

Copy-Move Forgery Detection in Digital Images: Progress and Challenges

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Abstract— With the advancement of technology and easy availability of imaging tools, it's not difficult now a days to manipulate digital images to hide or create misleading images. Image forgery detection is currently one of the hot research fields of image processing. Many research papers have been published during recent years. Image forgery has already been categorized. Copy-Move forgery is one of the frequently used techniques. In this paper a review of the existing techniques has been done. An attempt has been made in this paper to list and highlight almost all the proposed methods along with their key features.

Keywords- *Blind techniques, duplicate region detection, forgery detection, image forensics, image manipulation.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Digital images in the modern world play very important role in areas like forensic investigation, insurance processing, surveillance systems, intelligence services, medical imaging and journalism. But the basic requirement to believe what we see is that the images should be authentic. With the advancement of technology and availability of fast computing resources, it is not very difficult to manipulate or forge the digital images. The availability of some software tools makes the problem more menacing. Despite this there is no method available to detect all types of tampering with accuracy. Before coming to the discussion of forgery detection techniques; it is necessary to know about the different types of tampering done with digital images.

There are many ways to categorize the image tampering based on different points of view (for a categorization see, for example, [1]). Generally, we can say that the most oftenly performed operations in image tampering are:

- Deleting or hiding a region in the image.
- Adding a new object into the image.
- Misrepresenting the image information.

Copy move image tampering is one of the frequently used techniques to hide or manipulate the content of the image. Some part of the same image or some other image is pasted on another part of image. To detect the region of some other image statistical methods may work but if the region pasted belongs to the same image then it's quite difficult to detect this forgery. Many methods have been suggested to detect this type of forgery. Some methods regarding Copy-Move forgery are highlighted in [2], but all the methods have not been covered in the survey. In the next section, the methods which have been published are listed with their key features.

II. METHODS

J. Fridrich, David Soukal and Jan Lukas [3] suggested one of the raw and earliest methods to detect copy move forgery. The first method suggested in the paper is exact match method. In this method a square block of $B \times B$ pixels is slid by one pixel along the image of size $M \times N$ from the upper left corner down to the lower right corner. The block positions are stored in an array with B^2 columns and $(M-B+1)(N-B+1)$ rows. Two identical rows in this array correspond to identical blocks. To identify identical rows, the rows of matrix are

sorted lexicographically. This can be done in $MN \log_2(MN)$ steps. This method detects the exact duplication of region. But in a sophisticated manipulation exact match is hard to find and some detraction is made after pasting like blurring and random noise addition. So another method called robust match is suggested in which instead of pixel value comparison quantized DCT coefficients are matched. The detection process is same as exact match. For each block, the DCT transform is calculated. The DCT coefficients are quantized by quantization factor Q and stored in the array instead of pixel values. The degree of robustness can be controlled by varying the Q factor. Higher value of Q may lead to false matches. Also robust match algorithm looks at the mutual positions of each matching block pair and outputs a specific block pair only if there are many other matching pairs in the same mutual position. Towards this goal a shift vector $s = (s_1, s_2) = (i_1 - j_1, i_2 - j_2)$ is stored in a separate list corresponding to matching blocks s_1 and s_2 with block positions (i_1, j_1) and (i_2, j_2) respectively. Also if same shift occurs again, a counter $C(S(r))$ associated with the shift vector is incremented by one. Lastly, the algorithm finds shift vectors $s(1), s(2), s(3), \dots, s(k)$, whose occurrence exceeds a user defined threshold $T: C(S(r)) > T$ for all $r=1, 2, \dots, k$. The value of T is related to the size of the smallest segment that can be identified with the algorithm. Matching blocks that contribute to the specific shift vector are colored with the same color and identified as segments that might have been copied and pasted. The method works for gray scale images. The color images are first converted to gray scale image by the formula $I=0.299R+0.587G+0.114B$. The method is not very robust to post copy paste operations but is one of the landmark methods for copy move forgery detection.

H. Farid and Alin C Popescu [4] suggested a similar method based upon PCA [5] representation of a block instead of DCT representation [3]. The method is based upon the fact that PCA representation is more immune to random noise and JPEG compression factor. In the suggested method an image with N pixels is tiled with overlapping blocks of b pixels ($\sqrt{b} \times \sqrt{b}$ pixels in dimension), each of which are assumed to be considerably smaller than the size of the duplicated regions to be detected. Let $\vec{x}_i = I, \dots, N_b$ denote these blocks in vectorized form, where $N_b = (\sqrt{N} - \sqrt{b} + 1)^2$. These image blocks are represented by principal component analysis (PCA) [5].

If C is covariance matrix such that $C = \sum_{i=1}^{N_b} \vec{x}_i \vec{x}_i^T$ and the blocks \vec{x}_i are zero-mean, The eigenvectors, \vec{e}_j , of the

matrix C , with corresponding eigenvalues, $\vec{\lambda}_j$, satisfying: $C \vec{e}_j = \vec{\lambda}_j \vec{e}_j$ define the principal components, where $j = 1, \dots, b$ and $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_b$. The eigenvectors, \vec{e}_j , form a new linear basis for each image block,

$\vec{x}_i = \sum_{j=1}^b a_j \vec{e}_j$ where $a_j = \vec{x}_i^T \vec{e}_j$ and $\vec{a}_i = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_b)$ is the new representation for each image block. The

dimensionality of this representation can be reduced by simply truncating the sum in the above equation to the first N_t terms. This reduced dimension representation, therefore, provides a convenient space to identify similar blocks in the presence of corrupting noise, as truncation of the basis will remove minor intensity variations. The accuracy of the method is good except for small block size and low JPEG qualities.

W. Luo, J. Huang and Guoping Qiu [6] suggested a more robust method and the authors claimed lower computational complexity and more robustness against stronger attacks and various types of after-copying manipulations, such as lossy compression, noise contamination, blurring and combinations of these operations than [3] and [4]. In this method the input image is split into overlapping blocks of $b \times b$ pixels. Assuming that the image is an $M \times N$ color image, there are $S = (M-b+1) \times (N-b+1)$ blocks. For each block B_i ($i = 1, 2 \dots S$), seven characteristics features c_j ($j = 1, 2 \dots 7$) are computed.

i) c_1, c_2, c_3 are the average of red, green and blue components respectively.

ii) In the Y channel ($Y = 0.299R + 0.587G + 0.114B$), the block is divided into two equal parts in four directions as shown in figure 1 and c_4, c_5, c_6, c_7 are computed according to $c_i = \text{sum}(\text{part}(1)) / \text{sum}(\text{part}(1) + \text{part}(2))$ $i = 4, 5, 6, 7$. These characteristic features will not change significantly after some common processing operations. For each block B_i , a block characteristics vector $V(i) = (c_1(i), c_2(i), c_3(i), c_4(i), c_5(i), c_6(i), c_7(i))$ is computed and saved in an array A .

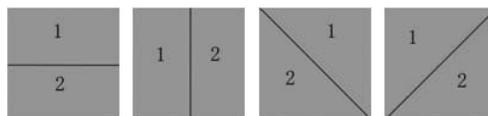


Figure 1

The array A is lexicographically sorted. For every pair B_i and B_j , their similarity is computed using their respective characteristics feature vector $V(i)$ and $V(j)$ in A as follows:

Let $\text{Diff}(k) = |c_k(i) - c_k(j)|$, if the following conditions are satisfied (where $P(k)$'s, t_1 and t_2 are preset thresholds):

(i) $\text{Diff}(k) < P(k)$

(ii) $\text{Diff}(1) + \text{Diff}(2) + \text{Diff}(3) < t_1$, and

(iii) $\text{Diff}(4) + \text{Diff}(5) + \text{Diff}(6) + \text{Diff}(7) < t_2$ and if the shift vector between B_i and B_j is greater than a preset threshold L then the pair is recorded as similar blocks. Also for reducing false positives shift vector count is maintained and only the shift vector greater than a threshold value will indicate copied region. For block size larger than 64×64 , high accuracy is being claimed.

Aaron Langille and Minglum Gong [7] suggested a method of duplicate region detection using Zero mean Normalized Cross Correlation (ZNCC) [8]. To reduce the similar block search time kd-tree [9], [10] sorting is used. The segmentation process is illustrated in figure 2. For a given input image with resolution $M \times N$, the image is divided into $N_B = (M - B + 1) \times (N - B + 1)$ blocks of $B \times B$ size. In order to save memory space the pixel intensity data (figure 2b) is not stored in the block data structure. Instead only an array containing the top left pixel of each block (figure 2c) is stored. The intensities of pixels in the block can be referenced from the original image as needed. To reduce the computational cost a kd-tree based sorting approach to group blocks with similar intensity patterns together is used so that for a given block only search within a local neighborhood, referred to as Neighborhood Search Size (N_{ss}) is needed.

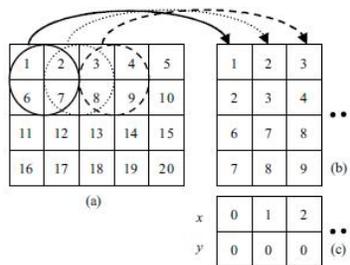


Figure 2: A 5x4 pixel image (a) is segmented into 2x2 pixel blocks. The blocks are logically organized as vectors in array (b). In order to conserve memory space, only the coordinates of the top left corner of each block are actually stored in array (c). Blocks can be referenced when needed using the coordinates and the original image

Therefore the resulting algorithm has a complexity of $O(N_B \times N_{ss})$, where $N_{ss} \ll N_B$. The average case complexity for kd sorting is $O(N_B \times \log(N_B/N_{ss}))$. Zero mean Normalized Cross-Correlation function is used for similarity measure as it is quite robust to match similar patterns in the presence of minor noise and intensity variations caused by lossy JPEG compression. For each block B_i in the array the cross correlation between B_i and B_j is computed, where $j = i+1, \dots, i+N_{ss}$. If the result of the cross correlation is less than the specified ZNCC threshold or the previously found maximum ZNCC value, the pair is ignored. This allows keeping only the best matches within the N_{ss} neighborhood and discarding the rest. The computational cost of the matching process is $O(N_B \times N_{ss})$. The x and y coordinates of both blocks that produce the highest ZNCC meeting or exceeding the ZNCC threshold are stored. The coordinate difference between the two blocks is then used to create two 32 bit colors, one for representing each of the blocks. By coloring based on offset between the blocks we take advantage of the fact that neighboring pixels in a duplicate region will have the same offset when correctly matched. As a result, if a duplicate region is present in an image the copy source and paste destination will appear as two monochromatic clusters of pixels. Colored noise appears as randomly colored pixels with few or no neighbors of like color. Noise can occur for a number of reasons:

(i) When the ZNCC threshold is too low random pairs with similar color that are not actually part of a duplicate region may incorrectly be considered matches. Increasing the ZNCC threshold helps to decrease noise.

(ii) Images with large patches of solid color or naturally occurring patterns can cause noise and even small clusters of like-colored pixels. Increasing the block size and/or increasing the ZNCC threshold helps to minimize or eliminate these problems.

When all blocks have been processed and all matches have been colored an output image has been produced. A visual inspection for large groups of like-colored pixels can be performed to detect the presence of a duplicate region. If too many noisy pixels are present it can make the inspection process more difficult. Morphological refinements like dilation and erosion are performed to remove this difficulty. The algorithm has the limitation of not working in presence of rotation and scaling of duplicated region.

Guohui Li, Qiong Wu, Dan Tu and Shaojie Sun [11] suggested a method for detecting the duplicate region by reducing the block size using DWT (Discrete Wavelet Transform) [12] and SVD (Singular Value Decomposition) [13]. This improves further the time complexity of the detection algorithm. The problem in the

methods suggested in [3, 4, 6, 7] is that the number of blocks is large as they are extracted from the original image. DWT, is a multilevel decomposition technique, localized in space and in frequency. The localization feature both in space and frequency, in turn, results in a number of useful applications such as data compression, detecting features in images, and removing noise and so on[12]. In this method the image is firstly decomposed through DWT into a series of wavelet coefficients corresponding to the image's spatio-frequency sub-bands as shown in the figure 3. Let us call I_j^ϕ the sub-band at resolution level j and with orientation $\Phi \in \{LL, LH, HL, HH\}$. As is well known, most of the image energy is concentrated at the low frequency sub-band I_j^{LL} , whose size is only $1/4^j$ of the original image size. Then sliding window operation is only applied to I_j^{LL} sub-band, and SVD is used to extract the features of all blocks.

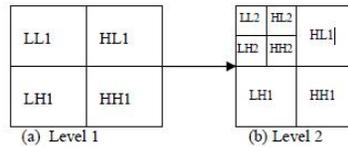


Figure 3

SVD Definition: any real $m \times n$ (In general, let $m \geq n$) matrix A can be decomposed uniquely as $A = U\Lambda V^T$, Where U is an $m \times m$ orthogonal matrix, V is an $n \times n$ orthogonal matrix, and Λ is an $m \times n$ matrix whose off-diagonal entries are all zeros and whose diagonal elements satisfy $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \sigma_3 \geq \sigma_4 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_n$. It can be shown that $r = \text{rank}(A)$ equals the number of nonzero singular values $\sigma_i, i = 1, \dots, r$ represent the SVs in descending order [13].

There are two purposes for using SVD: (1) SV vector is the unique, steady representation of a block. It is optimal for given image in the sense that the energy packed in a given number of transformation coefficients is maximized; (2) it further reduces feature dimension from $m \times n$ to r . Applying SVD to every block will lead to $N_b \times r$ matrix (N_b is no of overlapping blocks), which is lexicographically sorted to find matching blocks just like [3]. Although the authors claim high accuracy in the presence of compression (JPEG), the robustness against scaling and rotation of duplicated region is not mentioned.

A.N. Myna, M. G. Venkateshmurthy and C. G. Patil [14] also suggested another method based on discrete wavelet transform rectangular coordinates are first converted to log polar coordinates to counter the effect of rotation and scaling. In this approach, detection of copy move forgery is done in two phases. In the first phase, the exhaustive search for identical blocks is done only on the reduced dimension representation of the image obtained after the application of Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT) up to a specified level ' L ' to the original image. A square of size $b \times b$ pixels is slid by one pixel along the image from the upper left corner right and down to the lower right corner for each position of the $b \times b$ block, the block is mapped on to log-polar coordinates and then the resulting pixel values are extracted by rows into a row of a two dimensional array ' A ' with b^2 columns and $(M-b+1) \times (N-b+1)$ rows. Each row corresponds to one position of the sliding block. To identify the matching blocks, the rows in matrix A are lexicographically sorted. Due to this the similar rows come closer. Then each row of the sorted matrix is considered and is compared with a certain number of rows above and below it. Phase correlation [15] is used as the similarity criterion. The maximum phase correlation value for each block is considered. The top left positions of the reference block and the matching block are saved as a row in a matrix only if their maximum phase correlation value exceeds a preset threshold value ' t '. In the second phase, the saved blocks are iteratively compared at each level of the wavelet transform. The final match is performed on the original image itself. This saves considerable amount of time and also improves accuracy as we move up to the higher resolution images. Since the size of the image doubles at each iteration, the value of ' b ' is also doubled in each iteration. The X and Y coordinate of the blocks at level L are mapped to the previous level $L-1$ by the formula: $X(L-1) = X(L) \times 2 - 1$ and $Y(L-1) = Y(L) \times 2 - 1$. The approach works even if the pasted region has gone under scaling and rotation. Another method based upon SVD is suggested in [16] which is similar to [11]. But the SVD [17] features are extracted from overlapping blocks of original image. The features in each block are transformed into a kd-tree. After regions are represented as r -dimensional SV feature vectors u and v , the Euclidean distance $D(u,v)$ is used as similarity measure between these vectors. Due to application of kd-tree data structure the time complexity is better than [3, 4, and 6] and [11]. Jing Zhang Zhanlei Feng and Yuting Su [18] suggested another method based on DWT (Discrete Wavelet Transform) to reduce the dimension. But block matching is not being used. Instead, phase correlation is computed to estimate the spatial offset between copied region and pasted region. The reduced dimension image is divided into four non overlapping sub-images. Phase correlation between every two sub-images is calculated and by extracting the peaks as shown in the figure 4. The copy move regions are located by pixel matching. The method works even for compressed images. But for highly compressed images the comparison between copied and pasted regions

has to be done at lower frequency components of the image achieved by calculating four levels of DWT. The immunity of the method against scaling and rotation is not mentioned.

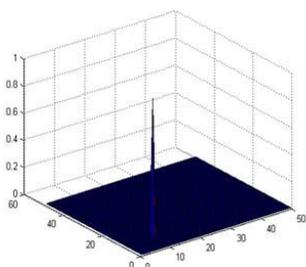


Figure 4(a) In ideal

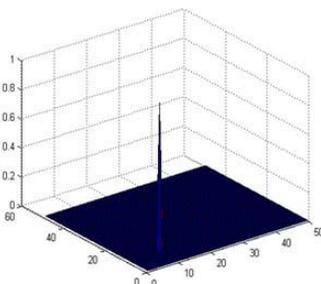


Figure 4 (b) In real

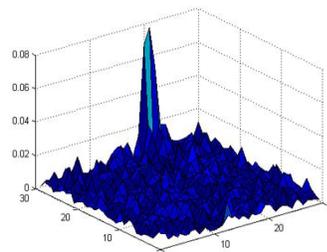


Figure 4 (c) In no matching case

B. Mahdian and S. Saic [19] suggested a method based on blur moment invariants [20]. The method focus on detecting duplicated region in presence of post copy paste operations like blurring and adding noise. The key is the characteristic of blur moments that little blurring will not affect central blur moments. The method is based upon the following steps:

- i) Tiling the image with overlapping blocks,
- ii) Blur moment invariants representation of the overlapping blocks,
- iii) Principal component transformation,
- iv) kd-tree representation,
- v) Blocks similarity analyses,
- vi) Duplicated regions map creation.

This method begins with the image being tiled by blocks of $R \times R$ pixels. Blocks are assumed to be smaller than the size of the duplicated regions, which have to be detected. Blocks are horizontally slid by one pixel rightwards starting with the upper left corner and ending with the bottom right corner. The total number of overlapping blocks for an image of $M \times N$ pixels is $(M-R+1) \times (N-R+1)$. If μ_{pq} is two dimensional $(p+q)th$ order

central moment for image function $f(x,y)$ defined as $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x-x_i)(y-y_i)f(x,y)dx dy$ where $x_i = m_{10}/m_{00}$,

$y_i = m_{01}/m_{00}$. m_{pq} is two dimensional $(p+q)th$ order central moment for image function $f(x,y)$ defined as $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^p y^q dx dy$. By applying the algorithm as derived and described in [20], blur invariants based on central

moments of any order by using the following recursive relation can be constructed:

$$B(p, q) = \mu_{pq} - \alpha \mu_{qp} - \frac{1}{\mu_{00}} \sum_{n=0}^K \sum_{i=m_1}^{m_2} \binom{p}{t-2i} \times \binom{q}{2i} B(p-t+2i, q-2i) \mu_{t=2i, 2i}$$

$$K = \left\lfloor \frac{p+q-4}{2} \right\rfloor, t = 2(K-n+1), m_1 = \max\left(0, \left\lfloor \frac{t-p+1}{2} \right\rfloor\right), m_2 = \min\left(\left\lfloor \frac{t}{2} \right\rfloor, \left\lfloor \frac{q}{2} \right\rfloor\right)$$

$\alpha = 1 \Leftrightarrow p \wedge q$ are even and $\alpha = 0 \Leftrightarrow p \vee q$ are odd. The proposed algorithm uses 24 blur invariants up to seventh order to create the feature vector $B = \{B_1, B_2, B_3, \dots, B_{24}\}$ of each block. In the case of an RGB image, the dimension of the feature vector is 72 (24 invariants per channel). Using the principal component transformation, this dimension is reduced. Typically the new orthogonal space has dimension 9 (fraction of the ignored variance along the principal axes is set to 0.01). In PCT, the orthogonal basis set is given by the eigenvectors set of the covariance matrix of the original vectors. Thus, it can be easily computed on very large data sets. Note that PCT preserves the Euclidean distance among blocks. All blocks are put in kd-tree representation to search similar blocks. The similarity measure employed here is defined by the formula:

$$s(B_i, B_j) = \frac{1}{1 + \rho(B_i, B_j)}, \text{ where } \rho \text{ is a distance measured in Euclidean space given}$$

by $\rho(B_i, B_j) = \left(\sum_{k=1}^{\dim} (B_i[k] - B_j[k])^2 \right)^{1/2}$. For each analyzed block represented by the feature vector B, all blocks

with an equal or larger similarity relation are looked. It must be an equal or larger similarity to the threshold T . The method finds all similar blocks for each one (similar to the nearest neighbors search) and analyses their neighborhood. This is done efficiently using the kd-tree structure, which was created in the previous step. If $s(B_i, B_j) \geq T$, where T is the minimum required similarity, the neighborhood of B_i and B_j is also analyzed. Note that the threshold T plays a very important role. It expresses the degree of reliability with which blocks B_i and B_j correspond with each other. It is obvious that the choice of T directly affects the precision of results of the method. Due to the possibility of the presence of additive noise, a boundary effect, or JPEG compression, this threshold should not be set to 1. After two blocks with the required similarity have been found, a verification step begins. In the verification step, similar blocks with different neighbors will be eliminated. If $s(B(i, j), B(k, l)) \geq T$, but $\sqrt{(i-k)^2 + (j-l)^2} \leq D$, these blocks will not be further analyzed and will not be assigned as duplicated. Threshold D is a user-defined parameter determining the minimum image distance between duplicated regions. The method is also robust compared to [4] and [6] regarding post processing compression like JPEG. Also time complexity is on higher side.

B. Dybala, B. Jennings and D. Letscher [21] developed an algorithm to detect the duplication of the region by detecting the use of filters used to smoothen the pasted region. The steps taken in sequence are as follows.

- i). Apply the appropriate filter to the image, e.g. the Laplacian.
- ii). Find each $B \times B$ block in the image.
- iii). Insert each block into a kd-tree. For each block find its closest match discarding those with root mean square error greater than E_{MAX} .
- iv). Cluster block pairs using hierarchical clustering of their position vectors and a distance cutoff of D_{MAX} .
- v). Remove clusters with fewer than C_{MIN} blocks.

The input consists of an image and four parameters: B (size of block), E_{MAX} (similarity threshold), D_{MAX} (limiting distance for clustering of similar blocks) and C_{MIN} (minimum no. of blocks required for clustering). After the correct filter is applied to the image, a two stage procedure is used. First, rough matches are found between blocks. These pairings are then processed to remove false positives. These choices of the parameters will affect the quality of paired regions found by the algorithm. To detect Poisson cloning the Laplacian needs to be evaluated and for the healing brush the bi-Laplacian, or Laplacian applied twice, needs to be found. There are multiple ways to estimate these derivatives. Using the definition of the derivative simple filters can be found to estimate them. However, the basic filters are numerically sensitive and deal poorly with noise. An alternative is to use 7-tap or higher order derivative filter [22] to get estimates to these values that are more robust. This filter can be applied twice to find the bi-Laplacian and is the filter used in this method. The proposed algorithm detects the use of filters on sufficiently large regions to establish copy move forgery. The method also shows some robustness to high quality compression.

Weihai Li, Yuan yuan and Nenghai Yu [23] proposed a method for detecting copy move forgery in JPEG images. The method works for a manipulation performed on JPEG and the target image is also JPEG. As JPEG is one of frequently used format by cameras, the method is quite useful. In [24] method of detecting doctored JPEG image has been suggested, but this method is not able to detect, if image is compressed thrice. In [25] method based upon BA (Block Artifact) [26, 27] is suggested. But BA itself waves in an image. The method [23] use BAG (Block Artifact Grid) mismatches and also works for multi compressed images. A DCT grid is the horizontal lines and the vertical lines that partition an image into blocks. And a BAG is the grid embedded in an image where block artifact appears. The DCT grid and BAG match together in undoctored images. When an image slice is moved, the BAG within it also moves. To make image visual unperceived after copy-paste forgery, the BAG usually cannot be cared since the slice must be placed in a certain place. Thus, the method locates the BAG firstly, and then checks whether the BAG mismatches or not. Once a BAG mismatch is affirmed, then the image can be authenticated as doctored. To locate the BAG, a measure, called as Local Effect (LE), is defined. Suppose the luminance of pixels in a 8×8 window is $[S_{ij}]$ ($0 \leq i, j \leq 7$), and $[S_{uv}]$ ($0 \leq u, v \leq 7$) is the corresponding DCT coefficients represented as

$$S_{uv} = \frac{\sqrt{\alpha_u + \alpha_v}}{8} \sum_{i=0}^7 \sum_{j=0}^7 S_{ij} \cos \frac{u(2i+1)\pi}{16} \cos \frac{v(2j+1)\pi}{16} \text{ Where } \alpha_{u,v} = \begin{cases} 1 & u, v = 0 \\ 2 & u, v \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

Then the local effect is defined with the right column and bottom row AC coefficients.

$$LE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=7 \text{ and/or } j=7} S_{ij}^2}{S_{00}^2}}$$

By sliding the window in the whole image, a local effect map of LE can be obtained to confirm forgery. To

extract the BAG more clearly, the local minimal value points can be marked and the cross-points of BAG can be obtained. The method works even when the copied area does not belong to same image.

Hailing Huang, W. Guo and Yu Zhang [28] suggested a new approach using SIFT (Scale invariant Feature Transform) algorithm. The method works by first extracting SIFT descriptors of an image. The key of the algorithm is that the SIFT descriptors [29] are invariant to changes in illumination, rotation, scaling etc. So SIFT descriptors of copied and pasted region are matched to detect the tampering. The SIFT algorithm extracts distinctive features of local image patches which are invariant to image scale and rotation and are robust to changes in noise, illumination, distortion and viewpoint. As described in [29], it consists of four major steps: (1) Scale-space extrema detection; (2) Key point localization; (3) Orientation assignment; (4) Key point descriptor. In order to efficiently detect potential interest points that are invariant to scale and orientation, which are also called key points in SIFT framework, the method used the scale-space extrema in the Difference of Gaussian (DoG) function convolved with the image, $D(x, y, \sigma)$, which can be computed from the difference of two nearby scales separated by a constant multiplicative factor k : $D(x, y, \sigma) = [G(x, y, k\sigma) - D(x, y, \sigma)] \times I(x, y)$ for input

image $I(x, y)$ and Gaussian function $G(x, y, \sigma) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{2\sigma^2}}$, where σ is the factor of scale space. The

convolved images are grouped by octave, and an octave corresponds to doubling the value of σ . Then the value of k is selected so that we obtain a fixed number of blurred images per octave. This also ensures the same numbers of DoG images are generated per octave. Once DoG images have been obtained, keypoints are identified as local minima or maxima of the DoG images across scales. This is done by comparing each pixel in the DoG images to its eight neighbors at the same scale and nine corresponding neighboring pixels in each of the neighboring scales. If the pixel value is the maximum or minimum among all compared pixels, it is selected as a candidate key point. Scale-space extrema detection produces too many keypoint candidates, some of which are unstable. The key points are filtered so that only stable key points are retained. For making image invariant to orientation, the keypoint orientation is calculated from an orientation histogram of local gradients from the closest smooth image $L(x, y, \sigma)$. For each image sample $L(x, y)$ at the key point's scale σ , the gradient magnitude $m(x, y)$ and orientation $\theta(x, y)$ is computed using pixel differences, as $m(x, y) = \sqrt{L_1^2 + L_2^2}$ and $\theta(x, y) = \arctan(L_2 / L_1)$ where $L_1 = L(x+1, y, \sigma) - L(x-1, y, \sigma)$, $L_2 = L(x, y+1, \sigma) - L(x, y-1, \sigma)$. $L(x, y, \sigma) = G(x, y, \sigma) \times I(x, y)$ is scale space image of $I(x, y)$. After extracting SIFT key points from an input unknown image, these distinctive key points are then matched between each other to authenticate copy-move forgeries in the digital image. If any matches are detected, it means that the input image has copy-move forgeries. The method works reasonably up to JPEG compression 40, SNR 20dB. However for very small block size problem of false positive is faced.

S. Bayram H.T. Sencar and Nasir Menon [30] suggested another method based upon Fourier–Mellin Transform [31]. The features of image blocks are extracted using FMT. Lexicographic sorting is used to compare the similar blocks like in [2, 3]. The features extracted using FMT are robust to JPEG compression, blurring, noise addition, rotation and scaling. Attempt also has been made to reduce the time complexity by using counting bloom filters instead of lexicographic sorting. First divide the image into $b \times b$ overlapping blocks. A block $i(x, y)$ and its rotated, scaled, and translated version $i'(x, y)$ are considered for comparison, where $i'(x, y) = i(\sigma(x \cos \alpha + y \sin \alpha) - x_0; \sigma(-x \sin \alpha + y \cos \alpha) - y_0)$ and (x_0, y_0) , σ and α indicates translation, scaling and rotation parameters respectively. Feature vectors are prepared for all these blocks using FMT. After obtaining the feature vector for each of the blocks, lexicographic sorting is performed to find the similar blocks. To improve the efficiency of detection step, counting bloom filters are used, which essentially compares the hashes of features as opposed to features themselves. This is realized as following:

- (i) Form an array K with k elements which are all zero initially.
- (ii) Hash the feature vector f_i of each block such that each hash value will indicate an index number in the array K .
- (iii) If the feature vectors of two blocks are identical they would give the same hash value yielding same index value, increment the value of the corresponding element in K . That is, $h = \text{hash}(f_i)$ and $K(h) = K(h) + 1$. It is assumed any element of array K that is higher than two indicates duplicated block pairs. One can imagine this scheme would require the duplicated blocks to be exactly same, and the resulting image to be saved without any compression. This scheme is not as robust as lexicographic sorting, due to the fact that lexicographic sorting scheme requires the duplicated blocks to have similar feature vectors only. On the other hand, this approach would reduce the computational time significantly, since the hashing and forming the array K will be executed at the same step as feature extraction. Finding the duplicated blocks is not enough for deciding the forgery, since most of the natural images would have many similar blocks. There should be more than a number of connected

blocks within the same distance to make such a decision. The distance between the two blocks that are detected to be the duplicated pairs, a_i and a_j , whose starting positions are $(x_i; y_i)$ and $(x_j; y_j)$ respectively is calculated, as follows:

$$d_x(i, j) = |x_i - x_j| \text{ and } d_y(i, j) = |y_i - y_j|.$$

Note that in the lexicographically sorting scheme, a_i and a_j would correspond to the blocks which were coming successively and in the bloom filter scheme, a_i and a_j would indicate the blocks whose feature vectors yielded to the same hash value. To measure how many blocks are detected as duplicates within the same distance, a distance vector D is constructed. The values of D are set to zero initially. When a distance between two blocks are calculated, the corresponding index value of D is incremented by one : $D(dx; dy) = D(dx; dy) + 1$. Any value of $D(dx; dy)$, which is more than the threshold TH indicates the blocks that are copied and moved along the same distance. If these blocks are connected to each other, then a decision of forgery can be made. Experimental results show better performance than [3] and [4].

S. B. Solario and Asoke K. Nandi [32] suggested another method using log polar coordinates. Overlapping blocks of pixels are reassembled into log polar coordinates and summed along the angle axis to obtain a one dimensional descriptor invariant to reflection and rotation. This approach allows performing better search of similar blocks by means of correlation coefficient of its Fourier magnitudes. The point (x, y) can be written using logpolar coordinates, $x = e^{\rho \cos \theta}$, $y = e^{\rho \sin \theta}$, where $\rho \in \mathbb{R}$ and $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$. Let (x', y') denotes the coordinates of a reflected, rotated and scaled point, i.e. $x' = \mu(x \cos \Phi + y \sin \Phi)$, $y' = \mu(x \sin \Phi - y \cos \Phi)$, where Φ and μ are parameters of rotation and scaling respectively. Rewriting the equations in log polar form: $x' = e^{(\rho' + \log \mu)} \cos(\Phi - \theta)$ and $y' = e^{(\rho' + \log \mu)} \sin(\Phi - \theta)$. Observe that scaling in rectangular coordinates results in a simple translation of log polar map. Consider a block of pixels $B_i(x, y)$ and its log-polar representation $B_i(\rho, \theta)$. A 1-D descriptor \vec{v}_i as $\vec{v}_i(\rho) = \sum_q B_i(r, q)$. Compared to simple log polar coordinate use of 1-D descriptors reduce memory requirements and computational costs and make the block matching process independent of reflection operation. The blocks are sorted to reduce the computational cost of the search stage. The centre of each block A_i will be the centre of a disk of diameter q . Let f_{1_i} , f_{2_i} and f_{3_i} be the average of the red, blue and green color components, respectively, of the pixels within the disc. Additionally, the luminance of the pixels within the disc is computed as $Y = 0.2126r + 0.7152g + 0.0722b$, where r , g , and b are components of red, green and blue, respectively. Then the entropy is calculated as, $f_{4_i} = - \sum_k p_k \log_2 p_k$, where p_k is the probability of each luminance value in the disc. To reduce the occurrence of false matches, blocks where the computed entropy is lower than a predefined threshold e_{min} are discarded. Then a list L is formed with the tuple of features $(f_{1_i}, f_{2_i}, f_{3_i}, f_{4_i})$ corresponding to the remaining blocks. Let us define L' as the result of lexicographically sorting the list L . Additionally, let B_i be the i -th block of pixels in L' , and the tuple (x_i, y_i) be the coordinates (the upperleft corner) of B_i in the image X . A descriptor \vec{v}_i is computed for every B_i , and its Fourier magnitude \vec{V}_i is calculated. Then, the correlation coefficient $c_{ij} = c(\vec{V}_i, \vec{V}_j)$ is computed, for every $j > i$ that satisfies the three following conditions:

- $d_{ij} > \tau_d$,
- $(f_{k_i} - \tau_a) \leq f_{k_j} \leq (f_{k_i} + \tau_a)$, for $k = 1, 2, 3$,
- $(f_{4_i} - \tau_e) \leq f_{4_j} \leq (f_{4_i} + \tau_e)$,

where $d_{ij} = \sqrt{(x_i - x_j)^2 + (y_i - y_j)^2}$, and τ_d , τ_a , τ_e are predefined thresholds. Note that, since L' is sorted, the comparisons for \vec{V}_i can stop once a descriptor \vec{V}_u is reached, such that $f_{1_u} > (f_{1_i} + \tau_a)$. Let us assume that c_{ir} was the higher correlation coefficient computed for \vec{V}_i . If $c_{ir} > \tau_{sim}$, a tuple $(x^{\delta_{ir}}, y^{\delta_{ir}}, x_i, y_i, x_r, y_r)$ is appended to a list Q , where $x^{\delta_{ir}} = |x_i - x_r|$ and $y^{\delta_{ir}} = |y_i - y_r|$ are the offsets of the two pairs of coordinates. The list Q is sorted in accordance with the offsets to form a new list Q' . Then, Q' is scanned to identify clusters with similarity i.e. not necessarily equal- offsets. Finally, a bitmap is encoded with the clusters that contain more blocks than a predefined threshold τ_{num} . Although the method efficiently robust to scaling and rotation false positives are detected for every operation like move reflection, rotation and scaling.

H. J. Lin, C. W. Wang and Y. T. Kao [33] suggested a method using radix sort to increase the efficiency.

The image is divided into overlapping blocks of equal size. Features [34] having resistance against some modifications such as compression and Gaussian noise for each block are extracted and represented as a vector. All the extracted feature vectors are then sorted using radix sort. The difference (shift vector) between the positions of every pair of adjacent feature vectors in the sorted list is computed. The accumulated number of each of the shift vectors is evaluated. Large accumulated number is indication of duplicated region. The blocks corresponding to the shift vector are marked for a tentative detected result. Medium filtering and connected component analysis are performed to get final result.

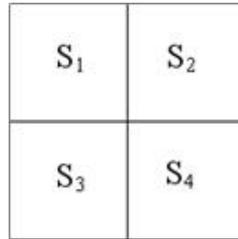


Figure 5 (Block B)

For resisting against various modifications and improving the efficiency for sorting feature vectors, each block B of size $b \times b$ ($=16 \times 16$) is represented by a 9-dimensional feature vector $v_B = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_9)$. Firstly, the block B is divided into four equal-sized sub-blocks, S_1 , S_2 , S_3 , and S_4 , as shown in Fig. 5 and let $Ave(\cdot)$ denote the average intensity function. Then f_1 denotes the average intensity of the block B , the entries f_2, f_3, f_4 , and f_5 denote the ratios of the average intensities of the blocks S_1, S_2, S_3 , and S_4 to f_1 , respectively, and f_6, f_7, f_8 , and f_9 stand for the differences of the average intensities of the blocks S_1, S_2, S_3 , and S_4 from f_1 , respectively.

$$f_i = \begin{cases} f_i = Ave(B) & \text{if } i = 1, \\ Ave(S_i - 1) / 4Ave(B) + \varepsilon_1 & \text{if } 2 \leq i \leq 5, \\ f_i = Ave(S_i - 5) - Ave(B) & \text{if } 6 \leq i \leq 9. \end{cases}$$

Finally, entries f_i 's are normalized to integers x_i 's ranging from 0 to 255.

$$x_i = \begin{cases} \lfloor f_i \rfloor & \text{if } i = 1, \\ \lfloor 255 \times f_i \rfloor & \text{if } 2 \leq i \leq 5, \\ \left\lfloor 255 \times \frac{f_i - m_2}{m_1 - m_2 + \varepsilon_2} \right\rfloor & \text{if } 6 \leq i \leq 9. \end{cases}$$

Where $m_1 = \max_{6 \leq i \leq 9} \{f_i\}$ and $m_2 = \min_{6 \leq i \leq 9} \{f_i\}$. Although these 9 entities contain duplicated information, they together possess higher capability of resistance against some modifications, such as JPEG compression and Gaussian noise. However small duplicated region not detected with high efficiency. As feature vectors are stored as integers, radix sort is applied to cut down the matching cost. let v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k denote sorted list of the feature vectors of blocks B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k , respectively. The position of the top-left corner point of each block B_i is recorded in $P(B_i)$ and a shift vector is defined as the difference of two adjacent feature vectors in the sorted list. Two duplicated regions caused by copy-move forgery form a number of pairs of identical feature vectors, each pair then make the same shift vector, thus the accumulative number of a shift vector $u(i) = P(B_{i+1}) - P(B_i)$ is used to detect the duplicated regions.

J. Wang, G. Liu, H. Li, and Z. Wang [35] suggested a method based upon Gaussian pyramid. The methods in [3, 4, 6] works by extracting special features to make the match between two blocks. Although these methods work for post processing operations, but fail if random rotation of pasted regions is performed. This is due to the rectangular structure of block. In this method firstly Gaussian pyramid decomposition is obtained to reduce the image size to $1/4$ of the original scale. Also features extracted from the low frequency components of Gaussian pyramid decomposition make detection method more robust than those directly extracted from the spatial domain. Let the original image be G , which is taken as the zero level, the l th level image of Gaussian pyramid decomposition can be obtained by making the $(l-1)$ th level image convolute with a window function $w(m,n)$ with low pass characteristics, and do the down sampling after the convolution. The process can be described as

$G(i, j) = \sum_{m=-2}^2 \sum_{n=-2}^2 w(m, n) G_{i-1}(2i+m, 2j+n)$. The window function w is called as weight function or the generation kernel, the size of the window is usually chosen as 5×5 . The image is divided into overlapping circular blocks (Fig. 6a). Each circle is divided further into four concentric circles (Fig 6b). Each circle would be divided into four concentric circles, which are denoted as $\Omega_1, \Omega_2, \Omega_3, \Omega_4$ with radius equaling to 1, 2, 3, 4 respectively.

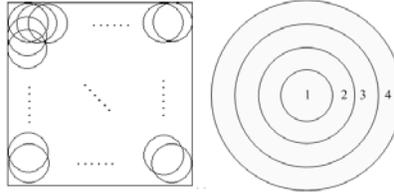


Figure 6(a) overlapping circular blocks, (b) concentric circles

The means $\phi_k = \frac{\sum x_{i,j}}{|\Omega_i|}$, $x_{i,j} \in \Omega_k$ of these concentric circles are taken as feature vectors, as they are robust against rotation, blurring, noise adding and JPEG compression. For comparing the similarity, the Euclidian distance between the two feature vectors should be computed as: $SIM(V_1, V_2) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^4 (\phi_i^1 + \phi_i^2)^2}$ where $V_1 = [\phi_1^1, \phi_2^1, \phi_3^1, \phi_4^1]$, $V_2 = [\phi_1^2, \phi_2^2, \phi_3^2, \phi_4^2]$. To minimize false positives three thresholds are used. The first is the similarity threshold T_s , the second is the distance threshold T_d , the last one the area threshold T_a .

Zhao Junhong [36] presented a new technique based upon LLE (Locally Linear Embedding). LLE is method for dimensionality reduction in high dimensional data set suggested by Roweis [37]. LLE can find the topological relationship among non linear datasets and map high-dimensional data to low dimensional data without changing the relative locations. A digital image is essentially a non linear digital signal. The method works in a similar way as [4]. But for reduction of dimension LLE is being used instead of PCA. Because PCA lose some local information. LLE based method is better in detecting fused edges. The authors have compared the results of LLE based method with [4] and found that the copy moved area shown to be more pronounced. Recently M.K. Bashar et.al.[38] presented a method for detecting forgery in the presence of flip and rotation. The method has been applied with PCA, KPCA and wavelet transformed images. Different tables have been prepared for an exhaustive comparison between PCA, KPCA and wavelet based techniques for robustness against rotation, horizontal flips, vertical flips, translation and SNR. Also one method has been suggested for automation of threshold parameters for detecting duplicate regions. The authors claimed highest efficiency for KPCA based algorithm. However the time costs are high.

III. CONCLUSION

Copy-move forgery is one of the most frequently applied forgery technique. Although many papers have been published suggesting different detection techniques, the challenges which are faced have not been overcome yet. The few key areas can be listed in the copy-move forgery detection. Firstly, the given image is divided in to overlapping rectangular blocks except in [35] where overlapping circular block are created. Secondly, to reduce the search area and to make the search unit as robust as possible to post processing like compression, Gaussian noise, scaling and rotation, some transformation technique is used like DCT, PCA, DWT, SVD, LLE etc. Thirdly feature vectors, after transformation are sorted lexicographically or using k-d tree. The neighboring vectors are compared against the similarity parameters to hint the duplication of region which are located in the image.

IV. FUTURE SCOPES

All the methods which have been suggested draw strengths from different transforms to make them robust against post processing and to reduce the number of logical blocks to compare. However, as yet no method achieved 100% robustness against post processing operations. Also selection of block size poses problem. If it's taken too small false positives appears and if taken too large, some forged areas go undetected. Also the threshold parameter detection is manual and has to be wisely set to avoid false positives. There is scope for improvement in the time costs.

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