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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# An Efficient and Secure Method of Plaintext-Based Image Encryption Using Fibonacci and Tribonacci Transformations

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**ABSTRACT** In this article, we have proposed an efficient and secure method of image encryption. This image encryption method is new, where the plain image is confused using Fibonacci Transformation, and Tribonacci Transformation modifies the pixel values. The Fibonacci numbers and Tribonacci numbers of the above transformations are determined using the hash value of the plain image. To our knowledge, this is the first time a Tribonacci Transformation has been used in image encryption. The performance of the present method is evaluated using some standard test images and some special images. The present method has high key space and is sensitive to the plain image. The proposed method is also robust against attacks like brute force attacks, statistical attacks, differential attacks, noise attacks, cropping attacks, and known/chosen-plaintext attacks. The performance of the proposed method is equally efficient as the state-of-the-art methods, which establishes the applicability of the present method.

**INDEX TERMS** Image encryption, Fibonacci transformation, Tribonacci transformation, SHA256, non-chaotic encryption.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Due to the fast growth of Internet technology, popularity of the digital devices, and style of multimedia information exchanges through the Internet, increasing the information confidentiality requirement. Since the image is an essential communication medium, image security is a significant concern. In the literature, different techniques like secret image sharing [1], [2], [3], image steganography [4], [5], and image encryption [6], [7] are widely used to provide security in image communication. An image contains bulk data, and data is highly correlated and redundant. So, classical data encryption techniques like data encryption standard (DES), triple DES (3DES), and advanced encryption standard (AES) [8], [9] are not suitable for image encryption because of their slow computation [10]. A particular class of encryption methods, called image encryption, is designed to protect images.

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The image encryption algorithm transforms an image into a cipher image using an encryption key. The cipher image looks like a noisy image, so nothing cannot be predicted about the original image from the cipher image. We can achieve this by changing the position of the pixels and by modifying the intensity value of the pixels. The pixel scrambling method reduces the correlation among the adjacent pixels, resulting in a noisy image. The process of pixel scrambling is known as the confusion phase of image encryption. Since the confusion phase generates a noisy image without changing the pixel intensity, the histogram remains the same as the original image. The diffusion phase is another step of the image encryption method in which the pixels' intensity value is modified, resulting in a uniform histogram, and the system becomes robust against different attacks.

There are numerous uses of image encryption in the corporate world. In the medical industry [11], [12], health records are generated and circulated online. This record includes patient information, medical history, symptoms, and many

more. Due to the confidentiality of these health records, it is a significant task to protect them from unauthorized use. In the military field, images like maps, the positions of buildings, and enemies are critical. Images are essential in small target detection, tracking, and missile guidance. Therefore, illegal access to those images may endanger national security. In the media industry, the news is broadcast  $24 \times 7$ , and privacy of multimedia (image, audio, or video) content is essential. Image encryption is vital in protecting information from unwanted access [13]. In the cloud a third party stores client data in the cloud. Cloud has provided feasible storage for images. The privacy protection of the images in cloud applications is also essential [14], [15], [16].

In this article, we have proposed a new method for image encryption method. In this work, pixels are scrambled using Fibonacci Transform (FT), and this transformation can be achieved by matrix multiplication of two matrices of size  $2 \times 2$  and  $2 \times 1$ . In the diffusion phase, the scrambled image is XOR-ed with a random image (generated using the key) to ensure the usability of the proposed method for any grayscale image. The significant contribution of this work is the use of the Tribonacci Transform (TT) to modify the pixels' intensity value. In this pixel modification process, a  $3 \times 3$  Tribonacci matrix is multiplied with a  $3 \times 1$  vector, defined by three consecutive pixels. Bitwise XOR, (circular) bit-shift, and substitution (S-Box) are commonly used in the diffusion process. To our knowledge, this is the first time a Tribonacci Transformation has been used in the diffusion process and in image encryption, which is our fundamental contribution. In this work, the 'key' for the encryption is computed from the plain image itself. For this purpose, the hash value of the image is computed. Here, SHA256 is used to compute the hash value, which returns a hash value of 256 bits, sufficiently large to protect against brute-force attacks. One of the important features of our method is that the proposed method has enough strength to handle any grayscale images (including pure black/white images) with equal efficiency. The proposed technique is simple and easy to implement. Experimental result shows that the proposed method is fast enough in terms of execution time. Analysis of the results supports that the present work is also robust against different attacks. The significant contributions of this article are highlighted below:

- 1) A FT is used to scramble the pixels.
- 2) A TT is applied to change the intensity value of the pixels.
- 3) The proposed method possesses high key space, and the present method depends on the plain image.
- 4) This method can efficiently encrypt any grayscale image (including pure black/white images).
- 5) The proposed method is a faster one.
- 6) The method is robust against brute force attacks, statistical attacks, differential attacks, known/chosen-plaintext attacks, etc.

The rest of this article is organized as follows: The current state of the literature is discussed in Section II. The background mathematics of the Fibonacci Transform and Tribonacci Transform are studied in Section III. The proposed image encryption method is presented in Section IV. In Section V, the performance of the proposed method is reported. The security analysis and the comparative study with state-of-the-art methods are given in Section VI. Finally, this article is concluded in Section VII.

## II. LITERATURE SURVEY

At an earlier stage, the image encryption methods were developed on compressed data [17], [18], [19]. Among different classes of image encryption, chaotic-based techniques are quite popular due to their sensitivity to the initial parameters, pseudo-random behavior, and unpredictable motion trajectories. In the chaotic methods, a pseudo-random sequence is computed, and certain permutations are defined using this sequence. Moreover, these permutations are used to scramble the pixels, permute the bit planes, or define the substitution matrices. One intriguing aspect of chaotic methods is that a slight change in the initial value of the parameter(s) generates quite different sequences. This chaotic behavior is matched with an encryption feature. Earlier researchers have worked using classical chaotic maps like Baker's map [20], Logistic map [21], Tent map [22], delayed coupled map [23], [24], 2D logistic-Sine-coupling map [25], 1D chaotic map [26], Lorenz chaotic system [27], etc. Recently, people have been designing different hybrid chaotic image encryption methods, like the hybrid chaotic map with an optimized substitution box [28]. In [29], a hybrid chaotic method using a 2D modified Henon map with a Sine map is proposed. Combining the Sine map, Logistic map, and Tent map, a new hybrid method is proposed in [30]. A hybrid method [31] using 1D and 2D chaotic maps to achieve image encryption is proposed, where a 2D sin-cosine cross-chaotic map is used in the confusion phase, and a 1D Logistic-Tent map is used to diffuse the image. Recently, high-dimensional chaotic (hyper-chaotic) systems have gained popularity [32], [33] because these systems increase the key space and also become robust against attacks. In [34], a 5D hyper-chaotic system is proposed to encrypt color images in which the plain image is decomposed into sub-bands using a complex wavelet transform. Then sub-bands are diffused using secret keys obtained from a 5D chaotic map. A novel adjustable visual encryption scheme using a 6D hyperchaotic system is proposed in [35]. A new image cryptosystem using a hyperchaotic system and a Fibonacci Q-matrix is proposed in [36].

Another class, based on DNA computing, of image encryption methods is now getting popular. In recent years, many DNA sequence-based encryption methods have been designed. In [37], a DNA sequence-based image encryption method is proposed. In this method, the image is converted into a DNA matrix, and then a 2D Logistic map is used to define circular row and column permutations. Finally,

a row-by-row diffusion technique is adopted. The initial parameters are calculated from the SHA256 of the plain image. A 2D Henon-Sine map and DNA coding-based image encryption method are proposed in [38], where S-box is first employed to synthesize cryptographic effects of the complicated DNA encryption operations, and security evaluation is conducted using 2D Henon-Sine map and DNA coding. In [39], the research proposes a novel hybrid method combining the power of DNA and the randomness of a Binary Search Tree (BST), which creates a more accurate encryption method. In [40], a two-phase secure image encryption method is proposed where the concepts of DNA and RNA are used. In this method, the initial cipher image is created by applying DNA rules, the DNA XOR operator, and the chaotic function. Then, the codon's truth table for RNA and secret key are exploited to obtain the final encrypted image. A new Chaotic Evolutionary Biomolecules Model (CEBM) based on the concepts of biological molecules (DNA and RNA) is presented in [41] for image encryption. In this work, the Chaotic Rate operator is used for permutation, and DNA XOR and RNA codon complement operators are used for diffusion. Some other recent DNA-based encryption methods are noticed in [42], [43], [44], [45], [46], and [47].

Nowadays, medical images are also vital data that are communicated through the internet. So, the security of medical images like MRI, ultrasound sonography, X-ray, etc., is also essential because these images contain private information. Some recent proposals on medical image encryption are given in [11], [48], [49], [50], [51], and [52]. Chaos-based image encryption methods are popular in the research community. At the same time, researchers also proposed non-chaotic methods to scramble the images (i.e., to define the permutation). Non-chaotic techniques such as the Arnold Transform [53], [54], [55], Fibonacci Transform [56], [57], [58], Gray code [59], Rubik's cube principle [60], cyclic group [7], prime factorization [61], binary tree traversal [62], and iterative numerical methods for root finding [6], [63], [64] are used to define the permutation. The SCAN-based permutation is another group of techniques used in image encryption. Different encryption techniques based on different scan patterns are studied in [65] and [66]. A sine curve-based pattern is utilized in [67] to encrypt an image. In [68], a circular scan pattern is employed to define the permutation. A double spiral scan-based method is proposed in [69]. Recently, a novel zig-zag scan-based feedback convolution algorithm has been designed for image encryption [70].

### III. BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Here, we study the mathematics of the Fibonacci Transform and Tribonacci Transform in the following two subsections.

#### A. FIBONACCI NUMBERS

In mathematics, the sequence

$$\{1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, \dots\}$$

TABLE 1. Fibonacci and Tribonacci numbers.

|       |     |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |     |
|-------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| $k$   | ... | -5 | -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | ... |
| $f_k$ | ... | 5  | -3 | 2  | -1 | 1  | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | ... |
| $t_k$ | ... | -3 | 2  | 0  | -1 | 1  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | ... |

is known as the Fibonacci sequence [71], [72]. The above sequence can recursively be defined in Eq. (1).

$$f_k = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } k = 1 \\ 1, & \text{if } k = 2 \\ f_{k-1} + f_{k-2}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

The above relation is extended for any

$$k \in \{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\},$$

the numbers are given in Table 1. The Fibonacci sequence is powerful and possesses some amazing properties. Researchers have used elementary matrix operations, determinants, and their properties to generate class identities for generalized Fibonacci numbers [71]. In this work, we study three properties of generalized Fibonacci sequences such as Cassini's identity, Catalan's identity, and d'Ocagne's identity, which are given below.

$$\text{Cassini's identity: } f_{q+1}f_{q-1} - f_q^2 = (-1)^q \quad (2)$$

$$\text{d'Ocagne's identity: } f_{p+1}f_q - f_p f_{q+1} = (-1)^p f_{q-p} \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Catalan's identity: } f_q^2 - f_{q+p}f_{q-p} = (-1)^{q-p} f_p^2 \quad (4)$$

The above identities can be expressed as the determinants as given below.

$$\text{Cassini's identity: } T_{Cas} = \begin{vmatrix} f_{q+1} & f_q \\ f_q & f_{q-1} \end{vmatrix} \quad (5)$$

$$\text{d'Ocagne's identity: } T_{dOc} = \begin{vmatrix} f_{p+1} & f_{q+1} \\ f_p & f_q \end{vmatrix} \quad (6)$$

$$\text{Catalan's identity: } T_{Cat} = \begin{vmatrix} f_q & f_{q+p} \\ f_{q-p} & f_q \end{vmatrix} \quad (7)$$

The corresponding matrix of any of the above identities can be used to transform data in cryptography under modulo  $n$  if and only if the  $gcd(\det, n) \equiv 1 \pmod n$ , where 'det' is the determinant of the matrix. From the definition of the Fibonacci series, we note that  $f_1 = 1$  and  $f_2 = 1$ . So, for any  $n$ , we may note the following about the transformation matrices:

- 1)  $T_{Cas} = \pm 1$ , for any value of  $q$ .
- 2)  $T_{dOc} = \pm 1$ , when  $q - p = 1$  or  $2$ .
- 3)  $T_{Cat} = \pm 1$ , if  $p \in \{1, 2\}$ .

From the above definitions (Eq. (2)-(4)), it is obvious that Cassini's identity is a special case of the other two identities as given below.

$$\text{d'Ocagne's identity} \rightarrow \text{Cassini's identity, when } p + 1 = q$$

$$\text{Catalan's identity} \rightarrow \text{Cassini's identity, when } p = 1$$

**B. TRIBONACCI NUMBERS**

Tribonacci numbers [73] are a generalization of Fibonacci numbers, denoted as  $t_k$ , for  $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , and defined by the recurrence relation as given below in Eq. (8).

$$t_{k+1} = t_k + t_{k-1} + t_{k-2}, \quad \text{where } t_0 = t_1 = 0, t_2 = 1 \quad (8)$$

The Tribonacci negative numbers  $t_{-k}$ , for  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , satisfies the recurrence relation given in Eq (9).

$$t_{-k} = \begin{vmatrix} t_{k+1} & t_{k+2} \\ t_k & t_{k+1} \end{vmatrix} \quad (9)$$

Eq (8) and (9) provide the Tribonacci numbers  $t_k$ , for  $k = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \dots$  shown in Table 1.

In [73], a Tribonacci coding technique is proposed, and this method is based on the Tribonacci numbers. For this purpose, a matrix  $H_{3 \times 3}$  is introduced. The matrix  $H$  is defined as

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} t_3 & t_2 + t_1 & t_2 \\ t_2 & t_1 + t_0 & t_1 \\ t_1 & t_0 + t_{-1} & t_0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (10)$$

where  $\det(H)=1$  and the inverse of H is given as (11), shown at the bottom of the next page.

The above article has also provided two important methods to compute  $H^k$  ( $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ). The positive power of  $H$  (i.e.,  $H^k : k \in \mathbb{N}$ ) is computed as

$$H^k = \begin{pmatrix} t_{k+2} & t_{k+1} + t_k & t_{k+1} \\ t_{k+1} & t_k + t_{k-1} & t_k \\ t_k & t_{k-1} + t_{k-2} & t_{k-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

The negative power of  $H$  (i.e.,  $H^{-k} : k \in \mathbb{N}$ ) is computed as (13), shown at the bottom of the next page.

The Eqs. (12) and (13) can be easily established by using mathematical induction. From the above definitions of  $H^p$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ , the following properties can be easily proved.

- P1:  $H^p = H^{p-1} + H^{p-2} + H^{p-3}$
- P2:  $H^p H^q = H^q H^p = H^{p+q}$  ( $p, q = \pm 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$ )
- P3:  $\det H^p = 1$

So, from the above discussion, we may note that a Tribonacci matrix  $H^i$  for any  $i$  can be used to transform data into another domain, and the original data can be retrieved since  $H^i$  is invertible. Therefore,  $H^i$  can be used in the encryption method.

**IV. PROPOSED ENCRYPTION METHOD**

The proposed encryption method consists of three phases:

- 1) Key generation phase, in this phase, the key for the encryption is generated, and this is derived from the plain image.
- 2) The confusion phase scrambles the pixel positions using the Fibonacci Transformation.
- 3) The diffusion phase is applied to modify the intensity values of the pixels, where the Tribonacci Transformation is used.

The block diagram of the proposed method is shown in Fig. 1.

The proposed method mainly uses the Fibonacci Transformation and Tribonacci Transformation, and let us refer to the proposed method as ‘FTTTIE’ (Fibonacci Transformation and Tribonacci Transformation based Image Encryption). The phases of the proposed image encryption method and the summary of the proposed image encryption method are presented in the following sub-sections.

**A. KEY GENERATION**

In the present method, the key to encrypt the image is derived from the given plain image. The hash value of the image is computed using the SHA256 method, and the hash value of the image is  $key$ . The size of the key is 256 bits. The hash value is sensitive and depends on the input image. The  $key$  is partitioned into two halves ( $key_1$  and  $key_2$ ), each with 128 bits. To get  $key_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ), we may consider  $key_1 = key(1 : 128)$  and  $key_2 = key(129 : 256)$  or  $key_1 = key(1 : 2 : 256)$  and  $key_2 = key(2 : 2 : 256)$  or some other techniques. In this work, we have considered the first one (i.e.,  $key_1 = key(1 : 128)$  and  $key_2 = key(129 : 256)$ ). From these two keys, a single key is derived as  $key_1 \oplus key_2$ , which is considered as the confusion key ( $key_c$ ) (i.e.,  $key_c = key_1 \oplus key_2$ ). The  $key_2$  is considered the diffusion key  $key_d$ .

In this phase, the keys  $key_c$  and  $key_d$  are used to define a key image ( $key_{img}$ ) of the same size as the plain image. This key image is used in the diffusion phase to modify the pixel intensity. A sequence of Tribonacci numbers  $Tri = \{t_{T+1}, \dots, t_{T+S}\}$  and the threshold value  $T$  is computed using  $key_d$ , and  $t_j$  is the  $j^{th}$  Tribonacci number (computed using Eq. (8)) and,  $S$  is the number of pixels in the plain image. The sequence  $\text{mod}(Tri, 256)$  defines an image of the same size as the plain image. The algorithmic sketch of the key generation phase is given in **Algorithm 1: KeyGeneration()**. From the symmetries of the above steps, it may be noted that if the same key ‘key’ is used then  $key_c$ ,  $key_d$ , and the key image  $key_{img}$  can be obtained.

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**Algorithm 1 : KeyGeneration (Img)**

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- Input:  $Img$  the plain image
  - Output: Keys  $\{key_c, key_d\}$  and key image  $key_{img}$
  - Step 1.  $key_c(1 : 128) = 0, key_d(1 : 128) = 0$
  - Step 2.  $[M \ N]=\text{Size}(Img), S = M \times N$
  - Step 3.  $key(1 : 256)= \text{SHA256}(Img)$
  - Step 4. For  $i= 1$  to 128
    - a.  $key_c(i) = key(i)$
    - b.  $key_d(i) = key(128 + i)$
  - Step 5.  $key_c=key_c \oplus key_d$
  - Step 6. //Compute the key image
    - a. Determine threshold  $T$  using  $key_d$
    - b. Compute the Tribonacci sequence  $Tri = \{t_{T+1}, \dots, t_{T+S}\}$
    - c.  $key_{img_{M \times N}} \leftarrow \text{mod}(Tri, 256)$
  - Step 7. Return  $\{key_c, key_d, key_{img}\}$
-



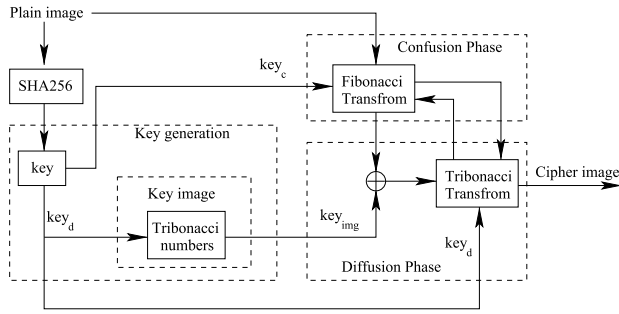


FIGURE 1. Block diagram of the proposed image encryption method.

### B. THE CONFUSION PHASE

In the confusion phase, we applied a Fibonacci Transformation to permute the positions of the pixels. We note that any matrices corresponding to  $T_{Cas}$ ,  $T_{dOc}$ , or  $T_{Cat}$  can be used as a transformation matrix to reposition the pixels. It is also worth noting that a single variable can parameterize these transformations. Again, Cassini's identity is a particular case of the other two identities. In this experiment, we employed Cassin's identity in the confusion phase. The confusion key  $key_c$  is used to determine the value  $q$  of the  $T_{Cas}$ , and then pixels are scrambled. To compute  $q$ , we consider  $q = \text{mod}(key_c, pr) + 3$  where  $pr$  is a prime number with moderate value and make it public. For an image of size  $N \times N$ , let  $(r, c)$  be the coordinate of a pixel, and after transformation, the new coordinate is  $(r', c')$ , then

$$\begin{pmatrix} r' \\ c' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_{q+1} & f_q \\ f_q & f_{q-1} \end{pmatrix} * \begin{pmatrix} r \\ c \end{pmatrix} \text{ mod } N. \quad (14)$$

The confusion process of the proposed method is illustrated in **Algorithm 2: ConfusionPhase()**. Concerning the same key, the same transformation can be derived; therefore, the confusion phase is invertible.

### C. THE DIFFUSION PHASE

The confusion phase returns a scrambled image ( $Img_{conf}$ ), where the intensity of the pixels remains the same. As a result, the intensity profile of both the plain and confused

### Algorithm 2 : ConfusionPhase ( $Img_{N \times N}, key_c, Img_{conf}, pr$ )

Input: Plain image  $Img$ , confusion key  $key_c$ , prime  $pr$

Output: Confused image  $Img_{conf}$

Step 1.  $q = \text{mod}(key_c, pr) + 3$

Step 2. For  $r = 1$  to  $N$

a. For  $c = 1$  to  $N$

i. Compute  $r'$  and  $c'$  using Eq. (14)

ii.  $Img_{conf}(r', c') = Img(r, c)$

Step 3. Return  $Img_{conf}$

images remains unchanged. Therefore, an attacker may guess the original image from the histogram profile of the confused image. To resolve this problem, we need to modify the intensity of the pixels so that nothing can be predicted about the plain image. In this phase, two operations have been executed to achieve the goal. The operations are: i) the scrambled image is XOR-ed with the image  $key_{img}$ ; ii) the pixels' values are changed using the Tribonacci Transformation.

At the first step of the diffusion process,  $Img_{conf}$  is XOR-ed with  $key_{img}$ , and this step changes the intensity of the pixels of the confused image. This XOR operation is applied at the very fast iteration, and for the remaining iterations of the diffusion phase, this XOR operation is ignored. The reason for adopting this step is discussed later. The image obtained from the previous step is transformed by applying the Tribonacci Transformation (TT), as given in Eq. (15).

$$\begin{pmatrix} p'_1 \\ p'_2 \\ p'_3 \end{pmatrix} = H^k * \begin{pmatrix} p_1 \\ p_2 \\ p_3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ mod } 256 \quad (15)$$

where  $\{p_1, p_2, p_3\}$  are pixels' intensity,  $H^k$  is the transformation matrix, and the value of  $k$  is determined from  $key_d$ . The inverse transformation (called ITT) is given in Eq. (16).

$$\begin{pmatrix} p_1 \\ p_2 \\ p_3 \end{pmatrix} = H^{-k} * \begin{pmatrix} p'_1 \\ p'_2 \\ p'_3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ mod } 256 \quad (16)$$

$$\begin{aligned} H^{-1} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} t_0^2 - t_{-1}t_1 & t_{-1}t_2 - t_0t_1 & t_1^2 - t_0t_2 \\ t_1^2 - t_0t_2 & t_0t_3 - t_1t_2 & t_2^2 - t_1t_3 \\ t_0t_2 + t_{-1}t_2 - t_1^2 - t_0t_1 & t_1^2 + t_1t_2 - t_0t_3 - t_{-1}t_3 & t_1t_3 + t_0t_3 - t_2^2 - t_1t_2 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

$$H^{-k} = \begin{pmatrix} t_{k-1}^2 - t_{k-2}t_k & t_{k-2}t_{k+1} - t_{k-1}t_k & t_k^2 - t_{k-1}t_{k+1} \\ t_k^2 - t_{k-1}t_{k+1} & t_{k-1}t_{k+2} - t_k t_{k+1} & t_{k+1}^2 - t_k t_{k+2} \\ (t_{k-1} + t_{k-2})t_{k+1} - & t_k(t_k + t_{k+1}) - & (t_k + t_{k-1})t_{k+2} - \\ (t_k + t_{k-1})t_k & (t_{k-1} + t_{k-2})t_{k+2} & (t_{k+1} + t_k)t_{k+1} \end{pmatrix} \quad (13)$$

In the above transformation, we need three pixels at a time. So, the pixels of the image are partitioned into groups, and each group has three pixels, except the last group may have fewer pixels. Assume we have  $r$  groups,  $G_1, G_2, \dots, G_r$  and pixels in group  $G_i$  are denoted as  $\{p_{i,1}, p_{i,2}, p_{i,3}\}$  (i.e.,  $G_i = \{p_{i,1}, p_{i,2}, p_{i,3}\}$ ). There are three cases:

- 1) The Number of pixels in the image is  $3r$ ,
  - a) At the time of encryption, each group  $G_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq r$ ) is transformed by Eq. (15) and obtained  $G'_i$ , i.e.,  $G'_i = TT(G_i)$ .
  - b) At the time of decryption,  $G'_i$  (for  $1 \leq i \leq r$ ) is transformed back into  $G_i$  with the help of Eq. (16) (i.e.,  $G_i = ITT(G'_i)$ ).

- 2) The Number of pixels is  $3(r - 1) + 1$ , i.e.,  $G_r = \{p_{r,1}\}$   
In the encryption process,

- a) First  $(r - 1)$  groups  $\{G_1, G_2, \dots, G_{r-1}\}$  are transformed by Eq. (15).
- b) Then,  $G_r$  is redefined as  $G_r = \{p'_{r-1,2}, p'_{r-1,3}, p_{r,1}\}$  and transformed as  $G'_r = \{p''_{r-1,2}, p'_{r,3}, p_{r,1}\} = TT(G_r)$  using Eq. (15).
- c) The diffused image is defined as

$$G'_1 || G'_2 || \dots || G'_{r-2} || G'_r || \{p'_{r-1,1}\}.$$

In the decryption process,

- a) First  $r - 2$  groups of the diffuse image are inversely transformed as  $\{G_1, G_2, \dots, G_{r-2}\}$  (i.e.,  $G_i = ITT(G'_i)$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq r - 2$ ).
- b) Then, compute  $\{p'_{r-1,2}, p'_{r-1,3}, p_{r,1}\} = ITT(G'_r)$ .
- c) Next, compute

$$\{p_{r-1,1}, p_{r-1,2}, p_{r-1,3}\} = ITT(p'_{r-1,1}, p'_{r-1,2}, p'_{r-1,3}).$$

The previous version of the diffused image can be obtained as

$$G_1 || G_2 || \dots || G_{r-2} || \{p_{r-1,1}, p_{r-1,2}, p_{r-1,3}\} || \{p_{r,1}\}$$

- 3) Consider the case of  $3(r - 1) + 2$  pixels, i.e.,  $G_r = \{p_{r,1}, p_{r,2}\}$

In the encryption process,

- a) Transform first  $(r - 1)$  groups and gives  $G'_1, G'_2, \dots, G'_{r-1}$ .
- b)  $p'_{r-1,3}$  of  $G'_{r-1}$  is combined with  $G_r$  and gives  $G_r = \{p'_{r-1,3}, p_{r,1}, p_{r,2}\}$
- c)  $G_r$  is transformed by Eq. (15), obtained

$$Gr' = \{p''_{r-1,3}, p'_{r,1}, p'_{r,2}\}.$$

- d) The diffuse image is

$$G'_1 || G'_2 || \dots || G'_{r-2} || Gr' || \{p'_{r-1,1}, p'_{r-1,2}\}.$$

In the decryption process,

- a) First  $r - 2$  groups of the diffuse image are inversely transformed as  $\{G_1, G_2, \dots, G_{r-2}\}$  (i.e.,  $G_i = ITT(G'_i)$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq r - 2$ ).
- b) Then, compute  $\{p'_{r-1,3}, p_{r,1}, p_{r,2}\} = ITT(Gr')$ .

- c) Next, compute

$$\{p_{r-1,1}, p_{r-1,2}, p_{r-1,3}\} = ITT(p'_{r-1,1}, p'_{r-1,2}, p'_{r-1,3}).$$

The previous version of the diffused image can be obtained as

$$G_1 || G_2 || \dots || G_{r-2} || \{p_{r-1,1}, p_{r-1,2}, p_{r-1,3}\} || \{p_{r,1}, p_{r,2}\}$$

---

**Algorithm 3 : DiffusionPhase** ( $Img_{conf}, key_{img}, key_d, i$ )

---

Input: Confused image  $Img_{conf}$ , key image  $key_{img}$ , diffusion key  $key_d$ , iteration number  $i$

Output: Cipher image  $Img_{enc}$

Step 1. If ( $i == 1$ )  $Img_{temp} = Img_{conf} \oplus key_{img}$

- 1) Else  $Img_{temp} = Img_{conf}$

Step 2.  $k = \text{mod}(key_d, 5) + 1$  //Determine transformation matrix  $H^k$

Step 3.  $Img_{enc} \leftarrow \phi; temp \leftarrow \phi$

Step 4. Select 3 pixels  $\{p_1, p_2, p_3\}$  from  $Img_{temp}$

- a.  $Img_{enc} = Img_{enc} || temp$
- b.  $\{p'_1, p'_2, p'_3\} = TT(\{p_1, p_2, p_3\})$
- c.  $temp = \{p'_1, p'_2, p'_3\}$
- d. If three or more pixels are available in  $Img_{temp}$   
GOTO Step 4

Step 5. Is there is no pixel in  $Img_{temp}$

- a.  $Img_{enc} = Img_{enc} || temp$
- b. GOTO Step 8

Step 6. If there is one pixel,  $p_1$ , in  $Img_{temp}$

- a.  $\{p''_2, p''_3, p'_1\} = TT(\{temp(2), temp(3), p_1\})^\xi$
- b.  $Img_{enc} = Img_{enc} || \{p''_2, p''_3, p'_1\} || \{temp(1)\}$
- c. GOTO Step 8

Step 7. If there are two pixels,  $\{p_1, p_2\}$ , in  $Img_{temp}$

- a.  $\{p''_3, p'_1, p'_2\} = TT(\{temp(3), p_1, p_2\})$
- b.  $Img_{enc} = Img_{enc} || \{p''_3, p'_1, p'_2\} || \{temp(1), temp(2)\}$

Step 8. Return  $Img_{enc}$

$\xi$  ' $temp(i)$ ' represents the  $i^{th}$  element of  $temp$

---

In the above process, to handle the pixels, when we have either one or two pixels in the last group, we merge these pixels with some transformed pixels from the immediate previous group. This technique ensures that the size of the input and output images will remain the same. This technique is known as 'cipher stealing' in cryptography. The outline of the proposed diffusion phase is presented in **Algorithm 3: DiffusionPhase()**. Here, the two operations, namely, TT and XOR, are used, and these operations are invertible. Therefore, the diffusion process of the proposed method is also invertible.

**D. IMAGE ENCRYPTION**

In this section, we summarize the proposed image encryption technique. From the plain image, the hash value of the image

is computed using the SHA256 algorithm, and then keys ( $key_c$ ,  $key_d$ ) and key image ( $key_{img}$ ) are computed. Then, the confusion and diffusion phases are executed within the loop. The algorithmic structure of the proposed image encryption method is demonstrated in **Algorithm 4: ImageEncryption()**. Since each step of the proposed image encryption method is invertible, we also have an image decryption method to reconstruct the plain image.

---

**Algorithm 4 : ImageEncryption** ( $Img_{N \times N}$ ,  $Img_{enc}$ ,  $itr$ )
 

---

Input: Plain image  $Img$ , no of iterations  $itr$

Output: Cipher image  $Img_{enc}$

Step 1.  $[key_c, key_d, key_{img}] = \text{KeyGeneration}(Img)$

Step 2. For  $i = 1$  to  $itr$

- a.  $Img_{conf} = \text{ConfusionPhase}(Img, key_c)$
- b.  $Img_{enc} = \text{DiffusionPhase}(Img_{conf}, key_{img}, key_d, i)$
- c.  $Img = Img_{enc}$

Step 4. Return  $Img_{enc}$

---

## V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULT

In this section, the performance of the proposed method is presented, and the performance is compared with the state-of-the-art (SoA) methods. In this experiment, we have used ten gray-scale images as test images of size  $512 \times 512$ . Among these images, five images are standard test images commonly used by the image processing community (USC-SIPI database) [74], and the other five images are synthetic (generated by the computer program). The test images are shown in Fig. 2. Images shown in Fig. 2(a)-(e) are standard test images, (f) represents an entirely black image with an intensity value of 0 (binary representation is '00000000' for an 8-bit image), (g) is a purely white image where pixel intensity is 255 (binary representation '11111111'), (h) is a checkerboard image with 50% black pixels and 50% white pixels, (i) is a constant image with an intensity value of 170 (binary representation '10101010'), and (j) is also a constant an image whose intensity value is 85 (binary representation '01010101'). In this figure, we include the bounding box to show the presence of the 'White' image.

In the proposed method, first, we compute the hash value of the plain image using SHA256, and this hash value is considered the key of the proposed method. The size of the key is 256 bits. From this key, the keys of the confusion phase ( $key_c$ ) and diffusion phase ( $key_d$ ) are computed, and a key image ( $key_{img}$ ) is generated. In the confusion phase, to define the Fibonacci transform, we set  $pr = 5$ , which is public information. In the diffusion phase, the transformation matrix is  $H^k$  where  $k = \text{mod}(key_d, 5) + 1$ . The number of iterations is 3 (i.e.,  $itr = 3$ ). The output of the proposed method on the test images is shown in Fig. 3. From this result, we may note that all the output images are noisy irrespective of the input image, so the plain image cannot be predicted from the encryption image. Due to the space problem, henceforth,

for illustration purposes, we have used five images, say, 'Lena', 'Cameraman', 'Black', 'Checkerboard', and 'Constant170'. The reconstructed images with the correct and incorrect decryption keys are shown in Fig. 4(a) and (b), respectively. This result shows that the encrypted images are reconstructed exactly using the correct decryption key. Nothing can be guessed about the original image from the reconstructed image when we use the wrong decryption key. The performance of the proposed method is convincing and may be applicable to different applications.

## VI. SECURITY ANALYSIS

To establish the usability of the proposed method, in this section, we have analyzed the performance of the proposed method in terms of key space analysis, execution time, statistical analysis, and key sensitivity. We also test the robustness of the proposed method against different attacks like differential attacks, known/chosen plaintext attacks, noise attacks, and cropping attacks. Also, we have compared the performance with state-of-the-art (SoA) methods M1 [70], M2 [40], M3 [41], M4 [39], M5 [63], M6 [6], and M7 [75]. We have summarized the encryption process of the SoA methods and the proposed method in Table 2. This presentation will help to visualize all these methods and make them easy to understand for comparison purposes.

### A. KEY SPACE ANALYSIS

As mentioned earlier, the keys for the confusion phase ( $key_c$ ) and diffusion phase ( $key_d$ ) are derived from the SHA value of the plain image. Since SHA256 is used to find the hash value of the plain image, the size of the key space of the proposed method is 256 bits, which is significantly high and sufficient to resist the brute-force attack.

### B. COMPLEXITY AND EXECUTION TIME

From the above discussion about the proposed method, we note the following.

- 1) First, we compute the key, using SHA256, from the given plain image. The complexity of this computation is  $O(M \times N)$ , where  $M \times N$  is the size of the image.
- 2) Next, we define a random image ( $key_{img}$ ) of the same size as the input image. Its complexity is  $O(M \times N)$ .
- 3) In the confusion phase, pixels are scrambled by using Eq. (14), which is nothing but a multiplication between  $2 \times 2$  and  $2 \times 1$  matrices. So, for each iteration of the confusion phase, the complexity is  $O(M \times N)$ .
- 4) Case I. In the diffusion phase, at the very first iteration, the random image ( $key_{img}$ ) is XOR-ed with the confused image, and its complexity is  $O(M \times N)$ .
- 5) Case II. In all iterations the pixels' values are modified using Eq. (15), a multiplication of two matrices of size  $3 \times 3$  and  $3 \times 1$ . So,  $O(M \times N)$  is the complexity of each iteration of the diffusion phase.

Therefore, if the confusion-diffusion phase is iterated  $itr$  times, then the complexity of the proposed image encryption

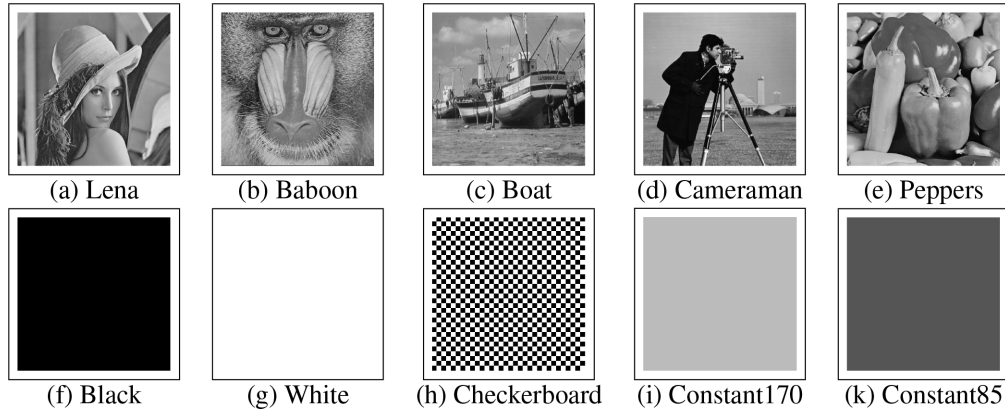


FIGURE 2. Test images used in this experiment.

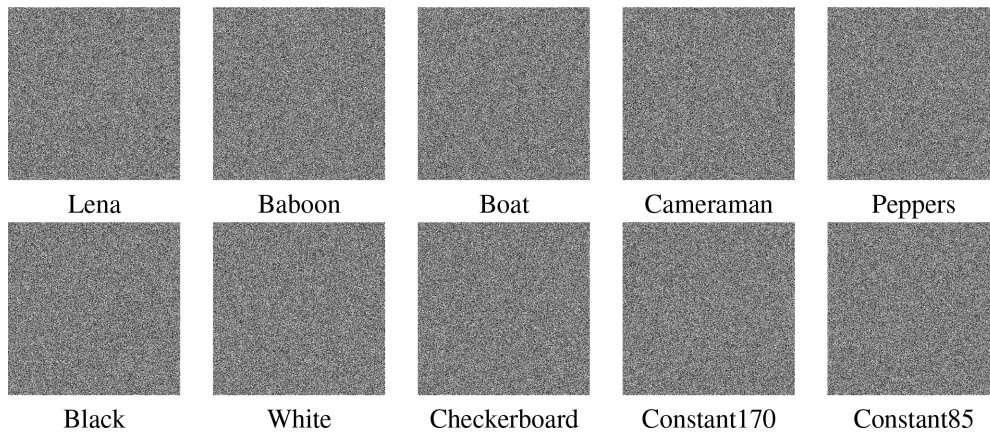


FIGURE 3. Encrypted images.

is  $O(M \times N) + O(M \times N) + O(M \times N) + itr \times (O(M \times N) + O(M \times N))$ . Hence, the complexity of the proposed image encryption is  $O((itr + 3) \times M \times N)$ . In this experiment, we set  $itr = 3$  (see Section V). The actual execution time of an image encryption method is very crucial. Using the above parameters, we do the experiment in two environments:

- 1) Using MATLAB Version: 8.5.0.197613 (R2015a) in the platform of Windows 7 Professional Version 6.1 with the system has Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-3230M CPU @ 2.60GHz and 4GB RAM. Let us refer to the proposed method under this environment as FTTIE (Fibonacci and Tribonacci Transform-based Image Encryption).
- 2) Using MATLAB Version: 9.12.0.1884302 (R2022a) in the platform of Microsoft Windows 10 Pro Version 10.0 with the system has Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-6500 CPU @ 3.20GHz 3.19 GHz 4.00 GB (3.88 GB usable). The second platform is more advanced than the first. Let us refer to the proposed method under this advanced environment as  $FTTIE_{adv}$ .

We report the execution time of the proposed method in Table 3. Here, we run the program ten times for each test

image, and we consider the average execution time. The overall average, considering all images, is 0.531 sec, and 0.288 sec, respectively. The comparison of the execution time with the SoA method is given in Table 4. We also include the system configuration of the respective methods, which helps us to compare. We note that the proposed method is faster than the SoA methods. For execution time only, we run the proposed model in two different environments. For other analyses, there is no effect of advanced architecture, i.e., we will have the same result irrespective of these two platforms. Hence, hereafter, we use the term FTTIE to refer to the proposed method.

### C. RANDOMNESS ANALYSIS

It is known that there are strong correlations among the adjacent pixels of the original image. Due to these correlations, the value of the current pixel can be predicted from the neighboring pixels in the case of plain images. In image encryption, one of the primary goals is that nothing can be guessed about the plain image from the encrypted image. The goal can be fulfilled if the encrypted image is random and noisy. The proposed method returns noisy-like images,



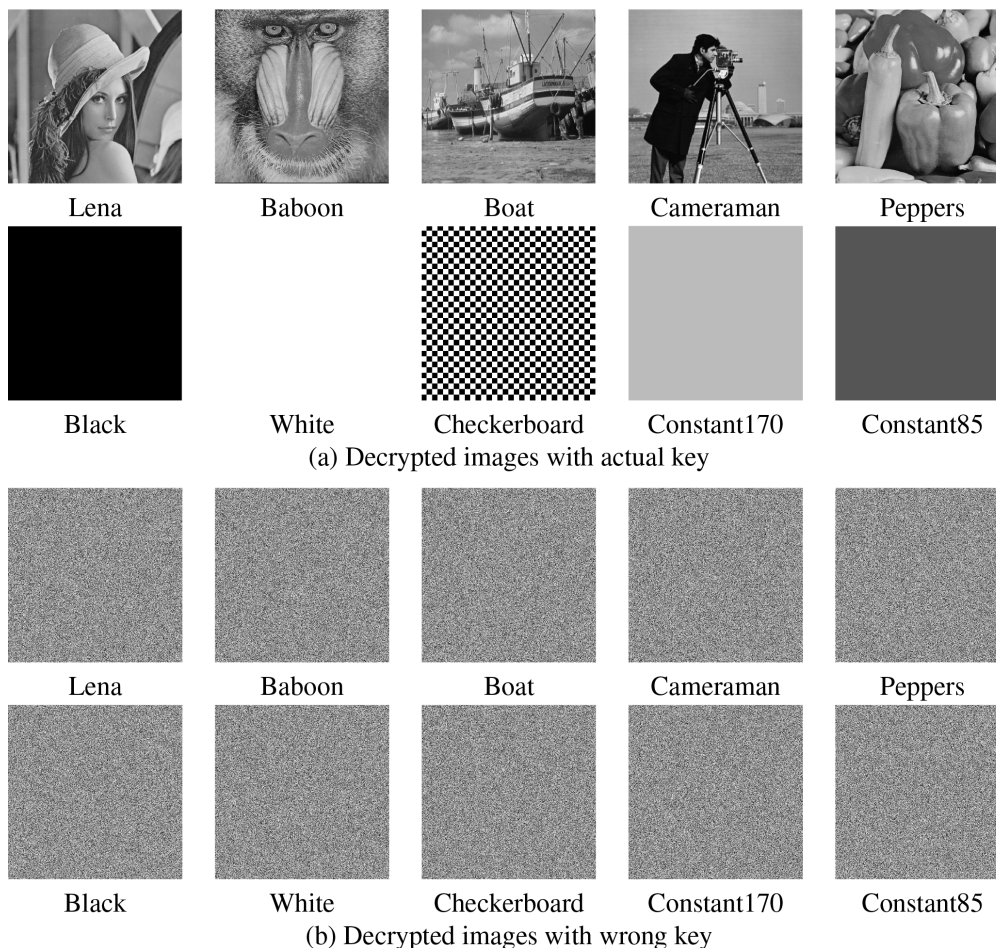


FIGURE 4. Decrypted images: (a) with the actual decryption key, (b) with the wrong decryption key.

as shown in Fig. 3. The point that we need to measure is the randomness of the encrypted image. Here, to study the randomness, we use different analyses like i) histogram analysis, ii) entropy analysis, iii)  $\chi^2$  analysis, and iv) correlation analysis.

### 1) HISTOGRAM ANALYSIS

A histogram attack is a well-known tool for an attacker. Here, an attacker accesses the cipher image and then tries to predict the plain image. The histogram of an image shows the intensity profile of an image. The attacker may be guessed the plain image from known histograms with varying small amounts of the computed histogram. The variation of an almost uniform histogram is negligible; thus, it is impossible to find any clue about the frequency distribution of the image. Therefore, nothing can be guessed about the plain image. Hence, the uniform distribution of the histogram of a cipher image is an essential feature of any image encryption method. Here, the histogram of some of the test images is given in Fig. 5.(a). From these histograms, we note that i) they have specific peaks and ii) they do not cover the entire domain. These characteristics of the histogram of the plain images

are due to the spatial correlations among the adjacent pixels. We can say that an image is random if the intensity of a pixel can be any value of the domain, i.e.,  $P(intensity = i) = P(intensity = j)$ , for all  $i, j \in \{0, 1, \dots, 255\}$  (for 8-bit grayscale image). All the intensity values are equally probable (i.e., the frequency of each intensity is almost the same). This phenomenon is reflected in Fig. 5.(b). The figure shows that the histograms are uniformly distributed and cover the entire intensity domain. Since our proposed method returns a noisy image and a uniform histogram, we may assume that encrypted images are random.

### 2) ENTROPY ANALYSIS

The entropy of a source measures the information contained in the source. A source has more information (less predictable or highly random) if the entropy of the source is large. The entropy of a source is measured by Eq. (17), where  $p(s_i)$  is the probability of the  $i^{th}$  symbol,  $s_i$ , of the source  $S$ .

$$H(S) = - \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} p(s_i) \log_2 p(s_i) \tag{17}$$

TABLE 2. Studied SoA methods along with the proposed method.

| Schemes | Process of encryption  | Techniques introduced/employed  |
|---------|--|---|
| M1 [70] | 1) Permutation is generated using a zig-zag scan-based pattern<br>2) The initial seed of the chaotic map is generated from the plain image<br>3) Diffusion is done using XOR operation   | zig-zag scan based chaotic feedback convolution model                         |
| M2 [40] | 1) An intermediate cipher image is created using DNA module<br>2) RNA module is used to produce the final cipher image   | DNA rules, DNA-XOR operator, and chaotic map                                  |
| M3 [41] | 1) Hash value of the plain image is used for the initial value of the chaos and to permute the pixels of the image<br>2) DNA XOR and RNA codons complement operators are used in diffusion.  | A new Chaotic Evolutionary Biomolecules Model, DNA, and RNA                   |
| M4 [39] | 1) The plain image is converted to the DNA image using binary coding rules<br>2) A BST is created from the DNA image using Logistic map<br>3) DNA-BST is superimposed on DNA Image using XOR operation to get encrypted image  | computing Binary search tree, DNA coding, Logistic map                        |
| M5 [63] | 1) Given a polynomial, the value of the polynomial is computed at some selected points where the points are selected by interval bisection method<br>2) This sequence is used to define i) circular shift in confusion phase and ii) substitution matrix and mask image same size as the given image of the diffusion phase.       | Interval bisection method, Circular shift, Substitution and XOR method        |
| M6 [6]  | 1) The permutation is defined using points selected by Regula-Falsi method<br>2) image encryption is achieved by pixel value substitution and iterative addition with the cyclic shift.  | Regula-Falsi method, Substitution, Iterative addition, Circular shift         |
| M7 [75] | 1) A unified key is used to select the key pixels<br>2) DNA encryption is performed on the key pixels in their original locations<br><br>3) Other pixels of the image are encrypted by using the key stream generated by the hyperchaotic Lorenz system to perform operations such as scrambling, DNA encoding, cyclic shift, etc. | Key pixels, hyperchaotic Lorenz system Scrambling, DNA encoding, Cyclic shift |
| Prop.   | 1) The hash value of image is used as key<br>2) The pixels are permuted using Fibonacci Transformation<br>3) Scrambled image is XOR-ed with a key image generated using the key<br>4) The pixel values are changed using Tribonacci Transformation   | Key image, Fibonacci Transformation, and Tribonacci Transformation            |

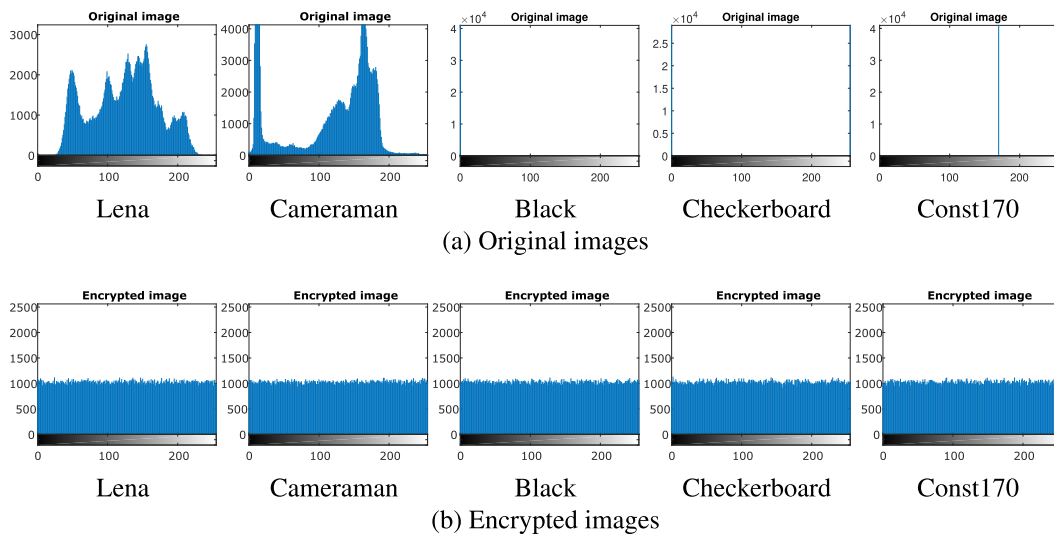


FIGURE 5. Histogram of the images: (a) Original images, (b) Encrypted images.

When all symbols of  $S$  are equally likely, the source's entropy is maximum. So, when a source is genuinely random, its entropy is maximized, which is a necessary condition (i.e., maximum entropy does not indicate that the source is random). In the case of 8-bit grayscale images, the maximum entropy is eight, and the computed entropy of the plain and encrypted images is reported in Table 5.

The entropy values of the encrypted images are almost 8, and the noisy structure of the cipher images guarantees that the cipher images are random. Table 6 reports the comparative performance of the proposed method with the SoA methods. From this table, we observe that the performance of the proposed method is comparable with the SoA methods.

**TABLE 3. Average execution time in sec.**

| Image        | Execution time |                      |
|--------------|----------------|----------------------|
|              | FTTIE          | FTTIE <sub>adv</sub> |
| Lena         | 0.536126       | 0.284235             |
| Baboon       | 0.568398       | 0.281999             |
| Boat         | 0.538379       | 0.300635             |
| Cameraman    | 0.517202       | 0.284769             |
| Peppers      | 0.548757       | 0.308050             |
| Black        | 0.504455       | 0.269685             |
| White        | 0.511780       | 0.286664             |
| Checkerboard | 0.519854       | 0.286427             |
| Constant170  | 0.540580       | 0.290878             |
| Constant85   | 0.527916       | 0.290954             |
| Average      | 0.531345       | 0.288429             |

**TABLE 4. Comparison of execution time (in seconds).**

| Method (image size)                 | System specification  | Execution Time |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| M1 [70]<br>(256 × 256)              | Intel Pentium N3540, 2.16 GHz CPU,<br>8 GB RAM, Windows 10, Matlab R2018a | 10.440         |
| M2 [40]<br>(512 × 512)              | Intel Core i7, 2.3 GHz CPU,<br>8 GB RAM, Windows 8, Python 3              | 1.494          |
| M4 [39]<br>(512 × 512)              | Intel Core i7, 2.3 GHz CPU,<br>8 GB RAM, Windows 8, MATLAB 2014           | 3.009          |
| M6 [6]<br>(512 × 512)               | Intel core i5, 2.3 GHz CPU,<br>MATLAB R2018b                              | 0.620          |
| M7 [75]<br>(512 × 512)              | Intel Core i7-8700, 3.20 GHz CPU<br>8 GB RAM, Windows 10, Matlab R2020b   | 0.798          |
| FTTIE<br>(512 × 512)                | Intel Core i5-3230M CPU, 2.60GHz,<br>4 GB RAM, Windows 7, MATLAB R2015a   | 0.531          |
| FTTIE <sub>adv</sub><br>(512 × 512) | Intel Core i5-6500 CPU, 3.20GHz<br>4 GB RAM, Windows 10, MATLAB R2022a    | 0.288          |

**TABLE 5. Entropy of the original and encrypted images.**

| Image        | Original  | Encrypted |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Lena         | 7.445061  | 7.999287  |
| Baboon       | 7.358337  | 7.999289  |
| Boat         | 7.191370  | 7.999302  |
| Cameraman    | 7.047955  | 7.999367  |
| Peppers      | 7.593654  | 7.999270  |
| Black        | -0.000000 | 7.999353  |
| White        | -0.000000 | 7.999410  |
| Checkerboard | 1.000000  | 7.999244  |
| Constant170  | -0.000000 | 7.999199  |
| Constant85   | -0.000000 | 7.999191  |

From above, we note that the performance of the proposed method in term of the entropy analysis is acceptable. The global (image) entropy is significantly high; it does not imply that it is also high in every region of the cipher image. It may happen that for some blocks, entropy is low. To test the robustness of the proposed method, here, we also compute the entropy at the block level. For this purpose,  $(k, T_B)$ -local Shannon entropy is computed as

$$H_{(k, T_B)} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k H(B_i) \quad (18)$$

where  $k$  is the number of blocks and  $B_i$ 's (for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ) are randomly selected non-overlapping blocks with  $T_B$  pixels. The  $(30, 1936)$ -local Shannon entropy lies in the range  $[7.901901305, 7.903037329]$  [76]. The performance of the proposed method in  $(30, 1936)$  setup is given in Table 7. From this table, we observe that the proposed method passed the test for all the images. Therefore, the cipher images are highly random.

### 3) CORRELATION ANALYSIS

The correlation coefficient ( $\rho_{xy}$ ), between two random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ , determines the level of accuracy of a predicted value  $x'$  of  $x \in X$  using  $y \in Y$ . The correlation coefficient ( $\rho_{xy}$ ) between the random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  is computed as given in Eq. (19).

$$\rho_{xy} = \frac{\text{cov}(X, Y)}{\sqrt{D(X)}\sqrt{D(Y)}}$$

where

$$\text{cov}(X, Y) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - E(X))(y_i - E(Y))$$

$$E(X) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i, \quad E(Y) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N y_i$$

$$D(X) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - E(X))^2, \quad D(Y) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - E(X))^2 \quad (19)$$

In the case of an original image, the level of accuracy is very high when a pixel is predicted from neighboring pixels (known as spatial correlation). Hence, in cryptographic attacks, the spatial correlation of the pixels is exploited. One crucial objective of image encryption is to reduce the spatial correlation of the encrypted image. We consider three adjacency relations: horizontal, vertical, and diagonal. As a result, a collection of adjacent pixels is considered in this analysis phase. In this implementation, we consider 5000 pairs of adjacent pixels where  $X$  denotes the intensity of the first pixels of the selected pairs, and the intensity of the second pixels is denoted by  $Y$ . The correlation of the adjacent pixels of the plain images and the cipher images is given in Table 8. The table shows that the correlation in plain images is very high, a prominent characteristic of an original image. For the encrypted images, the correlation is close to zero; therefore, an attacker cannot obtain any information about the cipher image from some known pixels. So, nothing can be guessed about the plain image, an essential feature of an image encryption method. Hence, the performance of the proposed method is quite good and acceptable. To establish the efficacy of the proposed method, we compared the correlation coefficients of the test images given by the proposed method with the SoA methods. The comparative result is shown in Table 9. If we compare the performance image-wise, then we have mixed observations. For example, the performance of the FTTIE method for Baboon is better for horizontal correlation.

**TABLE 6.** The performance of the proposed method and SoA methods in terms of entropy.

| Method→      | M1     | M2     | M3     | M4     | M5     | M6     | M7     | FTTIE  |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Image ↓      | [70]   | [40]   | [41]   | [39]   | [63]   | [6]    | [75]   |        |
| Lena         | 7.9994 | 7.9994 | 7.9995 | 7.9992 | 7.9993 | 7.9993 | 7.9994 | 7.9993 |
| Baboon       | 7.9991 | 7.9994 | 7.9994 | 7.9990 | 7.9993 | 7.9993 | 7.9992 | 7.9993 |
| Boat         | 7.9990 | 7.9992 | 7.9994 | 7.9991 |        |        |        | 7.9993 |
| Cameraman    | 7.9992 | 7.9993 | 7.9994 | 7.9991 | 7.9993 | 7.9993 |        | 7.9994 |
| Peppers      | 7.9993 | 7.9993 | 7.9994 | 7.9983 | 7.9994 | 7.9993 | 7.9993 | 7.9993 |
| Black        |        |        |        |        | 7.9994 | 7.9993 |        | 7.9994 |
| Checkerboard |        |        |        |        | 7.9993 | 7.9993 |        | 7.9992 |

**TABLE 7.** (30, 1936)-local Shannon entropy on the cipher images.

| Image        | local Shannon entropy | Remark |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Lena         | 7.902567              | Pass   |
| Baboon       | 7.902946              | Pass   |
| Boat         | 7.903012              | Pass   |
| Cameraman    | 7.902496              | Pass   |
| Peppers      | 7.902021              | Pass   |
| Black        | 7.902365              | Pass   |
| White        | 7.901960              | Pass   |
| Checkerboard | 7.902347              | Pass   |
| Constant170  | 7.903025              | Pass   |
| Constant85   | 7.901948              | Pass   |

**TABLE 8.** Correlation coefficients of the images.

| Image        |          | Horizontal | Vertical  | Diagonal  |
|--------------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Lena         | Org img: | 0.969557   | 0.985108  | 0.961273  |
|              | Enc img: | -0.014825  | -0.000664 | 0.007183  |
| Baboon       | Org img: | 0.869555   | 0.759337  | 0.731440  |
|              | Enc img: | 0.000300   | -0.003300 | 0.002763  |
| Boat         | Org img: | 0.931975   | 0.970481  | 0.918183  |
|              | Enc img: | -0.007857  | 0.005314  | -0.003888 |
| Cameraman    | Org img: | 0.982116   | 0.989307  | 0.971991  |
|              | Enc img: | -0.003485  | -0.012058 | -0.002873 |
| Peppers      | Org img: | 0.975656   | 0.980522  | 0.959344  |
|              | Enc img: | -0.015383  | -0.009301 | 0.004001  |
| Black        | Org img: | 1.000000   | 1.000000  | 1.000000  |
|              | Enc img: | -0.007286  | -0.002917 | -0.000073 |
| White        | Org img: | 1.000000   | 1.000000  | 1.000000  |
|              | Enc img: | -0.015854  | 0.009324  | -0.005013 |
| Checkerboard | Org img: | 0.880613   | 0.875203  | 0.776411  |
|              | Enc img: | -0.004700  | 0.014261  | 0.011992  |
| Constant170  | Org img: | 1.000000   | 1.000000  | 1.000000  |
|              | Enc img: | -0.001335  | -0.024532 | -0.019457 |
| Constant85   | Org img: | 1.000000   | 1.000000  | 1.000000  |
|              | Enc img: | -0.020115  | -0.004376 | -0.003340 |

Again, for vertical correlation, the performance of the FTTIE is superior to M2, M4, and M7 but inferior to M1, M5, and M6. At the same time, the FTTIE method is superior to M1, M2, and M7 concerning the diagonal correlation, whereas FTTIE is inferior to M4, M5, and M6. A similar type of mix observations is there for different images when we compare the performance of the FTTIE method with SoA methods. So, the performance of the proposed method is similar to that of the SoA methods.

Also, to visualize the relationships among the adjacency pixels of the images, we consider the selected pairs of pixels and plot the intensity value as the scatter diagram, which is a joint distribution. Here, horizontal, vertical, and diagonal

neighbors are taken. The scatter diagrams are shown in Fig. 6. This figure has three parts (a) - (c). In each part, the first row shows the scatter diagram of the original images, and the second row represents the scatter diagram of the encrypted images. In the case of the original images, (i) For ‘Lena’ and ‘Cameraman’, the points of the scatter diagrams are distributed along the line  $y = x$ , and this shows that there is a high correlation among the adjacent pixels of these images; (ii) The ‘Black’ image has only one dot at (0, 0) location, and this implies that pixels are 100% correlated; (iii) All the scatter diagrams of the ‘Checkerboard’ image has four dots at the locations  $\{(0, 0), (0, 255), (255, 0), (255, 255)\}$  and due to the off-diagonal points (0, 255) and (255, 0) the correlation among the pixels is comparatively less; (iv) The scatter diagrams of the ‘Constant170’ has only one point at location (170, 170), so pixels are 100% correlated. We also have similar observations for the other original images. The result of Table 8 supports our above observations. For the cipher images, we note that the scatter diagrams are spared over the entire domain [0-255, 0-255], which implies that the correlation among the adjacent pixels of the cipher images is almost zero (this is also supported by Table 8). So, the performance of the proposed method is pretty good.

#### 4) $\chi^2$ -TEST

The  $\chi^2$ -test calculates the difference between the observed and expected values of statistical samples. The  $\chi^2$ -test can be used as another important measure to analyze the uniformity of the cipher image’s histogram (i.e., randomness) [75]. Here, we expect that the histogram is uniform and the expected frequency of any gray value  $e \in [0, 255]$  is  $f_e = \frac{M \times N}{256}$ , for an 8-bit grayscale image of size  $M \times N$ . The  $\chi^2$  value of a cipher image can be defined by Eq (20):

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=0}^{255} \frac{(f_i - f_e)^2}{f_e} \tag{20}$$

where  $f_i$  is the frequency of the gray value  $i$  in the cipher image. When the  $\chi^2$  value is high, the distribution is less analogous to the uniform distribution. If two distributions are identical, the  $\chi^2$  value is 0, indicating that the theoretical value is consistent. When the significant level is 0.05, the ideal value is  $\chi_{255,0.5}^2 = 293.2478$ , where the degree of freedom is 255 for an 8-bit image [75]. The  $\chi^2$  value of the cipher images is given in Table 10. Table 10 supports our conclusions: i) original images do not have a uniform



**TABLE 9.** The performance of the proposed method and SoA methods in terms of correlation coefficients.

| Method→<br>Image ↓ | Direction  | M1<br>[70] | M2<br>[40] | M4<br>[39] | M5<br>[63] | M6<br>[6] | M7<br>[75] | FTTIE     |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Lena               | Horizontal | -0.002062  | 0.0054     | 0.0007     | 0.002097   | 0.001853  | -0.0026    | -0.014825 |
|                    | Vertical   | 0.003685   | 0.0192     | 0.0017     | 0.002767   | 0.001984  | -0.0033    | -0.000664 |
|                    | Diagonal   | 0.000249   | 0.0055     | 0.0008     | -0.002901  | 0.000743  | 0.0004     | 0.007183  |
| Baboon             | Horizontal | -0.005890  | 0.0059     | 0.0009     | -0.002659  | 0.000433  | 0.0019     | 0.000300  |
|                    | Vertical   | -0.001884  | 0.0047     | 0.0026     | -0.001401  | 0.001475  | -0.0041    | -0.003300 |
|                    | Diagonal   | -0.009670  | 0.0058     | 0.0006     | -0.002419  | 0.000648  | -0.0099    | 0.002763  |
| Boat               | Horizontal | -0.002261  | 0.0052     | 0.0007     |            |           |            | -0.007857 |
|                    | Vertical   | -0.000162  | 0.0007     | 0.0031     |            |           |            | 0.005314  |
|                    | Diagonal   | 0.000207   | 0.0151     | 0.0007     |            |           |            | -0.003888 |
| Cameraman          | Horizontal | -0.000280  | 0.0068     | 0.0035     | 0.004615   |           |            | -0.003485 |
|                    | Vertical   | -0.000445  | 0.0023     | 0.0041     | -0.000353  |           |            | -0.012058 |
|                    | Diagonal   | 0.000259   | 0.0092     | 0.0014     | 0.003272   |           |            | -0.002873 |
| Peppers            | Horizontal | -0.000434  | 0.0149     | 0.0029     | -0.001076  | 0.001180  | -0.0063    | -0.015383 |
|                    | Vertical   | -0.000446  | 0.0077     | 0.0059     | 0.001394   | 0.000721  | -0.0006    | -0.009301 |
|                    | Diagonal   | 0.000195   | 0.0002     | 0.0018     | -0.002952  | 0.001784  | -0.0046    | 0.004001  |
| Black              | Horizontal |            |            |            | 0.001646   |           |            | -0.007286 |
|                    | Vertical   |            |            |            | -0.001508  |           |            | -0.002917 |
|                    | Diagonal   |            |            |            | 0.005440   |           |            | -0.000073 |
| Checkerboard       | Horizontal |            |            |            | -0.002520  |           |            | -0.004700 |
|                    | Vertical   |            |            |            | -0.001171  |           |            | 0.014261  |
|                    | Diagonal   |            |            |            | 0.004867   |           |            | 0.011992  |

**TABLE 10.**  $\chi^2$  value of the original and cipher images.

| Image        | Original        | Cipher     |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| Lena         | 158349.355469   | 259.451172 |
| Baboon       | 187356.572266   | 259.167969 |
| Boat         | 383969.687500   | 253.525391 |
| Cameraman    | 418530.146484   | 229.529297 |
| Peppers      | 120165.796875   | 265.492188 |
| Black        | 66846720.000000 | 234.914063 |
| White        | 66846720.000000 | 214.857422 |
| Checkerboard | 33292288.000000 | 275.041016 |
| Constant170  | 66846720.000000 | 290.718750 |
| Constant85   | 66846720.000000 | 289.310547 |

distribution (see Fig. 5(a)), and the  $\chi^2$  values are very high; ii) for cipher images, the value is less than 293.2478, indicating an almost uniform histogram (see Fig. 5(b)). Therefore, the proposed image encryption method can successfully counter statistical attacks.

##### 5) PIXEL DISPARITY ANALYSIS

A straightforward approach to obtaining the relationship between the plain and cipher images is to find the pixel-wise difference between images. Commonly used parameters are mean square error (MSE), peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR), and mean absolute error (MAE), which are defined in Eq. 21).

$$MSE = \frac{1}{M \times N} \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^N (P(i, j) - C(i, j))^2$$

$$PSNR = 10 \times \log_{10} \frac{255^2}{MSE} \text{ dB}$$

**TABLE 11.** Pixel disparity between the plain image and cipher image.

| Image        | MAE        | MSE          | PSNR     |
|--------------|------------|--------------|----------|
| Lena         | 73.017334  | 7775.909210  | 9.223292 |
| Baboon       | 70.936752  | 7236.867638  | 9.535297 |
| Boat         | 72.429760  | 7628.511555  | 9.306406 |
| Cameraman    | 79.425556  | 9396.519512  | 8.401133 |
| Peppers      | 75.414028  | 8396.533710  | 8.889803 |
| Black        | 127.426994 | 21708.028267 | 4.764600 |
| White        | 127.302147 | 21667.287865 | 4.772758 |
| Checkerboard | 127.459908 | 21698.784279 | 4.766450 |
| Constant170  | 70.995754  | 7256.970516  | 9.523250 |
| Constant85   | 71.022579  | 7265.353962  | 9.518236 |

$$MAE = \frac{1}{M \times N} \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^N |P(i, j) - C(i, j)| \quad (21)$$

where  $P$  and  $Q$  are the corresponding plain and cipher images, respectively, MSE and PSNR have an inverse relation, i.e., when two images are similar, MSE will be less, and in that case, the PSNR value will be high. In the case of image encryption, we expect that MSE will be as large as possible (i.e., PSNR is less). On the other hand, MSE and MAE have similar behavior, i.e., when MSE is large, then MAE also has a high value and vice versa. Table 11 reflects our observations, and we note that the PSNR value is very low (or MSE/MAE is high). So, predicting the plain image from the cipher image is impossible.

##### D. KEY SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS OF ENCRYPTION PROCESS

Key sensitivity analysis means we must test whether the proposed method is key sensitive. An image encryption method is said to be key sensitive if the method produces two different cipher images from the same plain image when two different

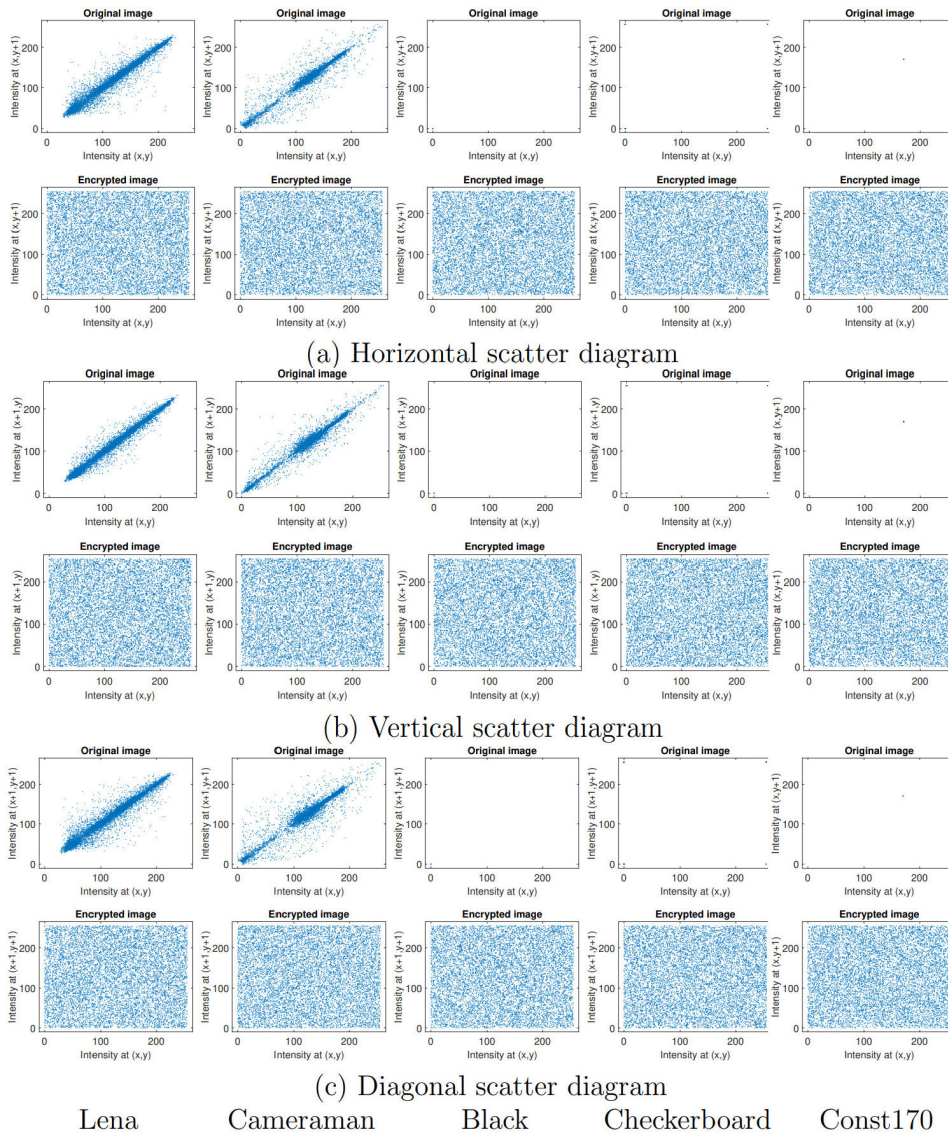


FIGURE 6. Scatter diagrams of some original and corresponding encrypted images.

encryption keys (maybe a single bit difference) are used. In this testing part, we have derived the second key (for the encryption) from the first by complementing a particular bit. Two parameters, NPCR (Number of Pixel Change Rate) and UACI (Unified Average Changing Intensity) are used to measure the deviation between two cipher images. NPCR and UACI can be formulated in Eq. (22).

$$NPCR = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{M,N} D(i, j)}{M \times N} \times 100\%$$

$$UACI = \frac{1}{M \times N} \left[ \sum_{i,j} \frac{|C_1(i, j) - C_2(i, j)|}{255} \right] \times 100\%$$

where  $D(i, j)$  defined as

$$D(i, j) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } C_1(i, j) \neq C_2(i, j) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are two cipher images of the same size  $M \times N$  obtained from the same plain image using two different keys. The ideal NPCR and UACI are 100% and 33.33%, respectively [23]. In this experiment, the key size is 256, and we consider five cases, as given in Table 12, to analyze the key sensitivity of the proposed method. The NPCR and UACI under the above test cases and their average values for the test images are given in Tables 13 and 14.

From these two tables, we note that the computed values are very close to the ideal value, and we may conclude that the proposed image encryption method is highly key-sensitive. The comparison with SoA methods is given in Table 15, where the NPCR value is reported. From this table,



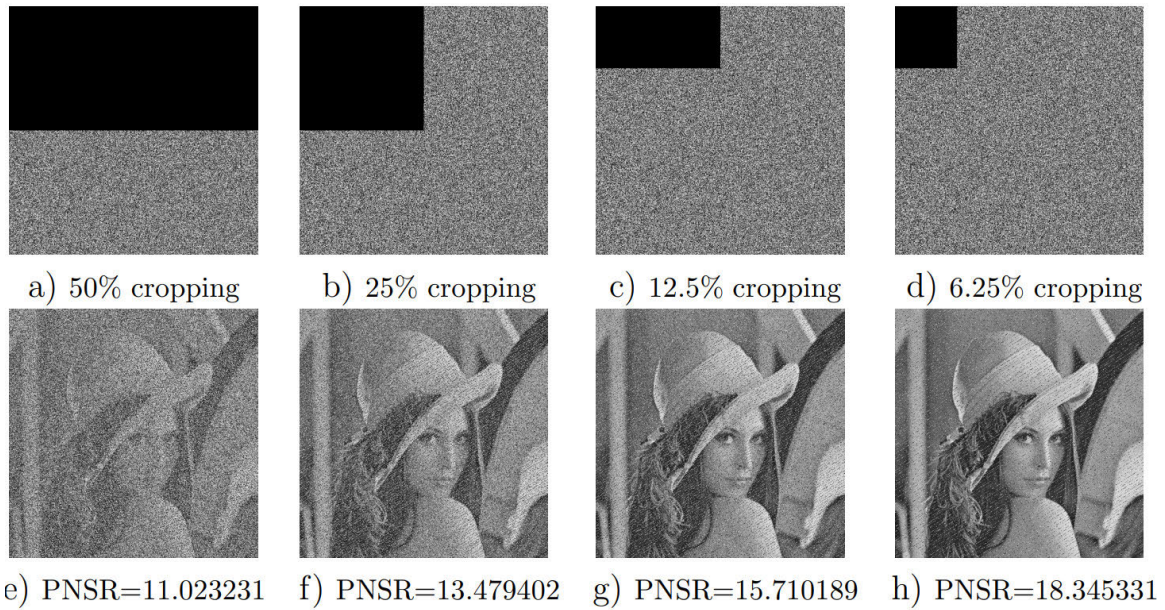


FIGURE 7. Deciphered 'Lena cipher images' with different degrees of cropping.

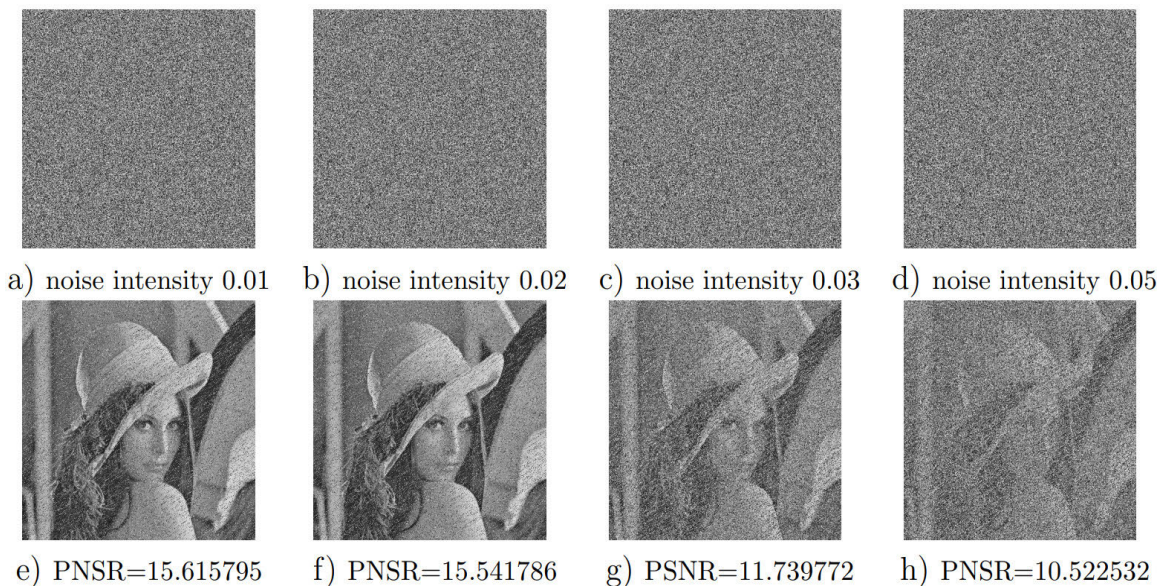


FIGURE 8. Cipher images with different degrees of Salt & Pepper noise (a - d) and corresponding decipher images (e - f).

TABLE 12. Test cases of key sensitivity analysis.

| Test cases<br>→  | Case 1          | Case 2           | Case 3            | Case 4            | Case 5            |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Bit complemented | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 56 <sup>th</sup> | 132 <sup>nd</sup> | 208 <sup>th</sup> | 256 <sup>th</sup> |

we observe that the performance of the proposed method is similar to the first two existing methods [40], [41]. However, it is slightly less than the third method [39].

**E. KEY SENSITIVITY OF THE DECRYPTION PROCESS**

In this section, we study the key sensitivity of the proposed decryption process. It is already mentioned that the proposed

decryption method can only produce the original image if the correct key is given (see Fig. 4(b)). To test the key sensitivity of the decryption process, we consider two cases:

- 1) The cipher image is decrypted by keys  $key_a$  and  $key'_a$ , where  $key_a$  is the actual key and  $key'_a$  is derived from  $key_a$  by flipping only one bit. So, the decrypted image with  $key_a$  is the original image, and the deciphered image using  $key'_a$  is a noise-like image, as shown in Fig. 4(b). Then the NPCR and UACI values between the original and noisy decipher images are computed.
- 2) In this scenario, the same cipher image is decrypted using  $key'_a$  and  $key''_a$ , respectively, where  $key''_a$  is obtained from  $key'_a$  by complementing a bit other than

TABLE 13. NPCR measure (%) for key sensitivity analysis.

| Test condition → | Case 1    | Case 2    | Case 3    | Case 4    | Case 5    | Average   |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Image ↓          | NPCR      | NPCR      | NPCR      | NPCR      | NPCR      | NPCR      |
| Lena             | 99.582291 | 99.598694 | 99.608612 | 99.200058 | 99.582291 | 99.514389 |
| Baboon           | 99.606323 | 99.614716 | 99.605942 | 99.605942 | 99.594879 | 99.605560 |
| Boat             | 99.611664 | 99.606323 | 99.584198 | 99.595642 | 99.615479 | 99.602661 |
| Cameraman        | 99.596024 | 99.605560 | 99.232101 | 99.594498 | 99.628067 | 99.531250 |
| Peppers          | 99.603271 | 99.604797 | 99.598694 | 99.597931 | 99.619293 | 99.604797 |
| Black            | 99.621582 | 99.621582 | 99.612808 | 99.621582 | 99.593353 | 99.614181 |
| White            | 99.626923 | 99.602509 | 99.618149 | 99.623871 | 99.613190 | 99.616928 |
| Checkerboard     | 99.615479 | 99.579620 | 99.610901 | 99.615479 | 99.214935 | 99.527283 |
| Constant170      | 99.548340 | 99.615097 | 99.580383 | 99.600601 | 99.644470 | 99.597778 |
| Constant85       | 99.603653 | 99.595642 | 99.622345 | 99.622345 | 99.612808 | 99.611359 |

TABLE 14. UACI measure (%) for key sensitivity analysis.

| Test condition → | Case 1    | Case 2    | Case 3    | Case 4    | Case 5    | Average   |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Image ↓          | UACI      | UACI      | UACI      | UACI      | UACI      | UACI      |
| Lena             | 33.348443 | 33.442854 | 33.459736 | 33.409161 | 33.348443 | 33.401727 |
| Baboon           | 33.309637 | 33.410598 | 33.424123 | 33.358507 | 33.420190 | 33.384611 |
| Boat             | 33.414022 | 33.483049 | 33.402626 | 33.425547 | 33.522388 | 33.449526 |
| Cameraman        | 33.539064 | 33.485827 | 33.489577 | 33.494475 | 33.530526 | 33.507894 |
| Peppers          | 33.408230 | 33.468824 | 33.460194 | 33.413883 | 33.503502 | 33.450927 |
| Black            | 33.450742 | 33.453988 | 33.443636 | 33.453988 | 33.546138 | 33.469698 |
| White            | 33.515939 | 33.451167 | 33.454111 | 33.518425 | 33.511207 | 33.490170 |
| Checkerboard     | 33.489221 | 33.394068 | 33.493416 | 33.489221 | 33.396577 | 33.452501 |
| Constant170      | 33.550738 | 33.464792 | 33.509507 | 33.360810 | 33.497044 | 33.476578 |
| Constant85       | 33.421457 | 33.477122 | 33.406869 | 33.406869 | 33.402857 | 33.423035 |

TABLE 15. The key sensitivity of the proposed method and SoA methods in terms of NPCR in %.

| Method →  | M2 [40] | M3 [41] | M4 [39] | FTTIE   |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Lena      | 99.60   | 99.5998 | 99.93   | 99.5144 |
| Baboon    | 99.61   | 99.6101 | 99.93   | 99.6056 |
| Boat      | 99.60   | 99.5977 | 99.95   | 99.6027 |
| Cameraman | 99.60   | 99.6071 | 99.88   | 99.5313 |
| Peppers   | 99.62   | 99.5983 | 99.92   | 99.6048 |

TABLE 16. Key sensitivity measure of the decryption process in %.

| Test condition → | $key_a \rightarrow key'_a$ |         | $key'_a \rightarrow key''_a (\neq key_a)$ |         |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------|---|---------|
|                  | NPCR                       | UACI    | NPCR                                      | UACI    |
| Image ↓          |                            |         |   |         |
| Lena             | 99.6033                    | 28.6088 | 99.5903                                   | 33.4537 |
| Baboon           | 99.5424                    | 27.8631 | 99.6250                                   | 33.5700 |
| Boat             | 99.5636                    | 28.4531 | 99.5861                                   | 33.4177 |
| Cameraman        | 99.6132                    | 31.1033 | 99.6216                                   | 33.5664 |
| Peppers          | 99.5773                    | 29.5813 | 99.5937                                   | 33.5376 |
| Black            | 99.6033                    | 49.9736 | 99.5987                                   | 33.4442 |
| White            | 99.6296                    | 50.1252 | 99.6162                                   | 33.4315 |
| Checkerboard     | 99.5987                    | 49.9795 | 99.5983                                   | 33.3967 |
| Constant170      | 99.5926                    | 27.8675 | 99.6067                                   | 33.4897 |
| Constant85       | 99.5964                    | 27.8515 | 99.5995                                   | 33.4336 |

the bit which was complemented during the computation of  $key'_a$ . So,  $key'_a$  and  $key''_a$  differ by a single bit, and none of these is the actual key. Both the decipher images, obtained in this case, are noisy, and then we compute the NPCR and UACI values between these two decipher images.

The test results under the above two cases are reported in Table 16. Since in computation of NPCR consider whether the pixels are the same or not so, in both cases, the NPCR value is acceptable. In UACI computation, the actual difference between two pixels is taken. In the first case, one deciphered image is the original one, i.e., not a random image, and the other image is a random one. So, in the first case, we did not achieve the expected value of UACI. In the second case, both the decipher images are noisy (i.e., random), so we achieve the expected result. From these test cases and the result given in Table 16, we may conclude that the proposed decryption process is also highly key-sensitive.

F. DIFFERENTIAL ANALYSIS

Usually, an attacker would slightly modify a plain image and encrypt the images (plain and modified) with a given

TABLE 17. Test cases of differential attacks.

| Test cases →   | Case 1 | Case 2  | Case 3  | Case 4    | Case 5    | Case 6    |
|----------------|--------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Pixel modified | (1,1)  | (1,512) | (512,1) | (512,512) | (256,256) | (150,210) |

algorithm to obtain two cipher images. Then, an attacker tries to find the relationship between the plain image and the cipher image by comparing two encrypted images. This process is known as a ‘difference attack’. A secure image encryption method should resist differential attack, i.e., due to a tiny change in the plain image, the encryption method should produce a different cipher image using the same cryptosystem. Moreover, if it happens, finding any clue about the plain image from the cipher image will be challenging. NPCR and UACI parameters are used to measure the difference between two cipher images. So, we use Eq. (22), where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are the cipher images obtained from the plain and modified



**TABLE 18.** NPCR value (%) due to modified plain image.

| Position→    | (1,1)     | (1,512)   | (512,1)   | (512,512) | (256,256) | (150,210) | Average   |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Image ↓      | NPCR      | NPCR      | NPCR      | NPCR      | NPCR      | NPCR      | NPCR      |
| Lena         | 99.624252 | 99.600983 | 99.612427 | 99.592209 | 99.624252 | 99.626923 | 99.613508 |
| Baboon       | 99.600220 | 99.589157 | 99.616241 | 99.625397 | 99.601364 | 99.596405 | 99.604797 |
| Boat         | 99.589539 | 99.613190 | 99.600601 | 99.605942 | 99.626541 | 99.612808 | 99.608103 |
| Cameraman    | 99.619293 | 99.593735 | 99.608994 | 99.607086 | 99.597168 | 99.601364 | 99.604607 |
| Peppers      | 99.631882 | 99.616241 | 99.633026 | 99.592590 | 99.624252 | 99.610901 | 99.618149 |
| Black        | 99.618530 | 99.587631 | 99.607468 | 99.617004 | 99.596024 | 99.612045 | 99.606450 |
| White        | 99.635315 | 99.591827 | 99.607849 | 99.616623 | 99.611282 | 99.582672 | 99.607595 |
| Checkerboard | 99.607086 | 99.595261 | 99.607468 | 99.605942 | 99.614334 | 99.607468 | 99.606260 |
| Constant170  | 99.607086 | 99.617004 | 99.629974 | 99.632645 | 99.605179 | 99.597168 | 99.614843 |
| Constant85   | 99.603653 | 99.610519 | 99.610519 | 99.609756 | 99.606705 | 99.606705 | 99.607976 |

**TABLE 19.** UACI value (%) due to modified plain image.

| Position→    | (1,1)     | (1,512)   | (512,1)   | (512,512) | (256,256) | (150,210) | Average   |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Image ↓      | UACI      | UACI      | UACI      | UACI      | UACI      | UACI      | UACI      |
| Lena         | 33.413755 | 33.454439 | 33.379728 | 33.454401 | 33.505837 | 33.458171 | 33.444389 |
| Baboon       | 33.451004 | 33.440667 | 33.520867 | 33.439270 | 33.499757 | 33.462248 | 33.468969 |
| Boat         | 33.520524 | 33.427105 | 33.468743 | 33.427565 | 33.468623 | 33.474045 | 33.464434 |
| Cameraman    | 33.515205 | 33.484876 | 33.475239 | 33.480551 | 33.521425 | 33.505224 | 33.497087 |
| Peppers      | 33.396327 | 33.423345 | 33.432240 | 33.446555 | 33.414833 | 33.464578 | 33.429646 |
| Black        | 33.475123 | 33.467127 | 33.490922 | 33.446733 | 33.477324 | 33.429009 | 33.464373 |
| White        | 33.514914 | 33.518723 | 33.495575 | 33.459799 | 33.434952 | 33.522321 | 33.491047 |
| Checkerboard | 33.462349 | 33.494892 | 33.477976 | 33.448968 | 33.473994 | 33.413604 | 33.461964 |
| Constant170  | 33.465041 | 33.510117 | 33.463981 | 33.460575 | 33.432919 | 33.407864 | 33.456749 |
| Cconstant85  | 33.419471 | 33.470540 | 33.420730 | 33.388661 | 33.458832 | 33.454155 | 33.435398 |

**TABLE 20.** The performance of the proposed method and SoA methods against differential attack in %.

| Method→      |      | M1      | M2    | M3      | M4      | M5      | M6      | M7      | FTIE    |
|--------------|------|---------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Image ↓      |      | [70]    | [40]  | [41]    | [39]    | [63]    | [6]     | [75]    |         |
| Lena         | NPCR | 99.6379 | 99.61 | 99.5998 | 99.6289 | 99.6231 | 99.7979 | 99.6167 | 99.6135 |
|              | UACI | 33.4617 | 33.27 | 33.4715 | 33.5420 | 33.4556 | 33.4338 | 33.4589 | 33.4444 |
| Baboon       | NPCR | 99.6264 | 99.62 | 99.6101 | 99.3665 | 99.6162 | 99.8088 | 99.6063 | 99.6048 |
|              | UACI | 33.4948 | 33.19 | 33.4238 | 33.5084 | 33.5117 | 33.3604 | 33.4565 | 33.4690 |
| Boat         | NPCR | 99.6322 | 99.57 | 99.5977 | 99.6742 |         |         |         | 99.6081 |
|              | UACI | 33.4423 | 33.14 | 33.4447 | 33.6392 |         |         |         | 33.4644 |
| Cameraman    | NPCR | 99.6462 | 99.53 | 99.6071 | 99.5283 | 99.6250 | 99.8052 |         | 99.6046 |
|              | UACI | 33.5464 | 33.08 | 33.4647 | 33.4292 | 33.4656 | 33.4173 |         | 33.4971 |
| Peppers      | NPCR | 99.6338 | 99.62 | 99.5983 | 99.6047 | 99.5918 | 99.7873 | 99.6112 | 99.6181 |
|              | UACI | 33.4852 | 33.20 | 33.4823 | 33.3447 | 33.3994 | 33.4353 | 33.4776 | 33.4296 |
| Black        | NPCR |         |       |         |         | 99.6761 | 99.8051 |         | 99.6065 |
|              | UACI |         |       |         |         | 33.9281 | 33.4059 |         | 33.4644 |
| Checkerboard | NPCR |         |       |         |         | 99.6112 | 99.7983 |         | 99.6063 |
|              | UACI |         |       |         |         | 33.5467 | 33.4340 |         | 33.4620 |

images with the same key. In the experiment, the LSB of a particular pixel is complemented to obtain the modified image. Since the cipher image depends on the plain image, different cipher images will be obtained when we modify different pixels. To achieve a more acceptable result in this analysis, we modify different pixels, and corresponding test cases are given in Table 17. The NPCR and UACI values of the underline test cases of differential attacks are reported in Tables 18 and 19. These tables show that the test values are close to the ideal values. Table 18 shows that for each test image, the NPCR value is sometimes less than the ideal value of 99.6094% and sometimes greater than the ideal value. To achieve a more robust result, we report the average value. The average value of NPCR for each test image is almost equal to the ideal value. So, we can conclude that the proposed method can resist the differential attack. The applicability of the proposed method against the differential attack is studied

in Table 20. This study shows that the proposed method performs similarly to the SoA methods.

### G. CHOSEN-PLAINTEXT AND KNOWN-PLAINTEXT ATTACKS

In a chosen-plaintext attack, the attacker can temporarily access the encryption module and use typical plaintext images like 'Black', 'White', or other images to identify the information about the encryption key. The resistance against the chosen-plaintext attack ensures robustness against the known-plaintext attack. In a chosen-plaintext attack, the third party uses the information of some chosen plaintext-ciphertext pairs. However, the attacker can use any plain image other than the actual plain image of the current cipher image, which he wants to break. As the key of the encryption process depends on the plain image and the proposed method is sensitive to the plain image (i.e., robust against

the differential attack), it is not possible to find any relation between the underline cipher image and the cipher image obtained from the used plain image. Hence, the proposed method is robust against the known-plaintext and chosen-plaintext attacks.

#### H. CROPPING ATTACK

A good image encryption method should have the capability to restore the features of the plain image after a certain degree of the cipher image is cropped out. Here, we show the result on image 'Lena' in Fig. 7. The cipher image of 'Lena' is cropped with different levels like 50%, 25%, 12.5%, and 6.25%, and then the decipher images are obtained. Figs. 7(a)-(d) show the cropped cipher images, while Figs. 7(e)-(h) show the decipher images. The PSNR between the plain and deciphered images is also calculated. From the figures, it is easy to understand that the deciphered images are 'Lena', and the quality of the deciphered image is better when the level of cropping is lower. So, the proposed method can restore the features of a plain image to a certain extent, and therefore, the present method can resist cropping attacks.

#### I. NOISE ATTACK

The anti-interference ability of a cryptosystem is the ability of the system to defend against a noise attack. During the transmission of the cipher image, the image may be distorted by the transmission noise, affecting the deciphered image. To test the anti-noise ability of the proposed method, we distort the cipher image with salt-and-pepper noise and then decrypt the image. Here, we test the 'Lena' image. The noisy cipher and corresponding decipher images are shown in Fig. 8. The deciphered images clearly show that those are 'Lena' images; hence, we may conclude that the proposed method can defend against noise attacks.

#### VII. CONCLUSION

This article proposed a new plaintext-based image encryption technique using the Fibonacci and Tribonacci transformations. This method obtains the encryption key from the plain image using SHA256. A  $2 \times 2$  Fibonacci matrix is defined to scramble the image, and a  $3 \times 3$  Tribonacci matrix is used in the diffusion phase to modify the value of the pixels. To our knowledge, this is the first time a Tribonacci Transformation has been used in image encryption. The proposed method has a high key space, and the proposed method has similar performance to SoA methods. The performance of the proposed method is equally suitable for different kinds of images (the test set includes some special images also). This paper highlights a new direction to diffuse the pixels using the Tribonacci Transformation. Since the Tribonacci matrix is  $3 \times 3$ , the proposed method can be extended for color image encryption.

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