# In-Depth DCT Coefficient Distribution Analysis for First Quantization Estimation

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### FQE: First Quantization Estimation





### Consecutive quantizations introduced periodic artifacts into the histogram of DCT coefficients.

T. Bianchi and A. Piva, "Image forgery localization via block-grained analysis of JPEG artifacts," Proc. of IEEE Trans. on Information Forensics and Security, vol. 7, no. 3, p. 1003, 2012.

F. Galvan, G. Puglisi, A. R. Bruna, and S. Battiato, "First quantization matrix estimation from double compressed JPEG images," IEEE Trans. on Information Forensics and Security, vol. 9, no. 8, pp. 1299–1310, 2014.

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Statistical approaches

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Y. Niu, B. Tondi, Y. Zhao, and M. Barni, "Primary quantization matrix estimation of double compressed JPEG images via CNN," IEEE Signal Processing Letters, vol. 27, pp. 191–195, 2020.



#### Statistical approaches

They usually provide satisfactory results only at specific combinations between first and second compression factors.

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Machine learning approaches

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Machine learning approaches

They could suffer from overfitting.

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8156 high resolution images in TIFF format (RAISE dataset)

crop



8156 high resolution images in TIFF format (RAISE dataset)

64×64 patches extracted from the center















*l''* 







Double compressed images with  $q1 \in \{1, ..., q1_{max}\}$  $q2 = q2_i$ 



Double compressed images with  $q1 \in \{1, ..., q1_{max}\}$  $q2 = q2_i$ 

DCT histograms



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DCT histograms



Double compressed images with  $q1 \in \{1, ..., q1_{max}\}$  $q2 = q2_i$ 

DCT histograms

 $q1_{max}$  sets of DC and AC histograms

### Training Dataset Considering all the q2 in the range {1, ..., $q1_{max}$ }, $q1_{max} \times q1_{max}$ sets of DC Generation and AC histograms are generated. *l''* DC AC DC AC q1 = 1 $q2 = q2_i$ DCT histogram generation q1 = 2 $q2 = q2_i$ • $q1 = q1_{max}$ $q2 = q2_i$

Double compressed images with  $q1 \in \{1, ..., q1_{max}\}$  $q2 = q2_i$ 

DCT histograms

 $q1_{max}$  sets of DC and AC histograms

<b>Input:</b> double compressed image	I'	image	compressed	double	Input:
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**Output:**  $\{q1_1, q1_2, \ldots, q1_k\}$ 

Initialization :  $k, q1_{max}$ 

1: for i = 1 to k do

- 2:  $h_i$ : distribution of *i*-th DCT coefficient
- 3: **if** (i = 1) **then**
- 4:  $D: DC_{dset}$
- 5: m : median value of  $h_i$

#### 6: else

- 7:  $D: AC_{dset}$
- 8:  $\beta$  :  $\beta$  fitted on Laplacian  $h_i$
- 9: end if
- 10:  $q2_i$ : quantization factor of  $Q_2$  for *i*-th DCT

11: for 
$$j = 1$$
 to  $q \mathbf{1}_{max}$  do

12: 
$$D_{j,q2_i}$$
: sub-dataset  $(q1,q2)$  with  $q1 = j, q2 = q2_i$ 

13:  $D_{j,q2_i}(m,\beta)$  : sub-range with most similar  $m,\beta$ 

14: 
$$d_{i,j}$$
: lower  $\chi^2$  distance between  $h_i$  and  $D_{j,q_2}$ 

15: end for

16: 
$$q1_i : \arg\min_{\{d_{i,j}\}}, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, q1_{max}\}$$
  
17: end for

#### 17: end for

18: regularize( $\{q1_1, q1_2, \dots, q1_k\}$ ) 19: return  $\{q1_1, q1_2, \dots, q1_k\}$ 

<b>Input:</b> double compressed image $I''$
<b>Output:</b> $\{q1_1, q1_2,, q1_k\}$
Initialization : $k, q1_{max}$
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- **Input:** double compressed image I''
- **Output:**  $\{q1_1, q1_2, \ldots, q1_k\}$

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number of quantization factors to be estimated (e.g., 15)

maximun q1 value (e.g., 22)





Algorithm 1	The	Proposed	FQE	Technique
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<b>Input:</b> double compressed image $I''$
<b>Output:</b> $\{q1_1, q1_2, \dots, q1_k\}$
Initialization : $k, q1_{max}$
1: for $i = 1$ to k do
2: $h_i$ : distribution of <i>i</i> -th DCT coefficient
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13: $D_{j,q2_i}(m,\beta)$ : sub-range with most similar $m,\beta$
14: $d_{i,j}$ : lower $\chi^2$ distance between $h_i$ and $D_{j,q_{2_i}}$
15: end for
16: $q1_i$ : $\arg\min_{\{d_{i,j}\}}, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, q1_{max}\}$
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18: regularize( $\{q1_1, q1_2, \dots, q1_k\}$ )
19: return $\{q1_1, q1_2, \dots, q1_k\}$





Alg	orithm 1 The Proposed FQE Technique	DCT histograms	<i>l''</i>
Inp	out: double compressed image $I''$	generation	
Ou	<b>tput:</b> $\{q1_1, q1_2, \dots, q1_k\}$		Charles of the second
	Initialization : $k, q1_{max}$		
1:	for $i = 1$ to k do		
2:	$h_i$ : distribution of <i>i</i> -th DCT coefficient		
3:	if $(i = 1)$ then		
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15:	end for		
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Inp	ut: double compressed image $I''$
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10: 11: 12: 13:	$\begin{array}{l} q2_i : \text{quantization factor of } Q_2 \text{ for } i\text{-th DCT} \\ \textbf{for } j = 1 \text{ to } q1_{max} \text{ do} \\ D_{j,q2_i} : \text{sub-dataset } (q1,q2) \text{ with } q1 = j, \ q2 = q2_i \\ D_{j,q2_i}(m,\beta) : \text{sub-range with most similar } m,\beta \end{array}$
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111 DCT histograms generation median т ... 🗼 



<b>input:</b> double compressed image 1	Input:	double	compressed	image	I''
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**Output:**  $\{q1_1, q1_2, \ldots, q1_k\}$ 

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18: regularize( $\{q1_1, q1_2, \dots, q1_k\}$ ) 19: return  $\{q1_1, q1_2, \dots, q1_k\}$ 





Algorithm 1	The	Proposed	FQE	Technique
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Input: double compressed image $I''$
<b>Output:</b> $\{q1_1, q1_2, \ldots, q1_k\}$
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**Input:** double compressed image I''**Output:**  $\{q1_1, q1_2, \ldots, q1_k\}$ Initialization :  $k, q1_{max}$ *t*. for i = 1 to k do  $h_i$ : distribution of *i*-th DCT coefficient 2: if (i = 1) then 3: 4:  $D: DC_{dset}$ m: median value of  $h_i$ 5: else 6:  $D: AC_{dset}$ 7:  $\beta$  :  $\beta$  fitted on Laplacian  $h_i$ 8: end if 9:  $q_{2_i}$ : quantization factor of  $Q_2$  for *i*-th DCT 10: for j = 1 to  $q \mathbf{1}_{max}$  do 11:  $D_{j,q2_i}$ : sub-dataset (q1,q2) with q1 = j,  $q2 = q2_i$ 12:  $D_{j,q2_i}(m,\beta)$  : sub-range with most similar  $m,\beta$ 13:  $d_{i,j}$ : lower  $\chi^2$  distance between  $h_i$  and  $D_{j,q_{2i}}$ 14: end for 15:  $q1_i$ :  $\arg\min_{\{d_{i,j}\}}, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, q1_{max}\}$ 16: 17. end for 18: regularize( $\{q1_1, q1_2, ..., q1_k\}$ ) 19: **return**  $\{q1_1, q1_2, \ldots, q1_k\}$ 



Sometimes, the information contained in h<sub>i</sub> does not clearly allow the discrimination among the possible q1<sub>i</sub> candidates.

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q1<sub>i</sub> candidates

• A strong minimum is not always present at varying of  $q1_i$  candidates.

• Data coming from neighbors DCT coefficients can be exploited.

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More specifically, we start from the empirical hypothesis that a generic q1<sub>i</sub> value is usually close to q1<sub>i-1</sub> and q1<sub>i+1</sub>.

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More specifically, we start from the empirical hypothesis that a generic q1<sub>i</sub> value is usually close to q1<sub>i-1</sub> and q1<sub>i+1</sub>.

Distribution of  $q1_i - q1_{i+1}$  built considering custom tables from Park et al. and  $q1_{max} < 22$ .

0

5

10

-10

-5

• Data coming from neighbors DCT coefficients can be exploited.

- More specifically, we start from the empirical hypothesis that a generic q1<sub>i</sub> value is usually close to q1<sub>i-1</sub> and q1<sub>i+1</sub>.
- Instead of estimating each coefficient independently, three consecutive elements in zig-zag order are considered.

Distribution of  $q1_i$ - $q1_{i+1}$ built considering custom tables from Park et al. and  $q1_{max}$ <22.



• Considering  $q_{1_{max}}$  as the maximum  $q_1$  value to be estimated,  $q_{1_{max}} \times q_{1_{max}} \times q_{1_{max}}$  first quantization factors combinations are taken into account.

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- A proper score S is then obtained by a weighted average between a data term (C<sub>data</sub>) and a regularization term (C<sub>reg</sub>) as follows:

$$S = wC_{data} + (1 - w)C_{reg} \quad w \in [0, 1]$$

- Considering  $q_{max}$  as the maximum  $q_1$  value to be estimated,  $q_{max} \times q_{max} \times q_{max}$  first quantization factors combinations are taken into account.
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$$S = wC_{data} + (1 - w)C_{reg} \quad w \in [0, 1]$$

$$C_{reg1} = \frac{|c_i - c_{i+1}| + |c_i - c_{i-1}|}{2}$$

$$C_{reg2} = \frac{|c_i - c_{i+1}| + |c_i - c_{i-1}|}{2\sqrt{c_i}}$$

$$C_{reg3} = \frac{|c_i - c_{i+1}| + |c_i - c_{i-1}|}{2c_i}$$

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Method	Dataset	Cropped Patch	Low/Low	Low/Mid	Low/High	Mid/Low	Mid/Mid	Mid/High	High/Low	High/Mid	High/High	Mean
Our	RAISE	64 × 64	0.25	0.47	0.79	0.17	0.32	0.82	0.27	0.31	0.70	0.46
Our Reg.	KAISE	04 × 04	0.30	0.53	0.81	0.22	0.37	0.84	0.25	0.33	0.75	0.49
Our	UCID	64 × 64	0.33	0.63	0.93	0.20	0.39	0.90	0.15	0.21	0.66	0.49
Our Reg.		04 × 04	0.36	0.65	0.96	0.23	0.42	0.91	0.13	0.23	0.73	0.51
Our	DAISE	199 × 199	0.36	0.60	0.85	0.29	0.44	0.87	0.25	0.32	0.74	0.52
Our Reg.	KAISE	126 × 126	0.41	0.55	0.88	0.34	0.48	0.89	0.25	0.38	0.79	0.55
Our	UCID	D $128 \times 128$	0.47	0.76	0.96	0.31	0.49	0.94	0.18	0.29	0.74	0.57
Our Reg.			0.50	0.79	0.96	0.35	0.51	0.93	0.20	0.34	0.79	0.60
Our	DAISE	E $256 \times 256$	0.45	0.69	0.88	0.38	0.52	0.89	0.25	0.36	0.77	0.58
Our Reg.	KAISE		0.49	0.73	0.90	0.40	0.55	0.90	0.30	0.45	0.82	0.62
Our	UCID	256 × 256	0.56	0.83	0.98	0.44	0.57	0.96	0.23	0.34	0.77	0.63
Our Reg.		230 × 230	0.60	0.85	0.97	0.48	0.60	0.96	0.28	0.43	0.82	0.67
Our	DAISE	519 × 519	0.50	0.74	0.91	0.44	0.57	0.91	0.26	0.38	0.77	0.61
Our Reg.	KAISE	512 × 512	0.50	0.78	0.92	0.48	0.59	0.92	0.32	0.48	0.83	0.65
Our	UCID	Full size	0.63	0.86	0.98	0.51	0.62	0.96	0.27	0.39	0.80	0.66
Our Reg.		Full Size	0.67	0.87	0.97	0.56	0.62	0.96	0.37	0.49	0.85	0.71

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Our Reg.	KAISE	126 × 126	0.41	0.55	0.88	0.34	0.48	0.89	0.25	0.38	0.79	0.55
Our	UCID	$128 \times 128$	0.47	0.76	0.96	0.31	0.49	0.94	0.18	0.29	0.74	0.57
Our Reg.	, UCID	120 × 120	0.50	0.79	0.96	0.35	0.51	0.93	0.20	0.34	0.79	0.60
Our	DAISE	256 ~ 256	0.45	0.69	0.88	0.38	0.52	0.89	0.25	0.36	0.77	0.58
Our Reg.	KAISE	250 × 250	0.49	0.73	0.90	0.40	0.55	0.90	0.30	0.45	0.82	0.62
Our	LICID	256 - 256	0.56	0.83	0.98	0.44	0.57	0.96	0.23	0.34	0.77	0.63
Our Reg.	UCID	230 × 230	0.60	0.85	0.97	0.48	0.60	0.96	0.28	0.43	0.82	0.67
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- Experimental tests showed the goodness of the technique outperforming stateof-the-art results.
- Finally, the use of 1-nn to learn the distribution underlines rooms for improvement of the proposed method.

# Thank you!

# In-Depth DCT Coefficient Distribution Analysis for First Quantization Estimation

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