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Hiding a Confidential Message into an Image Using Bit Plane Method

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ABSTRACT: Text encryption is process of hiding the text into the image in order to prevent unauthorized persons to gain access to confidential message. Message is the transfer of information from the sender to the receiver through a particular medium. Encryption is the most effective process for achieving data security. The process of Encryption hides the contents of a message in a way that the original information is recovered only through a decryption process. In existing, texts were hidden by the watermark method. This paper proposes the method called bit planes, using that method extract the selected image by hiding the text to the selected planes. An original image is encrypted with a secret key, without knowing the encryption key the text will not be retrieved. During the decryption process, the secret message can be extracted with the secret key.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT: Fast evaluation of digital data exchange occurs in recent years. Due to that security of information is much important in data storage and transmission process. Security of internet banking account passwords, email account password etc. requires text protection in digital media. In the same way image transmission and storage during industrial and research processes requires image protection.

KEYWORDS: Image encryption, Bit plane extraction, Advanced encryption standard (AES), Steganography.

I. INTRODUCTION

GENERAL: The term digital image refers to processing of a two-dimensional picture by a digital computer. In a broader context, it implies digital processing of any two-dimensional data. A digital image is an array of real or complex numbers represented by a finite number of bits. An image given in the form of a transparency, slide, photograph or an X-ray is first digitized and stored as a matrix of binary digits in computer memory. This digitized image can then be processed and/or displayed on a high-resolution television monitor. For display, the image is stored in a rapid-access buffer memory, which refreshes the monitor at a rate of 25 frames per second to produce a visually continuous display.

Image processing is a method to perform some operations on an image, in order to get an enhanced image or to extract some useful information from it. It is a type of signal processing in which input is an image and output may be image or characteristics/features associated with that image. Nowadays, image processing is among rapidly growing technologies. It forms core research area within engineering and computer science disciplines too.

Image processing basically includes the following three steps:

- Importing the image via image acquisition tools;
- Analysing and manipulating the image;
- Output in which result can be altered image or report that is based on image analysis.

II. METHODOLOGY

The first block of implementation is to develop a toolbox consisting of a list of demo images set to be displayed to the user at the encryption side, so that he can choose any one of the images from the list for encryption. All the demo images in the toolbox are preprocessed according to the requirement of the project i.e., all the demo images are grayscale images.

Gray scale images are basically those images which we say black and white image. Each pixel of gray scale image has a value lies in between 0 – 255 which decides at which position, the image will be black and at which position, it will be white. If pixel value is 0, it means that pixel color will be fully black and if pixel value is 255, then that pixel will be fully white and pixel having intermediate value will be having shades of black and white. We are given a gray scale image. Since pixel value of gray scale image lies between 0 -255, so its information is contained using 8 bits. So, we can divide that image into 8 planes. This step is followed by the encryption block where the text to be hidden is encrypted using a key generated by a key source which follows the Advanced Encryption Standard. Here the text is encrypted and then the encrypted text is hidden in to the image in this block. The next step involves the decryption and decoding of the encrypted text. This is done in the decryption module where the key is used to retrieve the hidden message.

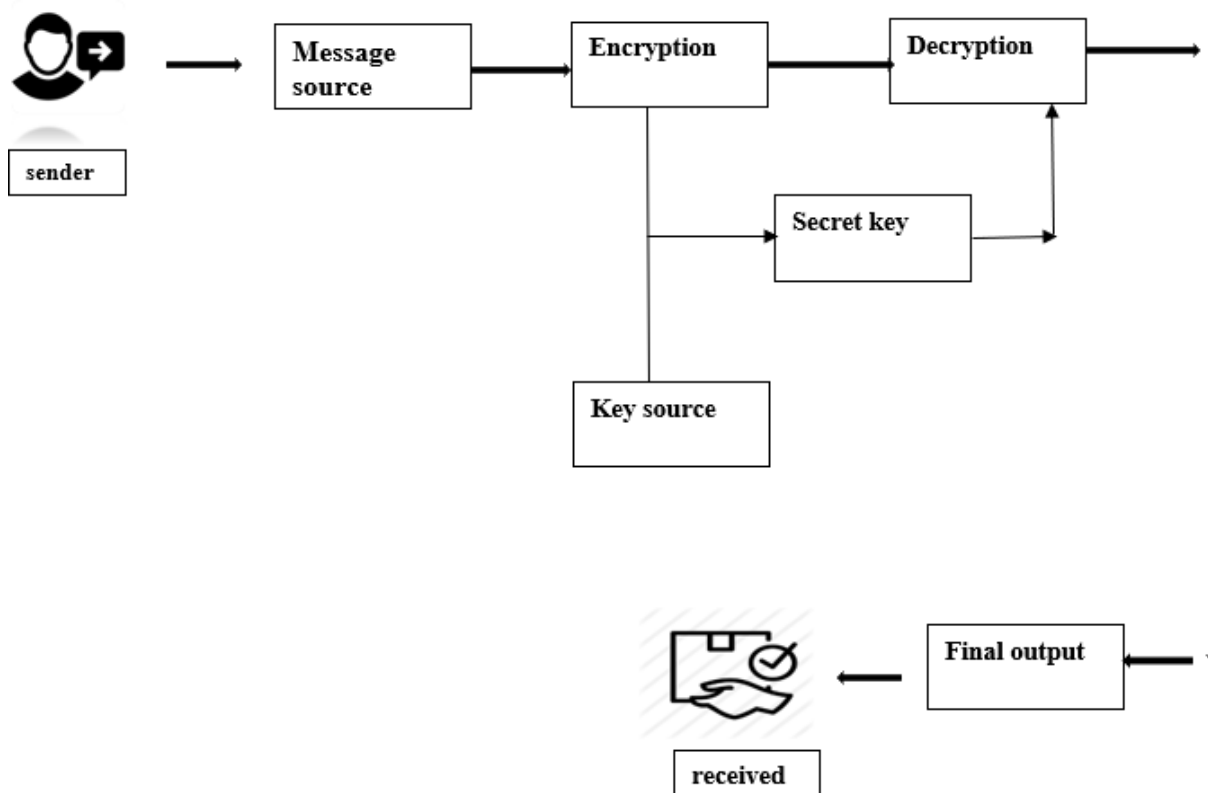


Figure 1. Block diagram

1. PRE-PROCESSING:

Let the user select from a list of all the demo images that ship with the Image Processing Toolbox. Image is basically combination of individual pixel (dots) information. When we write that image is of 620 X 480 sizes, it means that image has 620 pixels in horizontal direction and 480 pixels in vertical direction. So, altogether there are 620 X 480 pixels and each pixel contains some information about image.

2. BIT PLANE EXTRACTION:

Grayscale images are basically those images which we say black and white image. Each pixel of gray scale image has a value lies in between 0 – 255 which decides at which position, the image will be black and at which position, it will be white. If pixel value is 0, it means that pixel color will be fully black and if pixel value is 255, then that pixel will be fully white and pixel having intermediate value will be having shades of black and white. We are given a Grayscale Image. Since pixel value of grayscale image lies between 0-255, so its information is contained using 8 bit. So, we can divide that image into 8 planes (8 Binary Image). Binary images are those images whose pixel value can be either 0 or 1. So, our task is to extract each bit plane of original image to make 8 binary images. Let particular pixel of gray scale image has value 212. So, its binary value will be 11010100. So, its 1st bit is 0, 2nd is 0, 3rd is 1, 4th is 0, 5th is 1, 6th is 0, 7th is 1, 8th is 1. In this manner, we will take this 8 bit of all pixels and will draw 8 binary images. We have to do this to all the pixels and generate new images.

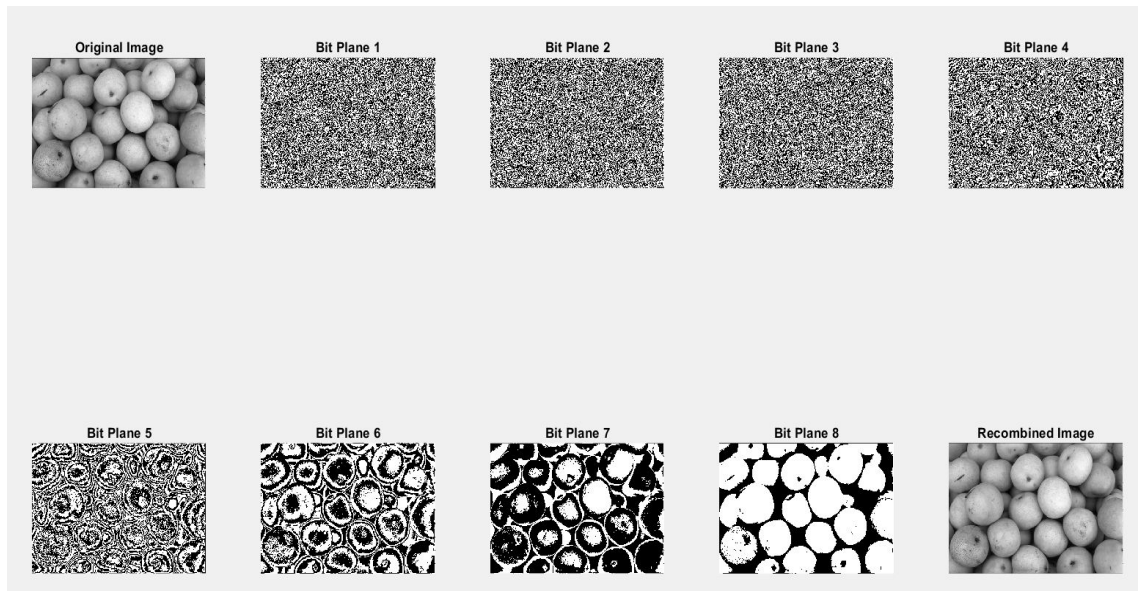


Figure 2 :

3. ENCRYPTION:

In cryptography, encryption is the process of encoding a message or information in such a way that only authorized parties can access it and those who are not authorized cannot. Encryption does not itself prevent interference, but denies the intelligible content to a would-be interceptor. In an encryption scheme, the intended information or message, referred to as plaintext, is encrypted using an encryption algorithm – a cipher – generating cipher text that can be read only if decrypted. For technical reasons, an encryption scheme usually uses a pseudo-random encryption key generated by an algorithm.

It is in principle possible to decrypt the message without possessing the key, but, for a well-designed encryption scheme, considerable computational resources and skills are required. An authorized recipient can easily decrypt the message with the key provided by the originator to recipients but not to unauthorized users. At the beginning of the encryption process, the sender must decide what cipher will best disguise the meaning of the message and what variable to use as a key to make the encoded message unique. The most widely used types of ciphers fall into two categories: symmetric and asymmetric. Symmetric ciphers, also referred to as secret key encryption, use a single key.

4. DECRYPTION:

Decryption is the process of taking encoded or encrypted text or other data and converting it back into text that you or the computer can read and understand. This term could be used to describe a method of unencrypting the data manually or unencrypting the data using the proper codes or keys.

Data may be encrypted to make it difficult for someone to steal the information. Some companies also encrypt data for general protection of company data and trade secrets. If this data needs to be viewable, it may require decryption. If a decryption passcode or key is not available, special software may be needed to decrypt the data using algorithms to crack the decryption and make the data readable. One of the reasons for implementing an encryption-decryption system is privacy.

As information travels over the Internet, it is necessary to scrutinise the access from unauthorized organisations or individuals. Due to this, the data is encrypted to reduce data loss and theft. Few common items that are encrypted include text files, images, e-mail messages, user data and directories. The recipient of decryption receives a prompt or window in which a password can be entered to access the encrypted data. For decryption, the system extracts and converts the garbled data and transforms it into words and images that are easily understandable not only by a reader but also by a system. Decryption can be done manually or automatically.

III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

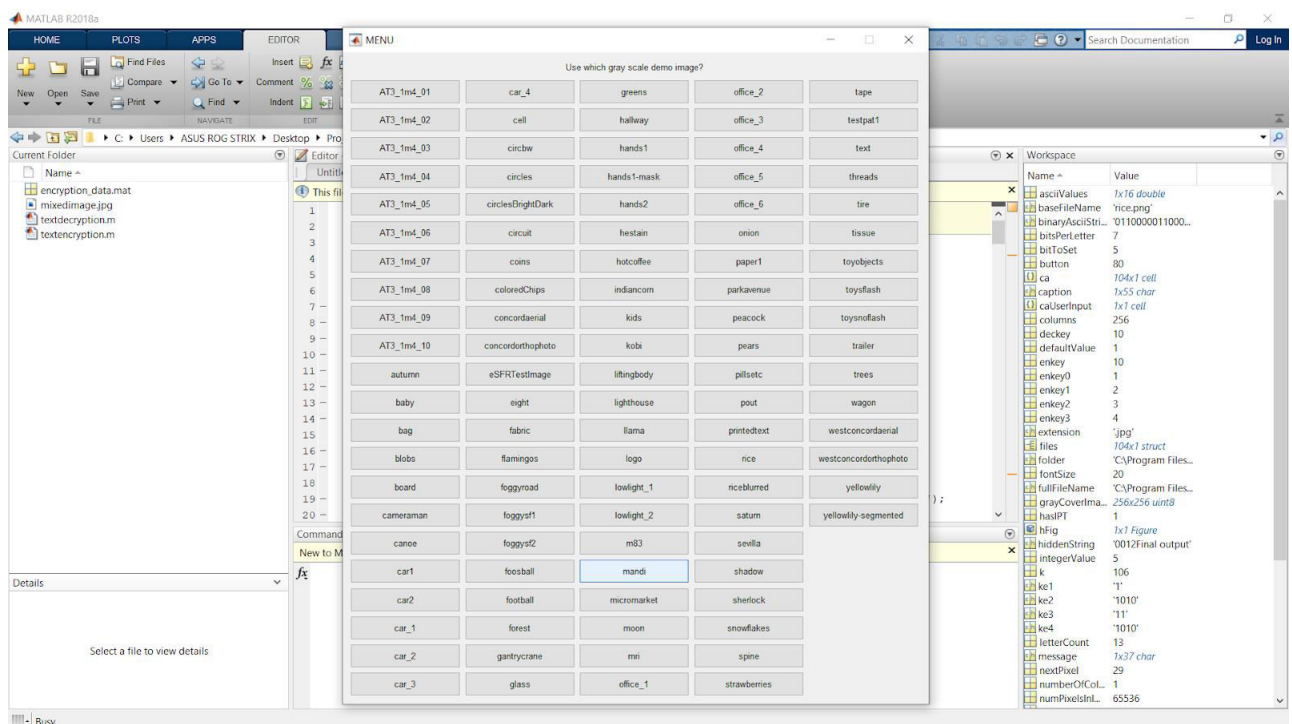


Figure 3. Display The ImageToolbox

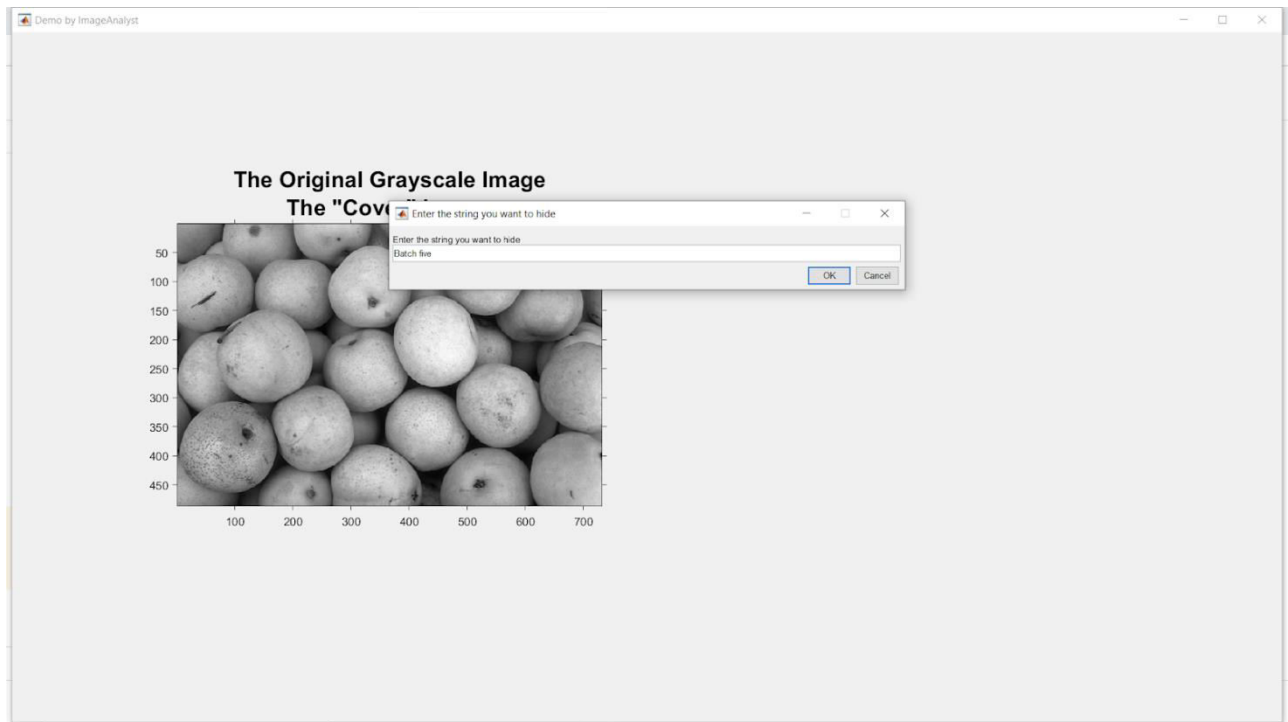


Figure 4. Select the image and add the text

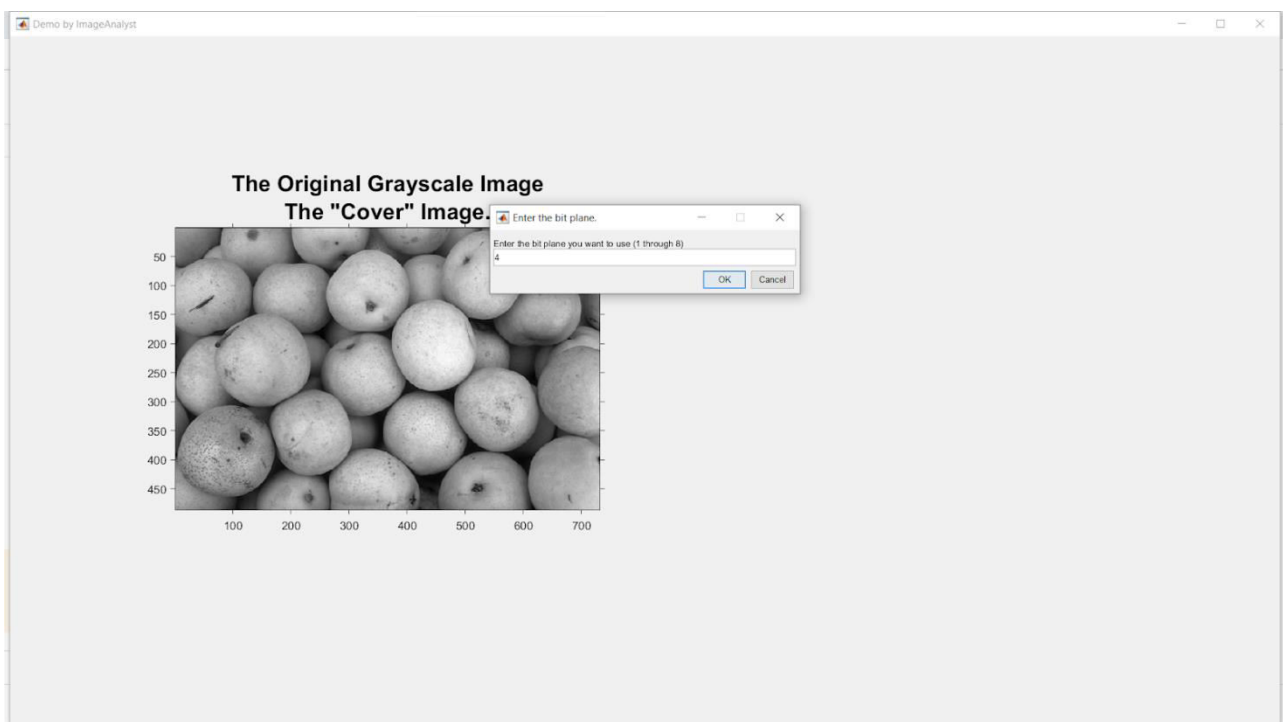


Figure 5. Select the Bit planenumber

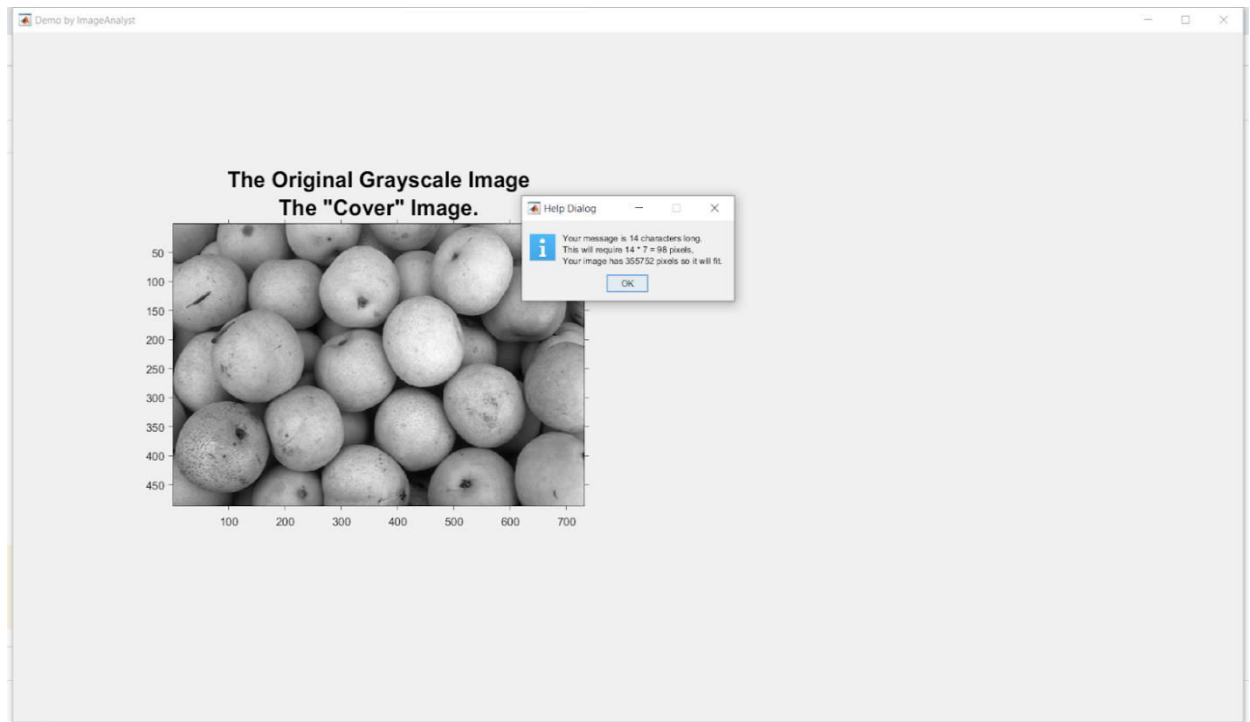


Figure 6. Calculate the number of pixels required

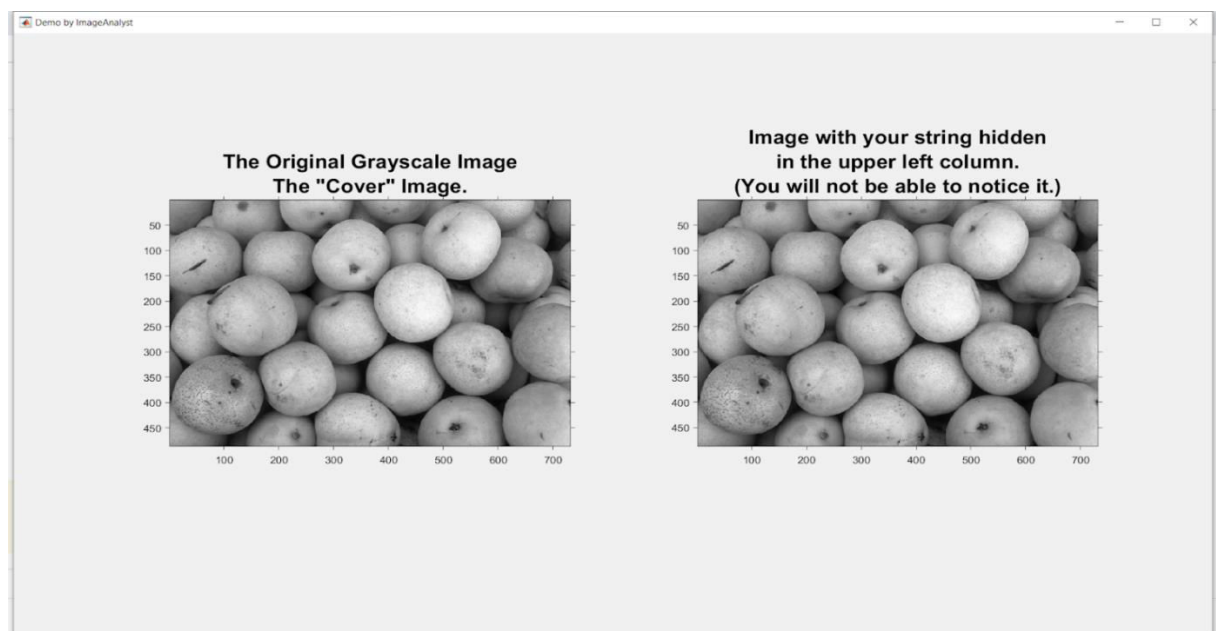


Figure 7. Calculate the number of pixels required

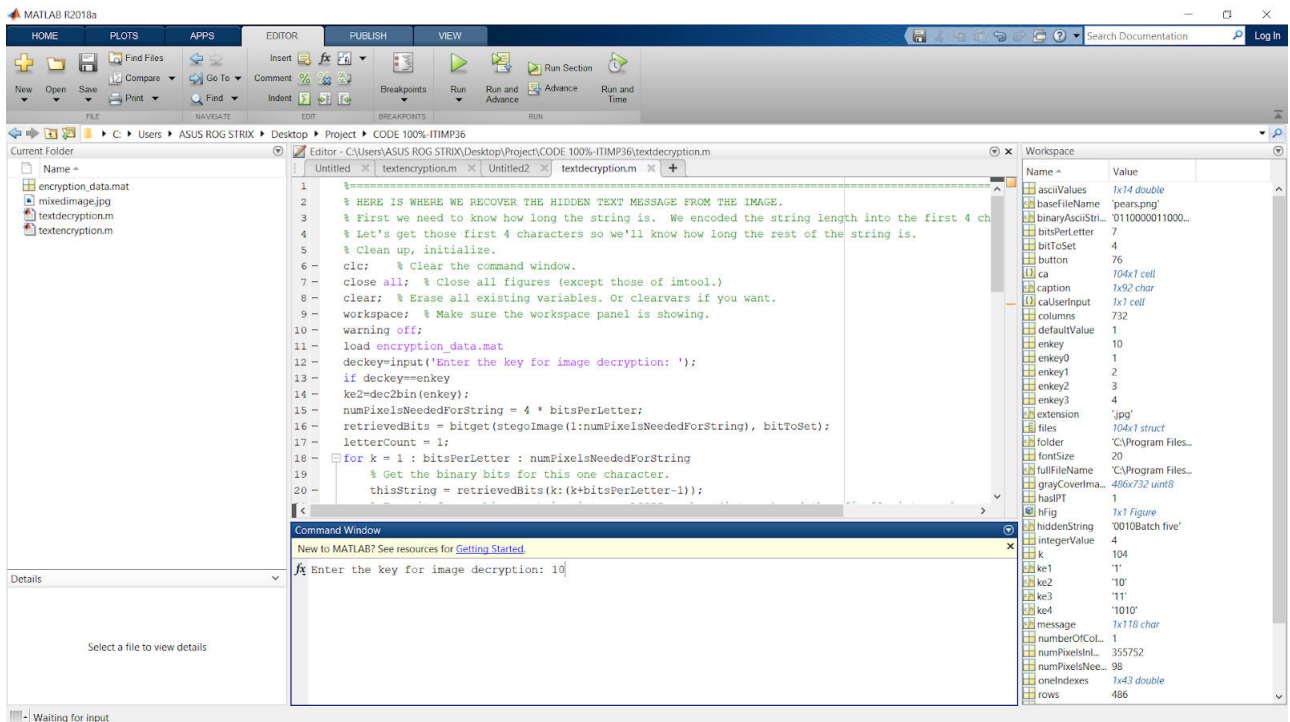


Figure 8. Enter the key for decryption

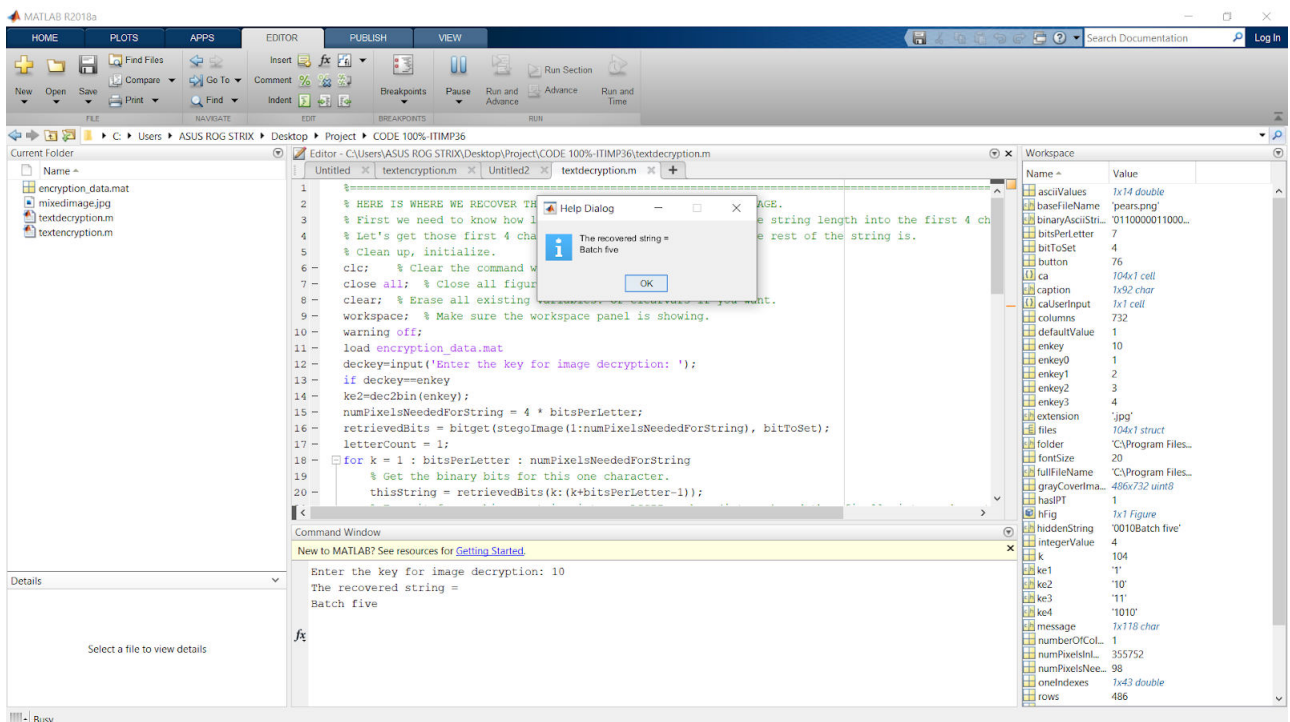


Figure 9. Decrypt the hidden message



IV. CONCLUSION

This paper proposed a novel image encryption algorithm integrating the bit-level permutation with three-bit plane decomposition technologies: binary bit plane decomposition, Gray code bit plane decomposition bit plane decomposition. each position of the LSBs plane with the corresponding position in the MSBs plane to reduce the correlation among neighboring pixels of the plain-text. The proposed algorithm uses a bit plane of a source image as the security key bit plane for protecting image contents. It has potential applications for multimedia communications.

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