

# Colour Image Encryption Algorithm Using Burke-Shaw Chaotic System

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**ABSTRACT:** With the rapid development in information technology, the security of multimedia data such as images, videos, and audio has drawn widespread attention. Providing secured and efficient image encryption algorithm is the focus of many researchers. Recently, the design of new cryptographic algorithm based on chaotic systems has become an attractive image encryption solution. Studies have shown that 3-D continuous-time chaotic systems are found to contained in abundance chaotic structures and complex dynamical behaviour which could improve the quality and security of image encryption algorithm and hence the need to explore the Burke-Shaw chaotic system. This paper proposed image encryption algorithm for RGB images using the Burke-Shaw chaotic system. The proposed algorithm adopted the classic framework of the confusion/diffusion network in cryptography by using the chaotic sequences generated from the Burke-Shaw chaotic system which produced required permutation and substitution properties for a secure cipher. A standard test digital image namely peppers\_colour\_200.tif was used for testing the proposed algorithm. Performance analysis such as the Histogram Uniformity Analysis (HUA), Correlation Coefficient Analysis (CCA), Number of Pixels Change Rate (NPCR), and the Unified Averaged Changing Intensity (UACI) were carried out on the proposed algorithm. Results obtained show that the proposed scheme is highly effective and can stand strong against the statistical, differential and brute-force attacks.

**KEYWORDS:** Asymmetric/Symmetric-Key, RGB Image, Plain/Cipher image, Cryptosystem, Burke-Shaw System,

## I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, images can be considered as one of the most widely used types of media being

exchanged over Internet and the fastest medium for conveying concepts. Some of these images can contain sensitive information about security, finances, etc. thereby being exposed to various threats (Alkhonaini et al., 2024). The need to provide solution to multimedia information security lead to the formation of multimedia security whose goal is to provide security to multimedia data. Researchers of multimedia security are always looking for more secured methods to protect multimedia data from attacks. Steganography and Cryptography are the two most popular methods for securing sensitive information. Steganography is a method of hiding secret messages in a cover object while Cryptography is a technique that transforms information into an unreadable and unintelligent form by encryption processes so that only the authorized person can recover the information by decryption processes. However, of these two, cryptography is generally acknowledged as the best method of information protection against passive and active attacks (Mishkovski and Kocarev, 2011; Ramadan et al., 2016). One of the fundamental and classical goals of cryptography is to provide confidentiality between two communicating parties using encryption methods. However, cryptography has now gone beyond secret communication. It can perform other functions such as message authentication, digital signatures, protocol for exchanging secret keys, etc. (Hoffstein et al., 2008). Cryptography is further categorized into two: Symmetric-key cryptography and Asymmetric-key cryptography. The Symmetric-key cryptography is where the sender and the receiver share a single secret key that are alike which are used both for encryption and decryption (i.e.  $K_e = K_d$ ). The key must be transmitted between the sender and the receiver via a separate secret channel while the Asymmetric-key cryptography (also called Public-

key cryptosystem) is where each party involved has a pair of different keys that are mathematically linked called the encryption key  $K_e$ , and the decryption key  $K_d$ . The encryption key  $K_e$  is made public and is different from the decryption  $K_d$  that is kept secret (i.e.  $K_e \neq K_d$ ). Here, no additional secret channel is needed for the key transfer (Stinson, 2006; Delfs and Knebl, 2007).

In the last few decades, the advent of chaos theory, has made the study of chaotic systems become an important topic in the field of nonlinear dynamics. This is due to their complex and high dynamic nature characterized by sensitivity to initial conditions and control parameters, random-like behavior and unpredictability yet reproducible that make it difficult to predict and control the systems (Hu et al., 2020; Zia, et al., 2022; Zhang and Liu, 2023). Studies have shown that properties in chaotic systems and cryptographic primitives share unique characteristics that allow for the chaotic systems to be applied to cryptography. However, in order to use chaos theory efficiently in cryptography, the chaotic maps are implemented such that the entropy generated by the maps can produce required confusion and diffusion needed for secured cryptosystem (Wikipedia, 2025). Applying chaos to cryptography was a great contribution to improving the security of information and communications due to the adequate properties of these chaotic systems. With these, chaos has huge potential applications in several vital fields of cryptography and in recent times, the design of cryptographic algorithm based on chaotic systems has become an attractive image encryption solution to many researchers since it has proven to have higher resistance against statistical and differential attacks (Zia, et al., 2022; Zhang and Liu, 2023).

## II. RELATED WORKS

A new encryption algorithm for image data based on two-way chaotic maps and iterative cellular automata was proposed by Alkhonaini et al., (2024). The proposed method combines two-way chaotic maps and reversible cellular automata (RCA). The two-way chaotic model called spatiotemporal chaos is for image confusion while the RCA is utilized for image diffusion. The method performance in encrypting grayscale images was evaluated using various analysis methods. Results show that the proposed method is a compelling image encryption algorithm with high robustness against brute force, statistical, and differential attacks.

Darani, (2024) proposed a novel symmetric cryptosystem for the transmission of RGB colour images through open channels. The proposed

scheme is based on a suitable 3-D hybrid chaotic system with high exponent value. The encryption process incorporates reversible second order cellular automata, which are applied to the shuffled image. Key generation is achieved through the utilization of irreversible cellular automata. The experimental results show that the proposed scheme prove it's resilience against statistical and brute-force attacks.

Alawadi, (2023)proposed a novel chaos-based permutation for image encryption that uses enhanced chaotic map which was obtained by hybridizing backward and forward perturbation methods and offers high security and low time consumption. The two substitution operations involve a XORing operation for each pixel's block. The experimental findings show the superior performance of the proposed scheme and have the ability to resist a diverse range of cyber-attacks

. RGB Image Encryption Algorithm Using RSA Algorithm and 3D Chaotic System was proposed by Yakubu et al., (2023). The proposed scheme adopted the confusion-diffusion technique where the RSA algorithm was used for image diffusion and a 3-D chaotic system called Shimizu-Morioka System was used for image confusion. A standard test image (Mandrill\_colour\_200.tif) was used for testing the proposed algorithm using three different sets of keys. Results from the analyses show that the proposed scheme is highly effective and can withstand any statistical and brute-force attacks.

Zhou et al. (2023) proposed a novel multiple-image encryption algorithm based on a two-dimensional hyperchaotic modular model. First, two-dimensional chaotic model that generate multiple types of chaotic system was proposed. Secondly, multiple images were fused and used SHA-512 to generate a secret key that increased resistance to the plain image attacks. Finally, a simultaneous permutation and diffusion was proposed to improve security and efficiency. The experimental simulations and security analysis show that the proposed algorithm can encrypt multiple images of different sizes and types with good attack resistance and encryption efficiency.

Fast image encryption algorithm using Logistics-Sine-Cosine Mapping was proposed by Wang et al., (2022). First the algorithm generates five sets of encrypted sequences from the logistics-sine-cosine mapping, then uses the order of the encryption sequence to scramble the image pixels and designs a new pixel diffusion network to further improve the key sensitivity and plain-image sensitivity of the encryption algorithm. The experimental results show that the fast image encryption algorithm based on logistics-sine-cosine

mapping takes less time to encrypt, and the cipher image has good information entropy and diffusivity. Hence, it is safe and effective fast image encryption algorithm.

Hu et al., (2020) proposed a colour image encryption algorithm based on dynamic chaos and matrix convolution. The algorithm combines the cloud model with the generalized Fibonacci, creating a new complex chaotic system that realizes the dynamic random variation of chaotic sequences which is used to scramble the pixel coordinates of the plain image. The chaotic sequence value is used as a matrix convolution cloud algorithm that alternately updates the input value of the matrix convolution operation and the pixel value to obtain the permutation transformation of the original pixel value. Finally, the pixel values of the replacement and cloud model Fibonacci chaotic sequence and the pixel values of the front adjacent pixel points are subjected to a two-way exclusive XOR operation. Results from the experiment show that the algorithm can resist attack such as differential attack, plain text attack and brute force attack.

### III. THE BURKE-SHAW SYSTEM

Just like the Lorenz attractor was named after Edward Norton Lorenz, who derived it from the simplified equations of convection rolls arising in the atmosphere equations in 1963, Burke and Shaw derived the Burke-Shaw system from the Lorenz system. The Burke-Shaw system has similar algebraic structure to the Lorenz system but is topologically non-equivalent to the generalized Lorenz-type system and is express as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= -a(x + y), \\ \dot{y} &= -a(xz + y), \\ \dot{z} &= ax + b, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  are state variables and  $a$  and  $b$ , are control parameters of the system. The dot ( $\cdot$ ) on a variable indicates the derivative of the variable with respect to time  $t$ . (Saber, 2024; Almutairi and Saber, 2024).

- **Stability Analysis of System (1)**

**Nonlinearity:** The Burke-Shaw system has three first order ordinary differential equation with two nonlinear terms  $xy$  and  $xz$ (Saber, (2024).

**Equilibrium Points:** The equilibrium points of system (1) was obtained and is presented as follows:

$$\text{If } X = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } F = \begin{pmatrix} -ax - ay \\ -axz - ay \\ ax + b \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

then the equilibrium points of  $F$  were found by solving the equation  $F = 0$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} E_0 &= (0, 0, 0) \text{ for all values of } a, b, \\ E_1 &= (1.1402, -1.1402, 0.1) \end{aligned}$$

and  $E_2 = (-1.1402, 1.1402, 0.1)$  for values of  $a = 10$  and  $b = 13$ (Almutairi and Saber, 2024).

**Eigenvalues:** Parameter  $b$  in the model has made system (1) not to have equilibrium point at the origin.

However, with equilibria  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ , the eigenvalues

were found to be as follows:  $\lambda_1 = -14.4527$ , and  $\lambda_{2,3} \approx 1.7263 \pm 13.3013i$ , which both equilibria are unstable (Almutairi and Saber, 2024).

### Phase Portrait of the Burke-Shaw Chaotic System

The Burke-Shaw chaotic system is obtained from system (1) when the control parameters are defined as  $a = 8.89$  and  $b = 3.98$ . Using a MATLAB /Simulink model version 7.10.0 (2010a), the phase portraits of the chaotic system in the  $xy$ ,  $xz$ ,  $yz$  and  $xyz$  phase planes were obtained as shown in Figure 1 by (a), (b), (c), and (d) respectively when initial conditions are chosen as  $x_0 = 0.0$   $y_0 = 0.1$ , and  $z_0 = 0.5$ .

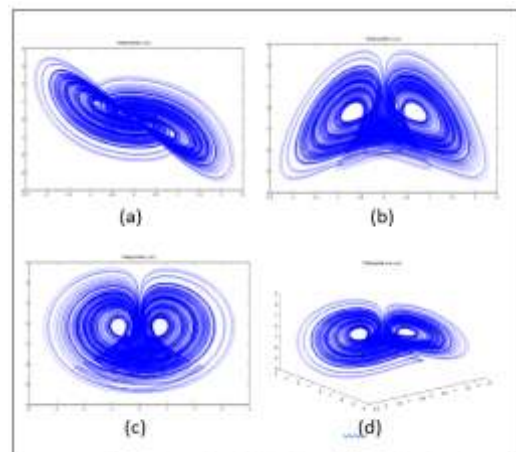


Figure 1: Phase Portrait of the Burke-Shaw Chaotic System

### IV. THE PROPOSED ALGORITHM

The proposed algorithm is a symmetric-key encryption algorithm where a private key is shared by both communicating parties, the sender and the receiver for encryption and decryption processes respectively. To encrypt a plain image, the proposed scheme uses two stages: first is the confusion (mixing) stage that breaks the correlation between adjacent pixels of the plain image and second is the diffusion stage where pixels values are transform into new values. These two stages are achieved using the rich chaotic properties of the Burke-Shaw system. The solutions  $(x, y, z)$  of the Burke-Shaw chaotic system are obtained with Euler's method N-time's step as chaotic sequences which are used in shuffling the pixels of the plain image using initial

conditions and control parameters as the key to obtain the scrambled image also called confused image. This is followed by performing the bitXOR operations on the pixels values of the shuffled image and the chaotic sequences obtained from the solutions of the Rucklidge chaotic system to obtain the cipher image also called the diffused image. To recover the plain image called the decrypted image, The decryption algorithm is applied to the cipher image with the same set of keys and using the same processes used in the encryption processes but in reverse order. The detail algorithms for encryption and decryption processes are presented below

#### • Encryption Algorithm

- 1) An RGB image I is read from a file to serve as your plain image,
  - 2) Obtain the image dimension of I as  $p \times q \times 3$ ,
  - 3) Compute the number of pixels per colour for I ( $N = p \times q$ ),
  - 4) Enter the initial condition, control parameter and step size values ( $a, b, x_0, y_0, z_0, h$ ) as your key
  - 5) Obtain the solution in vector form  $x, y, z$ , of the Burke-Shaw chaotic system using the Euler's method  $N$  time's steps,
  - 6) Add confusion to the solution using MOD and round functions to obtained vectors  $X, Y$ , and  $Z$ ,
  - 7) Sort the vectors  $X, Y$ , and  $Z$  to obtain  $X1, Y1$ , and  $Z1$  with their list of indices as  $l_x, l_y$  and  $l_z$  respectively.
  - 8) Define  $A1, B1$ , and  $C1$  to be square matrices for red, green and blue intensities respectively of the plain image I.
  - 9) Reshape  $A1, B1$ , and  $C1$  into row or column vectors (1-D) as  $A2, B2$ , and  $C2$ .
  - 10) Use the indices of the sorted solution of the Burke-Shaw chaotic system to scramble  $A2, B2$ , and  $C2$  and obtain new row or column vectors as  $A3, B3$ , and  $C3$ ,
  - 11) Perform bitXOR operations on vectors  $A3, B3, C3$  and the chaotic sequences obtained from the Burke-Shaw chaotic system to generate cipher image for each intensity as  $A4, B4$ , and  $C4$ .
  - 12) Reshape  $A4, B4$ , and  $C4$  into square matrices (2-dimension) and obtain  $A5, B5$  and  $C5$ .
  - 13) Merge the matrices  $A5, B5$  and  $C5$  to obtain the cipher image as  $I1$ .
  - 14) Display the encrypted image  $I1$ .
  - 15) Save the encrypted image  $I1$  in a file.
- 2) Define  $A6, B6$ , and  $C6$  to be matrices for the red, green and blue intensities respectively for  $I1$ .
  - 3) Reshape  $A6, B6$ , and  $C6$  into row vectors to obtain  $A7, B7$ , and  $C7$ ,
  - 4) Perform bitXOR operations on  $A7, B7$ , and  $C7$  and the chaotic sequence obtained from the solutions of the Burke-Shaw chaotic system to obtain vectors  $A8, B8$ , and  $C8$ .
  - 5) Reposition the entries in  $A8, B8$ , and  $C8$  with the indices  $l_x, l_y$  and  $l_z$  respectively to obtain  $A9, B9$ , and  $C9$ .
  - 6) Reshape  $A9, B9$ , and  $C9$  into square matrices to obtain  $A10, B10$ , and  $C10$ .
  - 7) Form the decrypted image as  $I2$  by merging  $A10, B10$ , and  $C10$ .
  - 8) Display the decrypted image  $I2$ .
  - 9) Save the decrypted image  $I2$  in a file

## V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### • Implementation

To simulate the proposed encryption algorithm, the code was implemented in MATLAB version 7.10.0 (R2010a). The practical aspect of this work was demonstrated on a standard test digital colour image of dimension  $200 \times 200$ , stored with TIF file format namely `peppers_colour_200.tif` that served as our input data called the plain image as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Plain Image

#### • Results Obtained

When the proposed algorithm was applied to the plain image using initial conditions and control parameters as the key, the algorithm first separated the plain image into the red, green and blue intensities which were then scrambled using the chaotic sequences generated from the solutions of the Burke-

Shaw chaotic system in their respective intensities before being merged to obtain the scrambled image as shown in Figure 3a. The scrambled images in their separate intensities were then encrypted using XOR operations on the pixels' values of the scrambled images and the chaotic sequences obtained from the chaotic system before

being merged to obtain the encrypted image also called the cipher image as shown in Figure 3b.



Figure 3: (a) Confused Image (b) Cipher Image

To recover the plain image, the decryption algorithm was applied to the cipher image using same set of initial conditions and control parameters that were used at the encryption processes as the key. The decryption processes began with the cipher image being separated into red, green and blue intensities which were then transformed into undiffused but confused images. The pixels' values of these confused images in their respective intensities were then reposition to their original positions using the chaotic sequences generated from the solution of the Burke-Shaw chaotic system and then merged the intensities to recover the plain image also called the decrypted image as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Decrypted Image

## VI. SECURITY ANALYSIS

When an encryption algorithm is applied to an image, it is expected that its pixels' values change when compared with the original image. A good encryption algorithm must make these changes in an irregular manner and maximize the difference in pixel values between the plain image and the cipher image. Also, a good cipher image must be composed of totally random patterns that do not reveal any of the features of the plain image (Abd El-Samie et al., 2014). To test the strength of the proposed algorithm, security analysis such as Histogram Uniformity Analysis (HUA), Correlation Coefficient Analysis (CCA), Number of Pixel Change Rate (NPCR) and Unified Average Changing Intensity (UACI) were carried out.

- **Histogram Uniformity Analysis**

In this analysis, the histograms of both the plain image and the cipher image were obtained as shown in Figures 5 and 6 respectively for the purpose of comparison. For an encryption algorithm to withstand any statistical attack, the histogram of the cipher image must be totally different from the histogram of the plain image and must have a uniform distribution, which means that the probability of occurrence of any gray scale value in the cipher image is more or less the same (Abd El-Samie et al., 2014). On comparing the histogram of the cipher image (see Figure 6) and that of the plain image (see Figure 5), the proposed scheme satisfied both conditions of histogram uniformity analysis indicating that the attacker cannot find any useful information about the plain image from the cipher image. Thus, the proposed algorithm is effective.

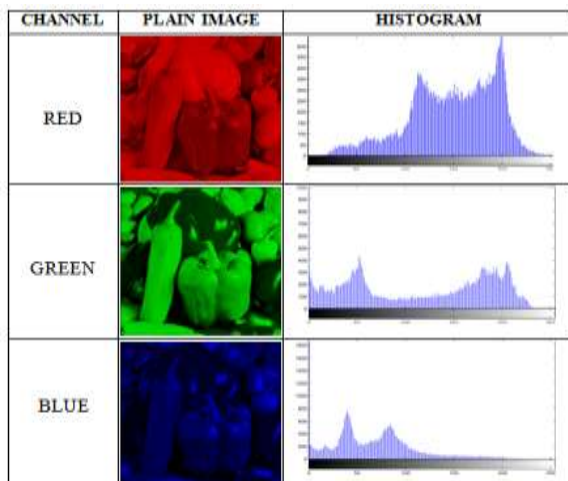


Figure 5: Histogram of the Plain image

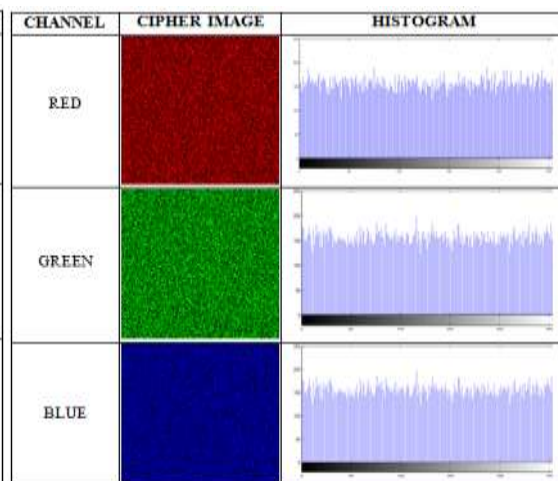


Figure 6: Histogram of the Cipher Image

• **Correlation Coefficient Analysis**

This metric is for assessing the quality of any image encryption algorithm against the statistical attack. To determine this metric, only the first 5,000 pixels out of the 40,000 pixels that make up the plain/cipher image were used in the analyses. Correlation between two vertically adjacent pixels, two horizontally adjacent pixels and two diagonally adjacent pixels of the cipher image as well as the plain image were obtained for comparison purposes. This correlation coefficient denoted by  $r_{xy}$  is calculated as follows:

$$r_{xy} = \frac{cov(x,y)}{\sqrt{D(x) \times D(y)}} \quad (4)$$

where x and y are the values of two adjacent pixels in either the cipher image or the plain image. In numerical computations, the following discrete formulas can be used:

$$E(x) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^L x_i; D(x) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^L (x_i - E(x))^2; \text{ and } cov(x,y) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^L (x_i - E(x))(y_i - E(y)) \quad (5)$$

where L is the number of pixels involved in the calculations (Abd El-Samie et al., 2014; Zia et al., 2022; Alkhonaini et al., 2024). The closer the value of  $r_{xy}$  to zero, the better the quality of encryption algorithm is (Abd El-Samie et al., 2014).

Figures 7 and 8 present the correlation between adjacent pixels of the plain image and the cipher image respectively. From Figure 7, one can see that the correlation between adjacent pixels in all the three directions of the plain image in the three intensities are very strong as indicated by the correlation coefficients obtained with a minimum correlation coefficient of 0.8976 on the diagonal direction along the blue channel and a maximum correlation coefficient of 0.9698 in the green channel of the horizontal direction. However, on looking at Figure 8, one can see clearly that correlation between adjacent pixels in all the three directions on the cipher image of the three intensities are very weak as indicated by the correlation coefficients obtained with a minimum correlation coefficient of 0.0003 on the diagonal direction of the green channel and a maximum correlation coefficient of 0.0097 in the red channel along the diagonal direction which both are almost zero, indicating that the attacker cannot extract any hint about the plain image from the cipher image when attacked. Thus, the proposed scheme is effective and can withstand any statistical attack.

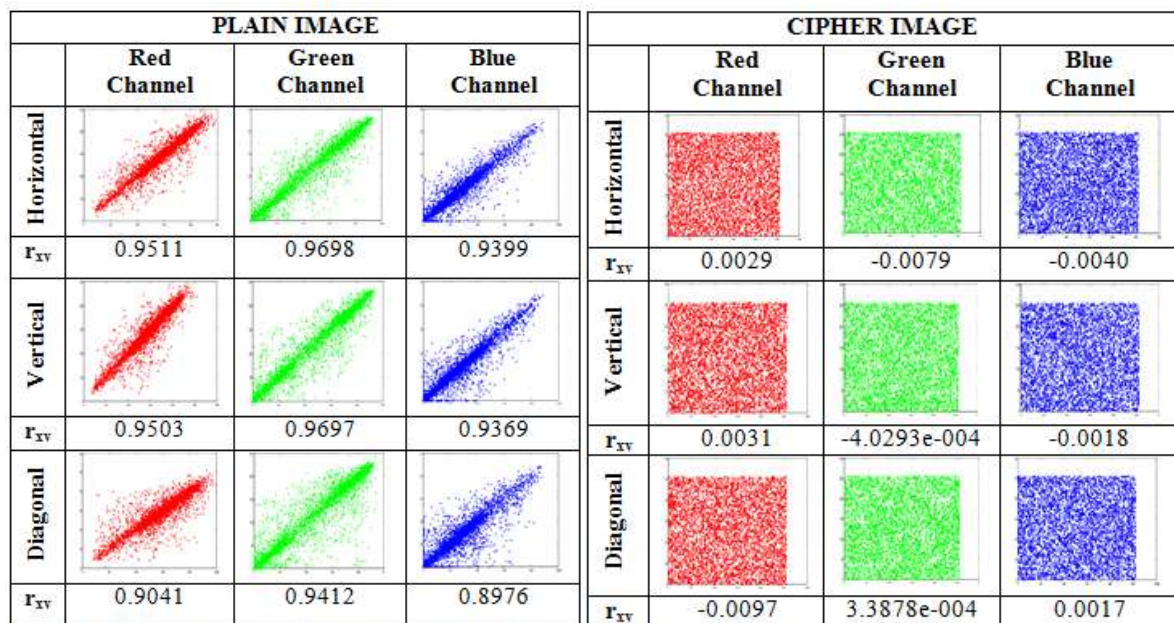


Figure 7: Correlation Between Adjacent Pixels of the Plain Image Figure 8: Correlation Between Adjacent Pixels of the Cipher Image

• **Differential/Sensitivity Analysis**

For an image encryption scheme to be able to resist the differential attack efficiently, the scheme must be sensitive to small change in the plain image that gives significant change in the cipher image. To test the influence of only one-pixel

change in the plain-image over the whole cipher-image, two common measures were used: The Number of Pixel Change Rate (NPCR) and the Unified Average Changing Intensity (UACI). The NPCR measures the percentage of different pixels' numbers between the two cipher-images whose

plain-images only have one-pixel difference, whereas, the UACI measures the average intensity of differences between the two cipher-images. They indicate the sensitivity of the cipher-images to the minor change of plain-image. NPCR and UACI values of an encryption scheme are evaluated using equations (6) and (7) respectively

$$\text{NPCR} = \frac{\sum_{i,j} D(i,j)}{W \times H} \times 100\% \quad \text{and} \quad (6)$$

$$\text{UACI} = \frac{1}{W \times H} \left[ \sum_{i,j} \frac{|C_1(i,j) - C_2(i,j)|}{255} \right] \times 100\% \quad (7)$$

where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  denote the two ciphered images whose corresponding plain-images have only one-pixel difference, the  $C_1(i,j)$  and  $C_2(i,j)$  represent the grayscale scale values of the pixels at grid  $(i,j)$  in the  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  respectively, the  $D(i,j)$  is a binary matrix with the same size as the images  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  whose entries is determined from  $C_1(i,j)$  and  $C_2(i,j)$  by the following: if  $C_1(i,j) = C_2(i,j)$ , then  $D(i,j) = 0$ , otherwise,  $D(i,j) = 1$ . The  $W$  and  $H$  are the width and height of the image (Hu et al., 2020; Alawadi, 2023; Zhang and Liu, 2023).

Wu et al. (2011) shows that the theoretical values of NPCR and UACI scores for images evaluated at 0.05-level, 0.01-level and 0.001-level varies depending on the image type and size used. The theoretical NPCR scores for grayscale images with size 256 x 256 at 0.05-level; 0.01-level and 0.001-level are 99.5693%, 99.5527% and 99.5341% respectively while the theoretical UACI critical values for grayscale images with size 256 x 256 at 0.05-level, 0.01-level, and 0.001-level are 33.2824% - 33.6447%, 33.2255% - 33.7016%, and 33.1594% - 33.7677% respectively. An encryption algorithm is considered worthy of use if the experimental NPCR score is equals to or greater than the theoretical NPCR score but must be less than 100% and also the experimental UACI score should be on or within the theoretical UACI critical scores (Wu et al., 2011)

**Table 1:** The NPCR and UACI Values for The Proposed Scheme

Intensities	NPCR (%)	UACI (%)
Red	99.5531	33.3310
Green	99.5645	33.2837
Blue	99.5783	33.4523

## VII. CONCLUSION:

This paper proposed image encryption algorithm for RGB images using the Burke-Shaw chaotic system. The proposed algorithm utilizes the chaotic sequences generated from the Burke-Shaw chaotic system and this ensures both confusion and diffusion properties for a secured cipher. A standard

test image (peppers\_colour\_200.tif) was used for testing the proposed scheme. Security analyses such as the statistical and differential analysis were carried out on the proposed scheme and the results obtained show that the proposed scheme is highly effective and strong against the statistical, differential and brute-force attacks.

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