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# A Selective Cross-Substitution Technique for Encrypting Color Images Using Chaos, DNA Rules and SHA-512

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**ABSTRACT** An innovative approach of selective encryption for color images is proposed that utilizes SHA-512 hash of plain image to modify initial conditions and control parameters of 1-Dimensional (1D) chaotic maps. The three channels (red, green and blue) of a color image are combined into 1D array and permute using sorted index of a pseudo-random sequence. The 1D permuted array is split into three sub-arrays, DNA encoding is applied on every pixel of each channel chaotically and then separate each DNA encoded channel into its Least Significant Bits (LSB) and Most Significant Bits (MSB). The substitution is carried out in two phases using addition and exclusive-or operations on MSB of each channel only. In 1*st* phase, the DNA addition operation is applied on chaotically selected MSB of a pixel of one channel to LSB part of a pixel of other channel in a twisted fashioned named cross-substitution. The translated DNA bases from pseudo-random numbers are exclusive-or with cross substituted output to surge the complexity. The second substitution phase is accomplished by combining MSB part of a channel with randomly selecting LSB at pixel level. The novel algorithm is highly suitable for real time applications as it requires single round of permutation/substitution which can resist all possible statistical and differential attacks. The simulation results and analysis show that the proposed technique has the best quality output and highly efficient.

**INDEX TERMS** Chaos, color image encryption, DNA rules, cross substitution, selective, SHA-512.

# **I. INTRODUCTION**

With modern times, communications technologies and methods are changing with an enormous pace, the momentum has seen advancements in computing, physical networks and software protocols. The big share of bandwidth across all mediums has now gone to multimedia communications; the users have come way forward from exchange of simple texts. It's the era of embedded media, real streams, live videos, 3D pictures and videos, virtual reality and lot more. The variety of forms a multimedia message can take is huge, so are the sources and applications using it. Along with it conventional theories and soft technologies are revolutionizing like vision

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tech, robotic eyes, pattern classifications, medical sensing and imaging, laser and ultraviolet imaging, 3D plans for remote video assistance, security camera and situation detections. These all demand a secure transmission of underlying image and video streams and messages. The internet being public and highly accessible in terms of network and applications is insecure by nature and any multimedia communication inherits this limitation. The researchers have seen the significance of the algorithms, encryption schemes, crypto systems that can solve this problem efficiently, systematically and without the loss of actual media. The images by nature contain high correlation and duplication of grayscale values in all neighboring groups of pixels, this makes the existing crypto schemes like IDEA, RS4 and IDEAS inefficient and inappropriate [1].

Theory of chaos mothered a new breed of encryption algorithms with its determinable but non-predictive characteristics [2]–[6]. The Chaos falling in type of nonlinear functions is highly sensitive to seeded values, initial conditions, ergodicity and randomization, hence highly suitable for the construction of a crypto system. Being the fundamental structure of an encryption algorithm chaos provides enhanced security, improved complexity, and better speed when compared with its non-chaotic rivals [7]–[16]. Liu and Wang [7] generated the initial conditions for chaotic maps from MD5 of the recorded mouse position and called One-time key system. Wang *et al.* [8] used neural network and Lorenz chaotic system called perceptron model for the image encryption. In 2011, Liu and Wang [9] proposed an image encryption technique based on the permutation of transformed binary matrix from color image at bit-level by piecewise linear

chaotic map (PWLCM). In 2019, [17] parallel computing technique was used for encrypting images based on chaos. These features of chaos making it the choice of researchers and developers.

DNA was firstly brought by L.Adleman (1994) in encryption schemes to help to resolve computational complexity [18]. The DNA encoding was used to convert digital data into cipher and then revert it back [19]. The DNA sequence based algorithms have properties of parallelism and info density like DNA molecules [20]–[26]. The researchers have made a clear dent in improving existing cryptosystems in terms of their robustness to text-attacks by using DNA sequencing [21], [23], [27]–[30]. The DNA based schemes being new and less mature has seen cracking due to low dimensionality of chaotic maps causing periodicity [24], [32], [33]. According to Zhang et al. binary coded algos depict low efficiency on the other side chaotic controlled key is vulnerable to cracking [24]. Similarly, Xie et al suggests crypto schemes by only using scrambling, having no diffusion functions, are less secure causing disassociation of cipher with the plaintext [32]. Liu et al recreated the parallel key by using known partial values of plain or cipher and cracked a crypto scheme built upon DNA sequencing with the help of differential attack [33].

In the current decade, a number of selective encryption techniques for the multimedia data have been proposed [35]–[42]. But we have found few articles on selective encryption techniques on digital images using DNA method [40]–[42]. These selective techniques are proposed for the gray images only. The Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) method is used by author in Ref. [40] to encrypt the most significant bits (MSB) of an image. The pixels of an image are encoded into DNA bases by randomly selecting the DNA rules and then split into fixed size blocks. The MSB of each pixel is diffused by adding with LSB part. After encrypting one block, the secret keys are modified and LSB of the last pixel is used to perform the encryption of 1st pixel of 2nd block and so on. The diffusion process require two rounds to satisfy the process. Kulsoom *et al.* [41] proposed a system in which image is split into MSB and LSB part and then

each part is encoded into DNA bases and then added to get encrypted MSB part. The diffused MSB part is combined sequentially to get the ciphered image [41]. The driving force to construct a newer algorithm by using DNA complementary rules with a bit-level confusion function is the formulation of a competitive crypto scheme which can be ranked higher at existing benchmarks.

In the proposed scheme, a new substitution mechanism is introduced called cross substitution for the color images. The substitution is performed on most significant bits (MSB) of each pixel of plain image under DNA addition and XOR operations. The core idea of the proposed cipher is 24-bit colored image is transformed into 1-dimensional array for pixel permutation then split into three sub-arrays; each representing a color channel. The DNA encoding is applied on each pixel by randomly selecting one of eight DNA complementary rules. Each pixel of the DNA encoded color channels is split into its LSB and MSB parts composed of two DNA bases. The cross substitution is applied between LSB part of a pixel with randomly selected MSB part of a pixel of different channel in cross fashion. The word ''cross'' is used to refer two concepts, one is that MSB part of a pixel of one channel is added to the LSB part of a pixel of other channel. The second concept is that DNA base of LSB part at 1st position is added to the DNA base of MSB part at the 2*nd* position to substitute MSB part of a pixel at 1st position. In order to enforce the strong substitution, the translated DNA bases from pseudo random sequence are XORed with the MSB part to finalize the substitution. The initial conditions and control parameters of 1D chaotic maps are fabricated using SHA-512 of plain image to change the secret keys with a change in the plain image; without any intervention from the user. This modification benefits the system to hinder the common attacks. The prime advantage of this new modified scheme is that it is capable to decrypt into original image despite the accumulation of noise due to transmission channel.

The core achievement of the proposed method is in retrieving original text with a good readable quality from the noise polluted cipher. In this document section [II](#page-1-0) contains literature review, sectio[nIII](#page-2-0) describes the proposed design, Section [IV](#page-6-0) illustrates the achieved results, while robustness of the scheme is compared in section [V.](#page-14-0) Lastly, section [VI](#page-14-1) is for concluding the research.

#### <span id="page-1-0"></span>**II. BACKGROUND**

### A. NEW MODIFIED 1-DIMENSIONAL CHAOTIC MAPS

The most common used chaotic map in image cryptography is logistic map which can be represented with the Equation  $x_{n+1} = \mu \times x_n \times (1 - x_n)$ . The control parameter  $\mu$  has range from  $[0-4]$  and  $x<sub>0</sub>$  is the seed that has the range  $[0-1]$ . The logistic map is in chaotic mode when control parameter  $\mu$  is in the range [3.57-4] which is very short. But once the logistic map enters in chaotic state for  $\mu$ [3.57 – 4], but enters in stable region (non-chaotic area) for 3.85724  $>$   $\mu$  > 3.82843 and the quantitative score of Lyapunov Exponent becomes negative. Another problem is the distribution of

#### <span id="page-2-2"></span>**TABLE 1.** Eight kinds of DNA mapping rules.

00-A $\parallel$ 00-A $\parallel$ 00-C $\parallel$ 00-C $\parallel$ 00-G $\parallel$ 00-G $\parallel$ 00-T $\parallel$ 00-T				
01-C $\vert$ 01-G $\vert$ 01-A $\vert$ 01-T $\vert$ 01-A $\vert$ 01-T $\vert$ 01-C $\vert$ 01-G				
$10-G$   $10-C$   $10-T$   $10-A$   $10-T$   $10-A$   $10-G$   $10-C$				
11-T   11-T   11-G   11-G   11-C   11-C			$11-A$ 11-A	

<span id="page-2-3"></span>**TABLE 2.** XOR operation for DNA sequence.

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<span id="page-2-4"></span>**TABLE 3.** Addition and subtraction algebraic operation for DNA sequence.



pseudo-random numbers that are generated from Logistic map which do not possess the uniformity in the range of [0-1]. The poorly distributed pseudo-random numbers affect the permutation-substitution phases of image encryption which in turn affects the uniform distribution of the encrypted data [11]. C. Pak has devised new version of 1D chaotic maps to deal with such type of problems discussed above [11]. The Equation of new and improved 1D Logistic map is as follows,

<span id="page-2-1"></span>
$$
x_{n+1} = \mu \times x_n \times (1 - x_n) \times 2^k
$$
  
-floor  $\left( (\mu \times x_n \times (1 - x_n)) \times 2^k \right)$  (1)

In Equation [\(1\)](#page-2-1),  $\mu$  has range of [0-10] and *k* has the range [8-20]. The author proved that new version has better positive Lyaponuv Exponent value and has better distribution than the traditional Logistic map. The similar modifications applied to Chebyshev-Chebyshev system (CCS) as follows,

<span id="page-2-8"></span>
$$
x_{n+1} = \cos ((\mu + 1) \times \arccos(x_n)) \times 2^k
$$
  
-*floor*  $\left( (\cos(\mu + 1) \times \arccos(x_n)) \times 2^k \right)$  (2)

#### B. DNA COMPLEMENTARY RULES

The Deoxyribonucleic Acid is a material which forms the basic structure of the Gene for living creature. There are four nucleic acids, A (Adenine), C (Cytosine), G (Guanine) and T (Thymine) which works in pair to form the basic structure. The concept of biological structures can be used to encode and decode the pixels of a digital image. Each pixel consists of 8-bits and can be represented by four DNA bases in which each DNA base represents two bits either 00, 01, 10 or 11. There are four DNA bases, hence  $4! = 24$  kinds of encoding/decoding rules can exist. But only eight of them can be used in digital applications which meet the Watson-Crick complementary rules [43] are shown in Table [1.](#page-2-2) There are some operations like excluisve-OR, addition and subtraction that can be applied on DNA bases are displayed in Tables [2,](#page-2-3) and [3.](#page-2-4)



<span id="page-2-5"></span>**FIGURE 1.** Amount of image information at different bit position.

#### <span id="page-2-0"></span>**III. PROPOSED SCHEME**

The atomic unit of an image is called pixel that may have any score between [0-255] to represent a gray value. The individual pixel requires 8-bits to store its gray value and each bit has different weight corresponding to its location. The most significant bit at positions 8*th* alone contribute 50% of an image information, 7*th* bit contains 25%, 6*th* contains 12.5% and so on. This concept is portrayed in Figure [1](#page-2-5) in which [1\(](#page-2-5)a) is for  $8^{th}$  bit and 1(b) for  $7^{th}$  bit. The bits at lower position has less information hence overall images in [1\(](#page-2-5)d) to [1\(](#page-2-5)f) loss its visual worth. This amount of image information at each bit can be computed using Equation [\(3\)](#page-2-6) [40]. This provides us a clue that four most significant bits have 93.75% of information and are sufficient to achieve image encryption.

<span id="page-2-6"></span>
$$
p(i) = 2^{i} / \sum_{i=0}^{7} 2^{i}
$$
 (3)

#### <span id="page-2-7"></span>A. GENERATION OF INITIAL CONDITIONS

The work considers effective key generation process such that change in one bit of any of the secret key will spread the change on all of the secret keys used in the cryptographic algorithm. To fulfil the goal, initial seeds, provided by key strokes are added up under modulus 1 and a new initial key is calculated denoted by *'key'*. A hash function known SHA-512 is used to generate the initial conditions and control parameters of the proposed system. It is good to explain how to use 128-hexadecimal digits. The string of 512 bits is divide into eight blocks  $h_1, h_2, \cdots, h_8$  and each block is transformed into decimal value of range 0 to 0.0625 by applying  $h_i/2^{68}$ ;

$$
\underbrace{b_1, \cdots, b_{64}}_{h_1} \underbrace{b_{65}, \cdots, b_{128}}_{h_2} \underbrace{b_{129}, \cdots, b_{192}}_{h_3}
$$
\n
$$
\underbrace{b_{193}, \cdots, b_{256}}_{h_4} \underbrace{b_{257}, \cdots, b_{320}}_{h_5} \underbrace{b_{321}, \cdots, b_{384}}_{h_6}
$$
\n
$$
\underbrace{b_{385}, \cdots, b_{448}}_{h_7} \underbrace{b_{449}, \cdots, b_{512}}_{h_8}
$$
\n
$$
(4)
$$

At this stage, system requires the initial seeds as keyboard inputs from the user for 1D chaotic maps. These keys should belong to the interval [0-1] for symmetric encryption and denoted by  $\mu_1$ ,  $\mu_2$ ,  $\mu_3$ ,  $\mu_4$ ,  $w_0$ ,  $x_0$ ,  $y_0$  and  $z_0$ . These keyboard inputs are added to form single key named *'key'*. The benefit of creating single key is that change in one initial condition or control parameter will affect all other keys which in turn will completely change the output (encrypted image). The single *'key'* is generated as follows:

$$
key = \mu_1 + \mu_2 + \mu_3 + \mu_4 + w_0 + x_0 + y_0 + z_0 \mod 1 \quad (5)
$$

New initial values are calculated using *key* and the hash generated values by the following formulas,

$$
\begin{cases}\nw'_0 = w_0 + key + h_1 \\
x'_0 = x_2 + key + h_2 \\
y'_0 = y_0 + key + h_3 \\
z'_0 = z_0 + key + h_4 \\
\mu'_1 = \mu_1 + key + h_5 \\
\mu'_2 = \mu_2 + key + h_6 \\
\mu'_3 = \mu_3 + key + h_7\n\end{cases} \quad \text{(7)}
$$

The above Equations ensures the secret keys will be changed seamlessly on changing the input image without changing the common keys [40].

#### B. IMAGE ENCRYPTION ALGORITHM

The proposed encryption process is described in the following four sub-sections, which includes permutation, DNA encoding, cross substitution and DNA decoding. The inputs to the system are, 24-bit color image *P*(*M*,*N*), common  $(\mu_1, w_0)$ ,  $(\mu_2, x_0)$ ,  $(\mu_3, y_0)$  and  $(\mu_4, z_0)$  keys along with value of *k* to be used for 1D chaotic maps called LSS and CSS. The output will be an encrypted colored image named *E*. Before going into the details of image encryption algorithm, 512-bits hash value from plain image *P* is computed to modify the initial conditions and the system parameters as described in the section [III-A.](#page-2-7) The design of the proposed system is briefly depicted in Figure [2.](#page-3-0)

#### 1) PERMUTATION

The correlation in the adjacent pixels of a channel and correlation between the channels of the color image are very strong in the plain image. The permutation is a method to reduce the correlation of an image. For this, a chaotic sequence *W* is generated by iterating Equation [\(2\)](#page-2-8)  $3MN + t$  times using  $\mu'_1$ and  $w'_0$ . The first *t* elements are discarded to avoid transient effect and then *W* is sorted and record their index as shown in Equation [\(8\)](#page-3-1). A copy of *W* before sorting is maintained which will be used later. The 24-bit color image is transformed into 1D vector of size  $1 \times 3MN$ . The recorded index array  $f_w$  is used to shuffle the positions of pixels to permute the image *P* as shown below,

<span id="page-3-1"></span>
$$
[l_w, f_w] = sort(W)
$$
\n(8)



<span id="page-3-0"></span>**FIGURE 2.** Theme of the proposed image encryption algorithm.

<span id="page-3-3"></span>**TABLE 4.** Addition and subtraction algebraic operation for DNA sequence.

S#	Chaotic interval	Encoding	Decoding
	$0.01 - 0.05, 0.50 - 0.55, 0.95 - 0.99$	<b>AGCT</b>	<b>CTAG</b>
$\overline{2}$	0.05-0.10, 0.45-0.50, 0.9-0.95	<b>GTAC</b>	<b>TCGA</b>
3	$0.20 - 0.25, 0.35 - 0.40, 0.55 - 0.60$	<b>TGCA</b>	<b>ACGT</b>
$\overline{4}$	0.15-0.20, 0.25-0.30, 0.75-0.80	<b>GATC</b>	<b>CATG</b>
5	$0.60 - 0.65, 0.30 - 0.35$	<b>CATG</b>	<b>GATC</b>
6	0.70-0.75, 0.80-0.85	<b>ACGT</b>	<b>TGCA</b>
7	$0.40 - 0.45, 0.65 - 0.70$	<b>TCGA</b>	<b>GTAC</b>
8	$0.10 - 0.15, 0.85 - 0.90$	<b>CTAG</b>	<b>AGCT</b>

The Equation [\(8\)](#page-3-1) depicts sequencing index functionality as  $[\cdot, \cdot] = \text{sort}(\cdot), l_w$  is the generated sequence, where *W* is sorted in ascending. The  $f_w$  holds index value of  $l_w$  to rearrange the items of *P* depicted by Equation [\(9\)](#page-3-2).

<span id="page-3-2"></span>
$$
P' = P[f_w]
$$
 (9)

#### 2) DNA ENCODING

Now split *P* into three vectors, each of size  $1 \times MN$  representing a color channel called R, G and B. These permuted channels are encoded into DNA bases using DNA complementary rules according to Table [4.](#page-3-3) This operation requires three pseudo-random sequences for the selection of DNA rules, which are obtained by splitting copy of *W* into three sub-arrays called  $W_1$ ,  $W_2$  and  $W_3$ .

<span id="page-3-5"></span>
$$
R' = encode(R, W1)
$$
  
\n
$$
G' = encode(G, W2)
$$
  
\n
$$
B' = encode(B, W3)
$$
 (10)

#### 3) CROSS SUBSTITUTION

For selective cross substitution, the image should be split into LSB and MSB parts. So, encoded  $R'$ ,  $G'$  and  $B'$  are separated into its LSB and MSB part as follows,

<span id="page-3-4"></span>
$$
\begin{aligned}\n\left[R'_M(i), R'_L(i)\right] &= R'(i) \\
\left[G'_M(i), G'_L(i)\right] &= G'(i) \\
\left[B'_M(i), B'_L(i)\right] &= B'(i)\n\end{aligned} \tag{11}
$$



<span id="page-4-0"></span>**FIGURE 3.** Theme of the proposed image encryption algorithm.

In the above Equation [\(11\)](#page-3-4),  $i = 1, 2, \cdots, MN$  and  $R'(i)$ represent a pixel of red channel whereas  $R'_{M}(i)$ ,  $R'_{L}(i)$ , are  $MSB$  and LSB parts of  $R'(i)$ . Each MSB and LSB slice consists of two DNA bases and same for other channels. The substitution process requires three pseudo-random sequences of size  $1 \times MN$ , so LLS is iterated 3*MN* times using modified seeds  $\mu'_2$  and  $x'_0$  to get *X*. The *X* is split into three sub-vectors called  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$  and  $X_3$  for the random selection of MSB part of each channel. These chaotic sequences are sorted to generate index value as follow;

$$
[lx1, fx1] = Sort(X1)
$$
  
[lx<sub>2</sub>, fx<sub>2</sub>] = Sort(X<sub>2</sub>)  
[lx<sub>3</sub>, fx<sub>3</sub>] = Sort(X<sub>3</sub>) (12)

Here, $lx_1$  is the new sequence after  $x_1$  sorting in ascending order;  $f x_1$  is the index value of  $lx_1$ . In the similar fashion,  $f x_2$ and  $f_{x_3}$  are obtained. Each slice of a pixel in  $R'_M$  is composed of two DNA bases. The cross addition of these two portions of a pixel is as follows,

<span id="page-4-1"></span>
$$
MSB = R'_{M} (f x_{1}(i))
$$
  
\n
$$
R''_{M}(i, 1) = (G'_{L}(i, 1) + MSB(1, 2)) \oplus Y_{1}(i)
$$
  
\n
$$
R''_{M}(i, 2) = (G'_{L}(i, 2) + MSB(1, 1)) \oplus Y_{2}(i)
$$
 (13)

where  $i = 1, 2, \dots, MN$  in the above Equation. The process of cross addition is shown in Figure [3.](#page-4-0) In the above Equa-tion [\(13\)](#page-4-1),  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  are DNA bases, which are produced from *Y* pseudo random sequence. This *Y* is generated by iterating Equation [\(2\)](#page-2-8) or CSS map up to  $1 \times 6MN$  times using  $\mu'_3$  and  $y'_0$ . Before utilizing in substitution process, *Y* is processed as shown in Equation [\(14\)](#page-4-2),

<span id="page-4-2"></span>
$$
Y(i) = round\left(Y(i) \times 10^{14}\right) \text{ mod } 4 \tag{14}
$$

Now split *Y* into six sub-vectors each having size of  $1 \times MN$  called  $Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5$  and  $Y_6$ . These sub-vectors are translated into DNA bases as  $0 = A$ ,  $1 = G$ ,  $2 = C$  and  $3 = T$ 

and Exclusive-ORed with the DNA bases in the substitution. The Equation [\(13\)](#page-4-1) will be applied on  $G'_M$ ,  $B'_I$ ,  $B'_M$ , and  $R'_I$  $\lim_{M \to \infty} f(x_2, f(x_3, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5 \text{ and } Y_6 \text{ to obtain } G_M'' \text{ and } B_M''$ . The LSB and MSB parts of a channel are concatenated/combined in random way that need a pseudo-random vector of  $1 \times MN$ . For this, *Z* pseudo-random vector of size  $1 \times 3MN$  is produced by iterating Equation [\(2\)](#page-2-8) with  $\mu'_0$  and  $z'_0$ . The *Z* is split into three sub-vectors having same size of  $1 \times MN$  called  $Z_1, Z_2$ and  $Z_3$  and sort as follows;

$$
[lz2, f z1] = Sort(Z1)\n[lz2, f z2] = Sort(Z2)\n[lz3, f z3] = Sort(Z3)
$$
\n(15)

Apply the following on of  $R_M''$ , and  $R_L'$ ,  $B_M''$  and  $B_L'$ ,  $C_M''$  and  $C'_L$  as follows,

<span id="page-4-4"></span>
$$
\bar{R}(i) = Cat \left[ R''_M(i), R'_L(fz_1(i)) \right]
$$
\n
$$
\bar{G}(i) = Cat \left[ G''_M(i), G'_L(fz_2(i)) \right]
$$
\n
$$
\bar{B}(i) = Cat \left[ B''_M(i), B'_L(fz_3(i)) \right]
$$
\n(16)

# 4) DNA DECODING

Decode each pixel of  $R$ ,  $G$  and  $B$  using the same chaotic sequences which are  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$  and  $X_3$  used for decoding according to intervals in Table [4.](#page-3-3) The decoding process is shown in Equation [\(17\)](#page-4-3) and then combine all channels to get RGB cipher image in Equation [\(18\)](#page-4-3).

<span id="page-4-3"></span>
$$
\hat{R} = Decode (\bar{R}, X_1)
$$
  
\n
$$
\hat{G} = Decode (\bar{G}, X_2)
$$
  
\n
$$
\hat{B} = Decode (\bar{B}, X_3)
$$
\n(17)

$$
E = cat(3, \hat{R}, \hat{G}, \hat{B})
$$
 (18)

#### C. STEPS IN ALGORITHM

**Inputs**: A 24-bit color image *P*(*M*;*N*) and common keys( $\mu_1$ ,  $w_0$ ), ( $\mu_2$ ,  $x_0$ ), ( $\mu_3$ ,  $y_0$ ) and ( $\mu_4$ ,  $z_0$ ) along with value of *k* to be used for 1D chaotic maps called LSS and CSS. **Output**: Encrypted colored image

- 1) Hash function with 512 bits of output called SHA-512 is applied on original image *P* to alter the initial conditions as seen in Section [III-A.](#page-2-7)
- 2) Generate four chaotic sequences *W*, *X*, *Y* and *Z* through Equation [\(1\)](#page-2-1) using the modified initial conditions and control parameters.
- 3) Transform 24-bit color image into 1D vector of size  $1 \times 3MN$  and sorted index of pseudo-random sequence *W*; is used to permute image *P* using Equations [\(8\)](#page-3-1) and [\(9\)](#page-3-2).
- 4) The permuted image  $P'$  is split into three vectors, called *R*, *G* and *B*, then encoded every pixel of each channel into DNA bases using DNA complementary rules according to Table [4.](#page-3-3) The whole process is presented in Equation [\(10\)](#page-3-5) by employing three chaotic maps *W*1,  $W_2$  and  $W_3$ .





<span id="page-5-0"></span>**FIGURE 4.** Theme of the proposed image encryption algorithm.

- 5) Separate LSB and MSB parts of DNA encoded  $R', G'$ and *B*' channels of an image illustrated in Equation [\(11\)](#page-3-4).
- 6) For substitution, LLS is iterated  $3MN$  times using  $\mu'_2$ and  $x'_0$  to get *X* and split into  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$  and  $X_3$  for the random selection of MSB part of each pixel for R, G and B. The cross substitution is applied on each channel independently using Equation [\(14\)](#page-4-2) in which *Y<sup>i</sup>* is an array of DNA bases that translated from pseudorandom sequence according to Table [4.](#page-3-3)
- 7) The LSB and MSB parts of a channel are concatenated/combined using *Z* pseudo-random vector. The *Z* is split into three sub-vectors  $Z_1$ ,  $Z_2$  and  $Z_3$  that are sorted to record their indexes. These sorted indexes are used to select LSB part of a pixel of a channel to combine sequentially with MSB part shown in Equation [\(16\)](#page-4-4).
- 8) Decode each pixel of  $\overline{R}$ ,  $\overline{G}$  and  $\overline{B}$  using the chaotic sequences  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$  and  $X_3$  according to intervals in Table [4.](#page-3-3) The complete process is shown in

Equation [\(17\)](#page-4-3) and then combine all channels to get RGB cipher image as in Equation [\(18\)](#page-4-3). The complete framework of the proposed algorithm is shown in Figure [4.](#page-5-0)

## D. DECRYPTION PROCESS

The decryption procedure is straightforward. First of all, split cipher image *E* into three channels *ER*, *EG* and *EB* then encoding each pixel chaotically of every channel into DNA bases by employing chaotic sequences *X*1, *X*2 and *X*3 according to Table [4.](#page-3-3) After this, split each encoded channels into its MSB and LSB parts using  $Z_1$ ,  $Z_2$  and  $Z_3$ . For the cross substitution process, pseudo random sequence *Y* is translated into DNA bases and divide into six sub vectors. The cross substitution in the decryption process will be as shown in Equation [\(19\)](#page-6-1). Similar process will be applied on *EG<sup>M</sup>* , *EBL*, and  $EB_M$ ,  $ER_L$  to get back the plaintext of green and blue MSB. The last steps are to combine MSB and LSB of each channel, decode DNA bases into decimal values and then



**FIGURE 5.** Encrypted and decrypted images. (a) Original Lena image. (b) Encrypted Lena image. (c) Decrypted Lena image. (d) Original Baboon image. (e) Encrypted Baboon image. (f) Decrypted Baboon image. (g) Original Pickle image. (h) Encrypted Pickle image. (i) Decrypted Pickle image.

<span id="page-6-2"></span>invert the permutation process using *W* chaotic sequence.

<span id="page-6-1"></span>
$$
MSB = ER_M(i)
$$
  
\n
$$
R'_{M} (fx_1(i), 1) = (MSB(1, 2) \oplus Y_2(i)) - EG_L(i, 2)
$$
  
\n
$$
R'_{M} (fx_1(i), 2) = (MSB(1, 1) \oplus Y_1(i)) - EG_L(i, 1)
$$
 (19)

#### <span id="page-6-0"></span>**IV. EXPERIMENTS AND RESULTS**

This section contains multi-perspective results for the proposed scheme. The proposed scheme employs SHA-512 hash-value functions for the production of seeds. This hash function has become de-facto standard for the chaotic map based encryption schemes to make ciphers highly sensitive for the plaintext. The results are produced by using multi-resolution images to check the validation. The color channels have gone through linear transformation and set of primitive initial seeds are  $\mu_1$  = 9.84098765432101,  $\mu_2$  = 8.85123456789011,  $\mu_3$  = 7.75123409876541,  $\mu_4 = 2.64098765712341, w_0 = 0.01234567890123, x_0 =$ 0.99876543210983,  $y_0 = 0.45678902630000$  and  $z_0 =$ 0.12345609330000, common parameter  $k_1 = 14$ ,  $k_2 = 15$ ,  $k_3 = 16$  and  $k_4 = 14$  for the generation of four pseudorandom sequences through 1D chaotic maps. The Figure [5](#page-6-2) contains the encrypted and decrypted images of Lena, Baboon and Pepper.

#### A. KEY SPACE ANALYSIS

The chaotic system structure is highly sensitive to initial conditions. A crypto scheme is graded high quality if having

#### <span id="page-6-3"></span>**TABLE 5.** Comparison of key space.



sufficient computational complexity with an extreme sensitivity to change in the secret key. Such cryptosystems are hard to crack by the simplest attacks. In the proposed work, 1D chaotic map is used which requires two inputs;  $\mu_0$  and  $x_0$  simultaneously but encryption algorithm requires eight pseudo-random sequences so we have used four pairs of secret keys with floating precision of  $10^{-14}$ . The key space is also comprised of 512 bits of the hash function so the total key space is  $10^{254}$  and comparison is provided in Table [5.](#page-6-3)

#### B. KEY SENSITIVITY AND DIFFERENTIAL ANALYSIS

There are two most important test metrics for image ciphers to validate its robustness called key sensitivity and plaintext sensitivity/differential analysis. The first metric is the measure of how much is the difference in two outputs of an algorithm when slightly different keys are employed and second is used to measure the difference in outputs when the input text/image is modified by 1-bit. In Figure [6,](#page-7-0) encrypted images of Lena and Baboon are displayed using secret keys *w*<sup>0</sup> = 0.01234567890123 and *x*<sup>0</sup> = 0.99876543210983. The decryption of Figure [6\(](#page-7-0)a) and Figure [6\(](#page-7-0)d) fail when done with modified secret keys  $w_0'' = w_0' + 10^{-14}$  and  $x_0'' = 0$  $x'_0$  + 10<sup>-14</sup> shown in Figure [6\(](#page-7-0)b) and 6(e). The plain images which is shown in Figure [6\(](#page-7-0)c) and Figure 6(f) are regenerated when applied same secret keys that were used in encryption process. Hence, the proposed system is highly sensitive to any minute change in the secret keys.

The secret keys discussed in section [III-A](#page-2-7) are presented as a set of secret key called  $\gamma_0 = [\mu'_1, \mu'_2, \mu'_3, \mu'_4, w'_0, x'_0,$  $y'_{0}$ ,  $z'_{0}$ ]. The key set  $\gamma_{1}$  came into existence on changing one of the secret key in the set  $\gamma_0$  by one bit. In the similar way, eight different keys sets  $[\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3, \gamma_4, \gamma_5, \gamma_6, \gamma_7, \gamma_8]$ can be formed beside  $\gamma_0$ . These key sets are used to test the robustness of key sensitivity for encrypting the plain images and decrypting the ciphered images. In this regard, the plain image Lena shown in Figure [5\(](#page-6-2)a) is used. The statistical results for key sensitivity are measured using Net Pixel Change Rate (NPCR) and Unified Average Changing Intensity (UACI). These two tests metrics are proposed by Biham and Shamir [45] and it's mathematical representation are displayed in Equations [\(20\)](#page-7-1) to [\(22\)](#page-7-2). The statistical score close to 100% for NPCR and 33% for UACI are considered to be effective as it proves that system is robust for minute change in the secret keys and also to differential attacks. Now, there are different ways to test the effect of secret key

<span id="page-7-4"></span>TABLE 6. Difference of two encrypted images using different key sets for Lena (256 x 256).

Key Set	$\gamma_0$	$\gamma_1$	$\gamma_2$	$\gamma_3$	$\gamma_4$	$\gamma_{5}$	$\gamma_6$	$\gamma$	Fig. $5(a)$
$\gamma_0$			-	-	$\blacksquare$	$\blacksquare$	<u>т</u>		99.6317
$\gamma_1$	99.5920	$\Omega$	$\sim$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\blacksquare$	$\sim$	$\sim$	-	99.6073
$\gamma_2$	99.6017	99.6307	$\sim$		$\sim$	$\sim$	. .	-	99.6190
$\gamma_3$	99.6119	99.6012	99.5855				<u>т</u>		99.6338
$\gamma_4$	99.6170	99.6083	99.6134	99.6129	$\Omega$		<b>100</b>		99.6002
$\gamma_5$	99.6088	99.6358	99.6124	99.1080	99.6078	$\Omega$			99.6154
$\gamma_6$	99.6216	99.6394	99.5860	99.6175	99.6145	99.6195	$\Omega$		99.6083
$\gamma_7$	99.6053	99.6018	99.6033	99.6175	99.6496	99.5880	99.5965		99.6001
$\gamma_8$	99.6073	99.6022	99.6109	99.6018	99.6190	99.5946	99.6277	99.6129	99.5692
Average	99.6082	99.6171	99.6019	99.5115	99.6227	99.6007	99.6121	99.6129	99.6094



<span id="page-7-0"></span>**FIGURE 6.** Decrypted results with right and wrong key sequences.

changes on the output of the cryptographic algorithm for encryption and decryption. The adopted methods of testing the key sensitivity used in this paper are graphically shown in Figure [7\(](#page-7-3)a) to 7(c).

<span id="page-7-1"></span>
$$
N(E^1, E^2) = \sum_{i=1}^{M} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{D(i, j)}{M \times N} \times 100\%
$$
 (20)

$$
U(E^1, E^2) = \sum_{i=1}^{M} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{|C^1(i, j) - C^2(i, j)|}{L \cdot M \times N} 100\% \qquad (21)
$$

where  $M \times N$  represents the dimension of input/output images,  $E_1(i, j)$  and  $E_2(i, j)$  are the pixel values in the *i*th row and the *j*th column of two evaluated images and  $D(i, j)$ is defined as follows,

<span id="page-7-2"></span>
$$
D(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0. & if E^{1}(i,j) = E^{2}(i,j) \\ 1, & if E^{1}(i,j) \neq E^{2}(i,j). \end{cases}
$$
 (22)

The Figure [7\(](#page-7-3)a) exhibited the first method to measure the key sensitivity in which ciphered image  $E_i$  is obtained using plain image *P* and key set in encryption process and then again *P* is encrypted using a different key set to get  $E_{i+1}$ . The NPCR score is computed for  $(E_i, E_{i+1})$  for all key sets shown in Table [6.](#page-7-4) The NPCR score will be ''0'' or zero



<span id="page-7-3"></span>**FIGURE 7.** Diagram to represent the methods used to compute the results in Tables [6,](#page-7-4) [7,](#page-8-0) [8,](#page-8-1) [9,](#page-8-2) [10,](#page-9-0) [11](#page-9-1) and [12.](#page-9-2)

when encryption and decryption key sets are same. The result in the last column of Table [6](#page-7-4) is the NPCR score between encrypted and plain image  $(E_i, P)$ . Most important aspect of

#### <span id="page-8-0"></span>TABLE 7. Difference of two encrypted images using different keysets for Lena (256 x 256).

Key Sets	$\gamma_0$	$\gamma_1$	$\gamma_2$	$\gamma_3$	$\gamma_4$	$\gamma_5$	$\gamma_6$	$\gamma$	$\gamma_8$
$\gamma_0$	0	99.5834	99.6089	99.6267	99.6144	99.6022	99.6134	99.6221	99.6038
$\gamma_1$	99.5925	0	99.6109	99.5859	99.6089	99.6119	99.5987	99.6170	99.6084
$\gamma_2$	99.6160	99.6266	0	99.5956	99.6063	99.6211	99.6134	99.6205	99.6033
$\gamma_3$	99.6231	99.6012	99.5925	0	99.6246	99.2047	99.6032	99.5987	99.6160
$\gamma_4$	99.6251	99.6266	99.5900	99.6043	0	99.6246	99.6104	99.6012	99.6140
$\gamma_5$	99.6149	99.6109	99.6058	99.1072	99.6465	0	99.6195	99.5981	99.6139
$\gamma_6$	99.6053	99.6089	99.6042	99.6358	99.6205	99.5992	0	99.6206	99.5997
$\gamma_7$	99.5946	99.6180	99.6287	99.6032	99.6093	99.6078	99.6115	0	99.6053
$\gamma_8$	99.5982	99.6088	99.6099	99.6195	99.6124	99.6114	99.6089	99.5961	0
Average	99.6087	99.6105	99.6064	99.5473	99.6179	99.5604	99.6099	99.6093	99.6080

<span id="page-8-1"></span>**TABLE 8. UACI of encrypted and decrypted image with different key sets for Lena (256 × 256).** 

Key Set	$\gamma_0$	$\gamma_1$	$\gamma_2$	$\gamma_3$	$\gamma_4$	$\gamma_{5}$	$\gamma_6$	$\sim$	Fig. $5(a)$
$\gamma_0$		30.2960	30.4464	30.3334	30.3536	30.3703	30.3180	30.3568	30.4372
$\gamma_1$	30.3652		30.4464	30.3414	30.1839	30.3213	30.3588	30.3323	30.3162
$\gamma_2$	30.3709	30.3390		30.1345	30.3321	30.3730	30.3163	30.3247	30.3374
$\gamma_3$	30.3940	30.3557	30.3214		30.3791	30.3509	30.2938	30.3149	30.3615
$\gamma_4$	30.3417	30.2802	30.3465	30.3457	$\theta$	30.3183	30.3191	30.3674	30.4541
$\gamma_{5}$	30.3856	30.4281	30.3777	30.4866	30.3424	$\theta$	30.4926	30.3687	30.3973
$\gamma_6$	30.3418	30.4223	30.3955	30.3722	30.3539	30.3867	$\theta$	30.3341	30.3305
$\gamma$ 7	30.3128	30.3513	30.4187	30.3642	30.4395	30.3255	30.4642		30.4119
$\gamma_8$	30.3508	30.3217	30.4104	30.3605	30.3425	30.3158	30.4151	30.3958	$\Omega$
Average	30.3578	30.3493	30.3954	30.3423	30.3409	30.3452	30.3722	30.3493	30.3808

<span id="page-8-2"></span>TABLE 9. UACI of encrypted and decrypted image with different key sets for Lena (256 x 256).



the proposed system is robustness for minute change in any of the secret key which is evident for 100% NPCR score in Table [6.](#page-7-4) The lowest NPCR score is for key set  $\gamma_3$  which is 99.5115% and highest score is for  $\gamma_4$  that is 99.6227%.

The Figure [7\(](#page-7-3)b) displayed the mechanism that is used to test the key sensitivity for decryption process. If the wrong key set is used to decrypt the image, the output must be entirely different from the plain image as well as different from the encrypted image. The  $E_i$  is the resultant image of encrypting *P* using key set  $\gamma_i$  and then the  $E_i$  is decrypted with a different key set  $\gamma_{i+1}$ . The output of decryption process  $D_i$  is used to measure NPCR $(P, D_i)$ , NPCR $(E_i, D_i)$ , UACI $(P, D_i)$ and  $\text{UACI}(E_i, D_i)$  for all key sets. The scores are assembled in Tables [6,](#page-7-4) [7,](#page-8-0) [8](#page-8-1) and [9.](#page-8-2) NPCR scores are close to 100% and UACI are close 33% which in turn proves that proposed system fail to recover the plain image by using slightly modified secret key. The key sets on the first row of Tables [7,](#page-8-0) [8,](#page-8-1) [9,](#page-8-2) and [10](#page-9-0) are used to generate  $E_i$ . The key sets in first column are used to produce *D<sup>i</sup>* . The boldface scores at diagonal locations

of Table [7](#page-8-0) and [8](#page-8-1) are zero (0) because the encryption and decryption are performed on the same secret key set so *D<sup>i</sup>* is same as *P*. The highest NPCR and the lowest UACI scores in Tables [7](#page-8-0) and [8](#page-8-1) are produced by key set  $\gamma_4$ , 99.6179% and 30.3409% respectively while the lowest NPCR score 99.5473% and highest UACI score 30.3954% are produced by key sets  $\gamma_3$  and  $\gamma_2$ , respectively.

The Tables [9](#page-8-2) and [10](#page-9-0) represents the statistical results of  $NPCR(E_i, D_i)$ ,  $UACI(E_i, D_i)$  in which  $E_i$  is produced by  $\gamma_i$ in encryption process and  $D_i$  is produced after the decryption process with key set  $\gamma_{i+1}$ . The  $D_i$  becomes P when same key set is used in decryption process hence the boldface scores at diagonal locations are between (*Ei*, *P*). Therefore, the average results are measured with and without boldface values are shown in Tables [9](#page-8-2) and [10.](#page-9-0)

The statistical results of plaintext sensitivity shown in Tables [11](#page-9-1) and [12](#page-9-2) are measured according to the method shown in Figure [7\(](#page-7-3)c) in which one-bit is different in input (Plain image  $P$  and  $P'$ ) are used while keeping the same

#### <span id="page-9-0"></span>TABLE 10. UACI of encrypted and decrypted image with different key sets for Lena (256 x 256).



#### <span id="page-9-1"></span>**TABLE 11. Comparison of differential attack for plaintext sensitivity: NPCR (512 × 512).**

Image	Channel	proposed	Ref. [26]	Ref. [30]	Ref. [29]	Ref. [28]	Ref. [6]	Ref. [41]	Ref. [40]
	Red	99.5983	99.6586	99.3218	99.6551	99.6001			
Lena	Green	99.6429	99.5409	99.2945	99.5909	99.5998	99.6139	99.61	99.6089
	Blue	99.6261	99.6697	99.3027	99.6301	99.5997			
	Red	99.6078	99.7350	99.1689	99.6109	99.6099			
<b>Baboon</b>	Green	99.6025	99.5940	99.2749	99.6414	99.6058		99.5758	99.6178
	Blue	99.6281	99.6541	99.2321	99.6155	99.5956			
Avgerage	$\sim$	99.6176	99.6420	97.5991	99.6240	99.6108	99.6139	99.5929	99.6133

<span id="page-9-2"></span>**TABLE 12.** Comparison of differential attack for plaintext sensitivity: UACI (512 × 512).



key sets. The results are compiled for each color channel of images Lena and Baboon with standard size  $(512 \times 512)$ . The average NPCR score of proposed system is better than [6], [28], [30] and comparable to [29]. The average UACI score of proposed algorithm is better [6], [28] and that of [30].

# C. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

In this section, different statistical aspects of the algorithm are tested.

#### 1) HISTOGRAM ANALYSIS

The histogram of plain/encrypted image provides the statistical information through which one can measure the robustness of encryption algorithm against the statistical analysis. In reality, histogram describes the distribution of gray values of an image, bumpy distribution can reveal the loop holes exist in the algorithm which can be used by attacker to launch chosen-ciphertext attack through statistical analysis. Therefore, it's necessary to make the distribution of histogram uniform for a good cryptography. The Figure [8](#page-9-3) shows the color histograms of plain and ciphered images and one can observe visually that distribution of the pixels in the ciphered images are quite uniform for all channels but plain image has some peaks.

Histogram variance is used for the quantification of encrypted image, this further leads to key analysis as well.



<span id="page-9-3"></span>**FIGURE 8.** Combined histograms of R, G and B channels of Lena. **(a)** Histogram of Plain Lena. **(b)** Histogram of encrypted Lena.

If the amount of variance is low the stronger the uniformity in the encrypted image. Two encrypted images are generated using distinct secret keys but with the same input image. If the

#### <span id="page-10-1"></span>**TABLE 13.** Variances of histograms compared among all secret keys in the proposed algorithm.

Technique	$\gamma_0$	$_{\gamma_1}$	$\gamma_2$	$\gamma_3$	$\gamma_4$	$\gamma_{5}$	$\gamma_6$	$\sim$	$\gamma_8$	$\gamma_9$
Lena	5451.124	5454.776	5457.531	5469.989	5446.493	5461.263	5451.427	5456.848	5464.319	
<b>BARB</b>	5468.817	5455.559	5447.197	5467.908	5461.089	5465.959	5461.074	5463.018	5475.472	
Avg.	5459.971	5455.167	5452.364	5468.948	5453.791	5463.611	5456.251	5459.933	5459.971	
Ref. [28]	5434.707	5438.051	5439.770	5460.511	5439.295	5437.264	5445.300	5443.725	5443.691	2727.896
Ref. [29]	5458.921	5454.342	2735.435	2731.396	2734.463	2732.050	2740.564			
Ref. [46]	5174.858	5200.905	5126.327	5398.865	5256.426	5261.749				
Ref. [41]	5465.259	5481.524	5466.723	5438.669		$\sim$	$\blacksquare$			

<span id="page-10-2"></span>**TABLE 14.** Percentage of variances difference of histograms compared among all secret keys in the proposed algorithm.

Technique		$\gamma_2$	$\gamma_3$	$\gamma_4$	$\gamma_{5}$	$\gamma_6$	$\sim$	$\gamma_8$	$\gamma_9$
Lena	0.07	0.11	0.34	0.08	0.18	0.005	0.10	0.24	-
Barbara	0.242	0.395	0.016	0.141	0.052	0.141	0.106	0.121	$\sim$
Avg.	0.156	0.252	0.178	0.110	0.116	0.073	0.103	0.180	$\sim$
Ref. [28]	0.346	0.283	0.495	0.496	0.158	0.523	0.451	0.419	0.411
Ref. [29]	0.426	0.428	0.157	0.202	0.143	0.104	$\sim$	$\sim$	$\sim$
Ref. [46]	9.495	1.44	4.465	1.59	2.5		$\sim$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	
Ref. [41]	0.281	0.330	0.407	$\sim$	$\sim$	$\sim$	$\sim$	$\sim$	$\sim$

<span id="page-10-3"></span>**TABLE 15.** Correlation coefficient analysis in all directions of Lena and Baboon.



variances are close enough, this exhibits the better uniformity of encrypted images. Histogram variances are shown below:

<span id="page-10-0"></span>
$$
Var(Z) = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} (z_i - z_j)
$$
 (23)

In Equation [\(23\)](#page-10-0), *Z* denotes the vector from histogram and  $Z = \{z_1, \dots, Z_{256}\}\)$  contains count of the pixels. In this set grayscale values are mapped to  $z_i$  and  $z_j$  correspondingly. To hold the experiment, an input image is taken and encrypted using different secret keys. Histogram variances are calculated with the help of Equation [\(23\)](#page-10-0) for both decrypted sets. All secret key sets  $\gamma_i$  are different by one parameter only. For testing one iteration of encryption is performed on Lena and Barbara. The variances of all key sets are shown in Table [13.](#page-10-1) The variance values in Column-1 are computed with standard key set  $\gamma_0$  and column-2 have variance values are computed with one parameter change in the secret key set. The maximum variance value found is 622571.4908 for Lena. This variance value is the highest among all the encrypted images as shown in Table [13.](#page-10-1) In Table [14,](#page-10-2) percentages of difference of variances for the proposed system are computed and the minimum and maximum values are 0.103 and 0.252. This percentage of difference in histogram are far better than that of Refs. [28]–[41]. This also proves the efficiency of the proposed scheme.

# 2) CORRELATION COEFFICIENT

The correlation coefficient of the two adjacent pixels provided the information of randomness which is a parameter to compute the the robustness of a cipher and can be calculated by using Equation [\(24\)](#page-11-0). It is computed within a cipher and plain image in horizontal, diagonal and vertical directions by arbitrary selection of adjacent pixels. The range for the coefficient score is between  $-1$  to  $+1$ , lower the coefficient score for encrypted image, higher is the quality of cipher to resist the statistical attack. The random selection of 3000 pairs of pixels in all three directions are made and the coefficient scores for Lena and baboon images ( $512 \times 512$ ) are given in Table [15.](#page-10-3) The results are close to zero hence proposed encryption scheme shows no information leakage. The same



<span id="page-11-1"></span>**FIGURE 9.** Correlation analysis of Lena image. **(a) - (c)** Correlation in Horizontal (Red), Diagonal (Blue) and Vertical (Green) directions of Plain image. **(d)-(e)** Correlation in Horizontal (Red), Diagonal (Blue) and Vertical (Green) directions of ciphered image.

concept is graphically represented in Figure [9\(](#page-11-1)a) to [9\(](#page-11-1)c) for original image and Figure [9\(](#page-11-1)d) to [9\(](#page-11-1)f) for the cipher image.

<span id="page-11-0"></span>
$$
r = \frac{n\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i y_i\right) - \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i\right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i\right)}{\sqrt{\left[n\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^2\right) - \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i\right)^2\right] \left[n\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i^2\right) - \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i\right)^2\right]}}
$$
(24)

where  $n(\sum_{n=1}^n$  $\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i y_i$  – ( $\sum_{i=1}^{n}$  $\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i$ )( $\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i$ ) represents sample variation,  $n(\sum_{n=1}^n$ *i*=1  $x_i^2$ ) – ( $\sum_{i=1}^{n}$  $\sum_{i=1}$   $x_i$ ) <sup>2</sup> $\left[ \int_{0}^{\infty}$  and  $\left[ n\left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \right)$ *i*=1  $y_i^2$ ) – ( $\sum_{i=1}^{n}$  $\sum_{i=1}$   $y_i$ )  $2^7$ are the sample standard variation of  $X_j$  and  $Y_j$ .

The next step is to measure the normal distribution of correlation coefficients for ciphered image that whether a cipher follows a normal distribution or not. The correlation coefficients for Lena image are computed by randomly selecting 3000 pairs in each of three directions and this process is repeated for 300 times. The histogram of 300 values of correlation coefficient in three direction for colored channels are displayed in Figure [10\(](#page-11-2)a) to [10\(](#page-11-2)i). In Figure [11\(](#page-11-3)a) to [11\(](#page-11-3)c), the frequency of correlation coefficients scores for Horizontal, Vertical and Diagonal of each channel are combined. The Figure [12\(](#page-11-4)a) to [12\(](#page-11-4)c) are the frequency plot of [28]. The histograms plot clearly show that ciphered image follow normal distribution for correlation coefficients scores. To verify this, single sample K-S test is applied. The result of a test is either accepted or rejected based on some hypothesis,

**H0**: Correlation coefficients of the encrypted image obey normal distribution.

**H1**: Correlation coefficients of the encrypted image don't obey normal distribution.

<span id="page-11-5"></span>
$$
D = \max |F_{n2}(x) - F_0(x)| \tag{25}
$$

The mean  $\hat{\mu}$  and  $\hat{\sigma}^2$  standard deviation are computed in order to obtain  $F_0(x)$  which are parameters of normal distribution in **H0**. The Equations  $\hat{\mu}$  and  $\hat{\sigma}^2$  are  $\hat{\mu} = \frac{1}{n_2} \sum_{n=1}^{n_2}$ *i*=1  $xi = \bar{x}$  and  $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n_2} \sum_{n=1}^{n_2}$  $\sum_{i=1}^{6} (x_i - \bar{x})^2$ . In Equa-tion [\(25\)](#page-11-5),  $F_{n2}(x) = F/n^2$ , *F* represents cumulative frequency, and *n*2 represents sample size. When  $D > D(n_2, \alpha)$ 



<span id="page-11-2"></span>**FIGURE 10.** Histograms of correlations in three directions for red, green and blue.



<span id="page-11-3"></span>**FIGURE 11.** Combination of histograms for Red, Green and Blue channels from Figure [10.](#page-11-2)



<span id="page-11-4"></span>**FIGURE 12.** Histograms of correlation coefficient for red, green and blue channels of Lena image in three directions using [28].

 $(\alpha = 0.05$  is the significance level), reject **H0**. Otherwise, accept **H0**.

The Matlab 2018b is used for K-S test, the results are demonstrated in Table [16](#page-12-0) for R, G and B channels. The progressive significant for the proposed method is 0.9887 and the minimum value is 0.7593 shorter range than that of Ref. [6] which is 0.6251 and maximum is 0.9645. The K-S test proved that the proposed system has better correlation coefficient distribution than that of [6], [28], [29].

The correlation not only exists in the neighboring pixels of a channel; it also exists between the channels of a colored

#### <span id="page-12-0"></span>**TABLE 16.** One-sample K-S test for correlation coefficient of encrypted image.



#### <span id="page-12-2"></span>**TABLE 17.** Intra-channel correlation of Lena and Baboon.

		Lena		Baboon			
	Red-Green	Red-Blue	Green-Blue	Red-Green	Red-Blue	Green-Blue	
Correlation	0.0013	0.0024	$-0.0020$	$-0.0051$	$-0.0030$	0.0036	
<b>NPCR</b>	99.5865	99.5895	99.6262	99.5972	99.6337	99.5956	
UACI	33.3800	33.3459	33.4992	33.5132	33.5340	33.3847	

<span id="page-12-3"></span>**TABLE 18.** Correlation of NPCR and UACI of two images shown in Figure [13\(](#page-12-1)b) and [13\(](#page-12-1)e).





<span id="page-12-1"></span>**FIGURE 13.** Encryption results for black image.

image or intra-channel correlation. The cryptographic algorithm should be designed in such a way that it can also breaks the intra-channel correlation for encrypted color images. The intra-channel correlation of encrypted images of Lena and Baboon are computed in Table [17](#page-12-2) as well as NPCR and UACI are also listed. In the next move, the image having zero information displayed in Figure [13\(](#page-12-1)a) is encrypted and shown in Figure [13\(](#page-12-1)b). The Figure 13(d) is same as Figure 13(a) except one pixel having gray value 255 and the encrypted output is shown in Figure [13\(](#page-12-1)e). The differences of [13\(](#page-12-1)b) and [13\(](#page-12-1)e), [13\(](#page-12-1)e) and [13\(](#page-12-1)b) are computed and results are displayed in Figure [10\(](#page-11-2)c) and [10\(](#page-11-2)f). The NPCR, UACI and correlation o[f10\(](#page-11-2)b) and [10\(](#page-11-2)e) are listed in Table [18](#page-12-3) which clearly indicates that proposed system is sensitive for minute change in plaintext.

# D. INFORMATION ENTROPY ANALYSIS

Information entropy is the measure of how arbitrary distribution have plaintext or multimedia files and can be computed by Equation given as follows [47],

<span id="page-12-4"></span>
$$
H(s) = \sum_{i=0}^{L-1} p(s_i) \log_2 \frac{1}{p(s_i)}
$$
 (26)

In the Equation [\(26\)](#page-12-4),  $p(s_i)$  is the *i*th gray value,  $s_i$  is the probability of *i*th gray value. The arbitrary distribution of message *s<sup>i</sup>* must be as high as close to 8 for 8-bit channel of color image [48]. The cipher is robust against statistical attack as the message *m<sup>i</sup>* has the highest value that is close to 8. The entropy values for three colored pieces of an image are provided in Table [19](#page-13-0) and those are compared to some known ciphers.

<span id="page-12-5"></span>
$$
H_{k,T_B}(S) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{H(S_i)}{k}
$$
 (27)

The (*k*, *T* )-local Shannon entropy [49] is utilized to measure the local randomness of the images. The plain *I* and encrypted image *E* with *L* intensities are divided into non-overlapped *k* blocks where  $E_1, \dots, E_k$  with every blocks has *T* number of pixels. We have randomly selected *K* number of blocks and used Equation [\(27\)](#page-12-5) to compute the mean of local entropy of k blocks. In the simulation,  $K = 32$  and  $T = 1936$ are used. As seen from Table [20,](#page-13-1) the average local Shannon entropy values of R, G, B components of the cipher image



#### <span id="page-13-0"></span>**TABLE 19.** Comparison of information entropy.



#### <span id="page-13-1"></span>**TABLE 20.** Comparison of local information entropy.



#### <span id="page-13-2"></span>**TABLE 21.** Comparison of speed performance of 8-bit gray level images for different sizes(s).



#### <span id="page-13-3"></span>**TABLE 22.** Comparison of noise robustness for Salt & Pepper noise (PSNR (dB)).



#### <span id="page-13-5"></span>**TABLE 23.** PSNR between plain and decrypted image under different clipping size (PSNR (dB)).



are more than 7.90, whereas those of the plain image are less than 6, which means that the cipher images obtained by our algorithm have good local randomness and our algorithm can resist entropy attacks.

# E. EXECUTION TIME ANALYSIS

The encryption speed is a good measure to prove the applicability of the proposed algorithm on the current system. The high speed of encryption/decryption can be achieved when both processes use less time consuming operations such as addition and BIT-XOR. The computational efficiency is related to processor clock rate, RAM size, OS etc. The specification of the Laptop is set to 8.00GB RAM,



<span id="page-13-4"></span>**FIGURE 14.** Noise Robustness against Salt & Pepper noise.

Intel (R) Core (TM) i5-4300M CPU @ 1.90GHz and the operating system is Windows 10 professional. The proposed algorithm is simulated on the MATLAB R2015a platform. The Matlab is a brilliant simulation software with a disadvantage of efficiency. The Matlab have low efficiency as compared to other programming language. But, it still satisfies the needs of a real time cryptography as the proposed system satisfy all the requirements in one round of permutation and substitution. The compiled statistics in Table [21](#page-13-2) proves that <span id="page-14-4"></span>**TABLE 24.** Summary of performance comparison of different color image schemes for encrypted Lena (256 × 256).





**FIGURE 15.** Robustness against Loss attack.

<span id="page-14-3"></span>proposed algorithm has excellent speed performance over Ref. [28]–[30], [40].

# <span id="page-14-0"></span>**V. NOISE ROBUSTNESS**

The encrypted data is inexorably bare multiple noises as it flows through physical communication channels. These noises can become a source of problem in recovering of the original image as in Refs. [40], [50]. Therefore, the cipher algorithm must be robust that despite accumulation of noise, it can decrypt the encrypted data successfully. The Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR) is used to measure the quality of the decrypted image after the attack. For the components of the image, PSNR can be calculated using Equations [\(28\)](#page-14-2) and [\(29\)](#page-14-2) [55]. The PSNR values for Salt & Pepper noises at 0.5%, 5% and 50% are in Table [22](#page-13-3) and the proposed system has equivalent capacity for noise resistance as [28], [29], [41], [55] and visual impact shown in Figure [14.](#page-13-4) In the next step, 1/16, 1/8 and 1/4 part of encrypted images are removed and then decrypted to measure the quality of recovered image shown in Figure [15](#page-14-3) and PSNR score compiled in Table [23.](#page-13-5) The summary of the performance comparison is presented in Table [24](#page-14-4) with many of the similar works.

<span id="page-14-2"></span>
$$
PSNR = 10 \times \log_{10} \left[ \frac{255 \times 255}{MSE} \right]
$$
 (28)

$$
MSE = \frac{1}{MN} \sum_{i=1}^{M} \sum_{j=1}^{N} ||P(i,j) - D(i,j)||^2
$$
 (29)

In the above Equations, *MN* represents the dimension of images, *P* is plaintext image and *D* is the decrypted image.

#### <span id="page-14-1"></span>**VI. CONCLUSION**

A selective cross substitution method for color image encryption is proposed based on 1D chaotic maps, DNA complementary rules and SHA-512 function. The color image is split into three channels after pixels permutation using sorted index of Logistic-Logistic system. The floating-point pseudorandom sequence is divided into eight groups to randomly select the DNA rules for encoding of each pixel. For selective cross substitution, each encoded color channel is split into two arrays representing MSB and LSB. The substitution is achieved by adding MSB and LSB arrays of different channels along with XORing DNA bases which are translated from pseudo-random seqeunce. This addition and exclusiveor process takes place at pixel in cross fashion. The 2*nd* substitution phase carried out by sequentially combining MSB of a channel to randomly selecting LSB of same channel at pixel level. The simulated results and analysis show that

proposed technique has NPCR>99.61%, UACI>33.46% and requires single round of permutation/substitution that make it suitable for the real time applications. Beside these, technique is robust against transmissions' noises as well.

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