TRUE COLOR IMAGE ENCRYPTION BASED ON DNA SEQUENCE, 3D CHAOTIC MAP, AND KEY-DEPENDENT DNA S-BOX OF AES

ASHWAK ALABAICHI
Sciences College, University of Kerbala
Kerbala - Iraq
[e-mail: ashwakalabaichi2007@yahoo.com]

ABSTRACT

Digital image encryption techniques play crucial roles in preventing unauthorized access. In this study, color image encryption and decryption are performed through a technique that applies a 3D chaotic map, DNA sequence, and the key-dependent DNA S-box of the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) to get higher security. This technique comprises five steps: block transcription, encoding of DNA base, reverse/reverse complement of DNA, use of a 3D chaotic map, and key-dependent DNA S-box of AES. In the proposed scheme, block transcription is performed to shuffle image pixels by changing their positions in the image. Encoding of DNA base and reverse/reverse complement of DNA are conducted to change pixel values, thereby diffusing the image. A 3D chaotic map is then utilized to generate a secret key for shuffling and diffusing the pixels of an image. The S-box of AES is scrambled by changing the coordinate values of the DNA S-box of AES to keep it obscured. Then, the image is substituted into the key-dependent DNA S-box of AES. The aforementioned processes aim to satisfy the high-level security requirement of certain encrypted images. The proposed algorithm is comprehensively tested using different criteria, such as the Number of Pixels Change Rate (NPCR), the Unified Averaged Changed Intensity (UACI), the Correlation Coefficient (CC), Information Entropy (IE), histogram, Mean Square Error (MSE), and key sensitivity analysis. Result shows that the proposed algorithm satisfies all the aforementioned criteria, thereby indicating that it is resistant to different types of attacks, including differential, statistical, and exhaustive attacks.

Keywords: Chaotic map, block transcription, encoding of DNA base, reverse and reverse complement of DNA, 3D logistic map, 3D Chebyshev map, key-dependent DNA S-box of AES, NPCR, UACI, CC, IE, histogram, MSE, and key sensitivity analysis.

1. INTRODUCTION

Computer networks have changed the manner in which people communicate at present. For example, people can now easily transfer various multimedia files through networks. Among information vectors in multimedia communication, digital image is one of the greatest significant. Image communication plays a crucial role in information transmission. Accordingly, image encryption has been drawing increasing attention. Traditional encryption algorithms, such as Triple-Data Encryption Standard (3DES), International Data Encryption Algorithm (IDEA), AES, and other symmetric ciphers that were developed for textual information, are unsuitable for image encryption because of certain inherent characteristic of images, such as high pixel correlation and redundancy. Consequently, novel image encryption algorithms are urgently required [1-3].

Chaotic systems have numerous prominent characteristics. A number of academics have observed that the important properties of chaotic systems can be regarded as parallel to several cryptographic properties that are ideal to the image encryption. For example, to achieve satisfactory efficiency and security, the features of ergodicity and high sensitivity to initial conditions and control parameters can be adopted in the permutation and diffusion processes. The output of chaotic map are chaotic sequences which are frequently pseudo-random sequences with highly complex structures that are difficult to predict and investigate. However, several chaotic systems have been proven nonsecure,
particularly from the modern cryptographical perspective. Consequently, novel and safe cryptosystems should be established to guarantee information protection. DNA computing has entered the field of cryptography given the massive parallelism, huge storage, and ultra-low power consumption of DNA molecules. Several image encryption schemes that combine chaos and DNA computing have been proposed [1],[3-5].

The S-box is the foundation of recent symmetric algorithms, and an important part in the structure of any block symmetric system. For the serial application of confusion and diffusion, many block ciphers use the traditional Shannon idea. Confusion is generally provided by some forms of substitution, i.e., “S-boxes,” and S-boxes cause nonlinearity in cryptosystems. Any form of weakness in S-boxes can lead to unsafe cryptography [6-8].

Although AES and Data Encryption Standard (DES) are ineffective for image encryption, the S-box concept of AES can be useful in the substitution process for image encryption [33].

A key-dependent S-box indicates that the S-box is changed every round based on the key and the number of rounds. The design of fixed S-boxes enables them to resist differential and linear cryptanalyses; nevertheless, key-dependent S-boxes can better resist the aforementioned attacks [9-11].

A true color image encryption algorithm is suggested in this study. To satisfy high security requirements, this scheme combines three important concepts, namely, 3D chaotic map, DNA, and the key-dependent DNA S-box of AES. The remaining parts of this paper are organized as follows. The section 2 presents related works, including recent studies. Section 3 defines a chaotic map and then illustrates its properties that are related to cryptography and its types. Section 4 defines DNA and its most prominent properties, such as DNA encoding, complementarity, and operations. Section 5 provides a brief explanation of the S-box of AES and the important key-dependent S-box. Section 6 elucidates the suggested algorithm in detail. Section 7 presents several results of the suggested algorithm. Section 8 provides the analysis of the proposed algorithm according to several factors. Finally, section 9 concludes the study and recommends topics for future work.

2. RELATED WORKS

Numerous studies have proposed algorithms based on the combination of DNA and chaotic map. Paul, Dasgupta, Naskar, and Chaudhuri in [12] presented a novel image encryption system based on a hybrid model that comprised chaotic logistic maps, DNA masking, and DNA replacement algorithm. The important benefit of this system is the improved characteristic of DNA masks for obtaining the most compatible mask with plain images. Their investigational results indicated that their presented approach demonstrated excellent encryption capability and resisted several typical attacks.

Chai et al. in [5] developed a novel algorithm for image encryption using DNA sequence operations and chaotic systems by adopting the encryption schema of permutation and diffusion. Two chaotic systems, namely, the 2D logistic-adjusted sine map and a new 1D chaotic system, were used to generate chaotic sequences. The initial values and system parameters of these systems were computed via the 256-bit hash value of the plain image. Their experimental and security analyses results demonstrated that their developed algorithm was sufficiently secure to resist known attacks.

Al-Mashhadi and Abduljaleel in [13] established a new hybrid encryption image mechanism that utilized triangular scrambling, DNA encoding, and a chaotic map. The scheme used a master key with a length of 320 bit and produced a group of sub-keys with two lengths (32 bits and 128 bits) to encrypt blocks of images. Then, a new triangular scrambling method was adopted to increase image security. Their experimental results were analyzed and compared with those of others algorithms. The comparison result showed that the proposed algorithm is extremely strong against attacks.

To realize the scrambling position transformation of image pixels and the spread of pixel values, Niu, Zhang, and Han in [14] suggested an efficient image encryption method on dependent hyperchaos mapping and DNA sequence library arithmetic. A safety analysis showed that their proposed algorithm effectively resisted plaintext, differential, and statistical attacks. Furthermore, their algorithm provided a large key space and high security.

Enayatifar, Abdullah, Isnin, Altameem, and Lee in [15] suggested a synchronous permutation and diffusion technique. A 2D plain image was converted into a 1D image to implement the proposed algorithm. Subsequently, permutation
and diffusion steps were performed simultaneously for any pixel to reduce sending process time. The permutation step used a chaotic map and DNA to permute a pixel, whereas diffusion applied a DNA sequence and a DNA operator to encrypt a pixel. Experiments and wide security analyses were performed to show the feasibility and validity of the suggested image encryption algorithm.

Song and Qiao in [2] established a new image encryption algorithm using DNA encoding and spatiotemporal chaos. In this algorithm, an image was initially diffused through bitwise exclusive-OR (XOR) operation. Subsequently, the diffused image was encoded using the DNA mapping rule. Then, the rows and columns of the DNA-encoded image were confused via the spatiotemporal chaotic system. Their experiment results showed that the suggested algorithm exhibited high key sensitivity and a large key space; moreover, it could resist various attacks, such as brute force, entropy, differential, chosen-plaintext, known-plaintext, and statistical attacks. Mokhtar, Gobran, and El-Badawy in [16] developed an image encryption algorithm based on DNA and a chaotic logistic map. The map was used to confuse and diffuse the pixels of an image. Then, DNA sequence was applied as a one-time pad to change the values of the pixels in the image. The proposed algorithm could efficiently resist statistical and differential attacks.

Jain, Agarwal, Jain, and Singh in [17] proposed a symmetric image encryption algorithm based on DNA S-box and chaotic sequence. Their proposed algorithm included two parts. First, the unique DNA-based S-box performed substitution on the DNA-encoded image. Second, confusion was achieved by shuffling the rows and columns of the cipher-based chaotic map. Their proposed technique was then analyzed in terms of brute force attack, key space analysis, and statistical analysis. Satisfactory results were obtained.

Zhang et al. in [4] presented a novel image encryption schema by DNA coding, central dogma, and their combination with the 3D Vigenere cipher and logistic map. DNA coding and the genetic central dogma were carried for image coding and shuffling in the presented scheme, whereas the Vigenere cipher and chaotic system were used to enhance the security of the schema. The presented schema exhibited a large secret, key space, and high secret key sensitivity. Moreover, it could effectively resist exhaustive and statistical attacks.

Zhang and Liu in [18] developed an encryption algorithm for the images using DNA coding and chaotic map. This algorithm used a chaotic sequence produced by the logistic system to shuffle image pixels, which would then be encoded via DNA encoding. Subsequently, the DNA addition operation for the rows of DNA sequence matrix was applied image encryption was finally implemented. Their developed algorithm is simple and can resist various attacks.

Jacob and Murugan in [19] established an encryption scheme that used DNA technology and JPEG zigzag coding. Their results indicated that their proposed scheme could resist brute force, statistical, and differential attacks.

Zhang et al. in [1] proposed a novel image encryption algorithm using DNA sequence operations. In this algorithm, DNA sequence operations, such as elongation, truncation, and deletion, were combined with the logistic chaotic map to shuffle the pixels positions in an image. The outcomes of a security analysis showed that the established algorithm exhibited strong sensitivity to a secret key and could resist exhaustive and statistical attacks.

Zhang, Guo, Xue, and Wei in [20] recommended a novel image encryption algorithm using the DNA sequence addition operation. First, the original image was encoded using a DNA sequence. Second, the DNA sequence matrix blocks were separated and a DNA sequence addition operation was used to add the blocks. Third, the DNA sequence complement operation was performed on the added matrix using two logistic maps. Finally, the DNA sequence matrix from the third step was decoded to obtain the encrypted image. Their experimental and security analysis results showed that the recommended algorithm could resist exhaustive, statistical, and differential attacks.

Niyat, Hei, and Jahan in [3] proposed an algorithm with two stages: permutation and diffusion. First, an RGB image was separated into its red (R), green (G), and (B) components, and then, three chaotic sequences were generated via chaotic maps for encryption. Subsequently, the R, G, and B components and the chaotic sequences were encoded into a DNA code, and the DNA sequence matrices were obtained. Second, the DNA matrices of the RGB image were permuted using Chen’s hyper chaos system. Third, the DNA sequence XOR operation was applied to the DNA sequence matrices. Three gray images were obtained.
through decoding. Finally, the R, G, and B components were combined to obtain the encrypted RGB images. Their results showed that the proposed algorithm demonstrated a large secret key space and high secret key sensitivity, thereby leading to the effective security protection of encrypted images.

3. Chaotic Map

Chaos theory is applied to the encryption field because of its advantages and capability to improve the security of encryption systems. Chaos is a random-like process in nonlinear dynamic systems. Its structure is highly complex, and thus, difficult to analyze and predict. Researchers have used different types of chaotic map, and one of the most well-known among these maps is the logistic map [3],[5],[15-16],[21-22].

The extant algorithms of cryptography which used chaotic maps can be divided into two types: permutation and diffusion. In the permutation stage, pixels locations in the plain image are modified through chaotic sequences or certain matrix transformations. The permutation algorithm displays a good encryption influence without altering pixel values, and thus, the histograms of the encryption and plain images are identical of each other. Consequently, the security of this algorithm can be threatened by statistical analysis. In the diffusion stage, the pixels values are modified in the plain image through chaotic sequences. Most of the methods are directly fulfilled encryptions that are achieved by overlaying a chaotic sequence generated by a single chaotic map and the pixel gray value of the image. Diffusion may provide higher security than permutation, but the encryption effect is poor. Therefore, several academics have collected permutation and diffusion to increase security and the encryption influence. A 1D chaotic map is used in image encryption algorithms. However, a single chaotic map may result in a small key space and low security [1],[21]. Consequently, higher-dimensional chaotic systems are currently the focus of recent research [23-26]. The encryption system that uses a 3D baker map provides higher speed than the system that uses a 2D baker map. Accordingly, the former is frequently utilized in crypto systems. Moreover, the cipher image of the encryption algorithm with a 3D baker map is faster and exhibits better balance than that with a 2D baker map. The former also exhibits an avalanche effect. In addition, 3D functions provide good security against cryptanalytic attacks [23-24],[27]. Therefore, two types of 3D chaotic map are used in the current study. In particular, 3D logistic and 3D Chebyshev chaotic maps are adopted for the proposed algorithm.

3.1 3D Logistic Map

The logistic map function described in Equation (1) is one of the most popular and useful chaotic functions.

\[ X_{n+1} = RX_n (1 - X_n) \]  

This one-dimensional logistic map can be extended to a 3D as definite in Equations 2 to 4.

\[ X_{n+1} = RX_n(1 - X_n) + \beta Y_n^2 X_n + \alpha Z_n^2 \]  \hspace{1cm} (2)
\[ Y_{n+1} = RY_n(1 - Y_n) + \beta Z_n^2 Y_n + \alpha X_n^2 \]  \hspace{1cm} (3)
\[ Z_{n+1} = RZ_n(1 - Z_n) + \beta X_n^2 Z_n + \alpha Y_n^2 \]  \hspace{1cm} (4)

The parameters of the nonlinear system are valued in the range 0.53 < R < 3.81, 0 < \beta < 0.022, 0 < \alpha < 0.015 where X0,Y0 and Z0 are in [0,1][15].

3.2 3D Chebyshev

The Chebyshev polynomial is used to generate the secret keys required in the encryption process. The Chebyshev polynomial \( F_n(x) \) of the first type, which is a polynomial in \( x \) of degree \( n \), is prototype of a chaotic map and is defined as follows:

\[ F_n(x) = \cos^n \theta, \text{ where } x = \cos \theta. \]

Let \( n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 \). Then, we obtain \( \cos 0\theta = 1, \cos 1\theta = \cos \theta, \cos 2\theta = 2 \cos^2 \theta - 1, \cos 3\theta = 4 \cos^3 \theta - 3 \cos \theta, \) and \( \cos 4\theta = 8 \cos^4 \theta - 8 \cos^2 \theta + 1 \).

Let \( \cos \theta = x \). Then, we obtain

\[ F_0(x) = 1, \]
\[ F_1(x) = x, \]
\[ F_2(x) = 2x^2 - 1, \]
\[ F_3(x) = 4x^3 - 3x, \]
\[ F_4(x) = 8x^4 - 8x^2 + 1. \]

The transformation of them as

\[ F_2(x) = 2x^2 - 1 \]  \hspace{1cm} (5)
\[ F_3(y) = 4y^3 - 3y \]  \hspace{1cm} (6)
\[ F_4(z) = 8z^4 - 8z^2 + 1 \]  \hspace{1cm} (7)

Chebyshev polynomial map \( F_p:[-1,1] \rightarrow [-1,1] \) of degree \( p \), when \( p > 1 \) [23],[25],[28]. In this study, Equations 2 to 7 are applied to generate secrets keys, which are then used to scramble or diffuse the pixels of an image or to change the positions of the values in the S-box of AES.

4. DNA
DNA is a biochemical macromolecule that carries the genetic information that is necessary for living beings to function. The structure of the DNA was discovered by James Watson in 1953. A DNA molecule consists of two single strands that form a double helix structure. The backbone of each helix strand comprises alternating sugar and phosphate groups [29-31].

A DNA sequence has four nucleic acids: adenine (A), thymine (T), cytosine (C), and guanine (G). In accordance with the rules of base pairing, purine adenine (A) always pairs with pyrimidine thymine (T), whereas pyrimidine cytosine (C) always pairs with purine guanine (G). Figure 1 illustrates a simple DNA structure, in which A and T are complementary and G and C are complementary. Such relationships are frequently referred to as the Watson–Crick base pairing rules, after the two scientists who discovered the structural basis of DNA [12],[30].

4.1 DNA Encoding And Complementary Rule

As mentioned in the previous section, a DNA sequence has four nucleic acid bases, namely, A, C, G, and T, where A and T and C and G are complementary pairs. In a binary system, 0 and 1, 00 and 11, and 10 and 01 are complementary. If 00, 11, 10, and 01 are encoded with nucleic acid bases A, C, G, and T, then we can obtain 4! = 24 types of encoding schemes. However, only 8 types of them suit the Watson–Crick complementary rule, as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1. Eight types of encoding and decoding rule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An RGB image can be encoded using a DNA code. Each pixel can be expressed as a DNA sequence with a length of 4 (the length of its binary sequence is 8). To improve understanding, a grayscale pixel example with 213 = (11010101)2 is provided. Depending on the Table 1, the DNA code of the pixel as follows: Rule 1 (TCCC), Rule 2 (TGCC), Rule 3 (GAAA), Rule 4 (CAAA), Rule 5 (GTTC), Rule 6 (CTTT), Rule 7 (ACCC), and Rule 8 (AGGG). DNA decoding rules are the opposite operation of DNA encoding rules. However, if Rule 2 is used to decode pixel instead of Rule 1, for example, then another binary sequence of the a pixel 11101010 will be obtained that mean the pixel value is 234.

To achieve image diffusion, the aforementioned method can be implemented in the algorithms of the image encryption [2-3],[5],[22].

One of the main methods for characterizing the biology of a DNA system is the reverse complement of DNA strand bases. This method is composed of two stages. In the first stage, which is the reverse, the order of the DNA bases is reversed. For example, TCGATT becomes TTAGCT. The second stage, which is the complement, can be compared with the complement operation in a binary code but with letters rather than digits; therefore, the reverse complement of GGATCCAG is CTGGATCC [32].

4.2 Central Dogma

The central dogma, which was first presented by Francis Crick, provides an explanation for the genetic information within a biological system. Three main types of biopolymers exist in an organism: DNA, RNA, and protein. The common transfer process for biological information comprises transcription, translation, and DNA replication. Transcription is the process by which the information contained in a DNA segment is transferred to RNA in accordance with the complementary base-pairing rules.
A DNA segment consists of coding parts (Exons) and non-coding parts (Introns). The central dogma process of molecular biology is described in Figure 2, in which the information of genes glides into proteins [1], [34].

As shown in Figure 2, two methods (i.e., transcription and translation) exist within the central dogma. These methods are conducted to obtain protein. Transcription methods are performed by removing the non-coding parts (Introns) and retaining the coding parts (Entrons), whereas translation methods include the conversion of RNA (as mRNA) into proteins [35].

4.3 Dna Operations

As DNA computing rapidly develops, several biological and algebraic operations based on DNA sequence have been proposed, such as addition, subtraction, and XOR operations.

4.3.1 Xor Operation For Dna Sequence

The XOR operation for DNA sequences is manipulated according to the traditional XOR operation in binary. DNA XOR rules have eight types; and one type of DNA XOR is listed in Table 2. In this study, the DNA XOR operation is performed between the scrambled image and the secret keys. For example, for two DNA sequences [GACT] and [TCAG], their XOR operation result is [CCCC] based on Table 2 [5], [15-16].

Table 2. One type of DNA XOR operation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>XOR</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. S-BOXES OF AES

The S-box has been proven to be the foundation of modern symmetric, such as block and stream ciphers. It is a primary constituent of any block system layout. However, the S-box has several weaknesses, which can make cryptography vulnerable to cryptanalysis. Accordingly, several studies have attempted to enhance security by replacing the fixed S-box with the key-dependent S-box. The S-box of AES is developed by composing a pair of transformations. First, the multiplicative inverse in GF (2^8) is considered, with “00” mapping onto itself. Second, an affine transformation is applied [33].

In the present study, 3D Chebyshev is used as a secret key to shuffle the values of the S-box and keep it secret instead of making it public.

6. PROPOSED ALGORITHM

The proposed algorithm, which includes five steps, is discussed in this section.

Step 1: Block transcription

In this step, the image is scrambled by changing the positions of the image pixels. This process is performed by applying block transcription as follows:

1. Decompose the red (R), green (G), and blue (B) components of the image and store them in three N × M arrays, where N and M are the numbers of array rows and columns, respectively.
2. Decompose each component into blocks by dividing N and M by 4. The result represents the number of blocks in each component. For example, if N and M are 512, then the result will be 128 blocks of 4 × 4.
3. Initialize the secret parameters of the 3D logistic map to produce secret keys for the R, G, and B components.
4. Convert the secret keys to the decimal number using Equation 8:

$$X_{i,j} = \text{floor}(X_{i,j} \times 10^4 \text{ mod } 32). \quad (8)$$

These secret keys, which range from 0 to 31, are stored in a 32 × 32 array. The values in the array should satisfy the condition of not having any repeat value in the row and column, as shown in Figure 3. To simplify, a 6 × 6 array is shown. The values of this array are used as secret keys for block transcription to scramble the image by changing the position of the blocks in the image. Block transcription is inspired by the DNA transcription process. According to this process, the skipped blocks are considered as Introns, while the remaining blocks are considered as Exons. The generation process includes a method
called block transcription, which is based on the mask moving along the image vertically then horizontally, block after block. The value of the key array indicates the number of blocks that should be skipped, while the index of the key array acts as the column sequence of the blocks in the image. In Figure 4, the first value in the key array is 2, which means the first two blocks of the first column of the image will be skipped (as Introns), and the third block (b8) of the first column will be the first block (as the Exon). For simplifying in figure 4 the process of block transcription of a $4 \times 4$ array is shown instead of $32 \times 32$ array.

![Array Of Keys](image)

**Figure 3: Array Of Keys**

<p>| | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 4 Block Transcription Process
The above figure shows that, for the first time, block transcription is applied to the first $4 \times 4$ blocks in the image and then moves the mask vertically one block to apply block transcription along the image. Subsequently, the mask is moved horizontally (one block down), and block transcription is applied.

Step 2: Apply DNA encoding and implement the reverse or the reverse complement of the DNA as follows:

- Generate secret keys from the 3D logistic map and convert them to decimal numbers in the range of 0 to 7 according to Equation 9:

$$X_{i,j} = \text{floor}(X_{i,j} \times 10^{4} \mod 8) \quad (9)$$

- Convert each pixel in the image to binary and then perform DNA encoding using one of the eight rules in Table 1 as follows:

If the value of the secret key is 0, then rule 1 will be used to encode the pixel; if the value of the secret key is 1, then rule 2 will be used to encode the pixel; and so on until all pixels in the image are encoded.

- Generate secret keys from the 3D logistic map and then apply reverse and reverse complement of the DNA on the image pixels as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \text{reverse complement}, & \text{if key value } \geq 0.5 \\ \text{reverse}, & \text{if key value } < 0.5 \end{cases}$$

Step 3: The 3D chaotic map is used to diffuse the relation between the plain and cipher images by modifying the pixel values. This step is performed as follows:

- Initialize the three secret parameters of the 3D Chebyshev to produce secret keys for R, G, and B components.

- Generate secret keys from the 3D logistic map for R, G, and B components.

- Convert them to decimal numbers between 0 and 255 using Equation 10:

$$X_{i,j} = \text{floor}(X_{i,j} \times 10^{10} \mod 256) \quad (10)$$

- Convert them to binary and encode them using one of the eight rules in Table 1.

- Exclusive-OR has performed between the secrets keys, as shown in Table 2.

- Exclusive-OR has performed between the results of the secrets keys and the R, G, and B components of the image, as shown in Table 2.

Step 4: To provide additional security for the encrypted image, a key-dependent S-box of AES based on DNA is proposed. The details of this step are as follows:

1. Convert the value of the AES S-box to binary and then apply DNA encoding using one of the eight rules in Table 1.

2. Divide each sub S-box into four quarters.

3. Generate secret keys from the 3D Chebyshev in the range of 0 to 3 and convert them to decimal numbers.

4. Rotate each quarter as follows:

   - 0 no rotate
   - 1 rotate quarter by 90°
   - 2 rotate quarter by 180°
   - 3 rotate quarter by 270°

According to these Intron and Exon processes, the quarter with no rotation can be considered an Intron, while the rotated quarter is an Exon. The rotation process is performed as shown in Figure 5 (a)–(c).

5. Compute the inverse rotated DNA S-box. For example, if the CC represents the row and TA represents the column, then the intersection of the row with the column will represent the CATC in the rotated DNA S-box. While in inverse rotated DNA S-box the intersection of the row (CA) with the column (TC) will represent the CCTA. Figure 6(a-c): shows example of DNA S-BOX, rotated DNA S-box, and inverse rotated DNA S-box respectively.
Figure 5 (A-C): (A) Rotate S-Box By 90, (B) Rotate S-Box By 180, And (C) Rotate S-Box By 270.

(a) DNA S-BOX

(b) Rotated DNA S-BOX

(c) inverse rotated DNA S-BOX

Figure 6 (A-C): (A) DNA S-BOX, (B) Rotated DNA S-Box, And (C) Inverse Rotated DNA S-BOX
6. Substitute each pixel in the image in the rotated DNA S-box. For example, if the pixel is ATGC, where AT represents the row and GC represents the column, then the intersection of the row with the column will represent the new pixel (GATA).

Step 5: Apply DNA decoding and recombine all components into a single image to obtain the cipher image.

The decryption stages are nearly the same as those of the encrypting stages in reverse order except the substitution will be in the inverse rotated DNA S-box instead of in the rotated DNA S-box.

7. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The experiment is performed using MATLAB R2016a on a PC with Windows 7 OS, Intel Core i3-3217U processor, 4 GB CPU, and 18.0 GHZ RAM. Different images, such as Pepper, Macaw, Baboon, and Lena, are used as plain images. The following initial values are used with the 3D logistic map and 3D Chebyshev in all the experiments.

1. \( x_0=0.976, y_0=0.677, z_0=0.973, R=3.80, \beta=0.021, \alpha=0.013 \) for 3D logistic map
2. \( x_0=0.234; y_0=-0.398; z_0=-0.88 \) for 3D Chebyshev map.

Where x for R, y for G, and z for B

Figure 7(a-d) illustrates the plain, scrambled in step 1, encrypted images, and corresponding decrypted images respectively.
As shown in Figure 7, the decrypted images that used the correct decryption keys are the same plain images from the visual point. Therefore, the proposed algorithm can successfully encrypt and decrypt the images. When the encrypted images are transmitted to the authorized receivers, the correct plain images can be easily decrypted without information loss or distortion.

8. Security Analysis

In this section, several criteria are analyzed to verify the effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed algorithm against different attacks and statistic attack. These criteria include NPCR, UACI, CC, IE, MSE, histogram, and key sensitivity analysis.

8.1 Differential Attack Analysis

Researchers typically use NPCR and UACI as the criteria for examining resistance to differential attacks. NPCR indicates the Number of Pixels Change Rate when one pixel of a plain image is modified. UACI indicates the average intensity of differences between plain and cipher images. A cipher image should significantly differ from its plain image. Such difference can be measured via NPCR and UACI. The proposed cryptosystem can ensure that two cipher images completely differ or that at least one bit of difference exists between them. NPCR and UACI can be derived through the following equations:

\[
NPCR = \frac{\sum_{i,j}D(i,j)}{w \times H} \times 100\% \quad (11)
\]

Where \( D(i,j) \) defined as

\[
D(i,j) = \begin{cases} 
0, & \text{if } C_1(i,j) = C_2(i,j) \\
1, & \text{if } C_1(i,j) \neq C_2(i,j) 
\end{cases}
\]

UACI is defined as follow

\[
UACI = \frac{1}{w \times H} \sum_{i,j} \left[ \frac{|C_1(i,j) - C_2(i,j)|}{255} \right] \times 100\% \quad (12)
\]

where \( W \) and \( H \) denote the width and height of the image, respectively; and \( c1 \) and \( c2 \) denote the encrypted images before and after one pixel image is change, respectively [22], [36-37]. The test is performed on the proposed algorithm, which involves the modification of a single plain image pixel. The outcomes of the NPCR and UACI tests are presented in Table 3. The results clearly indicate that a single change in different plain images effectively modifies the encrypted images, thereby proving that the proposed algorithm can effectively resist differential attacks.

8.2 Statistic Attack Analysis

Three criteria have been performed to analysis the proposed algorithm against statistical attacks as shown in the following sections

8.2.1 CC

The efficiency of CC is a critical feature in the new encryption algorithm. This variable is calculated based on the CCs of the cipher and plain pixels. A good encryption algorithm can decrease the correlation between adjacent pixels. To analyze the CC of the cipher image, Equation 13 is used as follows:

\[
A = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} x_i \\
B = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} y_i \\
\rho = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (x_i - A)(y_i - B)}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (x_i - A)^2} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (y_i - B)^2}} \quad (13)
\]

where \( N \) is the number of selected adjacent pixels that will be used to calculate the CC of an image; and xi and yi are the values of adjacent pixels vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and anti-diagonally in the plain and cipher images[1],[3],[38]. The CCs of the plain and cipher images are shown vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and anti-diagonally in Tables 4 and 5. The results clearly indicate that no relation exists between adjacent pixels, thereby indicating that relations are eliminated and nearly zero.
Table 3. NPCR And UACI Of The Different Images.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Images</th>
<th>NPCR R</th>
<th>NPCR G</th>
<th>NPCR B</th>
<th>UACI R</th>
<th>UACI G</th>
<th>UACI B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macaw</td>
<td>99.5060</td>
<td>99.5033</td>
<td>99.5075</td>
<td>29.6229</td>
<td>32.8923</td>
<td>33.3911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baboon</td>
<td>99.5026</td>
<td>99.5300</td>
<td>99.5235</td>
<td>34.4848</td>
<td>31.8003</td>
<td>32.3615</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. CC (Horizontal, Vertical, Diagonal, And Anti-Diagonal) Of The Different Plain Images.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direction</th>
<th>Horizontal</th>
<th>Vertical</th>
<th>Diagonal</th>
<th>Anti-Diagonal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Images</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper</td>
<td>0.9877</td>
<td>0.9936</td>
<td>0.9869</td>
<td>0.9879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macaw</td>
<td>0.9812</td>
<td>0.9772</td>
<td>0.9775</td>
<td>0.9891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baboon</td>
<td>0.9896</td>
<td>0.9896</td>
<td>0.9824</td>
<td>0.9835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linea</td>
<td>0.9865</td>
<td>0.9781</td>
<td>0.9749</td>
<td>0.9931</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.2.2 IE

IE is an essential randomness feature that is applied to various fields, such as lossless data compression, statistical inference, machine learning, and cryptography. This criterion can measure the distribution of gray values in an image. When IE is high, the distribution of gray values is uniform. The definition of IE is expressed as Equation 14:

$$H(m) = \sum_{i=0}^{L} P(mi) \log_2 P(mi)$$ (14)

where \(mi\) is the \(ith\) gray value for the \(L\) level gray image, and \(P(mi)\) is the appearance probability of \(mi\). The IE of an ideal random image is \(8\)\([1-2],[5]\). The IE outcomes of the different plain and cipher images used in this study are presented in Table 6. As shown in the table, the entropy in the encrypted images is nearly 8.

Table 6. The Result IE Of The Different Plain And Cipher Images.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Images</th>
<th>Entropy/plain image</th>
<th>Entropy/cipher image</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pepper</td>
<td>7.7798</td>
<td>7.9990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macaw</td>
<td>7.6253</td>
<td>7.9989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baboon</td>
<td>7.7681</td>
<td>7.9992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linea</td>
<td>7.677</td>
<td>7.9997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.2.3 Histogram

A histogram is used to present the distribution of pixels in an image. To resist statistical attacks, the histogram of a cipher image should be sufficiently uniform. If the histogram of a cipher image is uniform then the encryption scheme will be faced the statistical attacks. Otherwise, attackers may get important information from the plain image by investigating the histogram of the cipher image \([2-3],[5]\). The histograms of the plain and cipher images for the R, G, and B components are presented in Figure 8 (a) and 8 (b), respectively. The histogram of the encrypted image is flat and completely differs from that of the plain image. Similar to the plain image, the encrypted image exhibits no redundancy. Therefore, it can resist statistical attacks.
8.3 MSE

MSE denotes the difference between the plain and cipher images. This difference must be extremely high to achieve good performance. MSE is calculated for the cipher image using Equation 15 as follows:

$$\text{MSE} = \frac{1}{MN} \sum_{i=1}^{M} \sum_{j=1}^{N} (x(i,j) - y(i,j))^2$$

where $x(i,j)$ represents the plain image, $y(i,j)$ represents the cipher image, and $i$ and $j$ are the pixel positions of the $M \times N$ image. MSE is zero when $x(i,j) = y(i,j)$ [5],[29],[39]. Table 7 illustrates the result of MSE for the different cipher images.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Images</th>
<th>MSE R</th>
<th>MSE G</th>
<th>MSE B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pepper</td>
<td>96.271</td>
<td>96.851</td>
<td>97.292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macaw</td>
<td>94.987</td>
<td>97.935e</td>
<td>93.380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baboon</td>
<td>94.116</td>
<td>98.344</td>
<td>99.305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linea</td>
<td>98.383e</td>
<td>94.32</td>
<td>95.051</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.4 Key Sensitivity Analysis

Chaotic maps are extremely sensitive to the initial condition and the system control parameters. If a small change occurs, then the decrypted image will no longer be similar to the plain image. Key sensitivity has two approaches. First, when a tiny altered key is approved to encrypt the same image and a entirely altered cipher image is acquired, the CC among the cipher images should be extremely small. Second, the cipher image cannot be correctly decrypted although only a tiny altered exists between the encryption and decryption keys [1-2], [5], [22], [24], [40-41].

The plain image is encrypted into a pair of different keys for the first approach. Suppose that the selected keys are $(\alpha = 0.013, \beta = 0.021, \text{ and } R = 3.80)$, whereas the slightly different keys are $(\alpha = 0.013000001, \beta = 0.021, \text{ and } R = 3.80)$, $(\alpha = 0.013, \beta = 0.021000001, \text{ and } R = 3.80)$, and $(\alpha = 0.013, \beta = 0.021, \text{ and } R = 3.80000001)$, the results of the CC among the cipher images are presented in Table 8.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keys</th>
<th>CC Red</th>
<th>CC Green</th>
<th>CC Blue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\alpha = 0.013000001$</td>
<td>-0.0439</td>
<td>-0.0448</td>
<td>-0.0437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\beta = 0.021000001$</td>
<td>-0.0504</td>
<td>-0.0501</td>
<td>-0.0483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$R = 3.80000001$</td>
<td>-0.0433</td>
<td>-0.0449</td>
<td>-0.0445</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As shown in the table, CC is nearly zero when a slight change occurs in the keys. For the second approach, the plain image is initially encrypted with the selected $\alpha = 0.013, \beta = 0.021, \text{ and } R = 3.80$, whereas the slightly different keys $(\alpha = 0.013000001, \beta = 0.021, \text{ and } R = 3.80)$, $(\alpha = 0.017, \beta = 0.021000001, \text{ and } R = 3.80)$, and $(\alpha = 0.017, \beta = 0.021, \text{ and } R = 3.80000001)$ are used for decryption. The corresponding decipher images are shown in Figure 9(a–c). The plain image cannot be decrypted when only a tiny alteration exists among the decryption keys. Thus, most of the keys do not reveal any information regarding the plain image. Consequently, the proposed algorithm is highly sensitive to any slight change in the keys and can resist exhaustive attacks.
8.5 Comparison With Other Methods

In this section, statistical performance is compared with others image encryption algorithms [42-46] in the statistical analysis (IE, CC (Vertical, Horizontal and diagonal), NPCR and UCAI) by using Lena image, which are shown in Table 8 where the best result in the table is illustrated by a bold font.

Table 8. Comparison With Others Algorithms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>References</th>
<th>IE</th>
<th>CC Horizontal</th>
<th>CC Vertical</th>
<th>CC Diagonal</th>
<th>NPCR</th>
<th>UCI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ref.42</td>
<td>7.9992</td>
<td>0.0058</td>
<td>0.0022</td>
<td>0.0031</td>
<td>99.71%</td>
<td>33.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ref.43</td>
<td>7.9975</td>
<td><strong>0.0009</strong></td>
<td>0.0038</td>
<td><strong>-0.0002</strong></td>
<td>99.6653</td>
<td>0.334758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ref.44</td>
<td>7.9993</td>
<td>0.0020</td>
<td><strong>0.0009</strong></td>
<td>0.0016</td>
<td>99.647</td>
<td>0.334815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ref.45</td>
<td>7.9994</td>
<td><strong>0.0009</strong></td>
<td>-0.0022</td>
<td>0.0149</td>
<td>99.6427</td>
<td>0.335615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ref.46</td>
<td>7.9978</td>
<td>-0.0054</td>
<td>0.0093</td>
<td>-0.0009</td>
<td>97.1394</td>
<td>0.331084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed algorithm</td>
<td><strong>7.9997</strong></td>
<td>0.00800</td>
<td>0.00347</td>
<td>0.00238</td>
<td><strong>99.8666</strong></td>
<td><strong>37.2355</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above table, it can show the IE value of the four algorithms are all very near to 8, which can promise no information leak of cipher image. All values of correlation coefficient of the four algorithms in horizontal, vertical and diagonal direction extremely close 0. Compare to the Refs. [42-46], the UACI and NPCR values of proposed algorithm is more close to the ideal value 37.2355 and 99.8666 % respectively. The proposed algorithm in Ref. [42] are constructed by DNA sequences and genetic algorithm, and has quite complex structure, which may lead to side effect for the performance. In contrast, our scheme takes advantage of the 3D chaotic map and Key-dependent DNA S-box of AES to achieve high complexity with simple structure. So proposed algorithm of image encryption shows some advantage and can be regarded as a candidate for image encryption in practical application.

9. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORKS

This study proposes the use of a 3D chaotic system, DNA sequence, and the key-dependent DNA S-box of AES to encrypt and decrypt color images. The proposed algorithm includes five steps: block transcription, encoding of DNA base, reverse/reverse complement of DNA, use of a 3D chaotic map, and key-dependent DNA S-box of AES. Block transcription is used to scramble image pixels by changing their locations in the image. The encoding of DNA base, reverse/reverse complement of DNA are conducted to change the pixel values for diffusing image pixels. A 3D chaotic map is adopted to generate a secret key for shuffling or diffusing the pixels in an image. The S-box of AES is scrambled using secret keys by changing the coordinate values of the DNA S-box of AES to keep it a secret. Then, the image is substituted into the DNA S-box of AES. These steps aim to shuffle and diffuse the image more than once to ensure high security. The experimental results indicate that the proposed algorithm can provide high levels of security and resistance against many types of attacks. In a future research, the additional properties of DNA and how they can be linked to the encryption of images will be investigated.
REFERENCES


