

A Fractal Image Compression Method Based on Multi-Wavelet

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Abstract

How to effectively store and transmit such multi-media files as image and video has become a research hotspot. The traditional compression algorithms have a relatively low compression ratio and bad quality of decoded image, at present, the fractal image compression method with a higher compression ratio fails to meet the requirements of the practical applications in the quality of the compressed image as well as the coding and decoding time. This paper integrates fractal thought and multi-wavelet transform and proposes a fractal image compression algorithm based on multi-wavelet transform. To transform the image model into a combination of relevant elements in the frequency domain instead of merely building on the foundation of the neighborhood gray-scale correlation has the ability to code larger image blocks, eliminates the possibility of global correlation in the image and improves the coding speed of the existing fractal image compression algorithm. The experimental result shows that the algorithm proposed in this paper can accelerate the coding speed of the present fractal image compression and have certain self-adaptivity while slightly reducing the quality of decoding image.

Keywords: multi-wavelet, fractal theory, image compression

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1. Introduction

The image compression technology is a technique to use as few bits as possible to express the image signal from the information source to lower as much resource consumption such as the frequency bandwidth occupied by the image data, the storage space and the transmission time as possible for the sake of the transmission and storage of image signal. In fact, there exists strong correlation between the image pixels and such correlation has brought plenty of redundant information to the image, which makes image compression possible [1]. As a new image compression algorithm developed in the past decade, fractal image compression method attaches great importance to digging the self-similarity in most images and realizes the coding of an image with complicated visual characteristics on the surface via limited coefficients by using the iterated function system and some simple iteration rules. By using these rules, the decoder can realize the iterative decoding of the original image, therefore, the fractal image compression algorithm can achieve a higher compression ratio than other image compression algorithms [2].

However, the fractal image compression algorithm still has many problems in both theory and application. For example, during the compression, the computation is too complicated, the compression time is too long, the convergence process is difficult to predict and control and there is block effect in the high compression ratio. The biggest problem of the basic fractal image compression algorithm is that its high compression ratio is at the cost of the huge coding time. It requires global search on all the domain blocks for every R block to search for the optimal matching domain block, therefore, the coding phase demands much computation time [3]. It usually takes hours to code a common 256x256 image, which greatly affects the practicability of fractal image compression, therefore, numerous improved algorithms are trying to find a quick way to accelerate the coding speed, and nevertheless, the increased coding speed comes together with the decreased image-reproduction quality. To surmount the shortcomings of the traditional fractal image compression algorithms, this paper makes some research on the coding method integrating fractal and wavelet transform. In essence, wavelet transform is to analyze the signal in multi-resolution or multi-scaling, which is very suitable for the logarithmic characteristics of human-eye visual system on the frequency perception.

Therefore, people start to apply wavelet transform in the image compression and they have achieved some results. As a development of single wavelet, multi-wavelet has such excellent properties as symmetry, orthogonality, short support and second-order vanishing moments, therefore, it has the advantages over single wavelet in the image processing and it can provide a more accurate analysis method [4, 5].

Based on the research in the relevant literature, this paper investigates the integrated method by introducing the multi-wavelet transform and integrating the separate advantages of wavelet coding and fractal coding. This paper, firstly, analyzes the principle and realization of fractal image compression coding. Then, it discusses the multi-wavelet decomposition and reconstruction of 2D images. Based on the above-mentioned research, the experiment simulation and analysis verify the effectiveness and practicability of this algorithm in this paper.

2. Fractal Image Compression Coding

2.1. Basic Principle of Image Compression

The image information compression coding is conducted according to the intrinsic statistical characteristics of the image signal and the visual characteristics of human beings. The statistical characteristics have shown that there exists strong correlation between the neighborhood pixels, the neighborhood lines and the neighborhood frames. To use certain coding method to remove such correlation can realize the data compression of the image information. This process is to reduce as much non-correlative redundant information to the image quality and it is an information-preserving compression coding. Another consideration is that the image is finally watched or judged by human eyes or the observation instrument. According to the visual physiology and physiological characteristics, certain image distortion is allowed in the restored image which undergoes the compression coding as long as such distortion is difficult to see for the general audience. This kind of compression coding is a non-preserving coding because it causes certain image information loss. The research demonstrates that the more regular the grayscale distribution of the original image is, the stronger the structural of the image contents is, the more correlative the pixels are and the more compressed the data are. The basic principle of image compression coding is indicated in Figure 1 [6].

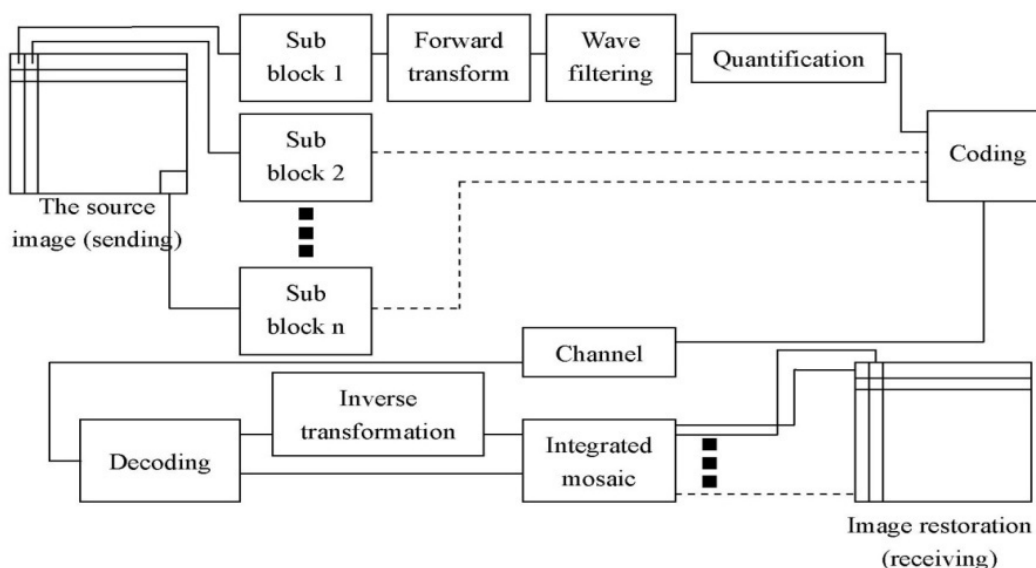


Figure 1. Principle of image information compression

2.2. The Common Algorithm and Realization of Fractal Image Compression Coding

Currently, the core of fractal image compression coding is a sub-block iterated function system based on the contractive affine transformation. The basis of the coding process is the collage theorem. To conduct fractal coding on an image is to find a proper compression affine

transformation to make its fixed points to be an approximation as good to the original image as possible. Then record down the corresponding parameters and use them as the fractal codes of the image for the storage and transmission. The decoding process is, firstly, to determine a group of compression affine transformations via the storage or transmission parameters to constitute an iterated function system and then seek the attractor of this system. According to the attractor theorem, such attractor is the approximation of the original image. The basic coding principle will be introduced in the form of figure and text [7].

1) Image model

Assume that $(R^{N \times N}, d)$ is the grayscale image space of $N \times N$ and the grayscale valuerange is $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, l-1\}$ (l is normally 256, namely the quantization of 8bit). In its applications, N is usually the power of 2, (i.e. 256×256, 512×512 etc). Therefore, an image I can be expressed as a matrix $(I_{ij})_{N \times N}$, I_{ij} means the grayscale value of the image at (i, j) . d is a complete metric to be used in the distortion judgment and it is usually taken as root mean square (RMS):

$$d(x, y) = RMS(x, y) = \left(\frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{i,j=1}^N |x_{ij} - y_{ij}|^2 \right)^{1/2}, x, y \in R^{N \times N} \quad (1)$$

2) Image segmentation

Adopt fixed block segmentation method and segment image I into a series of $B \times B$ pixel sub-block (2D array) rulers $R_i (i=1, 2, \dots, N_r)$, of fixed size. They won't overlap and they cover the entire image (Figure 2). In other words,

$$I = \bigcup_{i=1}^{N_r} R_i, R_i \cap R_j = \emptyset (i \neq j), i, j = 1, 2, \dots, N_r$$

Such sub-block is called Range block (R block for short) and its sizes include: 4×4, 8×8, 16×16 etc. In the sub-block formed by R block, code them one by one according to the order of columns, namely to list the R blocks by the following order:

$$R_{11}, R_{12}, \dots, R_{1n}, R_{21}, R_{22}, \dots, R_{2n}, \dots, R_{n1}, R_{n2}, \dots, R_{nm} (n = N/B)$$

Besides, image I is divided into a series of sub-blocks $\{D_i\}_{i=1}^{N_d}$ with larger size and these sub-blocks can overlap and they won't need to cover the entire image. They are called domain block (D block for short). In the applications, the size of D block corresponding to the R block with a size of $B \times B$ is usually $2B \times 2B$ (i.e. 8×8, 16×16 and 32×32 etc). They can be generated by moving a $2B \times 2B$ window from left to right and from up to down with a horizontal step-length of δ_h and a vertical step-length of δ_v . Obviously, two neighborhood blocks have δ_h (or δ_v) pixels overlapped in the horizontal (or vertical) direction. In the application, the horizontal step-length is the same as the vertical step-length, namely $\delta_h = \delta_v = \delta$, and the side length of R block is B (As indicated in Figure 3, 3D blocks are drawn here). Therefore, the number of D blocks is $N_d = \left(\frac{N-2B}{\delta} + 1 \right)^2$. δ is usually B (or $2B$), at this time, the number of D blocks is $(N_r - 1)^2$ and it is half-overlapped in the vertical (horizontal) direction [8].

3) Search for the optimal matching block $D_{m(i)}$ of R block and determine the mapping parameter.

R_i , every R block is approximate with the size ratio resetting and brightness transformation of $D_{m(i)}$, a certain D block (Figure 4). The mapping w_i usually chooses compression affine transformation and its common form is:

$$w_i(D_{m(i)}) = \lambda_i(\gamma_i(D_{m(i)})) = s_i \lfloor \gamma_i(D_{m(i)}) \rfloor + o_i \tag{2}$$

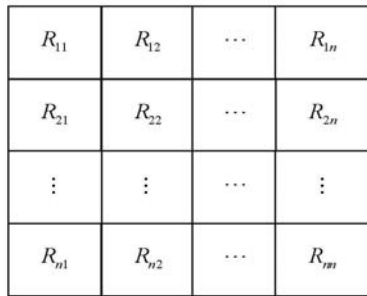


Figure 2. Partition scheme (R block)

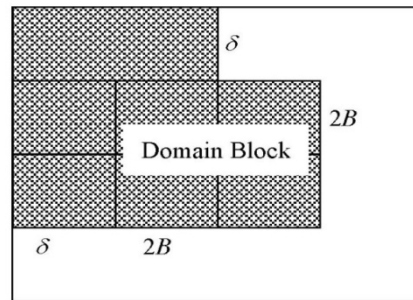


Figure 3. Producing D blocks

The compression affine transformation w_i includes spatial contractive transformation γ_i and grayscale modification transformation λ_i . It can be seen from Figure 4 that the mapping γ_i translates from the sub-image $D_{m(i)}$ to the sub-image R_i . Then it makes its size totally overlap the size of R_i through pixel mean value or decimation contraction. The mapping λ_i modifies the grayscale information of $D_{m(i)}$ to get a better approximation of the grayscale of R_i by introducing the grayscale adjustment and the offset parameters s_i, o_i as Figure 5.

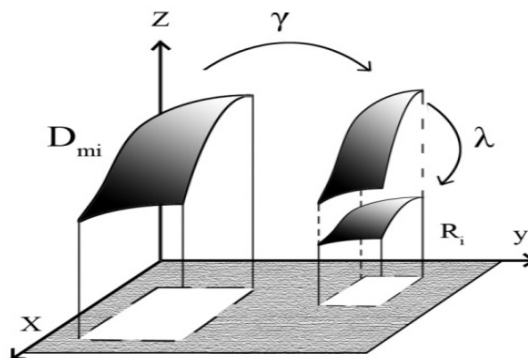


Figure 4. Effects of transformation w_i

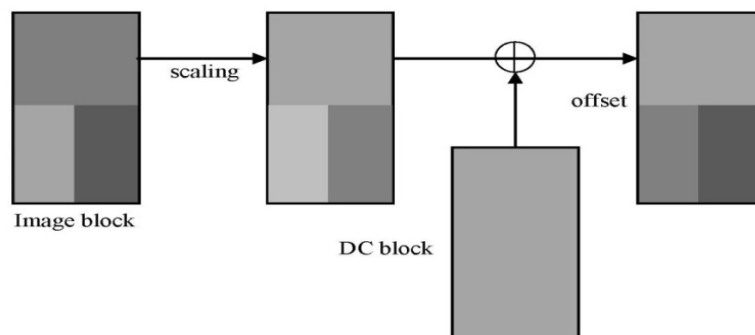


Figure 5. Scaling and offset of image

$D_j(j=1,2,\dots,N_d)$, every D block adopts 4-neighborhood pixel mean value or decimation to get the pixel block \hat{D}_j of $B \times B$. Use S to symbolize this computation (space contraction operator), namely $S(D_j) = \hat{D}_j$. For example, according to the pixel expression, the 4-neighborhood pixel mean value is:

$$\hat{d}_{k,l} = (d_{2k,2l} + d_{2k+1,2l} + d_{2k,2l+1} + d_{2k+1,2l+1}) / 4 \quad (3)$$

In this formula, $d_{k,l}$, $\hat{d}_{k,l}$ are the grayscale values of D_j and \hat{D}_j at the pixel point (k,l) . All such contraction sub-blocks form a "virtual codebook" and mark this codebook as Ω , namely $\Omega = \{\hat{D}_j = S(D_j) : j = 1, 2, \dots, N_d\}$ [9].

3. Multi-Wavelet Decomposition and Reconstruction of 2D Image

The decomposition and reconstruction algorithms of discrete multi-wavelet transform are the development of single wavelet and the difference is that the decomposition and reconstruction filters are vector filters; therefore, vector signal is required to be input into the filter. And a problem in the algorithm realization is the vectorization of the input scalar data; correspondingly, the vector data is required to be restored to scalar data in the reconstruction. This problem is usually solved through the pre-filter and the corresponding post-filter and the design of the pre-filter is related to the multi-wavelet used [10].

Assume that the corresponding 2D matrix to an image is:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{0,0} & \cdots & a_{0,N-1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{N-1,1} & \cdots & a_{N-1,N-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad (4)$$

Then the steps to perform multi-wavelet transform on Image A are as follows:
(Here, N is the integer power of 2. Take $r = 2$, namely 2-level multi-wavelet transform)

(1) Line pre-filtering

Firstly, form a line vector signal with every line of A according to the following way.

$$A_{iR}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} a_{i,2k} \\ a_{i,2k+1} \end{bmatrix} \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1, k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1/2 \quad (5)$$

Then, perform line pre-filtering on A_{iR} .

$$B_{iR}(n) = \sum_k p_k A_{iR}(n-k) = \begin{bmatrix} b_{i,n} \\ b_{i, \frac{N}{2}+n} \end{bmatrix} \quad B = [b_{ij}], i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1, k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1/2 \quad (6)$$

In this formula, and p_k is the matrix of 2×2 , indicating the pre-filter corresponding to the wavelet used.

(2) Column pre-filtering

Form a column vector signal with every column of B according to the following approach.

$$B_{iC}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} b_{2n,i} \\ b_{2n+1,i} \end{bmatrix} \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1, k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1/2 \quad (7)$$

Then, perform column pre-filtering on B_{iC} .

$$C_{iC}(n) = \sum_k p_k B_{iC}(n-k) = \begin{bmatrix} c_{n,i} \\ c_{\frac{N}{2}+n,i} \end{bmatrix} \quad C = [c_{ij}], \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1/2 \quad (8)$$

(3) Multi-wavelet decomposition

Step 1: Multi-wavelet decomposition in the line direction.

Firstly, form the vector signal with every line of C according to the following means.

$$C_{iR}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} c_{i,n} \\ c_{i,\frac{N}{2}+n} \end{bmatrix} \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1/2 \quad (9)$$

Then, perform multi-wavelet transform on every line of $C_{iR}(n)$.

$$D_{i,m}^L(n) = \sum_n G_{n-2m} C_{iR}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} d_{i,m}^L \\ d_{i,\frac{N}{4}+m}^L \end{bmatrix}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1, \quad m = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{N-1}{4} \quad (10)$$

$$D_{i,m}^H(n) = \sum_n H_{n-2m} C_{iR}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} d_{i,m}^H \\ d_{i,\frac{N}{4}+m}^H \end{bmatrix}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1, \quad m = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{N-1}{4} \quad (11)$$

In this formula, G_k is the matrix of 2×2 , indicating the corresponding low-frequency filter to multi-wavelet while H_k , a matrix of 2×2 , is the corresponding high-frequency filter to the wavelet [11].

Make $D^L = [D_{i,j}^L]$, $D^H = [D_{i,j}^H]$, $D = [D^L, D^H]$.

Step 2: Multi-wavelet decomposition in the column direction.

Similarly, form the vector signal on every column of D in the same way as the line and then perform column wavelet transform.

$$D_{iC}^L(n) = \begin{bmatrix} D_{n,i}^L \\ D_{\frac{N}{2}+n,i}^L \end{bmatrix}, \quad D_{iC}^H(n) = \begin{bmatrix} D_{n,i}^H \\ D_{\frac{N}{2}+n,i}^H \end{bmatrix}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{N}{2}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (12)$$

Perform multi-wavelet transform on D_{iC}^L and D_{iC}^H respectively [12].

$$\begin{aligned} E_{i,m}^{LL}(n) &= \sum_n G_{n-2m} D_{iR}^L(n) = \begin{bmatrix} E_{m,j}^{LL} \\ E_{\frac{N}{4}+m,j}^{LL} \end{bmatrix}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{N-1}{2}, \quad m = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{N-1}{4} \\ E_{i,m}^{LH}(n) &= \sum_n H_{n-2m} D_{iR}^L(n) = \begin{bmatrix} E_{m,j}^{LH} \\ E_{\frac{N}{4}+m,j}^{LH} \end{bmatrix}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{N-1}{2}, \quad m = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{N-1}{4} \\ E_{i,m}^{HL}(n) &= \sum_n G_{n-2m} D_{iR}^H(n) = \begin{bmatrix} E_{m,j}^{HL} \\ E_{\frac{N}{4}+m,j}^{HL} \end{bmatrix}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{N-1}{2}, \quad m = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{N-1}{4} \\ E_{i,m}^{HH}(n) &= \sum_n H_{n-2m} D_{iR}^H(n) = \begin{bmatrix} E_{m,j}^{HH} \\ E_{\frac{N}{4}+m,j}^{HH} \end{bmatrix}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{N-1}{2}, \quad m = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{N-1}{4} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Step 3: finally, get the multi-wavelet transform of A .

$LL = [E_{i,j}^{LL}], LH = [E_{i,j}^{LH}], HL = [E_{i,j}^{HL}], HH = [E_{i,j}^{HH}]$, namely:

$$E = \begin{pmatrix} LL & LH \\ HL & HH \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} L_1L_1 & L_1L_2 & L_1H_1 & L_1H_2 \\ L_2L_1 & L_2L_2 & L_2H_1 & L_2H_2 \\ H_1L_1 & H_1L_2 & H_1H_1 & H_1H_2 \\ H_2L_1 & H_2L_2 & H_2H_1 & H_2H_2 \end{bmatrix} \tag{14}$$

It is not difficult for us to find that due to the existence of several scaling (wavelet) functions, one sub-band after the single wavelet transform is further decomposed into r^2 sub-blocks in the multi-wavelet transform. For a 2D image, N-level wavelet decomposition will generate $r^2(3L+1)$ sub-images. Figure 6 is the decomposed coefficient map when $L = 2, r = 2$.

L-level multi-wavelet transform decomposes the image into $r^2(3L+1)$ sub-blocks. The reconstruction process is the inverse process of the above steps. That is to say, perform the inverse multi-wavelet transform in the column direction. Then the line direction. And finally the post-filtering in the line direction, after that, the image reconstruction is completed [13, 14].

4. Fractal Image Compression Algorithm in Multi-Wavelet Domain

The basic idea of the fractal image compression algorithm in the multi-wavelet domain is: decompose the original image into the sub-images at different spatial frequencies through multi-wavelet transform, perform fractal coding on the high-level wavelet coefficients only by using the correlation between the wavelet coefficients at different scales and estimate the fractal code of the low-level wavelet coefficients from that of the upper-tiered wavelet coefficients. In this way, it greatly reduces the coding time and improves the compression ratio without significantly reducing the quality of the decoded image. Figure 7 is the basic procedure of multi-wavelet fractal image coding algorithm.

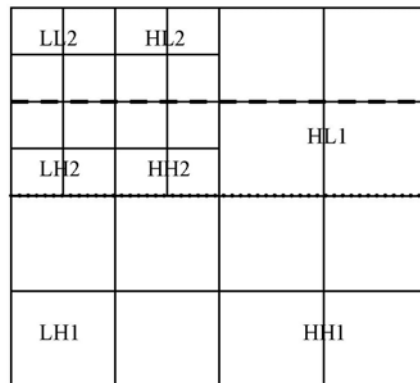


Figure 6. Multi-wavelet transform when $L = 2, r = 2$

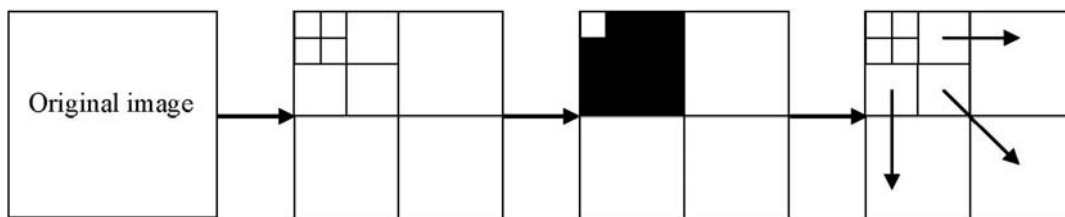


Figure 7. Sketch map of multi-wavelet coding algorithm

Its specific steps are as follows:

- (i) Perform 3-level wavelet decomposition on the original image and get 10 wavelet sub-images.
- (ii) Take the 4*4 non-overlapping sub-blocks which are divided from the low-frequency part LL3 after the lifting wavelet transform. Perform another lifting wavelet decomposition on LL3. Take the coefficient blocks with a size of 4*4 from the same position in the decomposed 4 parts (a, b, c, d) and restore all the possible 8*8 D blocks in the original image through wavelet reconstruction algorithm. The D', the sampled D blocks can be found in a, therefore, match all the 4*4 sub-blocks in the transformed low-frequency part as D' with the R blocks divided from the LL3. The range to search the optimal D' is narrowed down to the half of the original range, thus greatly shortening the coding time.
- (iii) Considering the positive and negative wavelet coefficients, which is not good for the similarity matching between the parent block and the sub-block, we extract the symbol (+ or -) of the wavelet coefficients for separate coding and we only perform fractal coding on the absolute value of the wavelet coefficients.
- (iv) Perform fractal coding on the wavelet coefficients of different scales and finish the coding of the entire image.
- (v) In the decoding reconstruction, estimate the fractal code of scale 1 based on that of scale 2. And the estimation formula is:

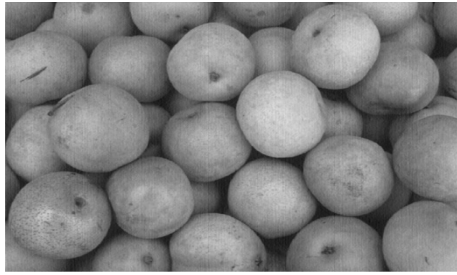
$$\begin{cases} s1 = s2 \\ r1_{avr} = r2_{avr} / \sigma \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

Here, $s1$ and $s2$ are the scalar coefficients of scales 1 and 2 in the wavelet coefficient matrix respectively, $r1_{avr}$ and $r2_{avr}$ are the grayscale offset coefficients of scales 1 and 2 respectively and $\sigma = 5$. Reconstruct the wavelet coefficients of different scales with the fractal codes of the scales. Then add the symbol of wavelet coefficient. Integrate the decoded low-frequency part with the high-frequency part. Perform inverse wavelet transform, the image decoding reconstruction is completed.

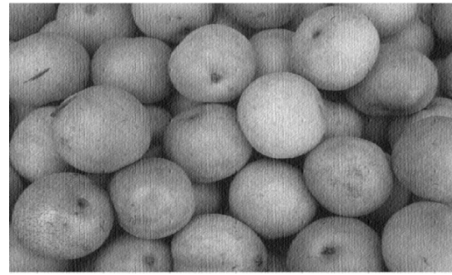
5. Experiment Simulation and Analysis

According to the algorithm based on wavelet fractal image compression coding, experiment on the images of Lena and pper and compare with the fractal image compression coding. The experiment test platform is CPU: Intel(R) Core(TM)2CPU, 1.35GHZ, RAM: 2.0G, the operating system is: Windows 7 and the experimental environment is: Matlab2012a. The test performance parameters include compression ratio, peak signal to noise ratio (PSNR) and coding time (s).

It can be seen from Figure 8 and Table 1 that compared with FIC, multiwavelet-FIC has greatly improved in the compression time by reducing 22.23% on the average, that the maximum compression ratio reduce is 1.347 and that the signal to noise ratio decreases slightly. Through algorithm analysis, multiwavelet-FIC reduces the coding complexity in contrast to FIC and it shortens the matching search time and accelerates the coding speed via experiment.



(a) Decoding image of multiwavelet-FIC



(b) Decoding image of FIC



(c) Decoding image of multiwavelet-FIC



(d) Decoding image of FIC

Figure 8. Comparison between multiwavelet-FIC and FIC

Table 1. Test Results Comparison Between Multiwavelet-FIC and FIC

	FIC			Multiwavelet-FIC		
	Time(S)	Compression ratio	PSNR(dB)	Time(S)	Compression ratio	PSNR(dB)
Pears	27.358	13.556	29.53	19.861	12.209	28.87
Peppers	41.476	11.268	31.86	33.668	10.241	30.92

6. Conclusion

The image characteristics are closely related to the compression effect. In order to better match the image characteristics with compression algorithm, this paper has proposed a new multi-wavelet fractal image compression algorithm. Through the experiment performance simulation and comparison experiment, it can be seen that compared with FIC, this new algorithm has excellent effects and it effectively improves the compression performance, shortens the time of the matching search and increases the coding speed.

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