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Information Hiding Based on DNA Sequences Defaf Shiker Kadhum^{1*}, Sahar Adil Kadhum²

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إخفاء المعلومات بالاعتماد على سلاسل الحمض النووي

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Abstract

Information security is a major source of worry, especially in light of the rapid expansion of internet use in recent years. As a result of this expansion, there have been incidences of illegal access, which have been mitigated by the adoption of a variety of secure communication protocols, including encryption and data concealment. DNA's bio-molecular properties have seen an uptick in popularity as a carrier for cryptography and data hiding in recent years. when information needs to be hidden. Therefore, DNA bases are utilized as information carriers in the data concealing strategy to increase safety. DNA-based steganography and cryptography combine a biological property with conventional methods to provide an algorithm with increased security. Because of their ability to maintain their chemical and biological characteristics, DNA sequences also have a high data capacity.

Keywords:

DNA, DNA Cryptography, DNA Steganography, SNP, Data Hiding.

الخلاصة

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يعد أمن المعلومات مصدر قلق رئيسي، خاصة في ضوء التوسع السريع في استخدام الإنترنت في السنوات الأخيرة. نتيجة لهذا التوسع، كانت هناك حالات وصول غير قانوني، والتي تم تخفيفها من خلال اعتماد مجموعة متنوعة من بروتوكولات الاتصال الأمن، بما في ذلك التشفير وإخفاء البيانات. في السنوات الأخيرة، كانت هناك زيادة في استخدام الحمض النووي للتشفير وإخفاء البيانات كناقل، مع الاستفادة من قدر اته الجزيئية الحيوية. في إخفاء البيانات. نتيجة لذلك، في نهج إخفاء البيانات، يتم استخدام قواعد الحمض النووي كناقل المعلومات لتعزيز الأمن. يندمج علم إخفاء المعلومات والتشفير المستند إلى الحمض النووي بين السمات البيولوجية والتقنيات التقليدية من أجل تحقيق خوارز مية مؤمنة جيدًا تستغلها. لذلك، توفر تسلسلات الحمض النووي قدرة عالية على البيانات بما في ذلك الحفاظ على الخصائص الكيميائية والبيولوجية لتسلسل الحمض النووي.

الكلمات المفتاحية

الحمض النووي, التشفير با الحمض النووي, الاخفاء الحمض النووي عملية الترقيم, السنب, اخفاء البيانات

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-Introduction

Information security is the process of guarding information against being accessed by those who shouldn't have it. In the present paradigm, security prevents unauthorized parties from corrupting, destroying, or stealing valuable information [1]. The most popular approaches to securing digital communications and computers rely on cryptography and data hiding, two related principles [2,3]. The two systems may share a concern for protecting sensitive information, but they use quite different approaches to accomplish this. Cryptography is the study of making information unintelligible through encryption. Data concealing is a form of secret writing that eliminates all traces of the hidden messageIn contrast, . cryptography is the process by which the recipient of a secret message may change the meaning of the text using a secret key. For the data concealing approach to be successful, as little of the original medium's qualities as possible should survive after the data has been covered. Data camouflage is commonly favored over encryption when sending information over an unsecured public connection [4, 5, 6]. DNA-based encryption is a new field that emerged with the discovery of DNA's computing capabilities, which employs DNA as an informational and computational carrier using molecular technology [7].

Data hiding methods include steganography and digital watermarking. Steganography is a method of concealing information from prying eyes by inserting text, images, and other details into other media types, including pictures, videos, and audio recordings [8]. Steganography's primary goal is to conceal information by leaving as little trace of the original carrier as possible in the modified one. Therefore, the algorithm becomes more secure but less popular. That will prevent the hacker from disclosing any sensitive information. However, digital watermarking is another option to consider because it conceals the ownership information of work from any third parties who could illegally exploit it [8,9].

There are two reasons why steganography is favored to cryptography when it comes to security: When using an unsecured public connection, cryptography alone is not enough security. Cryptanalysis is only the study of covered writing, whereas steganography is the art of hidden writing. Additionally, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is being proposed for usage in several computing-related contexts. In addition to its enormous capacity for storage, DNA may also store information in the form of informative data packets [8, 9] [7]. DNA, like any other data storage medium, needs security in the form of an implemented secure algorithm to operate effectively. Secure cryptography and steganography involve the use of a variety of DNA sequence biological features [6]. DNA-based data concealing techniques have been created by researchers to provide unrivaled security and protection without sacrificing storage space or adaptability. After discovering the biological features of DNA sequences, researchers have developed novel data hiding

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tactics based on DNA. This has spurred the development of a brand-new study area: DNA computing [8, 10].

Some of the strategies discussed in the following paragraphs are relevant to the current investigation and are used to secure data transmitted via communication channels:

- -In 2010 (H. J. Shiu et) presented an approach comprising three algorithms based on DNA sequence characteristics detailed in this study. DNA sequences have certain interesting features that can be exploited to conceal information. Options include the Insertion Method, the Complementary Pair Method, and the Substitution Method. A reference DNA sequence S is chosen for each procedure, and the secret message M is placed into it, resulting in S'. Then, the sender sends the receiver S', from which the latter may deduce and extract the message M. In addition, proof of the sturdiness and deeply rooted capacity analysis of the three proposed approaches has been provided. Extensive theoretical and empirical analysis demonstrates that the suggested methods significantly outperform the state-of-the-art alternatives [11].
- In 2011(Abbasy et al) suggested a strategy for facilitating secure resource sharing in cloud computing scenarios. The recommended approach hides information by exploiting DNA sequences. The method consists of two phases. In the first phase, the binary information is converted into a DNA sequence by applying the pairing rules to a predetermined DNA sequence. This phase, in addition to changing the data, compounds the complexity by applying the complementing rules and then indexing the jumbled sequence, which is a problem in itself. Second, using a process that is the exact opposite of the first, we will extract the secret information from the DNA sequence [12].
- System employing reversible contrast mapping was proposed in 2011 by (Hayam Mousa). The system combines two words from the sequence with the reversible contrast mapping to achieve reversibility. The method was implemented and evaluated on several different DNA sequences. The method's optimal performance was achieved when |w|=4. Word lengths still have the value of |w| even though the sequence length has changed. And this is true regardless of the length of the series. The proposed approach can not only hide information in the DNA sequence, but also restore the original DNA sequence from the hidden findings without altering the DNA in any way. Reversible information concealment is a revolutionary method



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that has the potential to be widely employed in covert communication, digital rights management, content authentication, and sensitive data applications [13].

- 2015 saw the introduction of a DNA-based method of data concealment (Fatima E. Ibrahim et al). DNA sequences are used for obfuscating information since they have a number of unique properties. Instead of using 8-bit ASCII codes, the proposed method substituted 6-bit DNA coding, in which three nucleotides were used to represent each character of plaintext. This encoding greatly improved the possibility of embedding. The proposed method uses repeating characters to hide data, slowing down the refresh rate. First, a DNA reference sequence was used to encipher the plaintext. The secret code was later buried within a different DNA reference sequence. Evidence from the field of information security suggests that deducing the secret message would be a monumental task for any would-be assailant. The proposed data-hiding method performed better in simulations, as expected [14].
- Using a steganography method called the replacement process, this study compares and contrasts the key size, data size, speed, security level, and concealing capacity of encryption methods developed in 2015 (Sudipta Sahana, et al) using vigenere cipher, Playfair cipher, AES/RSA, and RSA/AES. This research shows that RSA encryption cannot handle enormous data quantities since it requires so many computational resources. In addition, it was found that while the AES cipher had the best overall performance, no one cipher approach was superior across the board. They worked to improve the DNA Playfair cipher to the point that it is now the best encryption method for use with DNA steganography [16].
- Reversible DNA data concealment was first suggested in 2017 by (Suk-Hwan Lee), and it allows for the preservation of amino acids and the prevention of erroneous start codons, as well as the extraction and recovery of data in the absence of a reference sequence. Both DE-MBE and CDE-MBE were utilized to implant the watermark for the n-th numerical order. For both DE-MBE and CDE-MBE, they implanted the watermark by encoding four-character strings of noncoding regions to bits values of n bits each.

Their methods increase the difference between pairs by maximizing the length of the difference between pairs when several bits are embedded in each pair. The DE-MBE algorithm is implemented by adding together two nearby codes.

Moreover, their method will be used in scenarios where continuous embedding-detecting is required without endangering DNA quality [17].

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Its purpose was to enhance other traditional cryptographic techniques. DNA sequences can be used to encrypt data. Two examples are shown here that investigate the use of DNA codes in tandem with traditional cryptographic techniques, each of which makes use of a distinct DNA property. The first instance employed DNA encoding using one-time pad (OTP) techniques, a kind of symmetric encryption. In the second scenario, asymmetric cryptography was investigated by adding DNA codes to the RSA method. DNA encoding was analyzed for its effectiveness in OTP, RSA, and other algorithms. DNA encoding was analyzed for its effectiveness in OTP, RSA, and other algorithms. The combined processing time of the RSA method and DNA encoding was greater, as seen by the results. To address this problem, we activated

That employing DNA in cryptography was first described in 2020 by (Baraa Tareq Hammad, et al.).



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the GZIP compression method to lessen redundant data [18]. - In 2020(B. Adithya, & G. Santhi) proposed work that show how to preserve essential information while functioning in a hostile environment by combining DNA computing with Morse code encoding. Plain text is converted into DNA sequences for further analysis using an encoding table. All encoding stages for plaintext to DNA sequence conversion must be completed before initiating the encryption process. The mRNA sequence is translated into the tRNA sequence by swapping each DNA from the letter set with its DNA letter set counterpart. Using a reference DNA sequence of the same length as the ciphertext, the Study method demonstrates its superiority over the obfuscation capabilities of both the AES and RSA ciphers (181,432bp). Because of the need for extra padding bits in the encryption computation, the AES cipher can cover up to 47.02kb of reference DNA sequence, whereas the RSA cipher can cover up to 42.08kb [19].

It was planned in 2021 (Amany E. El-deed et al. The suggested data concealing approach allows for the decoding of information that has been encoded using a binary coding scheme and concealed inside a DNA sequence. In contrast to the Least Significant Base method of DNA substitution that has been discussed before. The suggested change is based on a simple concept that has never been executed before, to the best of their knowledge. As a result of this discovery, scientists discovered that DNA amino acids can be divided into groups, with each DNA codon in one of the groups being able to encode two bits of hidden information rather than just one, as the Least Significant Base approach recommends. The suggested strategy, like the Least Significant Base method, is blind, retains the DNA's normal biological structure in the false DNA sequence, and, unlike the Least Significant Base method, does not give any expansion in the DNA sequence [20]. - In 2021 (Sajib Biswas & Md. Monowar Hossain) proposed a strategy that encrypted DNA sequences. The suggested approach divided into two major steps. In the first step, they used (10 x 10) playfair cipher plus a modified Caesar cipher to encode the message into the DNA. Next, in the second step, they alter the sequence by using a general complementary base substitution approach, after which the message and cover DNA are randomly embedded and covered. After that, they insert the key into the resulting DNA at random using a random number generator. Since the recipient doesn't need to know anything going in, the extraction process may be carried out in complete darkness. Therefore, it offers us greater safety than alternative methods of secrecy [21].

- In 2021 (Shah Haris Nabi, et al) proposed technique based on DNA sequences. A DNA database is used to retrieve the reference DNA sequence. There are around 1.63 108 DNA sequences that are publicly available. The proliferation of DNA sequences makes it harder for an adversary to learn whether or not a hidden message is there. Two algorithms for hiding information have been suggested. The first employs a substitution table and a reference sequence to convert top-secret information into Stego-DNA. The second strategy involves using DNA insertion to hide information. The suggested technique has the potential to improve the security of data storage, transmission, and encryption. The thesis suggests using chaos theory, cryptography, and genetic coding to make a foolproof security system. Both a 1D-2logistic map and a 4D hyperchaotic map were used in the suggested approach [22].

- In 2021(Paspula Ravinder, et al), a two-stage procedure is presented whereby the first stage involves the generation of a DNA encoding table, string matrix, and DNA digital encoding to be used in the generation of an intermediate cipher text. In the next phase, the intermediate cipher will be translated into a human mad DNA sequence and sent on to the intended recipient. With the use of an MD12-based message digest, the suggested solution additionally guarantees the data's authenticity. The approach protects the privacy, integrity, and confidentiality of information transmitted across an unsecured route of communication [23].



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References	Year	Proposed work	Solved problem
[11]	2010	The three strategies offered are insertion,	"Capacity, payload, and the
		complementary pair, and substitution.	number of bits hidden per
			character" (bpn).
[12]	2011	The suggested technique uses binary encoding	increase confidentiality and
		and complementary-pair principles, both of which	complexity.
		were implemented in the cloud.	
[13]	2011	developed a method of concealing DNA sequence information via reversible contrast mapping that	"The noise versus the amount of
		can be reversed.	hidden data."
[14]	2015	The proposed First DNA reference sequence is utilized to encrypt the secret message. The second	modification rate.
		sequence conceals an encrypted message. Instead	
[15]	2015	of 8-bit ASCII, DNA coding encodes plaintext. An innovative method encodes confidential data	distortion, suspicion in the mind of
	2010	into an audio file using an audio stenographic	attackers.
		medium. Combining encryption with	
		steganography improves communication.	
[16]	2015	compared DNA-based playfair, vigenere,	hiding capacity and data size.
		RSA, and AES ciphers with DNA	
		concealing.	
[17]	2018	Multiple difference expansions are proposed for	bpn of watermark, respectively,
		reversible DNA data concealing. DNA data	Data storage.
		concealing should consider string structure.	
[18]	2020	By merging DNA codes with traditional	data redundancy.
		encryption techniques, two situations were	
		explored. First example employed DNA coding	
		using OTP (one-time pad) techniques. In the	
		second scenario, DNA codes were added to RSA	
[10]	2020	for asymmetric cryptography. "Proposed a strategy of DNA computing color	equilibrium, and energy efficiency.
[19]	2020	code cryptography to ensure data protection from	quinorium, and energy enticiency.
		the eavesdropper. The text message in format is	
		encrypted"	

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[20]	2021	Substitution-based data concealing in DNA	preserves the DNA original
		sequences was proposed. Each DNA codon in	biological structure.
		one of the groups can encode two bits.	
[21]	2021	suggested approach operates in two primary	Sending a keyword before the
		steps. First, we encrypt the message in DNA	encrypted DNA Sequences.
		using 10 10 Playfair. In the second stage, they	
		modify the sequence via complementary base	
		substitution and insert the message, and cover	
		DNA.	
[22]	2021	explained reversible data concealment and	storage capacity, large-scale
		encryption. First, a message is hidden	computation.
		through DNA substitution. In data insertion,	
		a "private key is utilized to pick a DNA	
		sequence from the database to implant the	
		secret message".	
[23]	2021	First-round intermediate encryption text is	huge amount of data from
		created using a DNA encoding table. "In the	unauthorized persons.
		second round, the intermediate cipher is	
		converted into human mad DNA and sent to	
		the recipient".	

Discussion

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۱. ا Our freshly discovered DNA steganography method's major feature is its ability to hide information amid naturally occurring SNPs. We have many SNPs and many regions with high concentrations of SNPs. However, this strategy cannot be used on well-established model species with well accepted DNA sequences and few SNPs. However, other species with a high number of SNPs might also be employed to transmit covert messages. The number of SNPs needed to conceal the data was as low as 70. SNPs are more frequently needed as messages get longer.

DNA barcoding is one example of the many proposed uses for DNA steganography. There is a common misconception that DNA barcodes are intrinsic to the genome and will thus be rendered useless if the genome is altered in any way. With its block sum check-based error checking algorithm, the DNA steganography technology utilized in this work shows promise as a potential replacement for existing DNA



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barcodes. In addition, "watermark" may be used to trace the origin of freshly generated cells back to a certain firm or researcher. Therefore, DNA steganography might be utilized to safeguard the exclusive nature of GMOs. Regular production of modified cells is increasing as synthetic biology and metabolic engineering technologies develop. The biotech sector relies on the ability to decipher the ownership information encoded in a cell's DNA. The data will be cloaked in highly variable SNP regions, making detection by standard techniques, such next-generation sequencing, impossible (NGS). Because the approach may pick up on mistakes, spotting alterations to the coded message is a breeze. This suggests that the suggested DNA steganography technique may be a practical means of shielding complex organisms.

Conclusion

DNA-based methods of information concealment enhance security by shielding stored data from prying eyes. DNA-based security is an emerging information security technique with several advantageous features, including large capacity, high randomness, and low modification rate. Therefor Information can be encoded in a non-detectable fashion in biological carriers for a variety of purposes, including but not limited to verifying the authenticity of DNA sequences, annotating sequences for streamlined cataloging and research, and covert data transmission. DNA has emerged as a promising new data carrier in recent years because of its efficiency and reliability. DNA's bio-molecular computing skills can be used for cryptography and stenography to create low-cracking-probability, high-capacity secured algorithms. In this study, the authors evaluate and contrast a number of recently proposed DNA-based steganography algorithms that focus on a few central, defining characteristics. The primary goal of this comparison was to assist researchers to address existing algorithms' limitations to advance the state-of-the-art in good and enhanced secured DNA steganography approaches.

Conflict of interests.

There are non-conflicts of interest.

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