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# PSAP-WSN: A Provably Secure Authentication Protocol for 5G-Based Wireless Sensor Networks

Xuanang Li<sup>1</sup>, Shuangshuang Liu<sup>1</sup>, Saru Kumari<sup>2</sup> and Chien-Ming Chen<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Shandong University of Science and Technology, Qingdao, 266590, China

<sup>2</sup>Department of Mathematics, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, 250004, India

\*Corresponding Author: Chien-Ming Chen. Email: chienmingchen@ieee.org

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## ABSTRACT

Nowadays, the widespread application of 5G has promoted rapid development in different areas, particularly in the Internet of Things (IoT), where 5G provides the advantages of higher data transfer rate, lower latency, and widespread connections. Wireless sensor networks (WSNs), which comprise various sensors, are crucial components of IoT. The main functions of WSN include providing users with real-time monitoring information, deploying regional information collection, and synchronizing with the Internet. Security in WSNs is becoming increasingly essential because of the across-the-board nature of wireless technology in many fields. Recently, Yu et al. proposed a user authentication protocol for WSN. However, their design is vulnerable to sensor capture and temporary information disclosure attacks. Thus, in this study, an improved protocol called PSAP-WSN is proposed. The security of PSAP-WSN is demonstrated by employing the ROR model, BAN logic, and ProVerif tool for the analysis. The experimental evaluation shows that our design is more efficient and suitable for WSN environments.

## KEYWORDS

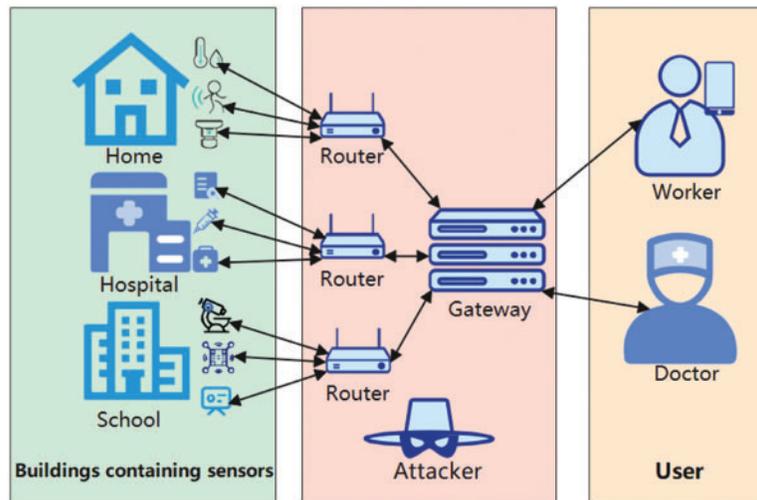
5G; wireless sensor networks; IoT; authentication protocol

## 1 Introduction

Historically, communication modes have evolved constantly, progressing through flying pigeons, post stations, wireless telegrams, fixed telephones, and mobile phones. Currently, most countries enjoy excellent Internet communication. Humans can control objects around them, as well as distant objects. Consequently, the Internet of Things (IoT) [1–3] emerged. In 1990, the world's first IoT device, Xerox's vending machine, appeared. In 1999, Professor Kevin Ashton of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology first proposed the definition of the IoT [4]. IoT now controls distant things from theory to practice. However, the slow transmission speed of information in the IoT, high latency, and limited support for connected devices are significant problems. 5G has emerged to solve these problems [5,6], providing higher data transfer rates, lower latency, and more connections to facilitate the efficient application of IoT worldwide [7]. Currently, IoT has been deployed in various applications [8–10].



In the last two or three decades, people's lives have continuously improved with the vigorous development of the Internet. Expectations for quality of life have generally increased. However, traditional electronic devices cannot meet the growing needs of people. With the rapid development of IoT, sensors joined IoT to form wireless sensor networks (WSNs) [11–13], meeting people's needs for work, production, study, entertainment, and other aspects. Sensors are ubiquitous in everyday life. As shown in Fig. 1, different types of sensors are deployed in homes, hospitals, schools, and other environments. In hospitals, patients are equipped with sensors to self-monitor physiological indicators, and doctors can remotely analyze these data to provide timely medical services to patients. Sensors are placed in schools or homes to collect temperature, carbon monoxide, or pyroelectric data.



**Figure 1:** Wireless sensor network environment

Although WSNs make people's lives more efficient and convenient, they also create security problems [14–16]. For example, in 2016, a massive network outage in the eastern United States was caused by hackers who exploited vulnerabilities in communication protocols through a distributed denial-of-service attack [17,18]. Therefore, security is a significant problem that must be solved in WSNs [19,20]. In a typical WSN, two vital security issues must be carefully considered. First, because all sensing data are transmitted through a public channel, the data must be encrypted. Second, all members in a WSN should authenticate each other before sending data [21,22]. Many authentication protocols have been proposed to overcome these two security issues [23–25].

Recently, Yu et al. [26] proposed an authentication protocol called SLUA-WSN, declaring that it is secure against various attacks. Nevertheless, their design remains insecure against temporary information disclosure and sensor capture attacks [26]. To address these vulnerabilities, in this study, a novel authentication protocol, called PSAP-WSN, is proposed. To demonstrate that PSAP-WSN is secure and addresses the vulnerability issues, the ROR model, BAN logic, and ProVerif tools, which are three effective methods for proving the security of an authentication protocol, were employed. In addition, a performance evaluation was conducted to demonstrate that PSAP-WSN is suitable for WSN environments.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Sections 2 and 3, related work and Yu et al.'s protocol are described, respectively. In Section 4, it is demonstrated that Yu et al.'s protocol is insecure.

In [Section 5](#), new solutions are proposed. In [Sections 6](#) and [7](#), a security analysis and performance evaluation are provided, respectively.

## 2 Related Work

5G requires powerful security and privacy solutions because it connects all aspects of a communication network. Various security mechanisms have been proposed for 5G applications. In 2019, Lu et al. [27] recognized the crucial challenges of security and privacy in 5G vehicle-to-everything. In 2020, Liu et al. [28] proposed a federated learning framework to make 5G environments secure. In 2021, Afaq et al. [29] recognized essential security issues in 5G networks. Then, Yahaya et al. [30] proposed a privacy handover scheme for SDN-based 5G networks. In 2022, Yahaya et al. [30] provided an energy trading model for a 5G-deployed smart community based on blockchain technology.

Various authentication protocols have been proposed for WSNs. In 2015, Chang et al. [31] proposed an authentication protocol for protecting user privacy. However, some parameters of their protocols are not protected. Anonymity and backward confidentiality attacks may occur when users lose their smart cards. In 2017, Lu et al. [32] presented a three-factor authentication protocol with anonymity. In 2019, Mo et al. [33] analyzed Lu et al.'s protocol and concluded that it did not provide three-factor security. Therefore, an improved protocol was proposed. In 2020, Yu et al. [26] indicated that their protocol [33] was insecure against camouflage and session key exposure attacks. In addition, this protocol [33] does not provide anonymity. In 2020, Almuhaideb et al. [34] analyzed Yu et al.'s protocol and noted loopholes. Security problems occur if an adversary obtains both random numbers and sensitive information stored in a smart card. However, we believe that this attack is not reasonable because an adversary should simultaneously obtain two types of secret information.

## 3 Revisit SLUA-WSN

Here, Yu et al.'s design, which consists of sensor registration, user registration, and login and authentication phases, is revisited. The symbols and notations used are listed in [Table 1](#).

**Table 1:** Notation definitions in SLUA-WSN

Notations	Definitions
$U_i$	The $i_{th}$ user
$S_j$	The $j_{th}$ sensor node
$SID_j$	$S_j$ 's identity
$GWN$	Gateway
$ID_i$	$U_i$ 's identity
$PW_i$	Password of $U_i$
$BIO_i$	Biometric of $U_i$
$R_g, R_u, R_s$	Random numbers
$K_{GWN}$	Master key of $GWN$
$\mathcal{A}$	Attacker
$X_j$	Secret key of $S_j$
$SK$	Session key
$T_i$	The $i_{th}$ timestamp
$\parallel$	Concatenation
$\oplus$	exclusive-or operation

(Continued)

**Table 1 (continued)**

Notations	Definitions
$h(\cdot)$	One-way hash function

### 3.1 Sensor Registration Phase

Assuming that a sensor  $S_j$  desires to enter a WSN,  $S_j$  must register with the gateway  $GWN$  first.  $GWN$  selects identity  $SID_j$  for  $S_j$  and calculates  $X_j = h(SID_j || K_{GWN})$ . Subsequently,  $GWN$  transmits  $\{SID_j, X_j\}$  to  $S_j$ .

### 3.2 User Registration Phase

- $U_i$  enters his  $ID_i$ ,  $PW_i$  and  $BIO_i$  and then calculates  $Gen(BIO_i) = (R_i, P_i)$  and  $MPW_i = h(PW_i || R_i)$ , where  $Gen$  is a fuzzy extractor operation and  $U_i$  transmits  $\{ID_i, MPW_i\}$  to  $GWN$ .
- $GWN$  generates  $R_g$  and calculates  $MID_i = h(ID_i || h(K_{GWN} || R_g))$ ,  $X_i = h(MID_i || R_g || K_{GWN})$ ,  $Q_i = h(MID_i || MPW_i) \oplus X_i$  and  $W_i = h(MPW_i || X_i)$ .  $GWN$  deposits  $R_g$  in its own database and further issues a smart card storing  $\{MID_i, Q_i, W_i\}$  to  $U_i$ .

### 3.3 Login and Authentication Phase

- With the smart card,  $U_i$  inputs  $ID_i$ ,  $PW_i$ , and  $BIO_i$ , and obtains  $R_i = Rep(BIO_i, P_i)$ , where  $Rep$  is another fuzzy extractor operation.  $U_i$  then calculates  $MPW_i = h(PW_i || R_i)$ ,  $X_i = h(MID_i || MPW_i) \oplus Q_i$ , and  $W_i^* = h(MPW_i || X_i)$  and verifies whether  $W_i^*$  is equal to  $W_i$ . If it is equal,  $U_i$  generates  $R_u$  and  $T_1$  and calculates  $M_1 = X_i \oplus R_u$ ,  $CID_i = (ID_i || SID_j) \oplus h(MID_i || R_u || X_i)$ , and  $M_{UG} = h(ID_i || R_u || X_i || T_1)$ . Now,  $U_i$  transmits  $\{M_1, MID_i, CID_i, M_{UG}, T_1\}$  to  $GWN$ .
- $GWN$  examines the freshness of  $T_1$  and obtains  $M_{UG}^*$  by calculating  $X_i = h(MID_i || R_g || K_{GWN})$ ,  $R_u = M_1 \oplus X_i$ ,  $(ID_i || SID_j) = CID_i \oplus h(MID_i || R_u || X_i)$ .  $GWN$  compares  $M_{UG}^*$  with the received  $M_{UG}$ . If they are equal,  $GWN$  calculates  $M_2 = (R_u || R_g) \oplus h(SID_j || X_j || T_2)$  and  $M_{GS} = h(MID_i || SID_j || R_u || R_g || X_j || T_2)$  and then transmits  $\{M_2, MID_i, M_{GS}, T_2\}$  to  $S_j$ .
- $S_j$  examines the freshness of  $T_2$  and calculates  $(R_u || R_g) = M_2 \oplus h(SID_j || X_j || T_2)$ ,  $M_{GS}^* = h(MID_i || SID_j || R_u || R_g || X_j || T_2)$ .  $S_j$  checks whether  $M_{GS}^*$  and the received  $M_{GS}$  are equal. Next,  $S_j$  generates  $R_s$  and  $T_3$ , calculates  $M_3 = R_s \oplus h(R_u || SID_j || X_j || T_3)$ ,  $M_{SG} = h(R_s || R_g || SID_j || X_j || T_3)$ , and finally calculates the session key  $SK = h(R_u || R_s)$  and  $M_{SU} = h(SK || R_s || R_u || SID_j || MID_i)$ . Now,  $S_j$  transmits  $\{M_3, M_{SG}, M_{SU}, T_3\}$  to  $GWN$ .
- $GWN$  calculates  $R_s = M_3 \oplus h(R_u || SID_j || X_j || T_3)$  and  $M_{SG}^* = h(R_s || R_g || SID_j || X_j || T_3)$  after checking the freshness of  $T_3$ .  $GWN$  then checks whether  $M_{SG}^*$  and the received  $M_{SG}$  are equal. Next,  $GWN$  computes  $MID_i^{new} = h(ID_i || h(K_{GWN} || R_g))$ ,  $X_i^{new} = h(MID_i^{new} || R_g || K_{GWN})$ ,  $M_4 = (MID_i^{new} || X_i^{new} || R_s || R_g) \oplus h(MID_i || X_i || T_4)$ , and  $M_{GU} = h(R_u || R_g || MID_i || X_i || T_4)$ . Thereafter,  $GWN$  transmits  $\{M_4, M_{SU}, M_{GU}, T_4\}$  to  $U_i$ .
- $U_i$  first examines the freshness of  $T_4$  and calculates  $(MID_i^{new} || X_i^{new} || R_s || R_g) = M_4 \oplus h(MID_i || X_i || T_4)$  and  $M_{GU}^* = h(R_u || R_g || MID_i || X_i || T_4)$ . In addition,  $U_i$  verifies whether  $M_{GU}^*$  is equal to the received  $M_{GU}$ . If they are equal,  $U_i$  obtains the session key  $SK = h(R_u || R_s)$ .

#### 4 Attacks on the SLUA-WSN Protocol

This section analyzes the SLUA-WSN protocol [26]. The adversary model utilized in this study is presented, demonstrating that SLUA-WSN is insecure against sensor node capture and temporary information leakage attacks.

##### 4.1 Adversary Model

The Dolev-Yao (DY) model [35] is a widely used and reasonable adversary model for analyzing authentication protocols [36]. Under the DY model, the protocol can be thoroughly and reasonably cryptanalyzed. Therefore, the DY model was used as the adversary model with  $\mathcal{A}$  utilized to denote an attacker; the detailed attack capability is described below:

1.  $\mathcal{A}$  can intercept/modify/delete messages submitted via a public channel.
2.  $\mathcal{A}$  can steal temporary variables used in the process of an authentication protocol.
3.  $\mathcal{A}$  can crack parameters stored in a smart card [37], implying that, once the user's smart card is stolen, sensitive parameters in this smart card will also be compromised by  $\mathcal{A}$ .
4.  $\mathcal{A}$  can capture the sensor and obtain the information stored in it.

##### 4.2 Sensor Node Capture Attack

According to the DY model, after capturing a sensor,  $\mathcal{A}$  can capture the sensitive parameters stored therein. Various authentication protocols have considered this attack [38–41].

Assume that  $\mathcal{A}$  captures a sensor  $S_j$ , and then  $\mathcal{A}$  performs the following steps:

1.  $\mathcal{A}$  obtains  $\{SID_j, X_j\}$  stored in  $S_j$ .
2.  $\mathcal{A}$  intercepts  $\{M_1, M_2, M_4, MID_i, CID_i, M_{GS}, M_{UG}, T_1, T_2, T_4\}$  via a public channel.
3.  $\mathcal{A}$  obtains  $(R_u || R_g)$  by computing  $M_2 \oplus h(SID_j || X_j || T_2)$ .
4. With  $R_u$  and  $M_1$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  can have  $X_i$ .
5. Now,  $\mathcal{A}$  will have  $R_s$  by computing  $M_4 \oplus h(MID_i || X_i || T_4)$ .
6. Eventually,  $\mathcal{A}$  can have  $SK$  because  $SK = h(R_u || R_s)$ .

Evidently, the SLUA-WSN protocol [26] cannot effectively resist sensor node capture attacks.

##### 4.3 Temporary Information Leakage Attack

As mentioned in the adversary model,  $\mathcal{A}$  steals temporary variables during the authentication process. Various authentication protocols have considered this attack [41–43].

Suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  obtains  $\{R_u\}$ , which is a temporary variable in this protocol. The following steps are then performed:

1.  $\mathcal{A}$  intercepts  $\{M_1, M_4, MID_i, T_4\}$  via a public channel.
2.  $\mathcal{A}$  obtains  $X_i$  by computing  $R_u \oplus M_1$ .
3.  $\mathcal{A}$  obtains  $(MID_i^{new} || X_i^{new} || R_s || R_g)$  by computing  $M_4 \oplus h(MID_i || X_i || T_4)$ .
4. Eventually,  $\mathcal{A}$  obtains  $SK$  because  $SK = h(R_u || R_s)$ .

## 5 PSAP-WSN

This section describes, in detail, the proposed PSAP-WSN, which consists of the pre-processing, user registration, login, and authentication phases. The symbols used in PSAP-WSN are listed in Table 2.

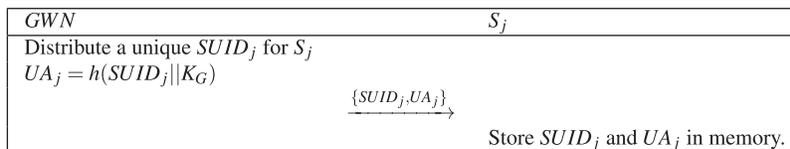
**Table 2:** Notations used in PSAP-WSN

Notations	Definitions
$U_i$	$i_{th}$ user
$S_j$	$j_{th}$ sensor node
$SUID_j$	Identity of $S_j$
$GWN$	Gateway node
$UID_i$	$U_i$ 's identity
$UPW_i$	$U_i$ 's password
$UBIO_i$	Biometric features of $U_i$
$K_G$	Master key of $GWN$
$R_n, R_u, R_g, R_s$	Random numbers
$Gen(\cdot)/Rep(\cdot)$	Generation/reproduction process of fuzzy extractor
$ENC_{PK}()/DES_{PK}()$	Public and private key encryption and decryption of gateway node
$SK$	Session keys produced by $U_i, S_j$
$T_i$	The $i_{th}$ timestamp
$\mathcal{A}$	The attacker
$h(\cdot)$	One-way hash function
$x  y$	Concatenation
$\oplus$	Exclusive-or operation

### 5.1 Pre-Processing Phase

$GWN$  has to prepare some parameters for the sensors before they are deployed. This phase does not significantly differ from the SLUA-WSN protocol [26]. Fig. 2 illustrates this process. The detailed steps are as follows:

- (1)  $GWN$  chooses the unique  $SUID_j$  for  $S_j$  and uses its own key  $K_G$  to calculate  $UA_j = h(SUID_j||K_G)$ . Then,  $GWN$  submits  $\{SUID_j, UA_j\}$  to  $S_j$ .
- (2)  $S_j$  stores them in its local memory.

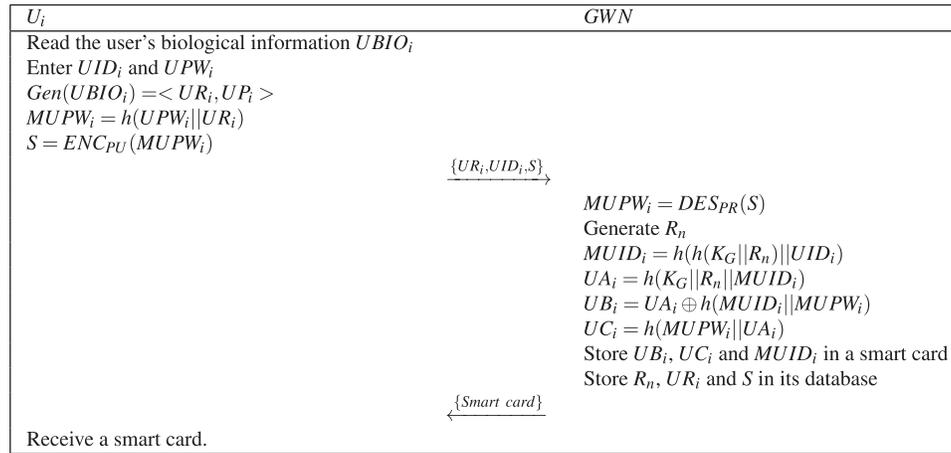


**Figure 2:** Pre-processing phase

### 5.2 User Registration Phase

All users need to register with *GWN* before entering the network. Assume that  $U_i$  desires to join this network; then, the user registration phase is initiated. In Fig. 3, the procedure followed in this phase is displayed. The detailed steps are as follows. Note that this phase is executed through a secure channel.

1.  $U_i$  inputs  $UID_i$ ,  $UPW_i$  and  $UBIO_i$  and computes  $Gen(UBIO_i) = \langle UR_i, UP_i \rangle$ .  $U_i$  then calculates  $MUPW_i = h(UPW_i || UR_i)$  and encrypts  $MUPW_i$  with *GWN*'s public key  $PU$ . Thereafter,  $U_i$  sends  $\{UR_i, UID_i, S\}$  to *GWN*.
2. *GWN* obtains  $MUPW_i$  by decrypting  $S$  with his private key  $PR$ . Further, *GWN* generates  $R_n$  and calculates  $MUID_i = h(h(K_G || R_n) || UID_i)$ ,  $UA_i = h(K_G || R_n || MUID_i)$ ,  $UB_i = UA_i \oplus h(MUID_i || MUPW_i)$ , and  $UC_i = h(MUPW_i || UA_i)$ . *GWN* issues a smart card to  $U_i$ , which stores  $UB_i$ ,  $UC_i$ , and  $MUID_i$ . *GWN* also stores  $R_n$ ,  $UR_i$  and  $S$  in its database.



**Figure 3:** User registration phase

### 5.3 Login and Authentication Phase

This phase is performed when the user is expected to connect to a specific sensor. Fig. 4 illustrates this process. Suppose that  $U_i$  wishes to connect to  $S_j$ ; the following steps are then executed:

- (1)  $U_i$  inserts his smart card and inputs  $UBIO_i$ ,  $UID_i$ , and  $UP_i$ .  $U_i$  then computes  $UR_i = Rep(BIO_i, UPW_i)$ ,  $MUPW_i = h(UPW_i || UR_i)$ ,  $UA_i = h(MUID_i || MUPW_i) \oplus UB_i$ , and  $UC'_i = h(MUPW_i || UA_i)$ . The smart card checks whether  $UC_i$  equals  $UC'_i$ . Subsequently,  $U_i$  generates  $R_u$  and  $T_1$  and calculates  $M_1 = MUPW_i \oplus UID_i \oplus UA_i \oplus R_u$ ,  $CUID_i = h(MUID_i || UA_i || R_u) \oplus (SUID_i || UID_i)$ , and  $K_{UG} = h(UA_i || R_u || UID_i || T_1)$ . Now,  $U_i$  transmits  $\{M_1, MUID_i, CUID_i, K_{UG}, T_1\}$  to *GWN*.
- (2) *GWN* checks the freshness of  $T_1$ . *GWN* calculates  $UA_i = h(MUID_i || R_n || K_G)$ ,  $R_u = UA_i \oplus M_1 \oplus UID_i \oplus MUPW_i$ ,  $(UID_i || SUID_j) = CUID_i \oplus h(MUID_i || UA_i || R_u)$ , and  $K'_{UG} = h(UA_i || R_u || UID_i || T_1)$ . Now, *GWN* verifies whether  $K'_{UG}$  is equal to the  $K_{UG}$  that *GWN* received. If they are the same, *GWN* further calculates  $M_2 = (R_u || R_g) \oplus h(SUID_j || UA_j || T_2)$  and  $K_{GS} = h(MUID_i || SUID_j || R_u || R_g || UA_j || T_2)$  and then sends  $\{M_2, MUID_i, M_{GS}, T_2\}$  to  $S_j$ .

$U_i$	GWN	$S_j$
Read the user's biological information $UBIO_i$ Enter $UID_i$ and $UPW_i$ $UR_i = Rep(UBIO_i, UP_i)$ $MUPW_i = h(UPW_i    UR_i)$ $UA_i = h(MUID_i    MUPW_i) \oplus UB_i$ $UC'_i = h(MUPW_i    UA_i)$ Check $UC'_i \stackrel{?}{=} UC_i$ Generate $R_u, T_1$ $M_1 = MUPW_i \oplus UID_i \oplus UA_i \oplus R_u$ $CUID_i = h(MUID_i    UA_i    R_u)$ $\oplus (SUID_i    UID_i)$ $K_{UG} = h(UA_i    R_u    UID_i    T_1)$ $\{M_1, MUID_i, CUID_i, K_{UG}, T_1\}$	Checks $T_1$ $UA_i = h(MUID_i    R_u    K_G)$ $R_u = UA_i \oplus M_1 \oplus UID_i \oplus MUPW_i$ $(UID_i    SUID_j) = CUID_i \oplus$ $h(MUID_i    UA_i    R_u)$ $K'_{UG} = h(UA_i    R_u    UID_i    T_1)$ $K'_{UG} \stackrel{?}{=} K_{UG}$ Generate $R_g, T_2$ $M_2 = (R_u    R_g) \oplus h(SUID_j    UA_j    T_2)$ $K_{GS} = h(MUID_i    SUID_j    R_u    R_g    UA_j    T_2)$ $\{M_2, MUID_i, M_{GS}, T_2\}$	Checks $T_2$ $(R_u    R_g) = h(SUID_j    UA_j    T_2) \oplus M_2$ $K'_{GS} = h(MUID_i    SUID_j    R_u$ $   R_g    UA_j    T_2)$ $K'_{GS} \stackrel{?}{=} K_{GS}$ Generate $R_s, T_3$ $N = ENCP_{PU}(R_s)$ $K_{SG} = h(R_s    R_g    SUID_j    UA_j    T_3)$ $SK = h(R_u    R_s)$ $K_{SU} = h(SK    R_s    R_u$ $   SUID_j    MUID_i)$ $\{N, K_{SG}, K_{SU}, T_3\}$
Checks $T_4$ $(MUID_i^{new}    UA_i^{new}    R_g)$ $= M_4 \oplus h(MUID_i    UA_i    T_4)$ $R_s = MKU \oplus UC_i \oplus UR_i$ $K'_{GU} = h(R_u    R_g    MUID_i    UA_i    T_4)$ $K'_{GU} \stackrel{?}{=} K_{GU}$ $SK = h(R_u    R_s)$ $K'_{SU} = h(SK    R_s    R_u    SUID_j    MUID_i)$ $K'_{SU} \stackrel{?}{=} K_{SU}$ $UB_i^{new} = h(MUID_i^{new}    MUPW_i) \oplus UA_i^{new}$ $UC_i^{new} = h(MUPW_i    UA_i^{new})$ Update $MUID_i^{new}, UB_i^{new}, UC_i^{new}$ to $MUID_i, UB_i, UC_i$	Checks $T_3$ $R_s = DES_{PR}(N)$ $K'_{SG} = h(R_s    R_g    SUID_j    UA_j    T_3)$ $K'_{SG} \stackrel{?}{=} K_{SG}$ Generate $T_4$ $MUID_i^{new} = h(UID_i    h(K_G    R_g))$ $UA_i^{new} = h(MUID_i^{new}    R_g    K_g)$ $M_4 = h(MUID_i    UA_i    T_4) \oplus$ $(MUID_i^{new}    UA_i^{new}    R_g)$ $K_{GU} = h(R_u    R_g    MUID_i    UA_i    T_4)$ $MUPW_i = DES_{PR}(S)$ $UC_i = h(MUPW_i    UA_i)$ $MKU = R_s \oplus UC_i \oplus UR_i$ $\{MKU, M_4, K_{SU}, K_{GU}, T_4\}$	

Figure 4: Login and authentication phase

- (3)  $S_j$  confirms the freshness of  $T_2$  and computes  $(R_u||R_g) = h(SUID_j||UA_j||T_2) \oplus M_2$ ,  $K'_{GS} = h(MUID_i||SUID_j||R_u||R_g||UA_j||T_2)$ . Now,  $S_j$  verifies the correctness  $K'_{GS}$ . Then,  $S_j$  generates  $R_s$  and  $T_3$  and calculates  $N = ENC_{PU}(R_s)$ ,  $K_{SG} = h(R_s||R_g||SUID_j||UA_j||T_3)$ ,  $SK = h(R_u||R_s)$  and  $K_{SU} = h(SK||R_s||R_u||SUID_j||MUID_i)$ . Eventually,  $S_j$  transfers  $\{N, K_{SG}, K_{SU}, T_3\}$  to  $GWN$ .
- (4)  $GWN$  confirms the freshness of  $T_3$  and computes  $R_s = DES_{PR}(N)$  and  $K'_{SG} = h(R_s||R_g||SUID_j||UA_j||T_3)$ . Then,  $GWN$  confirms the correctness of  $K'_{SG}$ . After that,  $GWN$  calculates  $MUID_i^{new} = h(UID_i||h(K_G||R_g))$ ,  $UA_i^{new} = h(MUID_i^{new}||R_g||K_g)$ ,  $M_4 = h(MUID_i||UA_i||T_4) \oplus (MUID_i^{new}||UA_i^{new}||R_g)$ ,  $K_{GU} = h(R_u||R_g||MUID_i||UA_i||T_4)$ ,  $MUPW_i = DES_{PR}(S)$ ,  $UC_i = h(MUPW_i||UA_i)$  and  $M_{KU} = R_s \oplus UC_i \oplus UR_i$ . Now,  $GWN$  sends  $\{M_{KU}, M_4, K_{SU}, K_{GU}, T_4\}$  to  $U_i$ .
- (5)  $U_i$  checks the freshness of  $T_4$  and calculates  $(MUID_i^{new}||UA_i^{new}||R_g) = M_4 \oplus h(MUID_i||UA_i||T_4)$ ,  $R_s = M_{KU} \oplus UC_i \oplus UR_i$  and  $K'_{GU} = h(R_u||R_g||MUID_i||UA_i||T_4)$ .  $U_i$  then verifies the correctness of  $K'_{GU}$ . After that,  $U_i$  calculates  $SK = h(R_u||R_s)$  and  $K'_{SU} = h(SK||R_s||R_u||SUID_j||MUID_i)$ , and then checks the correctness of  $K'_{SU}$ . Furthermore,  $U_i$  calculates  $UB_i^{new} = h(MUID_i^{new}||MUPW_i) \oplus UA_i^{new}$  and  $UC_i^{new} = h(MUPW_i||UA_i^{new})$ , and then replaces  $MUID_i, UB_i, UC_i$  with  $MUID_i^{new}, UB_i^{new}, UC_i^{new}$ .

Finally,  $U_i$  and  $S_j$  both have  $SK = h(R_u||R_s)$  as a session key.

## 6 Security Analysis

This section demonstrates that PSAP-WSN is provably secure against different attacks, using BAN logic, ROR model, and ProVerif tool.

### 6.1 BAN Logic

*Ban Logic Rules*

$$\text{Message-meaning rule (R1)} \frac{U \models U \xleftrightarrow{K} G, U \triangleleft \{M\}_K}{U \models G \sim M} \cdot \frac{U \models U \xleftrightarrow{N} G, U \triangleleft \langle M \rangle_N}{U \models G \sim M}.$$

$$\text{Nonce-verification rule (R2)} \frac{U \models \sharp(M), U \models G \sim M}{U \models G \models M}.$$

$$\text{Jurisdiction rule (R3)} \frac{U \models G \Rightarrow M, U \models G \models M}{U \models M}.$$

$$\text{Freshness rule (R4)} \frac{U \models \sharp(M)}{U \models \sharp(M, N)}.$$

$$\text{Belief rule (R5)} \frac{U \models M, U \models N}{U \models (M, N)}.$$

$$\text{Session key rule (R6)} \frac{U \models \sharp(M), U \models G \models M}{U \models U \xleftrightarrow{K} G}.$$

*Goals*

$$\text{G1 } U \models U \xleftrightarrow{SK} G.$$

$$\text{G2 } G \models U \xleftrightarrow{SK} G.$$

$$\text{G3 } U \models G \models U \xleftrightarrow{SK} G.$$

$$\mathbf{G4} \quad G \equiv U \equiv U \xleftrightarrow{SK} G.$$

$$\mathbf{G5} \quad S \equiv S \xleftrightarrow{SK} G.$$

$$\mathbf{G6} \quad G \equiv S \xleftrightarrow{SK} G.$$

$$\mathbf{G7} \quad S \equiv G \equiv S \xleftrightarrow{SK} G.$$

$$\mathbf{G8} \quad G \equiv S \equiv S \xleftrightarrow{SK} G.$$

### 6.1.1 Idealizing Communication

$$M_{sg1} U \rightarrow G : \{M_1, MUID_i, CUID_i, K_{UG}, T_1\}.$$

$$M_{sg2} G \rightarrow S : \{M_2, MUID_i, K_{GS}, T_2\}.$$

$$M_{sg3} S \rightarrow G : \{N, K_{SG}, K_{SU}, T_3\}.$$

$$M_{sg4} G \rightarrow U : \{M_{KU}, M_4, K_{SU}, K_{GU}, T_4\}.$$

*Initial state assumptions*

$$\mathbf{A1} \quad U \equiv U \xRightarrow{UA_i} G.$$

$$\mathbf{A2} \quad G \equiv U \xRightarrow{UA_i} G.$$

$$\mathbf{A3} \quad G \equiv \sharp(R_u, R_s).$$

$$\mathbf{A4} \quad G \equiv U \mid \Rightarrow (R_u).$$

$$\mathbf{A5} \quad G \equiv \sharp(R_s).$$

$$\mathbf{A6} \quad U \equiv \sharp(R_u, R_s).$$

$$\mathbf{A7} \quad U \equiv G \mid \Rightarrow (R_u, R_s).$$

$$\mathbf{A8} \quad S \equiv G \xRightarrow{UA_j, SUID_j} S.$$

$$\mathbf{A9} \quad G \equiv S \xRightarrow{UA_j, SUID_j} G.$$

$$\mathbf{A10} \quad S \equiv \sharp(R_u, R_s).$$

$$\mathbf{A11} \quad S \equiv G \mid \Rightarrow (R_u, R_s).$$

*Detailed steps*

With  $M_{sg1}$  and using the seeing rule, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S1} : G \triangleleft \{\langle R_u \rangle_{UA_i}, \langle MUID_i, CUID_i, K_{UG}, T_1 \rangle\}$$

Using S1, R1, and A2, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S2} : G \equiv U \mid \sim (R_u)$$

Using S2, under the assumption of A3 and nonce verification postulate R2, S3 can be obtained.

$$\mathbf{S3} : G \equiv U \equiv (R_u)$$

With A4, R3, and S3, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S4} : G \equiv (R_u)$$

Similarly, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S5} : G \equiv (R_s)$$

Because  $SK = h(R_u || R_s)$ , using S4 and S5, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S6} : G \equiv U \xleftrightarrow{SK} G \text{ (G2)} .$$

With A3, A5, and R4, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S7} : G \equiv U \equiv U \xleftrightarrow{SK} G \text{ (G4)} .$$

In addition, using  $M_{sg4}$ , we obtain

$$\mathbf{S8} : U \triangleleft \{ \langle R_s \rangle_{UA_i}, M_{KU}, K_{SU}, M4, T4 \} .$$

By using A1, and R1 we obtain

$$\mathbf{S9} : U \equiv G \sim (R_s)$$

With S9, A6, and R2, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S10} : U \equiv G \equiv (R_s)$$

Using A7, S9, and R3, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S11} : U \equiv (R_s) .$$

thus,

$$\mathbf{S12} : U \equiv (R_u) .$$

Because  $SK = h(R_u || R_s)$ , using S11 and S12, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S13} : U \equiv U \xleftrightarrow{SK} G \text{ (G1)}$$

With S13, A6, and R4, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S14} : U \equiv G \equiv U \xleftrightarrow{SK} G \text{ (G3)} .$$

By considering the message  $M_{sg2}$ , we obtain

$$\mathbf{S15} : S \triangleleft \{ \langle R_u, R_s \rangle_{UA_j}, MUID_i, K_{GS} \}$$

Using S15, R1, and A8, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S16} : S \equiv G \sim (R_u, R_s)$$

Using S16, under the assumption of A10 and the nonce verification postulate R2, S17 can be obtained.

$$\mathbf{S17} : S \equiv G \equiv (R_u, R_s)$$

Using A11, R3, and S17, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S18} : S \equiv (R_u, R_s)$$

Because  $SK = h(R_u || R_s)$ , using S18, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S19} : S \equiv G \xleftrightarrow{SK} S \text{ (G5)}$$

Using S19, A10, and R4, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S20} : S \equiv G \equiv S \xleftrightarrow{SK} G \text{ (G7)} .$$

By considering message  $M_{sg3}$ , we obtain

$$\mathbf{S21} : G \triangleleft \{\langle R_u, R_s \rangle_{SVID_j}, K_{GU}\}$$

Using S21, R1, and A9, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S22} : G \equiv S \sim (R_u, R_s)$$

Using S22, under the assumption of A3, A5, and nonce verification postulate R2, S23 can be obtained.

$$\mathbf{S23} : G \equiv U \equiv (R_u, R_s)$$

Using A4, R3, and S2, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S24} : G \equiv (R_u, R_s)$$

Because  $SK = h(R_u || R_s)$ , using S24, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S25} : G \equiv S \xleftrightarrow{SK} G \text{ (G6)}$$

Using S25, A3, A5, and R4, we obtain

$$\mathbf{S26} : S \equiv G \equiv S \xleftrightarrow{SK} G \text{ (G8)} .$$

## 6.2 ROR Model

The well-known real-or-random (ROR) model [44] was used to demonstrate that PSAP-WSN is provably secure. The ROR model has been widely used in numerous studies. The PSAP-WSN has three entities:  $U_i$ ,  $GWN$ , and  $S_j$ . In the proof, we define  $R = \{H_u^x, H_G^y, H_s^z\}$ , where  $H_u^x$ ,  $H_G^y$ , and  $H_s^z$  denote the  $x$ -th  $U_i$ ,  $y$ -th  $GWN$ , and  $z$ -th  $S_j$ , respectively. In addition,  $\mathcal{A}$  as an attacker can perform the following operations:

*Execute*( $R$ ): With *Execute*( $R$ ),  $\mathcal{A}$  can obtain messages transmitted by  $U_i$ ,  $GWN$ , and  $S_j$  through a public channel.

*Send*( $R, M$ ):  $\mathcal{A}$  can receive or send messages transmitted between entities via *Send*( $R, M$ ).

*Reveal*( $R$ ): By performing *Reveal*( $R$ ),  $\mathcal{A}$  can access the session key generated between various entities.

*Hash*(*String*): Using *Hash*(*String*),  $\mathcal{A}$  can calculate the hash value of a fixed string.

*Test(O)*: During the execution of the game, it is necessary to flip coin  $C$  to determine the probability that  $\mathcal{A}$  can obtain  $SK$ . If  $C$  equals 1, the correct painting key is obtained; if it equals 0, a string with the same length as the painting key is obtained.

Theorem 1: Using  $Adv_p^A$  as the main function for  $\mathcal{A}$  the  $SK$  between the communicators is obtained.  $q_h$  and  $q_s$  represent the number of *Hash* and *Send* queries, respectively, and  $H$  and  $B$  represent the range that can be accommodated by the hash function and the space size of the user password dictionary. The advantage of using a function to crack  $SK$  is that  $Adv_p^A \leq q_h^2/|H| + 2q_s/|B|$ .

#### Security proof

Proof: To prove Theorem 1, four games  $Game_i (i = 0, 1, 2, 3)$  were created. Among them, the  $\mathcal{A}$  that wins the game can be identified as  $Adv_{Game_i}^A$ , and the probability of  $\mathcal{A}$  winning the game is  $Pr[Adv_{Game_i}^A]$ .

$Game_0$ : In the first game,  $\mathcal{A}$  does not perform any operation except for selecting bit  $b$ ; therefore, the result of  $\mathcal{A}$  against the protocol is  $Adv_p^A = |2Adv_{Game_0}^A - 1|$ .

$Game_1$ : In the second game,  $\mathcal{A}$  performs the eavesdropping operations.  $\mathcal{A}$  can intercept and eavesdrop on the information  $\{M_1, MUID_i, CUID_i, K_{UG}, T_1\}$  and  $\{N, K_{SG}, K_{SU}, T_3\}$  transmitted between communicators through a public channel. However, if  $\mathcal{A}$  wants to obtain  $SK$  between the two communication parties by executing the *Test* operation, it must also know the random numbers  $R_u$  and  $R_s$  because  $SK = h(R_u || R_s)$ . Therefore, even if  $\mathcal{A}$  executes the *Execute* operation, the probability of obtaining the session key is the same as in  $Game_0$ . Hence,  $Pr[Adv_{Game_0}^A] = Pr[Adv_{Game_1}^A]$ .

$Game_2$ : The *Send* operation and *Hash* query were added to the previous game. During the execution of the game, we found that  $M_2, K_{UG}$ , and  $K_{SG}$  were protected by a hash function. If  $\mathcal{A}$  wants to obtain  $SK$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  must crack the hash function; however,  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot successfully crack the hash function because of the collision of the hash function. Thus, a conclusion can be drawn from the birthday paradox  $Pr[Adv_{Game_2}^A - Adv_{Game_1}^A] \leq q_h^2/2|H|$ .

$GM_3$ : During the operation of this game,  $\mathcal{A}$  attempts to estimate  $UID_i$ . In addition,  $\mathcal{A}$  cracked  $SK$  between  $U_i$  and  $S_j$  by intercepting the messages transmitted by the communicator through a public channel. However, random number  $R_u$  can only be obtained using  $U_i$ 's password, because  $R_u = UA_i \oplus M_1 \oplus UID_i \oplus MUPW_i$ . In the proposed protocol,  $\mathcal{A}$  can only send a limited number of send requests to crack  $SK$ . Thus,

$$Pr[Adv_{Game_3}^A - Adv_{Game_2}^A] \leq q_s/|B|.$$

After executing the above four games,  $\mathcal{A}$  can only win the game by guessing the correct bit  $B$ ; thus,

$$Pr[Adv_{Game_3}^A] = 1/2.$$

By sorting the above formulae, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 1/2 Adv_p^A &= |Adv_{Game_0}^A - 1/2| \\ &= |Pr[Adv_{Game_1}^A] - Pr[Adv_{Game_3}^A]| \\ &\leq |Pr[Adv_{Game_1}^A] - Pr[Adv_{Game_2}^A]| + |Pr[Adv_{Game_2}^A] - Pr[Adv_{Game_3}^A]| \\ &= q_h^2/2|H| + q_s/|B| \end{aligned}$$

Subsequently, we obtain

$$Adv_p^A \leq q_h^2/|H| + 2q_s/|B|. \text{ Therefore, it is proven that Theorem 1 is valid.}$$

### 6.3 ProVerif

To further verify the security of the proposed PSAP-WSN, a well-known verification tool called ProVerif [45,46] was used. In this simulation, we define *ch* as a public channel and *sch* as a secure channel. *SK<sub>i</sub>* and *SK<sub>j</sub>* represent the session keys established by the user and the sensor node, respectively. In addition, *PR* and *KG* represent the gateway's private and master keys, respectively. The simulation contained five events: UserStarted(), UserAuthenticated(), GatewayAcUser(), SjAcGateway(), and UserAcSj(). The defined parameters and function codes are presented in detail in Fig. 5.

```
(* channel*)
free ch :channel. (* public channel *)
free sch: channel [private]. (* secure channel, used for registering *)
(* shared keys *)
free SKi : bitstring [private].
free SKj : bitstring [private].
(* constants *)
free PR:bitstring [private].(* the GWN's secret key *)
free KG:bitstring [private].
(* functions & reductions & equations *)
fun h(bitstring) :bitstring. (* hash function *)
fun mult(bitstring,bitstring) :bitstring. (* scalar multiplication operation *)
fun add(bitstring,bitstring):bitstring. (* Addition operation *)
fun sub(bitstring,bitstring):bitstring. (* Subtraction operation *)
fun mod(bitstring,bitstring):bitstring. (* modulus operation *)
fun con(bitstring,bitstring):bitstring. (* concatenation operation *)
reduc forall m:bitstring, n:bitstring; getmess(con(m,n))=m.
fun senc(bitstring,bitstring):bitstring.
fun xor(bitstring,bitstring):bitstring. (* XOR operation *)
equation forall m:bitstring, n:bitstring; xor(xor(m,n),n)=m.
fun Gen(bitstring):bitstring. (* Generator operation *)
fun Rep(bitstring,bitstring):bitstring.
(* queries *)
query attacker(SKi).
query attacker(SKj).
query inj-event(UserAuthenticated()) ==> inj-event(UserStarted()).
query inj-event(GatewayAcSj()) ==> inj-event(GatewayAcUser()).
query inj-event(SjAcGateway()) ==> inj-event(GatewayAcSj()).
query inj-event(UserAcSj()) ==> inj-event(SjAcGateway()).
(* event *)
event UserStarted().
event UserAuthenticated().
event GatewayAcUser().
event GatewayAcSj().
event SjAcGateway().
event UserAcSj().
```

**Figure 5:** Definition, queries, and events in the ProVerif tool

The results for ProVerif are shown in Fig. 6. We can see “Result not attacker (ski []) is true,” “RESULT not attacker(SKj[]) is true,” “RESULT inj-event(UserAuthenticated) ==> inj-event(UserStarted) is true,” “RESULT inj-event(GatewayAcSj) ==> inj-event(GatewayAcUser) is true,” “RESULT inj-event(Sj-AcGateway) ==> inj-event(GatewayAcSj) is true,” and “RESULT inj-event(UserAcSj) ==> inj-event (SjAcGateway) is true.” The results show that PSAP-WSN can pass the Proverif tool.

```

-- Query not attacker(SKi[])
nounif mess(sch[], (zURi_11928, zUIDi_11929, MUPWi_11930))/-5000
Completing..
Starting query not attacker(SKi[])
RESULT not attacker(SKi[]) is true.
-- Query not attacker(SKj[])
nounif mess(sch[], (zURi_24704, zUIDi_24705, MUPWi_24706))/-5000
Completing..
Starting query not attacker(SKj[])
RESULT not attacker(SKj[]) is true.
-- Query inj-event(UserAuthenticated) ==> inj-event(UserStarted)
nounif mess(sch[], (zURi_37420, zUIDi_37421, MUPWi_37422))/-5000
Completing..
Starting query inj-event(UserAuthenticated) ==> inj-event(UserStarted)
RESULT inj-event(UserAuthenticated) ==> inj-event(UserStarted) is true.
-- Query inj-event(GatewayAcSj) ==> inj-event(GatewayAcUser)
nounif mess(sch[], (zURi_50314, zUIDi_50315, MUPWi_50316))/-5000
Completing..
Starting query inj-event(GatewayAcSj) ==> inj-event(GatewayAcUser)
RESULT inj-event(GatewayAcSj) ==> inj-event(GatewayAcUser) is true.
-- Query inj-event(SjAcGateway) ==> inj-event(GatewayAcSj)
nounif mess(sch[], (zURi_63035, zUIDi_63036, MUPWi_63037))/-5000
Completing..
Starting query inj-event(SjAcGateway) ==> inj-event(GatewayAcSj)
RESULT inj-event(SjAcGateway) ==> inj-event(GatewayAcSj) is true.
-- Query inj-event(UserAcSj) ==> inj-event(SjAcGateway)
nounif mess(sch[], (zURi_76191, zUIDi_76192, MUPWi_76193))/-5000
Completing..
200 rules inserted. The rule base contains 188 rules. 26 rules in the queue.
Starting query inj-event(UserAcSj) ==> inj-event(SjAcGateway)
RESULT inj-event(UserAcSj) ==> inj-event(SjAcGateway) is true.

```

**Figure 6:** Operation results

#### 6.4 Security Requirement Analysis

Next, it is demonstrated that PSAP-WSN is secure against the following attacks.

##### 6.4.1 Sensor Node Capture Attack

Because a sensor node is unattended, it is easily obtained by  $\mathcal{A}$  to analyze the internal parameters. Assume  $\mathcal{A}$  obtains  $SUID_j$  and  $UA_j$  after capturing  $S_j$ . However, to obtain  $SK$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  must know  $R_u$  and  $R_s$  simultaneously.  $R_u$  can be obtained through  $(R_u || R_g) = h(SUID_j || UA_j || T_2) \oplus M_2$ , where  $T_2$  and  $M_2$  are submitted via a public channel. Unfortunately,  $R_s$  is a temporary random number; therefore, the PSAP-WSN can resist this attack.

##### 6.4.2 Temporary Information Disclosure Attack

This attack assumes that  $\mathcal{A}$  can obtain a random number in PSAP-WSN if  $R_u$  is leaked, but  $UA_i$  and  $UID_i$  are not obtained. Only  $UID_i \oplus UA_i$  can be acquired, but other operations cannot be further performed. If  $R_g$  is leaked, but other parameters have not been analyzed,  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot carry out the next operation. Thus, the PSAP-WSN can resist this type of attack.

##### 6.4.3 Impersonation Attack

$\mathcal{A}$  can impersonate a user to send messages to  $GWN$ , but  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot generate a request message  $M_i$ ,  $MUID_i$ ,  $CUID_i$ ,  $K_{UG}$ . This is because  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot obtain the user identity, biometrics, and random numbers; thus, PSAP-WSN can resist this attack.

#### 6.4.4 Replay Attack

Suppose  $\mathcal{A}$  performs a replay attack. However, when  $\mathcal{A}$  attempts to send a request  $M_1, MUID_i, CUID_i, K_{UG}, T_1$ ,  $GWN$  verifies the freshness of the timestamp  $T_1$ . Simultaneously, PSAP-WSN uses  $UA_i, R_u$ , and  $UID_i$  to hash  $T_1$ . For these reasons, it is concluded that PSAP-WSN can resist this attack.

#### 6.4.5 Anonymity and Untraceability

In our design, neither  $UID_i$  is transferred, nor are there any devices to store  $UID_i$ . In addition, one-way hash function processing is performed for the places where  $UID_i$  is required; therefore,  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot analyze  $UID_i$  in various ways. The user parameters  $MUID_i, UB_i, UC_i$  are updated after each authentication round.  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot use the current information to infer previously transmitted information and cannot track the user; therefore, the proposed protocol can ensure anonymity and untraceability.

### 6.5 Security Comparisons

The proposed PSAP-WSN was compared with similar protocols. The primary attacks included A1: sensor node capture attack; A2: privileged insider attack; A3: temporary information disclosure attack; A4: impersonation attack; A5: replay attack; and A6: anonymity and untraceability attacks. The results in Table 3 confirm that PSAP-WSN provides sufficient security advantages compared with other protocols.

**Table 3:** Communication overhead comparison

Protocols	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6
Ours	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wu et al. [47]	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓
Wang et al. [48]	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓
Li et al. [49]	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓
Li et al. [50]	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓
Lu et al. [32]	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
Mo et al. [33]	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×
Yu et al. [26]	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓
Almuhaideb et al. [34]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## 7 Performance Evaluation

This section evaluates the performance by experimentally calculating the computation and communication overhead.

### 7.1 Computation Comparisons

The three different types of devices used in the comparisons included the OPPO-R9 mobile phone, MI10-UTAR mobile phone, and ASUS-A456U notebook to represent the user, gateway, and sensor, respectively. The running times of the different functions for each device are listed in Table 4. In our experiment, the running times of symmetric encryption and asymmetric encryption were almost the

same. In the experiment mentioned in [47], the running time of  $T_R$  (rep operation) is nearly equal to  $T_m$ . Therefore, this setting was adopted in our experiment.

**Table 4:** Running time on different devices

Operation	OPPO-R9	MI10-UTAR	ASUS-A456U
Point multiplication execution ( $T_m$ )	15 ms	14 ms	27 ms
Symmetric encryption/decryption ( $T_s$ )	0.19 ms	0.1 ms	0.19 ms
Asymmetric encryption/decryption ( $T_{as}$ )	0.1 ms	0.05 ms	0.09 ms
Hash ( $T_h$ )	0.005 ms	0.0025 ms	0.004 ms

The experimental results are presented in Table 5. As shown in the Table 5, the running times of the user, gateway, and sensor node were 15.055, 0.0825, and 0.11 ms, respectively. Although the running time of our design was not always optimal, the overall ranking was relatively high. In addition, the difference was also quite small. Most importantly, these protocols have better running times and are vulnerable to attacks. The results are illustrated in Fig. 7.

**Table 5:** Computational cost of the proposed protocol

Protocols	User	Gateway	Sensor Node
Ours	$11T_h + T_R$ (15.055 ms)	$13T_h + T_{as}$ (0.0825 ms)	$5T_h + T_{as}$ (0.11 ms)
Wu et al. [47]	$11T_h + T_R + 2T_m$ (40.055 ms)	$10T_h$ (0.025 ms)	$3T_h + 2T_m$ (54.012 ms)
Wang et al. [48]	$10T_h + T_R + 3T_m$ (60.05 ms)	$13T_h + T_m$ (14.0325 ms)	$6T_h + 2T_m$ (54.024 ms)
Li et al. [49]	$8T_h + T_R + 2T_m$ (45.04 ms)	$9T_h + T_m$ (14.0225 ms)	$4T_h$ (0.016 ms)
Li et al. [50]	$12T_h + 3T_m$ (45.06 ms)	$8T_h + T_m$ (14.02 ms)	$4T_h + 2T_m$ (54.016 ms)
Lu et al. [32]	$7T_h + T_R + 3T_m + T_s$ (60.225 ms)	$6T_h + T_m + T_s$ (14.115 ms)	$2T_h + 2T_m + 2T_s$ (54.388 ms)
Mo et al. [33]	$12T_h + T_R + 2T_m$ (45.06 ms)	$10T_h + T_s$ (0.125 ms)	$5T_h + 2T_m + T_s$ (54.21 ms)
Yu et al. [26]	$11T_h + T_R$ (15.055 ms)	$11T_h$ (0.0275 ms)	$6T_h$ (0.024 ms)

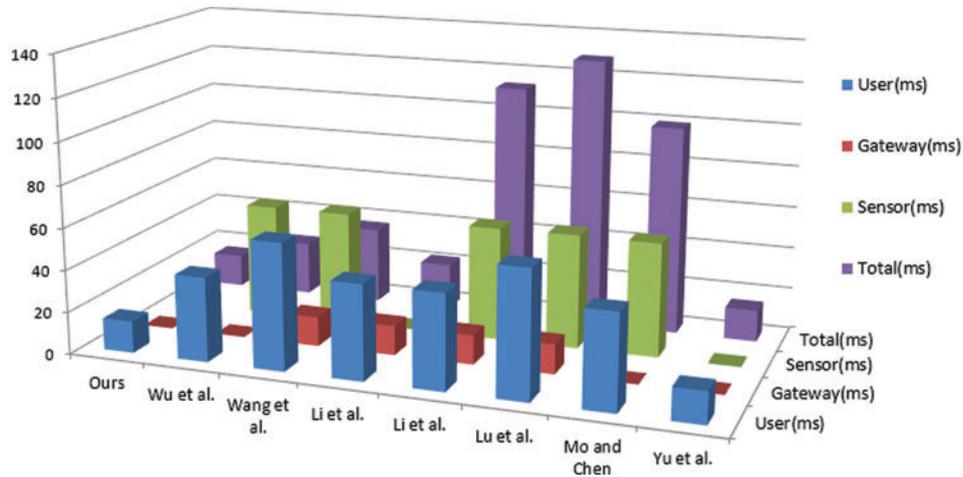


Figure 7: Running time

## 7.2 Communication Comparisons

Here, to discuss the communication overhead, the proposed protocol is compared with other related protocols. In the experiment, the settings in [26] were adopted, thereby assuming that the prime number, random nonce, identity, timestamp, and hash function are 160, 128, 32, 32, and 160 bits, respectively. The information exchanged in our proposed protocol includes,  $M_1, MUID_i, CUID_i, K_{UG}, T_1, M_2, MUID_i, M_{GS}, T_2, N, K_{SG}, K_{SU}, T_3$ , and  $M_{KU}, M_4, K_{SU}, K_{GU}, T_4$ , respectively, denoted by  $(160 + 160 + 160 + 160 + 32 = 672$  bits),  $(160 + 160 + 160 + 32 = 672$  bits),  $(128 + 160 + 160 + 32 = 480$  bits),  $(160 + 160 + 160 + 32 = 672$  bits). Table 6 lists the overhead for each protocol. It is observed that our design is not the best in terms of communication overhead, but the differences are not significant. However, the proposed method provides better security than these other protocols.

Table 6: Communication overhead comparison

Protocols	Communication overhead
Ours	2496 bits
Wu et al. [47]	3072 bits
Wang et al. [48]	2368 bits
Li et al. [49]	2496 bits
Li et al. [50]	2880 bits
Lu et al. [32]	2880 bits
Mo et al. [33]	3328 bits
Yu et al. [26]	2208 bits

## 8 Conclusions

In this paper, first, Yu et al.'s protocol was reviewed and cryptanalyzed, thereby determining that it is vulnerable to sensor node capture attacks and temporary information disclosure attacks. Therefore, the PSAP-WSN protocol was proposed. Subsequently, PSAP-WSN was demonstrated to be provably secure, using BAN logic, the ROR model, and the Proverif tool. In addition, an adversarial attack was simulated against the proposed PSAP-WSN. The performance evaluation indicates that the PSAP-WSN has reasonable communication and computation overhead and is suitable for WSNs.

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