary is an offline procedure and is fixed for the data hiding process. Given a cover image  $C$  with size  $A1 \times A2$ , we first classify it into a bunch of non-overlapped  $A \times A$  patches. The patch size  $A$  is set to 4 as default in our algorithm. Denote  $F$  as the number of patches of  $C$ , and  $F = A1 \times A2/A \times A$ . Vectorization of pixel values is done for each patch. The vectorization is performed as  $B_i \in R_n \times 1$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, F$ , and  $n = A2$ ). Therefore, the image  $C \in R_n \times F$ , which contains  $F$  column vectors  $\{B_i\}_{F_i=1}$ . Using an over complete dictionary matrix  $D \in R_n \times K$  ( $K > n$ ) that contains  $K$  prototype signal atoms for columns,  $\{d_j\}_{K_j=1}$ , every image patch  $B_i$  can be represented as a sparse linear combination of these atoms as follows:

$$\min_{x_i} \|y_i - Dx_i\|_2^2 \text{ subject to } \|x_i\|_0 \leq L \quad (1)$$

Where  $\|\cdot\|_0$  is the l 0 norm, counting the nonzero entries of a vector.  $L$  is a predetermined number of nonzero entries. The coefficient vector  $w_i \in R_K \times 1$  contains the representation coefficients of  $B_i$ , and is expected to be sparse. The well trained dictionary  $D$  can be used for any cover image.

Actually, the approximation of  $B_i$  using  $Dw_i$  needs not to be exact, and could absorb a moderate error. In other words, the representation of  $B_i$  may be either exact  $B_i = Dx_i$  or approximate,  $B_i \approx Dw_i$ . This suggests an approximation that trades off accuracy of representation with its simplicity. Therefore, we make an error correction step for lossless image recovery. Furthermore, the sparse coefficients  $w_i$  are adjusted to integers  $\tilde{w}_i = \text{round}(w_i)$  for the convenience of encoding. Therefore,  $B_i$  can be reconstructed by:

$$B_i = \text{round}(D \tilde{w}_i) + \tilde{r}_i \quad (2)$$

where  $i = 1, 2, \dots, F$ ,  $\tilde{w}_i \in Z^{K \times 1}$ , and  $\tilde{r}_i \in Z^{n \times 1}$ . Here,  $\tilde{r}_i$  is considered as the residuary fault, which contains two parts: 1) The reconstructed fault caused by sparse coding and 2) The rounding fault. At the recipient's side, once  $\tilde{w}_i$  and  $\tilde{r}_i$  are received, we can exactly recover the image content. After fault rectification, binary encoding of coefficient and residuary fault  $\tilde{r}_i$  is performed. But, for  $\tilde{w}_i$  binary encoding is not performed for the zero coefficients (as most of them are zeroes). Let the nonzero coefficients be denoted by  $T$ . This  $T$  is encoded. As a result, indices  $p_i \in Z^{T \times 1}$  and nonzero coefficients value  $u_i \in Z^{T \times 1}$  are used to characterize the coefficient  $\tilde{w}_i$ . The position  $p_i$ , is transformed into a number of position bits ( $n_i^p$  bits) which is equal to  $\lceil \log_2 K \rceil$ . The extent of the dictionary  $D$  is  $K$ . The value bits  $n_i^u$  which are the complementary bits are used to represent  $u_i$ .  $u_i$  consists of 11 bits because the range of coefficient is always  $[-1024, 1023]$ . The analogous faults are shifted to  $\tilde{r}_i$ . Context-based adaptive variable length coding [35], [36] is used to encode the residuary fault  $\tilde{r}_i$ .  $n_i^r$  is used to signify the ultimate number of encoded bits for faulty bits, which may vary with the varying textures.

**Self-Reversible Embedding:** Room reservation is the next step. To do this various patches are chosen to create a regularized domain,  $G$  and  $G \in R_n \times C$ . This domain consists of  $C$  column vectors represented by  $\{y_k\}_{k=1}^C$  is considered to be the selected patch number, and the size of domain  $G$  is  $nC$ .



The criteria considered while selecting the regularized patches are i) Simple to represent patches ii) Patches containing tiny faulty bits. To add up, the binary value of flag bit  $F_i$  is considered while choosing the patches. This is computed as follows:

$$F_i = \frac{\text{sign}(n_i^e - \delta) + 1}{2} \quad (3)$$

Selection of a patch is denoted by  $F_i=0$  and the threshold for selection is denominated by  $\square$  which is computed as follows:

$$\delta = \square \left[ \begin{matrix} n_{\phi}^e(1) \\ n_{\phi}^e(2) \\ \dots \\ n_{\phi}^e(S) \end{matrix} \right] \quad (4)$$

In the above equation;  $C$ = selected patch number  $q$ = sorting result of  $n_i$  in the ascending order,  $i, \square(i) = 1, 2, \dots, S$ .

One more parameter is required for the location of the next chosen regularized patches. This parameter involves another  $n_k^a$  bits. The encrypted image is embedded with the position of initially chosen patch. The positions of the other chosen patches are calculated by using the following equation:

$$p_{x_k} = \begin{cases} \frac{p_k}{A_2/A_1} \text{ mod}(p_k, A_2/A_1) = 0 \\ \text{floor}\left(\frac{p_k}{A_2/A_1}\right) + 1, \text{ mod}(p_k, A_2/A_1) \neq 0 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

$$p_{y_k} = \begin{cases} A_2/A_1 \text{ mod}(p_k, A_2/A_1) = 0 \\ \text{mod}(p_k, A_2/A_1) \text{ mod}(p_k, A_2/A_1) \neq 0 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

$n_a$  bits are required to embed the encrypted dictionary. The size of the concealed data is supposed to be  $M$ . The following shows the affinity between concealed data's size ( $M$ ), patch number of the selected patch ( $C$ ) and room preserving per patch ( $nd$ ).

$$\frac{M}{n^d} = \left\lceil \frac{M}{8N^2 - L(n^p - n^v) - n^b - \tilde{n}^a} \right\rceil \quad (7)$$

$$C = \left\lceil \frac{M + n^a}{8A^2 - U} \right\rceil \quad (8)$$

where

$$U = L(\lceil \log_2 K \rceil + 11) + \left( \left\lceil \log_2 \frac{A_1}{A} \right\rceil + \left\lceil \log_2 \frac{A_2}{A} \right\rceil \right) \quad (9)$$

By doing this, the cover image is transformed into a self-embedded and room preserved version  $Cc$ . Ultimately, sparse coefficients are used to portray the chosen patches. Arbitrary bits are used to fill up the space for parameter bits and dictionary bits. Post encryption, parameter bits and dictionary bits are settled and the emptied room is maintained for the data concealer. An area  $B$  is built with the help of standard RDH algorithm [37]. This area ( $B$ ) is created because of the reversible embedding of the residuary faults into the rejected patches. This step is taken for lossless image revival. This area is quantified as follows:  $AB_1 \times AB_2$ , where

$$AB_1 = A \times \text{floor}((S-C)/(A_2-A_1)) \quad (10)$$

$AB_2 = A_2$

**Image Encryption:** State (Stream) cipher is used to originate an encrypted image  $C_e$  from the previously created image  $C_c$ . Eight bits of the pixel are denoted as follows:  $p_{i,j}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, A_1, j = 1, 2, \dots, A_2$ ) as  $bi,j,0, bi,j,1, bi,j,2, bi,j,3, bi,j,4, bi,j,5, bi,j,6, \text{ and } bi,j,7$ . Thus

$$b_{i,j,k} = \_p_{i,j} 2^m \_ \text{mod } 2, m = 0, 1, \dots, 7 \quad (11)$$

Then, the encrypted bit stream can be expressed as follows:

$$b_{i,j,m} = b_{i,j,m} \oplus r_{i,j,m}, m = 0, 1, \dots, 7 \quad (12)$$

Where  $r_{i,j,m}$  is a pseudo-arbitrary bit generated by the encryption key  $K_e$ . To notify the data concealer about the locations of the succeeding patches, the parameter bits are set into the chosen patches that can be embedded. The dictionary's encoding bits are also encrypted and embedded into the relative reserving room. Then, the embedding process of initially selected patch and the emptied room is also performed. By making use of either encryption key or data hiding key, the position can be decrypted. Conversely, data hiding size can be decrypted only by the data hiding key. Eventually, encrypted image  $C_e$  is acquired.

### B. Data Concealing In The Encrypted Image

For authentication and administration purposes, the data hider can now embed any secret supplementary information in the received encrypted image. This process of embedding starts with finding the encrypted version of area  $A$ . The data hider effortlessly embeds data. After that, the data hider scans each selected patch in the encrypted image  $C_e$ , and simply makes use of bit replacement to substitute the corresponding bits reserved for secret data. Here, we assume the selected patch number is denoted as  $C$ , our MER for the data hider is computed as follows:

$$\text{MER} = \frac{C \times (8N^2 - L(n^p + n^v) - n^b) - n^a}{A_1 \times A_2} \quad (13)$$

### C. Data Extraction and Image Recovery

With the encrypted image containing additional embedded data, the receiver faces three situations depending on whether the receiver has data hiding and/or encryption keys. The data extraction and image decryption can be processed separately.

**Data Extraction with Only Data Hiding Key:** For the receiver who only has data hiding key  $K_d$ , he first extracts and computes the starting position and the hiding room size for each patch and divides the received image into non-overlapped  $N \times N$  patches. Then, data extraction is finished by checking the last  $nd$  bits for the selected patches in the received image. After that, all original hidden data are extracted and recovered with the data hiding key  $K_d$ . The extracted data is lossless.

**Image Decryption with Only Encryption Key:** In this case, the receiver has the encryption key  $K_{eony}$ . After extraction the position of the first selected patch by RDH algorithm, all the selected patches are identified one by one. Moreover, the dictionary  $D$  is also obtained by extraction. After patch

## Novel Method for Reversible Data Hiding using Steganography

segmentation of the received image, the decryption procedure is performed and it includes two cases: 1) unselected patch decryption and 2) selected patch decryption. For unselected patch, the content can be directly decrypted according to the encryption

$$key_{bi,j,m} = b \quad ij,m \oplus ri,j,m, m = 0 \dots 7 \quad (14)$$

Where  $ri,j,m$  is the pseudo-random bit generated by the encryption key  $Ke$ .  $bi,j,m$  and  $ri,j,m$  are the encrypted bit and the decrypted bit for the pixel  $pi,j$ , respectively. Consequently, the unselected patch decryption is losslessly achieved. For the selected patch, we first decrypt the encoded bits by (14) based on encrypting  $Ke$ . Then, the position and value of the sparse coefficients for each selected patch  $\{y_k\}_{k=1}^c$  are determined. After that, the corresponding coefficient, denoted as  $\tilde{x}_k$  are obtained. Then, the decrypted patch  $y_k^d$  is computed via

$$y_k^d = \text{round}(D\tilde{x}_k) \quad (15)$$

Where  $k = 1, 2, \dots, C$ ,  $D$  is the trained dictionary. Since both the unselected and selected patches are decrypted, the image decryption in our proposed method is completed.

### Data Extraction and Image Recovery with Both Data Hiding and Encryption Keys:

If the receiver has both the data hiding key  $Kd$  and encryption key  $Ke$ , the data extraction [43-65] and image recovery achieve full reversibility. On the one hand, with the data hiding key  $Kd$ , one can extract the hidden secret data without any error. On the other hand, with the encryption key  $Ke$ , they first perform directly image decryption, then the corresponding coefficient for selected patches  $\{y_k\}_{k=1}^c$ , denoted as  $\tilde{x}_k$ , are obtained. After that, the residual errors  $\tilde{e}_k$ , are extracted from the non selected patches (corresponding to area B). Therefore, the recovery patch  $yr_k$  is computed as

$$y_k^r = \text{round}(D\tilde{x}_k) + \tilde{e}_k \quad (16)$$

Where  $k = 1, 2, \dots, C$ . As the patch recovery is based on the lossless coefficients and residual errors, there exists no errors for the selected patches. Moreover, thanks to the RDH algorithm, the non selected patches are also recovered losslessly after residual errors extraction. That is to say, the image recovery in our proposed method is free of any error.

## IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Few experiments are carried out to analyse the propounded algorithm. The observations are as follows:

### A. Dictionary Specifications

TABLE I:

VARIABLES	SPECIFICATIONS
Size of the image	4 x 4
No. of Patches	786 430
Image Type	RGB Color Image
Dictionary Trainer	K-Single Value Decomposition
Utmost Repetitions	48
Size of produced dictionary	16 x K
Coefficients' computation technique	Orthogonal Matching Pursuit (OMP)

**Specifications:** To enhance the selection of the dictionary specifications, the mean of faulty bits and position bits is computed. It is also observed that when  $T$  increments from 2 to 3 then, mean of bits increments from 103.62 to 108.77. Therefore the value of  $T$  is fixed to 2. The variable  $K$  controls the extent of position encoding and there is a directly proportional relationship between coefficients' encoding extent.  $K$  is adjusted and fixed to 64 because it is observe to exhibit best performance there. The training time in hours is as follows: at  $T=2$  &  $T=3$  (constant  $\rightarrow$ )  $K=32$  the time is 2.35 & 3.9 similarly, for  $K=64$  time  $\rightarrow$  3.51 & 3.06, for  $K=128 \rightarrow$  2.42 & 3.13, for  $K=256$  time  $\rightarrow$  2.09 & 3.24 respectively.

### B. Image Encoding

After obtaining a well-trained dictionary, the provided cover image can be portrayed in terms of sparse coding in accordance with obtained dictionary. Four images are chosen and with varying level of complexity in their textures. Encoding of the residuary faults is performed. The resulting images' pixels are in line with the extent of the encoding residuary faults. The pixels' brightness and the residuary faults caused by sparse representation are directly proportional to each other. The encoding method that is adopted gives us clear idea about the region of the image that can be easily portrayed by sparse coding. Apparently, simple textured patches are feasible for sparse coding when compared to complex ones. Our encoding strategy allows us to learn which part of the image or which type of image can be easily represented by sparse coding. Maximum frequency components may be present in the patches that will result in more number of residuary faults. Few patches are chosen and for data concealing and relative residuary errors are self-embedded. In our analysis, the patches with ER 0.1050, 0.2612 AND 0.573 are taken. Ultimately these selected patches are joined to give rise to an area for data concealing.

### C. Reversible Data Concealing

Data concealers can conceal data upon receiving the encrypted image on specific demands. The image that we encrypted gave the result of ER = 0.93 bits per second. To extract the concealed data losslessly the data hiding key is required. Similarly, to obtain the decrypted image with good quality, encryption key is needed. With both the previously mentioned keys, both image and concealed data can be obtained without any loss, with higher quality. The recovered version and original version are similar visually to each other visually in addition to better image quality. In order to quantify the performance of the propounded system, it is compared with the other techniques available. This comparison proved that the technique we used is slightly better than the existing ones.

### D. Evaluation of Computational Complexities

Choosing regularized area; self-reversible embedding; and image encryption are considered to be the most complex parts in terms of computations. We assume the gray-scale image with its size  $A1 \times A2$ ,  $\tilde{A} = \max(A1, A2)$ . The computational complexity of regularized domain could be for [29] denoted by  $O(A2) + O(A \log \tilde{A})$ . The first constituent

illustrates fault computing of the pixels, the second constituent illustrates regularized domain's sorting. The dictionary training and propounded data concealing algorithm should be explored or considered distinctly for image encryption while scrutinizing the computational complexities for the choosing of regularized domain. There are two phases in the training procedure. They are sparse coding and dictionary amendment. Both of these phases are prosecuted iteratively. As stated in [42], both phases can be done coherently in  $O(P/ATAKTS) = O(\sim A2TKTS)$ , where  $P$  is the number of pixels in the image ( $P = A1 \times A2$ ),  $A$  is the size of patch,  $T$  is the number of iterations,  $K$  is the number of atoms in the dictionary,  $T$  is the number of nonzero elements in each coefficient vector, and  $S$  is the number of examples in the training set.  $K$ -SVD is fixed for the entire propounded process and it is an offline training process. Practically, non-optimized MATLAB code is used on a regular PC for the training process. Any user can preprocess this method by using any PC with common configuration. The computational complexity relies majorly on encoding that is sparse representation decoding that is patch recovery. OMP algorithm is used for encoding. A sort function is also required for ultimate regularized domain selection, which increases the computational complexity even more. The standard RDH algorithm is used for the other two steps: self-reversible embedding and image encryption and state encryption. Almost the same computational complexity is obtained.

## V. CONCLUSION

A novel technique had been proposed in this paper, which takes up the advantages of divisibility property and of Reversible Data Hiding methods in the encrypted images. The room emptied for data concealing is very much utilized. A very simple technique of pixel relocation is used to fill up the given room with supplementary secret. The data extraction and image revival are all faultless and divisible. It has good potential and performance.

**NOTE:** This technique has been implemented using grey scale images so far. By referring other research papers there are no techniques that are implemented on RGB images. Here, in this paper I have implemented the same technique using a color image and the results and analysis are satisfactory.

**Fututre Enhancements:** Almost same techniques are used for the color images with a little variation in the code. Steganography in colored images is desirable and hence this enhancement could be done with the new techniques by just choosing a color image as the image cover and hiding the data. Appropriate coding and implementation would give excellent results if new methods/ algorithms are performed.

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