

Text Steganography Using Quantum Approach in Regional Language with Revised SSCE

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Abstract — In this contribution we present a work of text steganography. Maintain the security of the secret information has been a great challenge in our day to day life. Sender can send messages habitually through a communication channel like Internet, draws the attention of third parties, hackers and crackers, perhaps causing attempts to break and expose the unusual messages. Steganography is a talented province which is used for secured data transmission over any public media. Extensive amount of research work has been established by different researchers on steganography. In this paper, a text steganography procedure has been designed with the help of a Regional language of India i.e. Gujarati language. Here the quantum approach also incorporates for increasing the security level. A Revised SSCE code (SSCE - *Secret Steganography Code for Embedding*) has been implemented in this work to upgrade the level of security. Text steganography together with Revised SSCE code & quantum approach based on the use of two specific and two special characters in Gujarati language and mapping technique of quantum gate truth table have been used.

Index Terms — Text Steganography, Quantum Steganography, SSCE - Secret Steganography Code for Embedding, Security, Cover Text, Stego Text

I. INTRODUCTION

Information hiding is the ability to prevent or hidden certain aspects from being accessible to others excluding authentic user. It has many sub disciplines. One of the most important sub disciplines is steganography [2] which is derived from a work by Johannes Trithemus (1462-1516) entitled "Steganographia" and comes from the Greek language defined as "covered writing" [3]. It is an ancient art of hiding information in ways a message is hidden in an innocent-looking cover media so that will

not arouse an eavesdropper's suspicion. Steganography diverges from cryptography in the sense that where cryptography focuses on keeping the contents of a message secret by encryption technique, steganography focuses on keeping the presence of a message secret [20], [21].

Another form of information hiding is digital watermarking, which is the process that embeds data called a watermark, tag or label into a multimedia object such that watermark can be detected or extracted later to make an assertion about the object. The object may be an image, audio, video or text only [22], [23]. A hidden channel could be defined as a communications channel that transfers some kind of information using a method

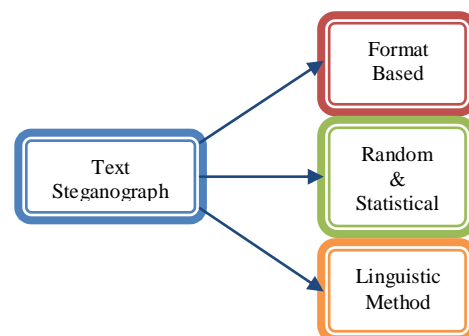


Figure 1: Types of Steganography

originally not intended to transfer this kind of information. Observers are unaware that a covert message is being communicated. Only the sender and recipient of the message notice it. Steganography works have been carried out on different media like images, video clips, text, music and sound [24], [21].

In Image Steganography method the secret message is embedded into an image as noise to it, which is nearly impossible to differentiate by human eyes [25], [26], [7]. In video steganography, same method may be used to embed a message [6], [5]. Audio steganography embeds the message into a cover audio file as noise at a frequency

out of human hearing range [7]. One major category, perhaps the most difficult kind of steganography is text steganography or linguistic steganography because due to the lack of redundant information in a text compared to an image or audio. The text steganography is a method of using written natural language to conceal a secret message as defined by Chapman et al. [4].

A. Quantum Steganography

Comparatively very little research work has been done in quantum steganography also. The idea of hiding secret messages as the error syndromes of a quantum error-correcting code (QECC) was introduced by Julio Gea-Banacloche in [28]. In his work Alice and Bob use the three-bit repetition code to transmit messages to each other using a shared secret key. All the noise in the channel that Eve perceives is because of these deliberate errors that Alice applies. In his model he assumes that Alice and Bob share a binary-symmetric channel. This work does not address the issue of whether the errors would resemble a plausible channel, nor does it consider the case where the channel contains intrinsic noise. Natori gives a simple treatment of quantum steganography which is a modification of super-dense coding [29]. Martin introduced a notion of quantum steganographic communication based on a variation of Bennett and Brassard's quantum-key distribution (QKD), hiding a steganographic channel in the QKD protocol [30]. Curty e.al. proposed three different quantum steganographic protocols [31].

B. Quantum gate [19]

Quantum circuit model of computation in quantum computing [10] [1] [9], a quantum gate or quantum logic gate is a basic quantum circuit which operates on a small number of qubits. They are the building blocks of quantum circuits, like classical logic gates are basically for conventional digital circuits. Quantum logic gates are reversible like other classical logic gates. However, classical computing can be performed by the help of only reversible gates. Quantum gates are represented as matrices. A gate which acts on k qubits is represented by a $2^k \times 2^k$ unitary matrix. The number of qubits in the input and output of the gate is equal. There are various types of quantum gates are represent the qubits. They are Hadamard gate, Pauli-X gate, Pauli-Y gate, Pauli-Z gate, Phase shift gates, Swap gate, Controlled gates, Toffoli gate, Fredkin gate, etc. Here we use Controlled gates to represent the qubits and control the operations.

C. Reversible Classical Logic [19]

The first concepts of the reversibility of computation were raised in the 1970s. There were two issues which are logical reversibility and physical reversibility, both were intimately connected. Logical reversibility reconstructs the input from the output of a computation or gate function. The NAND gate is explicitly irreversible, it has two inputs and one output, while the NOT gate is reversible (it's own inverse). In case of Physical reversibility the NAND gate has only one output, one of it's inputs has effectively been erased in the process,

whose information has been irretrievably lost. The change in entropy that we would associate with the lost of one bit of information is $\ln 2$, which, thermodynamically, corresponds to an energy increase of $kT \ln 2$, where k is Boltzman's constant and T is the temperature. The heat dissipated during a process is usually taken to be a sign of physical irreversibility, that the microscopic physical state of the system cannot be restored exactly as it was before the process took place. Reversible logic gates are symmetric with respect to the number of inputs and outputs. The reversible NOT gate, whose truth table is given in Fig. 2. It can also write this in the form of a matrix, or as a graphic. The matrix form lists the lines in the truth table in the form $\langle 0 \rangle, \langle 1 \rangle$. The matrix field with 1's and 0's such that each horizontal or vertical line has exactly one 1, which is to be interpreted as a one-to-one mapping of the input to the output. A two-bit gate closely related to the NOT gate is the two-bit Controlled-NOT (or C-NOT) gate. Controlled-NOT gate shows in Fig. 3, performs a NOT on the second bit if the first bit is $\langle 1 \rangle$, but otherwise has no effect. The C-NOT is sometimes also called XOR, since it performs an exclusive OR operation on the two inputs bits and writes the output to the second bit.

NOT	$\langle 0 \rangle$	$\langle 1 \rangle$
$\langle 0 \rangle$	0	1
$\langle 1 \rangle$	1	0

Figure 2: NOT Gate Truth Table

C-NOT	$\langle 00 \rangle$	$\langle 01 \rangle$	$\langle 10 \rangle$	$\langle 11 \rangle$
$\langle 00 \rangle$	1	0	0	0
$\langle 01 \rangle$	0	1	0	0
$\langle 10 \rangle$	0	0	0	1
$\langle 11 \rangle$	0	0	1	0

Figure 3: NOT Gate Truth Table

The Controlled NOT gate (also C-NOT or CNOT) is a quantum gate that is an essential component in the construction of a quantum computer. The proof of operation [32] is given below:

Let $\left\{ |0\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, |1\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ be the orthonormal basis.

Let $|\psi\rangle = x|0\rangle + y|1\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$

and $|\phi\rangle = y|0\rangle + x|1\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} y \\ x \end{bmatrix}$. $|\phi\rangle$ be the flip qubit of $|\psi\rangle$.

qubit of $|\psi\rangle$.

Recall that $|\alpha\rangle \otimes |\beta\rangle = |\alpha\rangle|\beta\rangle = |\alpha, \beta\rangle \dots (1)$

i. When control qubit is 0

First, we shall prove that: $CNOT|0, \psi\rangle = |0, \psi\rangle$

Before we compute, however, note that our specific definition of *CNOT* assumes an eigen basis of

$$|00\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, |01\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, |10\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, |11\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then, it's not difficult to verify

$$\text{that } |0, \psi\rangle = x|0\rangle|0\rangle + y|0\rangle|1\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \dots (2)$$

Then

$$CNOT|0, \psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = |0, \psi\rangle \dots (3)$$

Therefore *CNOT* doesn't change the $|\psi\rangle$ qubit if the first qubit is 0.

ii. When control qubit is 1

Now, we shall prove that $CNOT|1, \psi\rangle = |1, \phi\rangle$,

which means that the *CNOT* gate flips the $|\psi\rangle$ qubit. Similarly to the first demonstration, we

$$\text{have } |1, \psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ x \\ y \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\text{Then } CNOT|1, \psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \dots (4)$$

$$\text{As we can see that } |1, 1\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } |1, 0\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

using these on the equation above gives

$$CNOT|1, \psi\rangle = x|1, 1\rangle + y|1, 0\rangle = |1, \phi\rangle \dots (5)$$

Therefore the *CNOT* gate flips the $|\psi\rangle$ qubit

into $|\phi\rangle$ if the control qubit is set to 1. A simple way to observe this is to multiply the *CNOT* matrix by a column vector, noticing that the operation on the first bit is identity, and a NOT gate on the second bit.

D. Text Steganography

The affluence of electronic documented information available in the world as well as the exertion of serious linguistic analysis makes this an interesting medium for steganographic information hiding. Moreover the Text is one of the ancient media used in steganography. Letters,

books and telegrams hide secret messages within their texts in earlier time i.e. before the electronic age comes. Text steganography refers to the hiding of information within text i.e. character-based messages. There are three basic categories of text steganography (Fig. 1) maintained here: format-based methods, random and statistical generation and linguistic methods. [8]

i. Format-based methods [8]: This methods use the

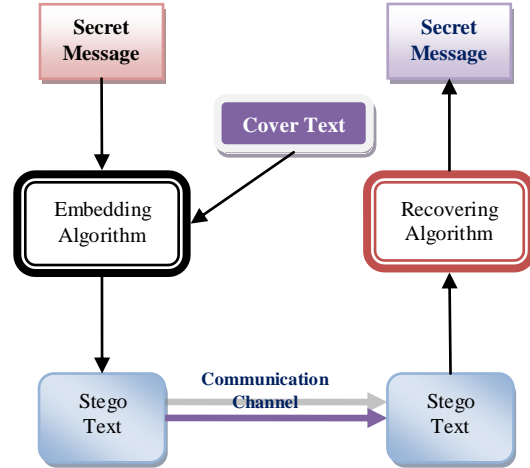


Figure 4: Mechanism of Text Steganography

physical formatting of text as a space in which to hide information. Format-based methods usually modify existing text for hiding the steganographic text. Insertion of spaces or non-displayed characters, careful errors tiny throughout the text and resizing of fonts are some of the many format-based methods used in text steganography.

ii. Random and statistical generation method [8]:

This avoid comparison with a known plaintext, steganographers often resort to generating their own cover texts. Character sequences method hide the information within character sequences.

iii. Linguistic methods [8]:

The affluence of electronic documented information available in the world as well as the exertion of serious linguistic analysis makes this an interesting medium for steganographic information hiding.

Fig. 4 shows the mechanism of text steganography. Firstly, a secret message will be covered up in a cover-text by applying an embedding algorithm to produce a stego-text. The stego-text will then be transmitted by a communication channel to a receiver.

In this paper, an approach of quantum text steganography using Gujarati character mapping method has been proposed based on the use of some special character. Here the quantum truth table also mapped to increase the security level and complexity. A new code representation method Revised SSCE also has been proposed here to achieve high level of security. Before the embedding operation each character of the secret message has been encoded using Revised SSCE Value and then embeds into cover text by the proposed text steganography method to form the stego text. In this

method the length of the stego and the cover are same so prediction of existence of message is difficult in view of that characteristics, so this one is the unique method which has been developed in this steganography approach.

The proposed scheme has been enthused by the author's previous work [11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [16], [17], [18] on various approaches of steganography methods. The quantum truth table approach has been incorporated from previous work [18] and The Revised SSCE Value incorporated from SSCE value in [11], [12], [18].

This paper is organized into the following sections. Section II describes the proposed model. Algorithms of various processes like embedding, extracting and GUI are discussed in Section III. Mathematical Analysis furnished in section IV. Analyses of the results are in section V. The last section describes the concluded part of the work.

II. THE PROPOSED MODEL

Text steganography, whatever this paper exactly deals with, uses regional language, specifically the Gujarati text

ASCII	Character	ASCII	Character		
113	૬	34	‘	0	0
113	૬	39	’	0	1
173	૨	34	‘	1	0
173	૨	39	’	1	1

Figure 5: Mapping Technique

as the medium where to hide information. Here the explanation of text steganography remains wide in order to differentiate it from the more specific “linguistic steganography”. Text steganography can involve anything from changing the ASCII character from the specific position of an existing text.

The input messages can be in any digital form. The input message encrypted using Revised SSCE code & passkey. The Revised SSCE code is depending upon the Passkey entered by the user which is known to both side (Sender and Receiver). The new generated encrypted messages are often treated as a bit stream. Pick two pair of this bit stream of message one by one. Then select the proper Gujarati Text as cover and change it to its equivalent binary code. Then a matrix formed with the help of message length and map the C-NOT truth table (how to map it, shown in Fig. 6) from left most corner in a sequence (vertically or horizontally), after that start embedding one by one if the mapped value showing not ‘1’ value. After that secret message has been embed to the cover text by replacing the next ASCII of “૬” and “૨” by ASCII 34 i.e. [‘] and 39 i.e. [’] in Gujarati language based on the mapping information given in Fig. 5 to generate the stego text. By the help of replacing

technique the stego length are being same as cover. At the receiver side with the help of same mapping algorithm and other different reverse operation has been carried out to get back the original information.

Figure 6: Quantum Truth Table Mapping

A. Solution Methodology

The proposed system involves two windows i.e. SENDER SIDE and RECEIVER SIDE. The user will be someone who is aware with the process of information hiding and will have adequate knowledge of steganography systems. The user have a duty to select a plain text message from a file, another Gujarati text to be used as the carrier (cover text) and then use the proposed embedding method which will hide the message in the selected cover text and will procedure the stego text. The user at the receiver side should be able to extract the message from the stego text with the help of different reverse process in chronological manner to un-hide the message from the stego text. The GUI of the proposed solution has been shown in Fig. 7.

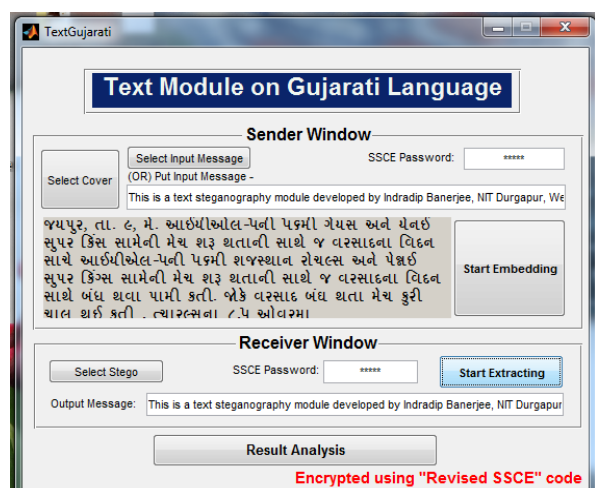


Figure 7: GUI Representation

III. ALGORITHMS

In this section, algorithms for different processes used both in the sender side and receiver sides are described which are furnished below:

A. Algorithm for Message Encryption / Decryption

- Select the Passkey (SSCE Password)
- Select the message and pick one by one character.
- Convert to its ASCII equivalent.
- Change ASCII code to our generated code from SSCE Table (Figure 19) and add Passkey to produced a Revised SSCE value which is depending on Passkey.
- Convert to its character equivalent.

B. Algorithm for Message Embedding

- Select the message and encrypt the message with SSCE value. Then select the Gujarati cover. Check whether the selected text is capable of embedding. If not possible repeat this step otherwise continue.
- Map the quantum C-NOT gate to the matrix MATMSG (N x N) vertically or horizontally & Put the message value by replacing '0' in the matrix MATMSG.
- Check the message sequence and pick first two bit sequence (MSG). Start from the first character of the cover text (TX).
- Start checking & embedding.
 - If MSG='11' & character "૯" from the TX then change from ASCII (113,246) to (113,39)
 - Else If MSG='10' & character "૬" from the TX then change from ASCII (113,246) to (113,34)
 - Else If MSG='01' & character "૨" from the TX then change from ASCII (173,247) to (173,39)
 - Else If MSG='00' & character "૨" from the TX then change from ASCII (173,247) to (173,34)
- Repeat the above step for the remaining bit sequence of the message and prepare the stego text.

C. Algorithm for Message Extracting

- Select the stego text put in MATMSG (N x N) matrix and map the quantum C-NOT gate to the matrix vertically or horizontally.
- Extract the message value from '0' Th position of C-NOT. Pick values one by one from MATMSG and create MSG.
- Select the stego text TX.
 - If "૯" and next ASCII is 39, MSG='11'.
 - Else If "૬" and next ASCII is 34, MSG='10'.
 - Else If "૨" and next ASCII is 39, MSG='01'.
 - Else If "૨" and next ASCII is 34, MSG='00'.

D. Algorithm of GUI in Sender side

- Select the Cover Text from the set of Text files.

- Check whether the selected text is capable to do the embedding or not. If not possible then error.
- Select the message in text form.
- Embed the encrypted message in the cover text to form the stego text.

E. Algorithm of GUI in Receiver side

- Receive the text with embedded message along with positions.
- Extract the encrypt form of message from the Stego Text.
- Decrypt the message with the help of the previous mentioned SSCE values & Secret key.

IV. MATHEMATICAL ANALYSIS

Encryption and Decryption: The entry that lies in the i^{th} row and the j^{th} column of a matrix is typically referred to as $(i, j)^{\text{th}}$ entry of a matrix A is most commonly written as $A[i, j]$ or a_{ij} .

$$A = [a_{ij}]_{i=1,2,\dots,m \text{ and } j=1,2,\dots,n}$$

Row and Column operations are ways to change matrices. There are three types of Row operations and three types of column operations, which are furnished below –

Row Operations

1. Interchange row i and j ($R_i < - - > R_j$)
2. Multiply row i by s , where $s \neq 0$ ($sR_i < - - > Ri$)
3. Add s times row i to row j ($sR_j < - - > R_j$)

Column Operations

1. Interchange column i and j ($C_i < - - > C_j$)
2. Multiply column i by s , where $s \neq 0$ ($sC_i < - - > C_i$)
3. Add s times column i to column j ($sC_j < - - > C_j$)

Now for SSCE value we perform a column operation on matrix A .

After performing a column operation on $A[i, j]$ it produce A' .

$$A[i, j] \rightarrow A' [i, j]$$

After that transpose the $A' [i, j]$ matrix and formed $A'^T [i, j]$.

Now it is transformed to an array i.e. place in an orderly arrangement in a linear order.

જયપુર, તા. ૯, મે. આઈચીઓલ-પની પડમી ગેયસ અને યેનઈ સુપર કિંસ સામેની મેચ શરૂ થતાની સાથે જ વરસાદના વિદન સાથે આઈચીઓલ-પની પડમી શબ્દસ્થાન રોચલ્સ અને પેજઈ સુપર કિંસ સામેની મેચ શરૂ થતાની સાથે જ વરસાદના વિદન સાથે બંધ થવા પામી કતી. જોકે વરસાદ બંધ થતા મેચ કુરી ચાલુ થઈ કતી . ત્યારલ્સના ૮.૫ ઓવરમાં ૩ વિકેટના નુકશાને ૪૩ રન થયા| ફતા એડલામાં ફરીથી વરસાદે જયપુર, તા. ૯, મે. આઈચીઓલ-પની પડમી ગેયસ અને યેનઈ સુપર કિંસ સામેની મેચ શરૂ થતાની સાથે જ વરસાદના વિદન સાથે આઈચીઓલ-પની પડમી શબ્દસ્થાન રોચલ્સ અને પેજઈ સુપર કિંસ સામેની મેચ શરૂ થતાની સાથે જ વરસાદના વિદન સાથે બંધ થવા પામી કતી. જોકે વરસાદ બંધ થતા મેચ કુરી ચાલુ થઈ કતી . ત્યારલ્સના ૮.૫ ઓવરમાં ૩ વિકેટના નુકશાને ૪૩ રન થયા ફતા એડલામાં ફરીથી વરસાદે જયપુર, તા. ૯, મે.

Figure 8: Cover Text

For Revised SSCE value here we add Passkey (known as password) P with $A'^T [i, j]$ transformed matrix and produced $P \cdot A'^T [i, j]$.

V. RESULTS ANALYSIS

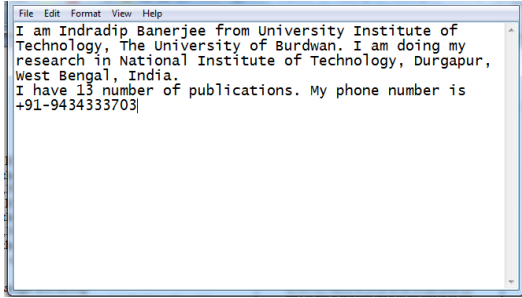


Figure 9: Secret Message

જયપુર, તા. દ. મે. આઈચીઓલ-પની પદમી ગેયસ અને યેનઈ સુપર કિંસ સામેની મેચ શરૂ થતાની સાથે જ વરસાદના વિદન સાથે આઈચીઓલ-પની પદમી શાજસ્થાન રોચલ્સ અને પેજઈ સુપર કિંસ સામેની મેચ શરૂ થતાની સાથે જ વરસાદના વિદન સાથે બંધ થવા પામી કતી. જોકે વરસાદ બંધ થતા મેચ કુરી ચાલુ થઈ કતી . ત્યારલ્સના ૮.૫ ઓવરમાં ૩ વિકેટના નુકશાને ૪૩ રન થયા| ફતા એડલમાં ફરીથી વરસાદેજયપુર, તા. દ. મે. આઈચીઓલ-પની પદમી ગેયસ અને યેનઈ સુપર કિંસ સામેની મેચ શરૂ થતાની સાથે જ વરસાદના વિદન સાથે આઈચીઓલ-પની પદમી શાજસ્થાન રોચલ્સ અને પેજઈ સુપર કિંસ સામેની મેચ શરૂ થતાની સાથે જ વરસાદના વિદન સાથે બંધ થવા પામી કતી. જોકે વરસાદ બંધ થતા મેચ કુરી ચાલુ થઈ કતી . ત્યારલ્સના ૮.૫ ઓવરમાં ૩ વિકેટના નુકશાને ૪૩ રન થયા ફતા એડલમાં ફરીથી વરસાદે જયપુર, તા. દ. મે.

Figure 10: Stego Text

MESSAGE LENGTH (In Character)	CORRELATION VALUE
10	0.99976
50	0.998787621
100	0.997577235
200	0.995159513
300	0.992745838
400	0.990336183
500	0.987930524
600	0.985528835
700	0.983131092
800	0.98073727
900	0.978347344
1000	0.975961289

Figure 11: Correlation values of cover and stego text in different length of message

There are mainly three phases that should be reserved into account when discussing the results of the proposed method of text steganography with the help of Gujarati Language. The authors simulated the proposed system and the results are shown in the Fig. 8, 9 and 10. This method satisfies both security aspects and hiding capacity requirements. It generates the stego text with minimum degradation which is not very revealing to people about the existence of any hidden data, maintaining its security to the eavesdroppers. Besides the security level has amplified through the encoding of the secret message before embedding operation. This method hides two bit per word in the cover text which reflects the high embedding capacity of the system. Although the embedding capacity of the proposed method depends upon the embedding sequence, pattern of the cover text. This method hides two bit per word in the cover text which reflects the high embedding capacity of the system. Although the embedding capacity of the proposed method

is depends upon the Gujarati characters. In this method the length of the stego and cover are same and unchanged. So due to the said reason the steganalysis part can also handle.

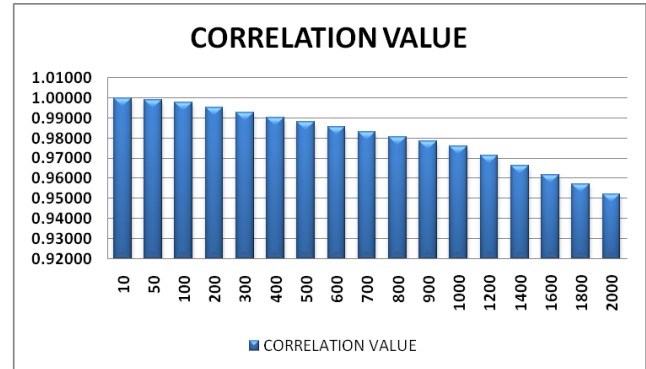


Figure 12: Representation Correlation values of Cover and Stego

A. Similarity Measure

For comparing the similarity between cover text and the stego text, the Correlation method for measuring similarity between two strings has been computed. The Correlation [27] is a measure of similarity between two strings.

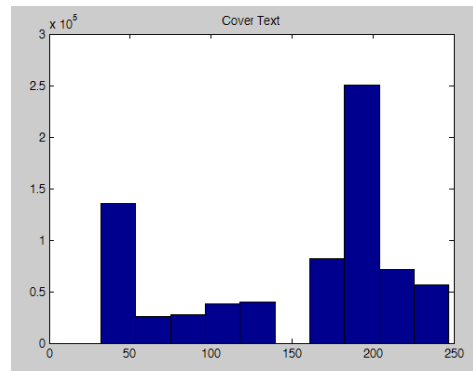


Figure 13: Graph of Cover Text

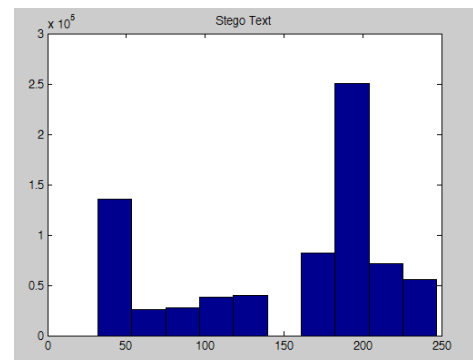


Figure 14: Graph of Stego Text

Correlation: The most familiar measure of dependence between two quantities is the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient [27], or “Pearson’s correlation”. It

the receiver side message generation system is faster than sender side stego generation system.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper the authors presented an approach of text steganography method using Gujarati language by the help of quantum truth table mapping technique. This property generates the stego text with minimum degradation. In this method the length of stego and cover remain same and this property enables the method to avoid the steganalysis also. The result shows that the performance of the technique is satisfactorily. Here the authors incorporate a Revised SSCE value which is depending upon the user's entered Passkey to extend the security level. This work can be extended by using other Indian regional language.

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