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**ENCRYPTION METHOD USING LSB AND RSA  
ALGORITHMS IN STEGANOGRAPHY TECHNIQUE**



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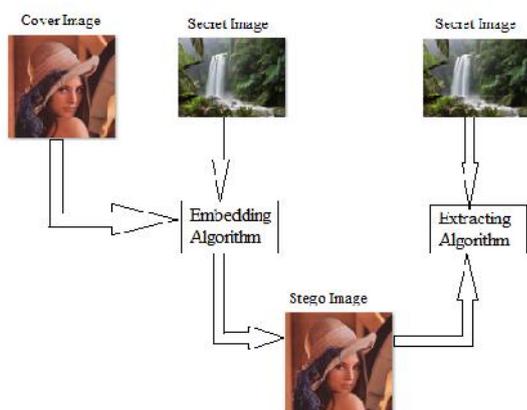
**RESEARCH ARTICLE****ENCRYPTION METHOD USING LSB AND RSA ALGORITHMS IN STEGANOGRAPHY  
TECHNIQUE****Megha S. Lahase and S. A. Dhole**Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Bharati Vidyapeeth's College of Engineering  
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October, 2015**Key words:**Steganography; Spartan 3  
FPGA; Security; LSB; RSA;  
Cover image; Secret image.**ABSTRACT**

Steganography is the method that involves communicating secret data in an appropriate multimedia carrier. Many uncommon carrier formats can be used; digital images are the most standard used in steganography. In this paper hybrid combination of least significant bit as well as RSA algorithms are used for encryption process. Inserting secret data inside cover images needs intensive computations, and thus, designing steganography in hardware speeds up steganography. This work indicates a hardware design of Least Significant Bit (LSB) as well as RSA steganography technique in a Papilio Spartan 3 FPGA board.

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**INTRODUCTION**

The term steganography literally means “covered writing” and it is derived from the Greek [1]. It is the branch of cryptography. The dissimilarity between Steganography and Cryptography is that the cryptography attentions on care the matters of a secret message while steganography attentions on care the presence of a secret message. Steganography and cryptography both are ways for keeping data from unwanted parties.

**Figure 1** Block diagram of Steganography

Information security of the private information has come to be a dangerous problem in the digital world. Therefore, the demand of having a secure method to transmission the private data is growing.

Generally image steganography is technique of secret image hiding into cover-image and produces a stego-image. This stego-image then sent to another party by recognized medium, wherever the enemy party does not recognize that this stego-image has secreted image. After receiving stego-image hidden image can simply be extracted with or without stego-key by the reception end. Basic block diagram of image steganography is shown in Figure 1 without stego-key, where embedding algorithm needed a cover image with secret image for embedding process. Output of embedding algorithm is a stego-image which mainly sent to extracting algorithm, where extracted algorithms unhide the secret image from stego-image. Steganography is used in images, but several other data or file categories are possible.

1. Audio
2. Video
3. Text
4. Executable programs

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**Least Significant Bit (LSB)**

There are many types of spatial steganography, all directly replace some bits in the image pixel values in hiding information. LSB-based steganography is one of the simplest methods that hide a secret message in the LSBs of pixel values without observable distortions. To our human eye, changes in the value of the LSB are unnoticeable. LSB replacement method, Matrix inserting are some of the spatial domain methods.

LSB addition is a common and simple method to insert data in an image. The LSB of some or all of the bytes inside an image is altered to a bit of the secret message. Digital images are mostly of two forms (i) 24 bit images and (ii) 8 bit images. In 24 bit images we can insert three bits of data in each pixel, one in each LSB position of the three eight bit values. Growing or reducing the value by altering the LSB does not modification the presence of the image; much so the resultant stego image appearances almost similar as the cover image. In 8 bit images, one bit of data can be concealed.

The LSB of certain or all of the bytes inside an image is changed to a bit of the secret message.

**The system has some benefits [1]**

- This execution significantly simplifies memory access since it maps one secret byte to one Cover pixel. Reading and handling data at the bytes edge make simpler hardware design and reduces the design area and power.
- The hidden size is third of the cover size, which is considerably improved.

The LSB block receives the three bytes of cover and one byte of the secret, combines them and then provides them back to the AVR8 processor.

The LSB is the lowest significant bit in the byte value of the image pixel [1]. The LSB based image steganography inserts the secret in the LSB of pixel values of the cover image (CVR). To illustrate LSB technique, we gives the following example. Suppose the cover has the following two pixel values:

(0000 1010 0011 0010 0111 0100)  
 (1111 0101 1100 0011 1100 0111)

Also, assume that the secret bits are: 110110. After embedding the secret bits, the outcome pixel values are:

(0000 101**1** 0011 0011 0111 010**0**)  
 (1111 010**1** 1100 0011 1100 011**0**)

The highlighted bits show that the bits were replaced from their original value. Only three bits in the cover image were customized. On average about half of the bits in the cover image will be modified when inserting the secret image.

**RSA Algorithm**

RSA is a cryptosystem, which is called as one of the first possible public-key cryptosystems and is commonly used for protected data communication. In such a cryptosystem, the

encryption key is public and varies from the decryption key which is saved secret. In RSA, this irregularity is based on the practical difficulty of factoring the product of two large prime numbers, the factoring problem. RSA stands for Ron Rivest, Adi Shamir and Leonard Adleman, who first publicly defined the algorithm in 1977. Clifford Cocks, an English mathematician, had developed an equivalent method in 1973, but it wasn't derestricted until 1997.

**Simple example of RSA Algorithm**

- Choose  $p = 3$  and  $q = 11$
- Compute  $n = p * q = 3 * 11 = 33$
- Public key is  $(e, n) => (7, 33)$
- Private key is  $(d, n) => (3, 33)$
- The encryption of  $m = 2$  is  $c = 2^7 \% 33 = 29$
- The decryption of  $c = 29$  is  $m = 29^3 \% 33 = 2$

**FPGA based system for steganography image processing**

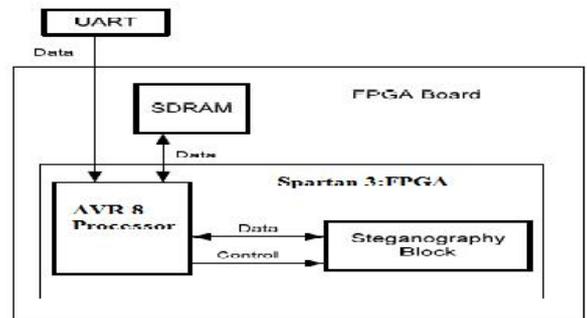


Figure 2 System block diagram

It consists of:

- AVR8 Processor**
- UART Interface**
- Steganography Unit**

The AVR 8-bit microcontroller architecture was introduced in 1997. By 2003, Atmel had shipped 500 million AVR flash microcontrollers. The AVR is a modified Harvard architecture machine where program and data are kept in separate physical memory systems that look in different address spaces, but having the ability to read data items from program memory using special instructions.

A UART (Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter) is the microchip with programming that controls a computer's interface to its connected serial devices. Specifically, it provides the computer with the RS-232C Data Terminal Equipment.

The steganography block implements LSB steganography method by concealing the secret data in the cover using a combination of 2-bit and 3-bit LSB steganography, referred to as 2/3-LSB [1]. Each CVR pixel is represented by three bytes. A single byte of the secret data is hidden in the three bytes of a cover pixel.

The Papilio One has a Xilinx Spartan 3E FPGA chip, given that a rich quantity of digital logic to quickly get your prototyping

offs the ground. You can code for the FPGA using predictable development tools, or you can take Gadget Factory's custom Arduino IDE to simply write Arduino code and upload it to the AVR8 soft processor.

**Encryption Method**

By applying an offset to each single byte image Encryption encrypts a secret image into an image [6]. In recent years there have been several reports of secret material such as customers' personal records being uncovered through loss or theft of laptops or backup drives. Encrypting such files at rest helps keep them should physical safety measures fail.

Digital rights management systems, which prevent banned use or duplicate of copyrighted material and protect software against reverse engineering is another somewhat different example of using encryption on information at rest.

Encryption is also used to protect data in transit, for example information being transferred via networks (e.g. the Internet, e-commerce), mobile telephones, wireless microphones, wireless intercom systems, Bluetooth devices and bank automatic teller machines. There have been many reports of information in transit being intercepted in recent years. Encrypting information in transit also helps to protected it as it is often difficult to physically protect all access to networks.

To measure the imperceptibility of steganography several metrics are used. The metrics indicates how similar (or different) the stego-image compared with CVR. The following metrics are used in the literature including the work of and:

Mean Squared Error (MSE) is computed by performing byte by byte comparisons of the CVR and stego-image. The computation can be expressed as follows:

$$MSE = \frac{1}{H \times W} \sum_{i=1}^H (P(i, j) - S(i, j))^2 \tag{1}$$

Where, H and W are height, width and P (i, j) which represents the cover image and S (i, j) represents its corresponding stego image. Higher value of MSE indicates dissimilarity between cover image as well as stego image.

Bit error rate (BER) computes the actual number of bit positions which are changed in the stego-image compared with CVR.

Peak signal-to-noise ratio measures in decibels the quality of the stego-image compared with the CVR. The higher value of PSNR indicates the better quality. PSNR is computed using the following equation:

$$PSNR = 10 \log_{10} \frac{L^2}{MSE} \tag{2}$$

The result stego-images are shown in figure 3. Inspecting the images reveal that the distortion is invisible for the stego-images. The results of the images using LSB algorithm metrics

are summarized in Table I and the results using RSA algorithm of the images metrics are summarized in Table II.

**EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS IN MATLAB**



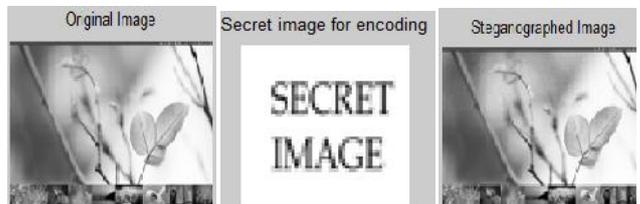
A Steganography between 1 image and 51 image



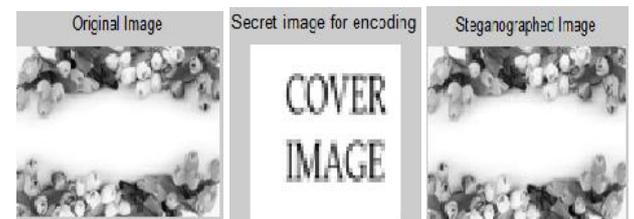
B Steganography between 2 image and 52 image



C Steganography between 3 image and 53 image



D Steganography between 4 image and 54 image



E Steganography between 5 image and 55 image



F Steganography between 6 image and 56 image

**Figure 3** Cover images with their Steganographed images

**Table I** Performance Analysis Using Lsb Algorithm

Cover Images	Secret data	PSNR between Cover image & steganographed image (in dB)	MSE between Cover image & steganographed image	BER between Cover image & steganographed image
1 image.bmp	51 image.jpg	124.1138	0.2545	0.0506
2 image.bmp	52 image.jpg	128.1272	0.1772	0.0503
3 image.bmp	53 image.jpg	123.1267	0.2923	0.0493
4 image.bmp	54 image.jpg	125.2354	0.2367	0.0494
5 image.bmp	55 image.jpg	125.0756	0.2405	0.0482
6 image.bmp	56 image.jpg	109.0999	1.1883	0.0503

**Table II** Performance Analysis Using Rsa Algorithm

Cover Images	Secret data	PSNR between Cover image & steganographed image (in dB)	MSE between Cover image & steganographed image	BER between Cover image & steganographed image
1 image.bmp	51 image.jpg	121.1441	0.3125	0.0623
2 image.bmp	52 image.jpg	132.8640	0.1104	0.0726
3 image.bmp	53 image.jpg	121.1080	0.3575	0.0588
4 image.bmp	54 image.jpg	125.2354	0.2367	0.0494
5 image.bmp	55 image.jpg	124.6907	0.2499	0.0490
6 image.bmp	56 image.jpg	108.8696	1.2160	0.0511

**CONCLUSION**

The goal of this paper is to execute two techniques like Steganography and Cryptography for secret communication between the two parties. In our paper we are using an LSB algorithm which represents a high inserting capacity to deliver good image quality & enables simple memory access. In addition to it we are using RSA algorithm for extra security which is based on cryptography. As we are using image as a cover file, high amount of information can be inserted and also provides resistance from enemy. From the table I and II we concluded that PSNR value is better hence the quality of images are better as well as MSE value is less hence the distortion is less.

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