



# A Survey of RGB Color Image Encryption Methods

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**Abstract:** *The digital RGB color image is one of the most important types of data circulated through the Internet and through various social media, it can contain secret and personal information, so protecting it is an important issue. In this paper research we will analyse some efficient methods used to encrypt-decrypt color images, these methods include XORING, blocking and reordering and selective random signal methods. For each method we will experimentally find the parameters MSE, PSNR, encryption time and throughput. A comparison of the methods results will be done in order to select the best method of color image encryption-decryption.*

**Keywords:** *RGB color image, Noise, YIQ image, MSE, PSNR, PK, encryption time, decryption time, encryption quality.*

## 1- Introduction

The digital RGB color image is one of the most important types of data circulated through the Internet [1], [2], [3], [4] and through various social media. The importance of the digital image lays in the following things [5], [6], [7]:

- ✓ The large number of applications that use digital photos.
- ✓ The possibility of the image being very confidential.
- ✓ The possibility that the image be of a personal nature.
- ✓ The possibility that the image be a carrier of confidential data.

And for the reasons mentioned above [23], [24], [25], the image and its intrusion process must be protected by unauthorized persons or entities, as well as the process of protecting the image from penetration by third parties, which leads us to the need to encode the image and destroy it so that it becomes distorted and incomprehensible to any one is trying to snoop on it [8], [9], [10].

RGB digital color images [1], [2], [3], [4] are considered the most important types of digital data circulating in the Internet and through most of the available social media [5], [6], [7]. The importance of the digital image lies in the following reasons:

- Possibility of the digital image being confidential
- The possibility of the image to be of a personal nature
- The possibility of the image carrying very important data

RGB digital color images are usually represented by a three 2 dimensional matrices, the first matrix indicates red color; the second indicates green color, while the third matrix indicates blue color [11], [12], [13], and here we can deal with each color separately, or it can even be reconfigured into an array and as we see fit for the treatment process [14], [15]. Figure 1 shows an RGB color image with its colors histograms [16], [17].

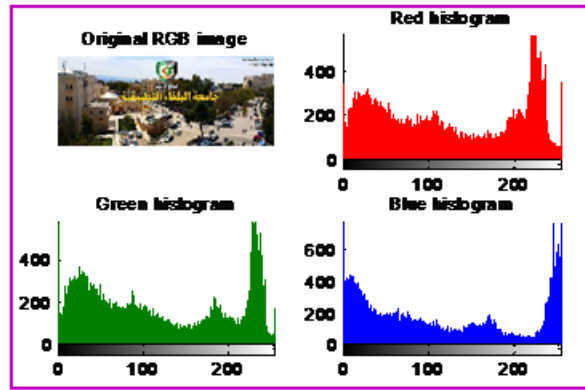


Figure 1: RGB color image and colors histogram

Many methods are used to encrypt the digital image [21], and the efficiency [28], [29] of the method used depends on a set of characteristics that must be provided by the specific encryption method, including [25], [26], [27]:

- maximizing the percentage of deformation or destruction of the original image so that it becomes incomprehensible to any third party, and this is achieved through [22], [30], [31], [32]:
- 1) Minimizing the value of Peak-to-Signal-Noise-Ratio (PSNR) between the original and the encrypted images [38], [39].
- 2) Maximizing Mean Square Error (MSE) between the original and the encrypted images [31], [32], [33], [35], [41], [34].
- Minimizing the encryption time and maximizing the encryption throughput (encrypted bytes per second) [30], [37], [39].
- Maximizing the security and protection level [36] by making the hacking process impossible [40].

## 2- Encryption Methods

Many methods were proposed to encrypt-decrypt color images [24], [27], [32], and here we will discuss and analyse 3 different efficient methods of data encryption-decryption.

### 1) Encryption-decryption based on XORING operation

This method of encryption can be implemented applying the following steps [28], [29], [31]:

- Initialization:  
In this step we have to generate a huge integer 3D matrix, which can cover any RGB color image, this matrix can be used later as a private key (PK), it must be saved and known only by the authorized persons.
- Encryption  
In this step we have to follow the following tasks:
  - a) Get the original color image.
  - b) Load PK.
  - c) Adopt PK to suit the image size by extracting a 3D matrix from PK with size equal image size.
  - d) Apply XORING between the image and the extracted key to get the encrypted image.

Figure 2 shows a sample RGB color image, while figure 3 shows the encrypted image using XORING method:

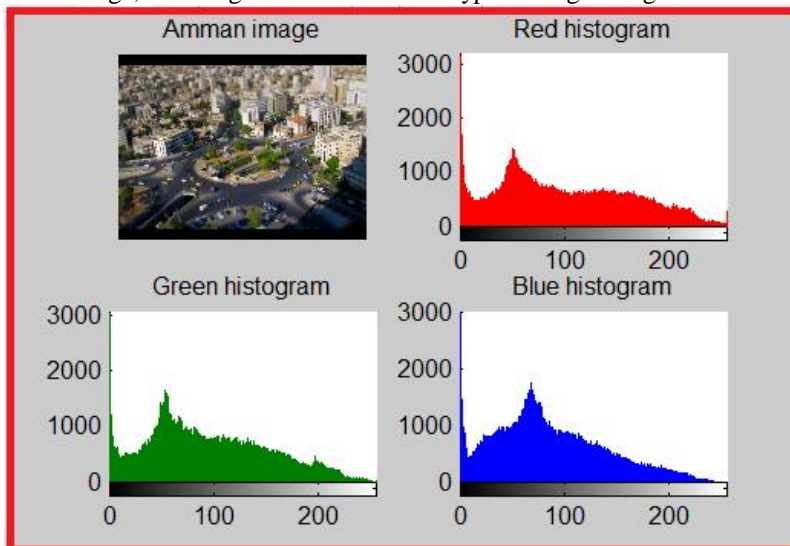


Figure 2: Original image used in XORING encryption

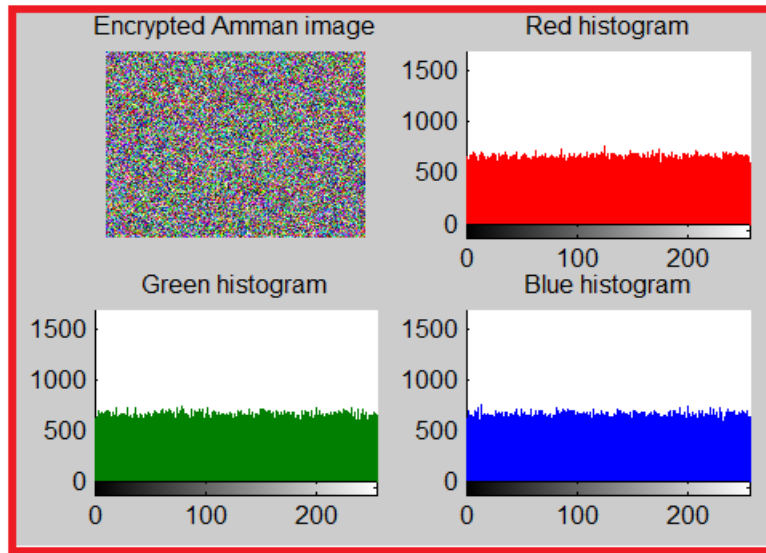


Figure 3: Encrypted image used in XORING encryption

In the decryption phase we have to follow the following tasks:

- a) Get the encrypted color image.
- b) Load PK.
- c) Adopt PK to suit the image size by extracting a 3D matrix from PK with size equal image size.
- d) Apply XORING between the encrypted image and the extracted key to get the decrypted original image.

**2) Encryption-decryption using blocking and reordering**

This method of encryption –decryption [42], [43] can be implemented applying the following steps:

For encryption we have to follow the following:

- Get the original image.
- Reshape the image into one row matrix.
- Select the number of blocks (nb)(this number will be a part of PK).
- Find the block size by taking the floor of dividing matrix size by nb.
- Calculate the nb+1 block size.
- Assign the reordering table (which is also a part of PK).
- Do the reordering process of the image matrix.
- Reshape back the row matrix to 3D matrix to get the encrypted image.

A sample image was divided into 8 blocks and reordered as shown in the reordering table 1:

Table 1: Reordering table example

Block number	Size(byte)	Order
1	18856	4
2	18856	7
3	18856	9
4	18856	1
5	18856	3
6	18856	2
7	18856	5
8	18856	6
9	1	8

Figure 4 shows a sample RGB color image, while figure 5 shows the encrypted image using blocking and reordering method:

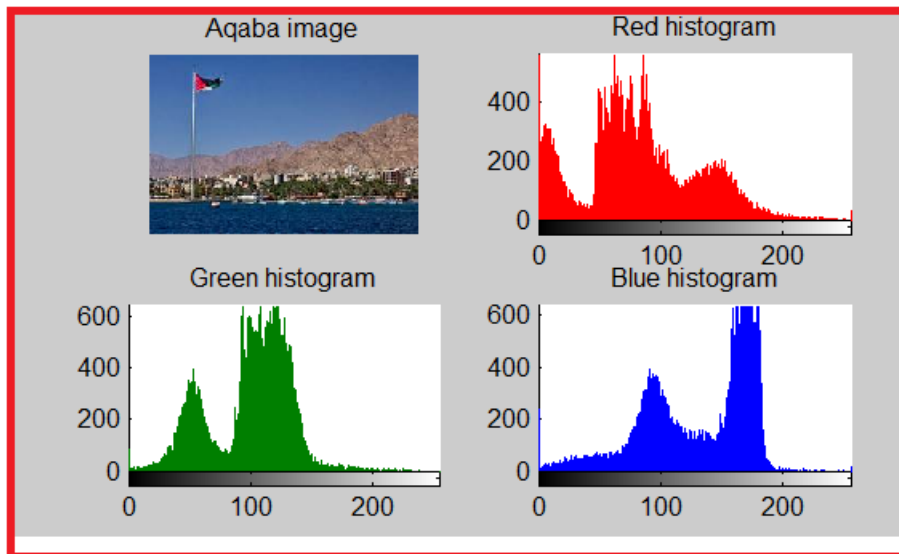


Figure 4: Sample RGB image for blocking and reordering method

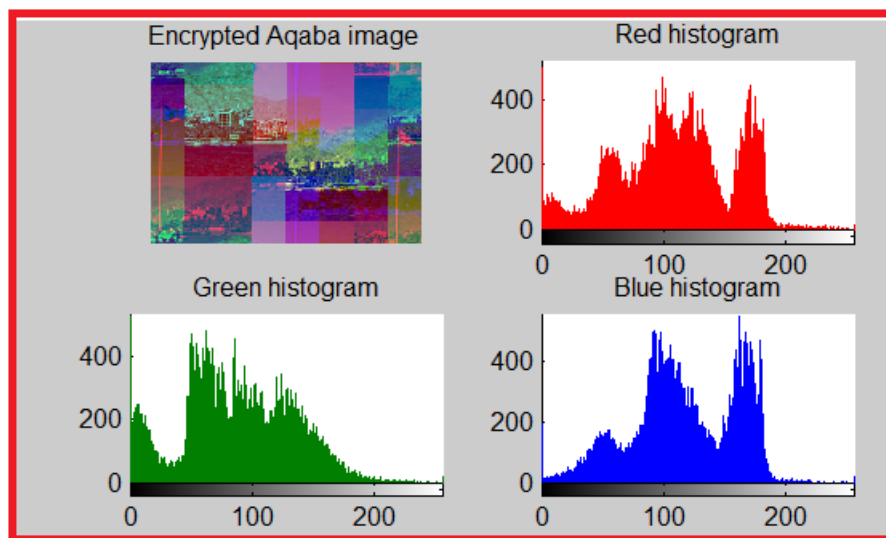


Figure 5: Encrypted image using blocking and reordering method

For decryption phase we have to follow the following steps:

- Get the encrypted image, and find the image size.
- Reshape the image into one row matrix.
- Get the private key, for the image used previously as a sample image the PK will be as shown in table 2:

Table 2: PK example

Order
4
7
9
1
3
2
5
6
8

From table 2 we can see that the blocking factor is 8, thus we can find the size of each block, and use the order value to reorder the image and reshape the matrix back to 3D matrix to get the decrypted original image.

### 3) Encryption-Decryption using Selective Random Noise Signal

This method was proposed in [44], [45], [46], [47], and the encryption process is to be done by adding a selective random noise (which is used as a PK) to the image, while the decryption process is to be done by subtracting the noise from the encrypted image.

Figure 6 shows a sample RGB color image, while figure 7 shows the encrypted image using this method:

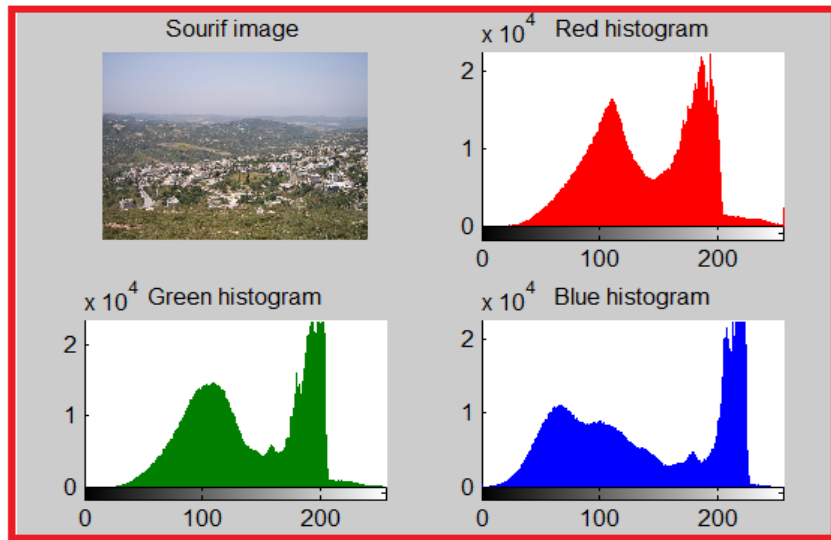


Figure 6: Sample RGB image for selective noise method

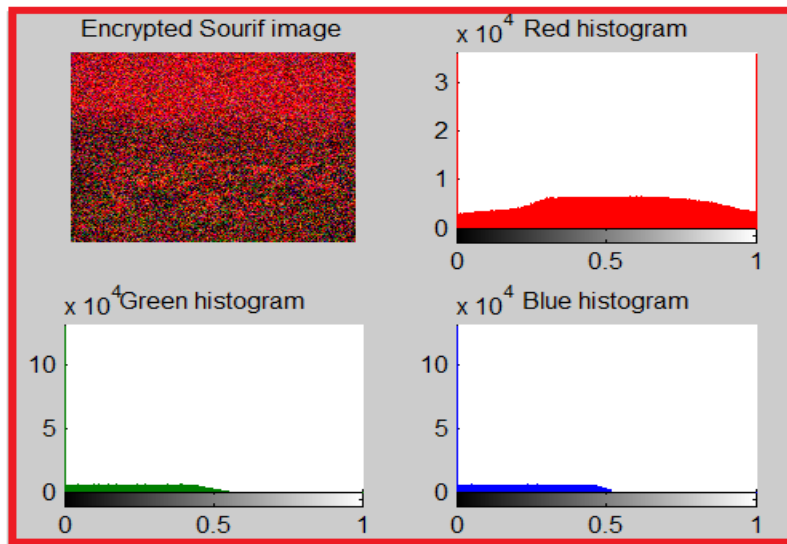


Figure 7: Encrypted image using selective noise method

### 3- Implementation and Experimental Results

Several images were selected and treated using XORING encryption method; table 3 shows the results of implementation

Table 3: XORING method results

Image number	Size(byte)	MSE	PSNR	ET(second)	Throughput(byte/second)
1	150849	12761	16.2836	0.001	150850000
2	518400	10990	17.7778	0.001	518400000
3	4326210	9553.8	19.1783	0.0070	618030000
4	122265	1209.0	16.8238	0.001	518400000

5	518400	12090	16.8238	0.001	518400000
6	150975	11202	17.5870	0.001	150980000
7	150975	9454.2	19.2831	0.001	150980000
8	5035536	9454.2	19.2831	0.001	150980000
9	151875	8464.8	20.3885	0.0080	629440000
10	1890000	11479	17.3428	0.0030	630000000
11	6119256	7089.9	22.1611	0.0120	509940000
12	150876	10215	18.5092	0.001	150880000
<b>Average</b>	<b>1607100</b>	<b>9496.9</b>	<b>18.4535</b>	<b>0.0032</b>	<b>391440000</b>

The same images were treated using blocking and reordering method, table 4 shows the obtained experimental results:

Table 4: Blocking and reordering method results

Image number	Size(byte)	MSE	PSNR	ET(second)	Throughput(byte/second)
1	150849	12414	16.5595	0.001	150850000
2	518400	3737.7	28.5630	0.0020	259200000
3	4326210	8068.5	20.8681	0.0200	216310000
4	122265	4437.4	26.8469	0.001	122270000
5	518400	3176.4	30.1902	0.0020	259200000
6	150975	1118.9	17.5984	0.001	150980000
7	150975	6662.8	22.7823	0.001	150980000
8	5035536	1869.7	35.4898	0.0280	179840000
9	151875	7252.4	21.9345	0.001	151880000
10	1890000	11035	17.7372	0.0090	210000000
11	6119256	2744.6	31.6515	0.0310	197400000
12	150876	8674.7	20.1436	0.001	150880000

The same images were treated using selective random noise method; table 5 shows the obtained experimental results:

Table 5: Selective random noise method results

Image number	Size(byte)	MSE	PSNR	ET(second)	Throughput(byte/second)
1	150849	21601	11.0202	0.0340	4436700
2	518400	11294	17.5046	0.0380	13642000
3	4326210	20321	11.6313	0.2370	18254000
4	122265	13274	15.8900	0.0180	6792500
5	518400	11387	17.4230	0.0360	14400000
6	150975	21969	10.8514	0.0200	7548800
7	150975	15864	14.1072	0.0200	7548800
8	5035536	22379	10.6664	0.2280	22086000
9	151875	30322	7.6290	0.0200	7593800
10	1890000	24509	9.7572	0.0950	19895000
11	6119256	20034	11.7735	0.2730	22415000
12	150876	24330	9.8304	0.0200	7543800
<b>Average</b>	<b>1607100</b>	<b>19774</b>	<b>12.3404</b>	<b>0.0866</b>	<b>12679700</b>

From the obtained experimental results shown in tables 3, 4 and 5 we can see the following:

- The three studied methods of encryption-decryption have a high quality by providing small values for PSNR (high MSE) after the encryption and infinite PSNR (zero MSE) after the decryption.
- All methods needed significant small time for encryption or decryption, thus the proposed methods have a significant high throughput.
- Selective random noise method provides the best results for PSNR and MSE (as shown in table 6).
- XORING method provides a best results for encryption-decryption times (see table 6).
- All the studied methods provide a high security level by using PK which is difficult to hack.

Table 6: Results summery

Method	MSE	PSNR	ET(second)	Throughput(byte/second)
Noise	19774	12.3404 (1)	0.0866 (3)	12679700
Reordering	5932.7	24.1971 (3)	0.0082 (2)	183320000
XORING	9496.9	18.4535 (2)	0.0032 (1)	391440000

## Conclusion

A survey analysis of some color image encryption-decryption was made. The studied methods were effective and they gave good values for the parameters MSE, PSNR and throughput, it was shown that these methods are highly secure. The best method regarding the PSNR values was selective random noise method, but regarding the throughput the best method was XORING method.

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