



# Asymmetric encryption of multiple-image based on compressed sensing and phase-truncation in cylindrical diffraction domain

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper, an asymmetric multiple-image encryption algorithm based on compressed sensing and cylindrical diffraction is proposed. Firstly, these multiple gray scale images are compressed by compressed sensing in separately. Then single amplitude ciphertext is obtained by asymmetric operation of phase truncation after cylindrical diffraction. This method not only can achieve multiple-image encryption with a small amount of data, but also can prevent information disclosure. Moreover, the proposed method has high security because it can resist the phase-retrieval attack. Numerical simulations have demonstrated the security and effectiveness of the proposed method.

## 1. Introduction

In recent years, optical information security has attracted more and more attention owing to the power of high-speed, parallelism, and high encryption dimension of optical encryption [1–3]. In 1995, double random phase encoding (DRPE) based on 4-f system was firstly proposed by Refregier and Javidi which has become a widely adopted optical encryption technique [4].

However, some research results indicated that the DRPE encryption approach is the linear symmetric encryption system which cannot effectively resist various attacks including the chosen-plaintext attack and known-plaintext attack [5–7]. To enhance the security, various methods have been proposed such as the Fresnel transform [8], the fractional Fourier transform [9], the fractional Mellin transform [10], and the gyrator transform [11]. Other methods such as the mixed phase amplitude encoding [12], the pixel randomization processing [13], the phase truncation Fourier transform [14,15], the random sampling [16] and the phase truncation operations [17] have also been proposed to improve the DRPE-based optical security systems. Previously, we proposed asymmetric cylindrical diffraction [18] to ensure the DRPE based cryptosystem will resist phase retrieval attack. Owing to nonlinear characteristics of cylindrical diffraction, the image encryption system based on cylindrical diffraction overcomes the symmetry of the plane diffraction encryption system. Therefore, it can resist the ciphertext-only attack even the plaintext attack, and is not affected by phase-retrieval attack [19]. In addition, the internal radius, height and diffraction distance of the cylindrical diffracted cylinder can be used as an additional key to the encryption system to further improve the security of the system.

Nowadays, single image encryption is not enough to meet people's requirements, so optical encryption systems have evolved into multiple-image encryption in the recent decade. Various techniques for multiple-image encryption have been proposed [20–24]. Unfortunately, for these methods, ciphertext is easy to be cracked, which significantly reduces the security of the method. Recently, Zhao et al. proposed a multiple-image encryption approach based on the position multiplexing of Fresnel phase [25]. The propagation distances of Fresnel phases can generate corresponding encryption keys which are used as encryption filters in typical 4-f system. The advantage of this method is no requiring, iteration and simple structure. Tang et al. proposed a multiple-image encryption scheme with bit-plane decomposition and chaotic maps, which can retrieve lossless original images from the encrypted images [26]. Wu et al. have introduced a novel multiple-image encryption method based on the computational ghost imaging and position multiplexing to improve the multiplexing capacity effectively [27]. However, the problem of data volume in multiple-image encryption has not been improved.

We proposed a new method for multiple-image asymmetric encryption based on compressed sensing (CS) and nonlinear operations in cylindrical diffraction domain. To the best of our knowledge, the cylindrical diffraction has not been used for multiple-image encryption so far. The proposed method uses the cylindrical diffraction to encrypt multiple-images, which can greatly improve the security such as free of phase retrieval attack and information disclosure. At the same time, the adoption of compressed sensing reduces the amount of data, which is more conducive to data transmission and increases the practicability of the system. The asymmetric keys for encryption and decryption also

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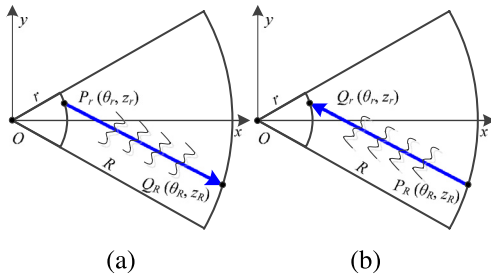


Fig. 1. The schematic diagram of cylindrical diffraction with top-view. (a) IOP Model, (b) OIP Model.

lead to security enhancement. In addition, the final encrypted result to be transmitted is an amplitude-only image which is convenient for recording and saving.

## 2. Principles of the method

### 2.1. Phase-truncation in cylindrical diffraction domain (PT-CyD)

The cylindrical diffraction (CyD) is a nonlinear mode of diffraction propagation. As shown in Fig. 1, the object surface and the observation surface are the inner surface and outer surface of two concentric cylinders in separately. And  $R$  and  $r$  denote the radii of the inner and outer surfaces, respectively. Hence, there are two propagation models which are propagation from inside to outside and from outside to inside as shown in Fig. 1(a) and (b), respectively.

For the inside-out propagation (IOP) model,  $P_r(\theta_r, z_r)$  and  $Q_r(\theta_r, z_r)$  represent the object and observation points in cylindrical coordinate, respectively. For the outside-in propagation (OIP) model,  $P_R(\theta_R, z_R)$  and  $Q_r(\theta_r, z_r)$  represent the object and observation points in cylindrical coordinate, respectively.  $z_r$  and  $z_R$  are in range of  $-H/2$  to  $H/2$ , where  $H$  is the height of the cylindrical surface. The diffraction integral formulas of the two models are as follows:

$$u_R(\theta_R, z_R) = C \iint_S u_r(\theta_r, z_r) \frac{\exp(ikd_{P_r Q_R})}{d_{P_r Q_R}} d\theta_r dz_r \quad (1)$$

$$= CyD_r(u_r(\theta_r, z_r)) \dots \text{IOP},$$

$$u_r(\theta_r, z_r) = C \iint_S u_R(\theta_R, z_R) \frac{\exp(ikd_{P_R Q_r})[r - R \cos(\theta_r - \theta_R)]}{d_{P_R Q_r}^2} d\theta_R dz_R \quad (2)$$

$$= CyD_R(u_R(\theta_R, z_R)) \dots \text{OIP},$$

$$d = d_{P_r Q_r} = d_{P_R Q_r} = [R^2 + r^2 - 2Rr \cos(\theta_R - \theta_r) + (z_R - z_r)^2]^{1/2}, \quad (3)$$

where  $k$  denote the wavenumber of the incident light and  $C$  denote a constant. The distance is represented by  $d$  which are between two points of  $P$  and  $Q$  on the object and observation surfaces, respectively. The  $s$  denotes the object surface.

Take the OIP model as an example, the principle for the phase-truncation based on cylindrical diffraction is as follows:

$$A(\theta_r, z_r) = PT\{CyD_R[f(\theta_R, z_R) \cdot R_1(\theta_R, z_R)]\}, \quad (4)$$

$$P(\theta_r, z_r) = PR\{CyD_R[f(\theta_R, z_R) \cdot R_1(\theta_R, z_R)]\}, \quad (5)$$

where  $PT(\cdot)$ ,  $PR(\cdot)$  and  $P(\theta_r, z_r)$  denote the phase truncation operation, the phase reservation operation and the private key in the process of the decryption, respectively.

### 2.2. Compressed sensing

Compressed sensing [28,29] theory holds that if the signal is sparse, then it can be reconstructed by the sampling point which is far below the sampling theorem. It should be noted that in CS, we do not have any information about the pixel domain of the original signal, only the

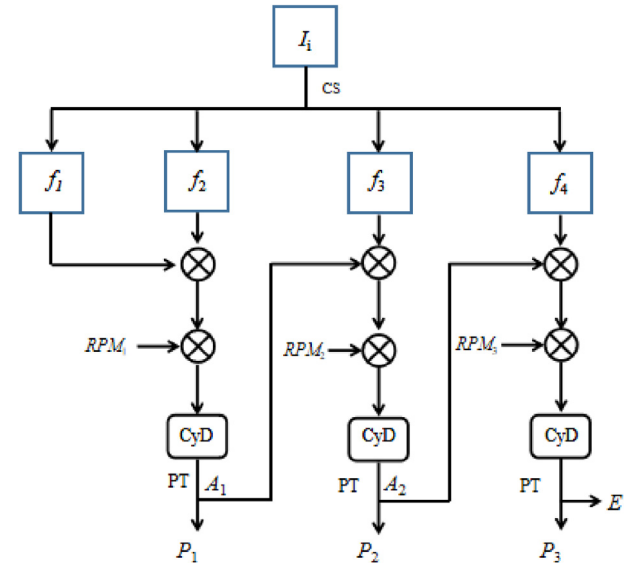


Fig. 2. The process of encryption.

observation domain information. The most commonly applied model we use currently is getting sparse signal  $\alpha$  through a dictionary  $\psi$ .  $\psi$  is generally a transform base or orthonormal basis, and  $\alpha$  is sparse. The correlation calculation can be expressed as

$$\alpha = \psi^T x, \quad (6)$$

where  $\psi = [\psi_1, \psi_2, \dots, \psi_N]$  denote an orthonormal basis, and  $\alpha$  is the representation of  $x$  in  $\psi$ .

If there are only  $k$  nonzero items in  $x$ , then the sparsity of the signal in  $\psi$  is  $k$ . To enhance the sparsity of the transformed signal,  $\psi$  is an over complete dictionary ordinarily. Then measurement (observation) matrix which is  $M \times N$  and not related to the  $\psi$  is used to get a linear projection measurement, and the measured value of  $y$  which is  $M$  dimension is obtained.

$$y = \Phi x = \Phi \psi \alpha, \quad (7)$$

where  $\Theta = \Phi \psi$ , called the perception matrix.

In the process of reconstruction,  $\Theta$  must satisfy the restricted isometry property (RIP) [30]. The RIP isometric constant  $\delta_k$  in the measurement matrix is defined to satisfy the minimum value of Eq. (8)

$$(1 - \delta_k) \|x\|_2^2 \leq \|\Phi x\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta_k) \|x\|_2^2, \quad (8)$$

where the  $\delta_k \in [0, 1]$ . If  $\delta_k < 1$ , the measurement matrix satisfies  $k$ th order RIP.

It is important to note that the reconstruction of CS (restoring the original signal  $x$ ) is the way to solve the underdetermined equations  $y = \Phi x$ . The common reconstruction algorithms, such as base tracking (BP) [31], orthogonal matching tracking (OMP) [32], and smooth L0 (SL0) [33], etc. Which has been used to restore  $x$  from  $y$ .

## 3. Process of encryption and decryption

### 3.1. Process of encryption

The proposed multiple-image encryption scheme based on CS and the phase-truncation in cylindrical diffraction is shown as Fig. 2. Take four images for example, assuming  $I_i(x, y)$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) whose size are  $256 \times 256$  pixels are located at the cylindrical surface with radius of  $R$  as input. The specific scheme is organized as follows:

Step 1: performing the CS on the four input images to obtain  $f_i(m, n)$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) with  $256 \times 192$  pixels. Where we use a measurement

matrix with  $192 \times 256$  pixels to get a projection measurement in the process of CS, and there is a compression ratio of  $1/4$  for the ciphertext, obviously. Where the compression ratio represents the proportion of reduction for the picture size, relative to the original image.

Step 2: Obtaining  $f_{12}(m, n)$  by integrating  $f_1(m, n)$  and  $f_2(m, n)$ , in which  $f_1(m, n)$  is the real part and  $f_2(m, n)$  is the imaginary part. Then  $f_{12}(m, n)$  is modulated by the random phase mask  $RPM_1$ . Adopting OIP model for cylindrical diffraction here, and  $f_{12}$  is transformed into cylindrical coordinate. The complex amplitude distribution  $g_1(\theta_r, z_r)$  is obtained after a cylindrical diffraction operation, which is illuminated by the illuminating light with the wavelength  $\lambda$ .

$$f_{12}(m, n) = f_1(m, n) + j \cdot f_2(m, n), \quad (9)$$

$$g_1(\theta_r, z_r) = CyD_R\{f_{12}(\theta_R, z_R) \cdot RPM_1\}. \quad (10)$$

Step 3:  $g_1(\theta_r, z_r)$  perform the phase truncation operation. The amplitudes  $A_1(\theta_r, z_r)$  and the phases  $P_1(\theta_r, z_r)$  are obtained by  $PT(\bullet)$  and  $PR(\bullet)$  operations.

$$A_1(\theta_r, z_r) = PT[g_1(\theta_r, z_r)] = PT\{CyD_R[f_{12}(\theta_R, z_R) \cdot RPM_1]\}, \quad (11)$$

$$P_1(\theta_r, z_r) = PR[g_1(\theta_r, z_r)] = PR\{CyD_R[f_{12}(\theta_R, z_R) \cdot RPM_1]\}, \quad (12)$$

where the phase part  $P_1(\theta_r, z_r)$  act the private key of decryption.

Step 4: it is similar to Step 2, Integrating the  $A_1(\theta_r, z_r)$  (real value) and  $f_3(\theta_r, z_r)$  to obtain  $f_{13}(\theta_r, z_r)$ , Then  $f_{13}(\theta_r, z_r)$  is modulated by the random phase mask  $RPM_2$ . The complex amplitude distribution  $g_2(\theta_r, z_r)$  is obtained after a cylindrical diffraction operation, which is illuminated by the illuminating light with the wavelength  $\lambda$ .  $g_2(\theta_r, z_r)$  perform the phase truncation operation. The amplitudes  $A_2(\theta_r, z_r)$  and the phases  $P_2(\theta_r, z_r)$  are obtained by  $PT(\bullet)$  and  $PR(\bullet)$  operations. Similarly, the cylindrical diffraction operation and the phase truncation operation are performed once again. For the sake of brevity, the result is directly given as follows:

$$E(\theta_r, z_r) = PT[g_3(\theta_r, z_r)] = PT\{CyD_R[f_{14}(\theta_R, z_R) \cdot RPM_3]\}, \quad (13)$$

$$P_3(\theta_r, z_r) = PR[g_3(\theta_r, z_r)] = PR\{CyD_R[f_{14}(\theta_R, z_R) \cdot RPM_3]\}, \quad (14)$$

where  $E(\theta_r, z_r)$  is the ciphertext and  $P_3(\theta_r, z_r)$  is also a private key of decryption.

### 3.2. Process of decryption

The decryption process is displayed in Fig. 3, which is similar to the encryption procedures but in the reversed order. The details of the decryption procedures can be described as follows:

Step 1: the encrypted image  $E(\theta_r, z_r)$  is modulated by  $P_3(\theta_r, z_r)$ . The complex amplitude distribution  $g_3'(\theta_r, z_r)$  is obtained after a cylindrical diffraction operation which is illuminated by the illuminating light with the wavelength  $\lambda$ .

$$g_3'(\theta_r, z_r) = CyD_R^{-1}\{E(\theta_r, z_r) \cdot P_3(\theta_r, z_r)\}, \quad (15)$$

where  $CyD^{-1}$  denotes the inverse process of  $CyD$ .

Step 2:  $g_3'(\theta_r, z_r)$  is modulated by  $RPM_3^*$ . Taking the imaginary part as  $f_4'(\theta_r, z_r)$ , and the real part as  $A_2'(\theta_r, z_r)$ .

$$A_2'(\theta_r, z_r) + j \cdot f_4'(\theta_r, z_r) = g_3'(\theta_r, z_r) \cdot RPM_3^*. \quad (16)$$

Step 3: repeat the related operations until the  $f_1'(\theta_r, z_r)$  is obtained. For the sake of brevity, the result is directly given as follows

$$g_2'(\theta_r, z_r) = CyD_R^{-1}\{A_2'(\theta_r, z_r) \cdot P_2(\theta_r, z_r)\}, \quad (17)$$

$$A_1'(\theta_r, z_r) + j \cdot f_3'(\theta_r, z_r) = g_2'(\theta_r, z_r) \cdot RPM_2^*, \quad (18)$$

$$g_1'(\theta_r, z_r) = CyD_R^{-1}\{A_1'(\theta_r, z_r) \cdot P_1(\theta_r, z_r)\}, \quad (19)$$

$$f_1'(\theta_r, z_r) + j \cdot f_2'(\theta_r, z_r) = g_1'(\theta_r, z_r) \cdot RPM_1^*. \quad (20)$$

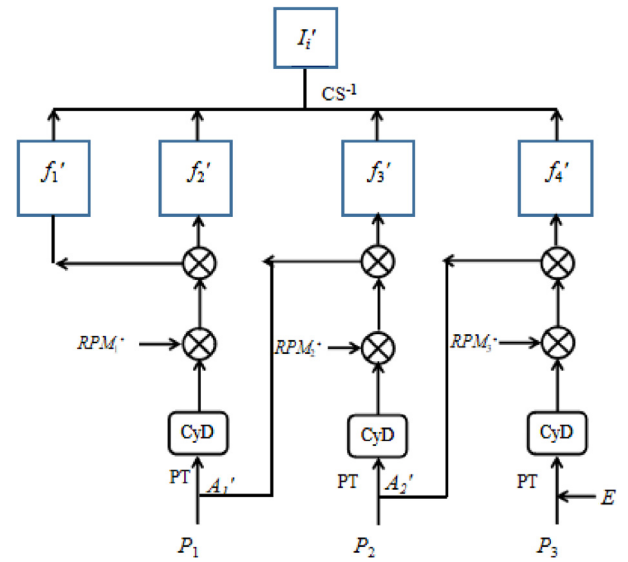


Fig. 3. The process of decryption.

Step 4: perform the CS inverse transform through a reconstruction algorithm, the Basis Pursuit (BP) method is used to obtain four decrypted images in this scheme.

It is obviously to see that the proposed method is an asymmetric multiple-image encryption system which the decryption phase keys  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$  and  $P_3$  are different from the encryption keys.

### 3.3. Optical realization

The proposed system is also suggested for optical verification due to its simple optical implementation. A possible implemented device of the proposed scheme shows in Fig. 4.  $RPM_1$ ,  $RPM_2$  and  $RPM_3$  denote random phase masks. Firstly, the spatial light modulator (SLM) inputs the original image in turn. After compressed and encrypted by CS,  $I_1(x, y)$  and  $I_2(x, y)$  are added as the real and imaginary parts of complex amplitude respectively. Repeating operation, finally through phase-truncation and phase-reservation operations based on cylindrical diffraction to obtain the encrypted image by CCD.

## 4. Simulation results

### 4.1. Encryption and decryption results

The related simulations are performed with Matlab 2017(a) to analyze the performance of proposed scheme on a 64-bit computer. In the procedure of CS, the measurement matrix  $\psi$  with  $192 \times 256$  pixels is used to project original images. The original images and corresponding decryption images with  $256 \times 256$  pixels shown in Fig. 5(a)–(d) and Fig. 5(e)–(h), respectively. And Fig. 5(a)–(d) show the keys for decryption and ciphertext. The corresponding decryption images are displayed in Fig. 5 in the PT-CyD method, the outer cylinder  $R$ , inner cylinder  $r$  and height  $H$  are respectively set as  $200 \times 10^{-3}$  mm,  $10 \times 10^{-3}$  mm and  $32 \times 10^{-3}$  mm. And the corresponding wavelength  $\lambda$  is set  $12 \times 10^{-6}$  mm. To evaluate the similarity between the plaintext  $I_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) and the decrypted image  $I_i'$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ), correlation coefficient (CC) and PSNR are used. And the CC values and the PSNR values of the decrypted images show in Table 1.

$$CC = \frac{crco(I, I')}{\sigma_I \times \sigma_{I'}}, \quad (21)$$

$$PSNR = 10 \lg \left[ \frac{M \times N \times 255^2}{\sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^N (I(i, j) - D(i, j))^2} \right], \quad (22)$$

where  $crco$  denotes cross-covariance, and  $\sigma$  denotes standard deviation. The coordinates are omitted here.  $M \times N$  denotes the image size.

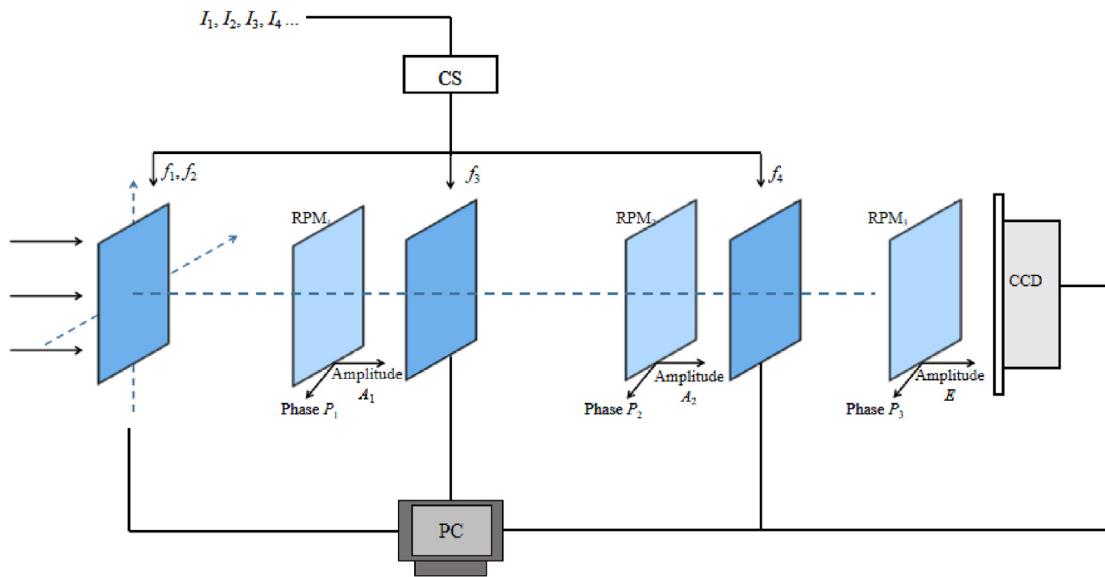


Fig. 4. A possible implemented device of the proposed method: SLM<sub>1</sub> denote spatial light modulator; RPM<sub>1</sub>, RPM<sub>2</sub> and RPM<sub>3</sub> denote random phase masks.

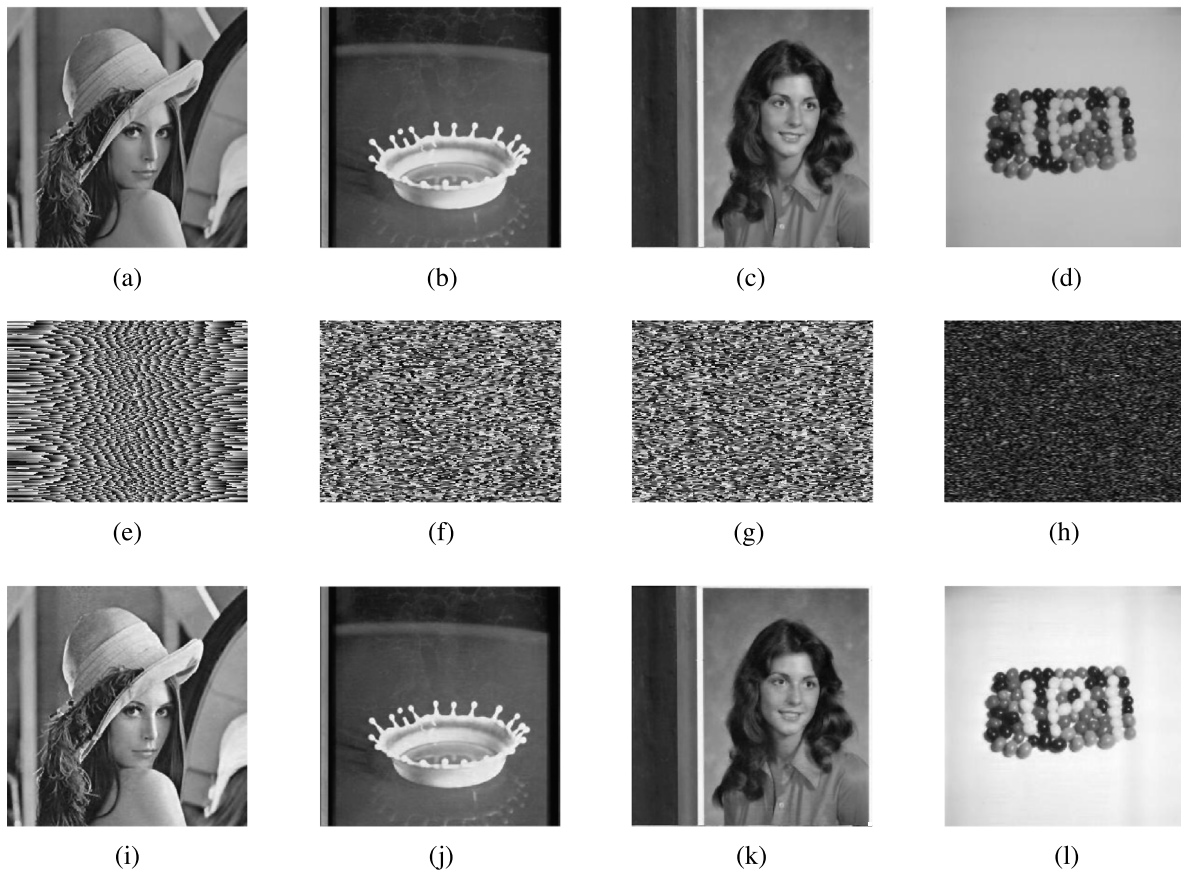


Fig. 5. Results of test images for the proposed algorithm: (a)–(d) original images; (e)–(g) keys for decryption; (h) ciphertext; (i)–(l) decrypted results.

#### 4.2. Histogram

The image histogram is frequently used to evaluate the security and effectiveness of an image encryption algorithm. The histogram of original images and encrypted image are shown in Fig. 6. It is obviously that the histogram of encrypted image is significantly different from that of original image. Therefore, it does not provide any clues to employ statistical attack.

#### 4.3. Security analysis

##### 4.3.1. Key sensitivity analysis

In general, the sensitivity to the secret keys is used to measure whether the encryption system is stable. For the sake of brevity, only the decryption image 'Lena' is displayed in each test process. Fig. 7(a) shows the decrypted images with the inner cylinder  $r$  under a tiny deviation  $\Delta r$  while other keys remain correct, i.e.,  $r + \Delta r$ , while keeping other ones



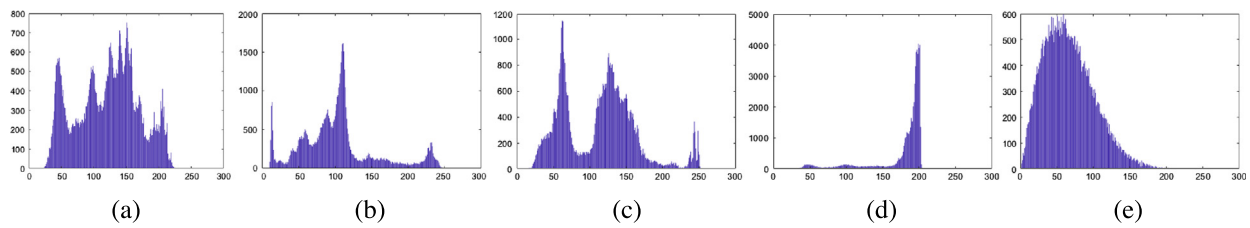


Fig. 6. Histograms: (a)–(d) original images; (e) encrypted image.

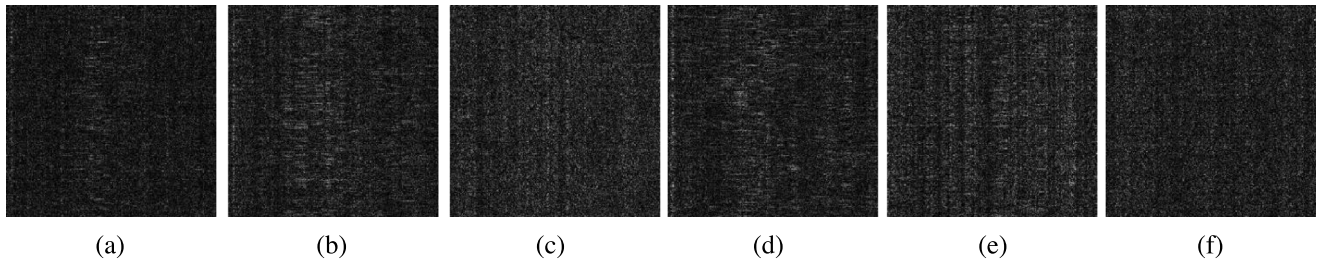


Fig. 7. The decrypted images 'Lena' with incorrect keys: (a)  $\Delta r = 0.001 \times 10^{-3}$  mm; (b)  $\Delta R = 0.001 \times 10^{-3}$  mm; (c)  $\Delta H = 0.0001 \times 10^{-3}$  mm; (d)  $\Delta \lambda = 0.001 \times 10^{-6}$  mm; (e) incorrect  $P_3$ ; (f) incorrect  $RPM_3$ .

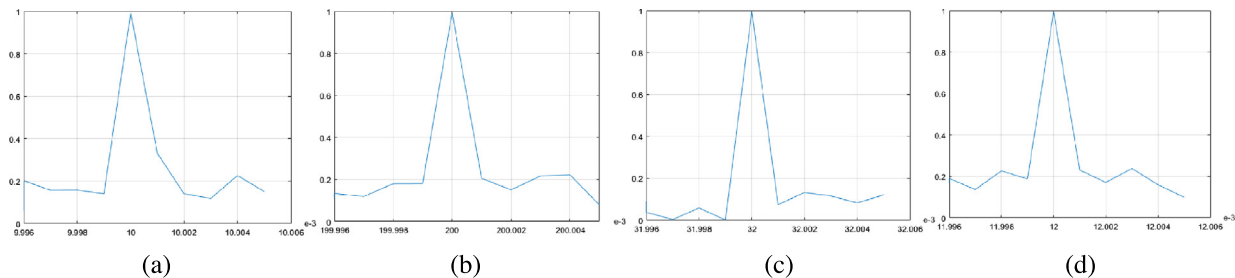


Fig. 8. CC values of the decrypted images with incorrect keys: (a)  $r$ ; (b)  $R$ ; (c)  $H$ ; (d)  $\lambda$ .

unchanged, the correct decrypted image cannot be recovered. Similarly, varying the parameters of  $R$ ,  $H$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $P_3$  and the  $RPM_3$  shown in Fig. 7(b)–(f). And the CC values of the decrypted images with incorrect keys are shown in Fig. 8. Obviously, it can be seen that correct decrypted images cannot be obtained when these keys are wrong (see Fig. 7).

#### 4.3.2. Test of information disclosure

In the process of image transmission, information leakage may be unavoidable. In this section, digital simulations are conducted to show the effectiveness of the proposed method under the resource-limited situation. The information disclosure problem of the decryption keys is investigated. When the keys or ciphertext are placed in the verification system, the decrypted images in the output plane can be shown in Fig. 9. When the phase key  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are placed in the verification system, the reconstructed image by performing a CyD is shown in Fig. 9(a). When the encrypted distribution  $E$ , the phase key  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are located in their corresponding places, the decrypted image with the absence of the phase key  $P_2$  in the verification system is shown in Fig. 9(b). Similarly, the image reconstructed from  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$  and  $P_3$  with the absence of the encrypted distribution  $E$  is illustrated in Fig. 9(c). Fig. 9(d) is the reconstructed image by performing a CyD on the phase key obtained by imaginary part truncation in the Fourier domain. The results show that the above four cases cannot successfully decipher the correct image. For the sake of brevity, only one decryption diagram is displayed in each test process.

#### 4.3.3. Capacity of image encryption

The proposed method can encrypt more images. The process of the 8 pictures is as follows to prove the rationality and feasibility of the

Table 1

CC values and PSNR values of the decrypted images.

	Lena	Milk	Girl	Candy	Resolution
CC	0.9929	0.9928	0.9947	0.9955	256 × 256
PSNR	35.37	38.97	39.69	40.82	

Table 2

CC values of the decrypted images and the time of encrypted process.

	Four images	Five images	Six images	Seven images	Eight images
Time	0.6012	0.7731	0.9360	1.0010	1.1755
CC	0.9933	0.9944	0.9937	0.9918	0.9921

method. The amount of time spent in the process of different numbers of pictures is shown in Table 2. It is easy to see that there is not much difference in the time spent on each encryption process. Fig. 10 shows the results of the eight decrypted images. Obviously, the CC values, which represent the average CC values of every decryption result, show that the decryption effect of this method is good.

## 5. Conclusion

In this paper, an asymmetric multiple-image encryption system based on CS and PT-CyD is proposed. Numerical results demonstrate that the proposed method is feasible and effective for multiple-image encryption. The features of proposed method are as follows. Firstly, it can resist the ciphertext-only attack even the plaintext attack, and is free of phase-retrieval attack and information leakage due to the cylindrical asymmetric diffraction. Secondly, the proposed method can

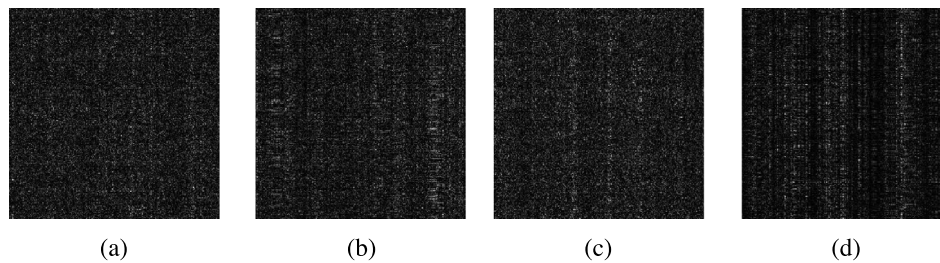


Fig. 9. Image reconstructed from (a) ( $P_1; P_2$ ), (b) ( $E; P_1; P_2$ ), (c) ( $P_1; P_2; P_3$ ), (d) key obtained by imaginary part truncation in the Fourier domain.



Fig. 10. The decrypted images for the encryption process of eight images.

compress the data volume of ciphertext by 1/4 by using CS. The problem of large amount of data in the multiple-image encryption system has partly been solved. Thirdly, the proposed encryption system can encrypt up to eight images which is a large encryption capacity. Lastly, the ciphertext of the proposed scheme is an amplitude-only image, which makes it more convenient for recording and transmitting. Therefore, the proposed encryption scheme has a certain reference value for secure and effective encryption of multiple-images.

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