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An Optimal Approach for Secure and Energy Efficient Data Transfer in WSN using Hierarchical and Dynamic Elliptic Curve Cryptosystem

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Abstract:

In Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN), the wireless connections are prone to different type of attacks. Therefore, security of the data that transfer over the wireless network is a measure concern in WSN. Due to the limitation of nodes' energy, efficient energy utilization is also an important factor. Hence to provide security along with efficient energy utilization of sensor nodes, Secure and Energy Efficient Hierarchical and Dynamic Elliptic Curve Cryptosystem (HiDE) scheme is proposed. It includes a hierarchical cluster-based architecture consisting of a several Area Clusters and a Backbone Network. To provide security Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) is used. For energy efficient data transmission, Low Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy (LEACH) is used to select the Cluster Head dynamically. Each Cluster Head collects the data from their own cluster and transmit to the Destination through the Gateway (GW) in the Backbone Network. However, limited by the coverage of Gateway, Source Gateway may not be directly linked with the Destination Gateway in a single hop, so needs to hop through other Gateways to reach the Destination. Data encryption using Elliptic Curve Cryptography provides high security with small key size than the existing RSA. Key management includes key computation, key exchanges, data encryption and decryption. Cluster-based cryptographic mechanism provides efficient energy utilization of sensor nodes along with security and lower message overhead. Thus, Hierarchical and Dynamic Elliptic Curve Cryptosystem can protect the confidentiality of sensitive data with low computation complexity, and also keep the performance of the network in Wireless Sensor Network.

Keywords **- Elliptic Curve Cryptography, LEACH Protocol, Wireless Sensor Network, Hierarchical Cluster, Data Protection, Public-Key Cryptosystem.**

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I. INTRODUCTION

Wireless sensor networks (WSNs) comprise a large number of spatially distributed small autonomous devices (called sensor nodes) cooperatively monitoring environmental conditions and sending the collected data to a command center using wireless channels [1]. Because of the size and cost of sensor nodes there is a constraint on energy, memory, computation speed and bandwidth. Most of the applications of WSN needs secure communication.

Because of the absence of the physical protection and the unattended deployment wireless communication and sensor nodes are prone to different type of attacks such as: impersonation, masquerading, spoofing and interception etc. Hence, a security

mechanism in WSN is an important concern. Different security mechanisms in WSN are described in [2] and [3].

For implementing key management in WSN, it is important to select appropriate cryptographic methods. The constraints of sensor nodes in WSNs should meet by the Cryptographic methods. These cryptographic methods could be evaluated by size of the code, size of the data, time taken for processing, and consumption of the power by the sensor nodes. Security mechanisms can be implemented by using public key cryptography or symmetric key cryptography. Most important public key algorithms include RSA, and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC).

In RSA to implement security operations thousands of multiplication instructions are performed, which is time consuming. It was found that encryption and decryption operations in RSA usually take on the order of tens of seconds. Recent studies have shown that it is possible to apply public key cryptography to sensor networks by selecting proper algorithms and associated parameters. Most of the literature studies give emphasis on RSA and ECC algorithms. Researchers are more attracted towards ECC, because it provides same level of security with much smaller key size. For example, RSA with 1024 bit key provides a valid level of security whereas ECC with 160 bit key provides same level of security. The operation of the RSA private key limits its use in sensor nodes. ECC has no such problem because both the private key and public key operation use the same point multiplication operations.

II. RELATED WORKS

Haythem Hayouni, Mohamed Hamdi, Tai-Hoon Kim discussed about Encryption Schemes in Wireless Sensor Networks. As Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN) continues to grow, the need for effective security mechanisms is an important factor that must be considered. Improving the efficiency of these networks requires more security to provide confidentiality, integrity and authenticity of the data transfer through the network. One of the most common tools used to provide security services for WSN is Encryption. Many researches has been carried out in the field of encryption algorithms in WSNs. Protocols, algorithms and implementation consist the main aspects the security specialist should consider to assess the efficiency of the protection approaches [4].

The Rivest-Shamir-Adleman (RSA)-based public key solution is also used to protect data privacy [5]. However, few works can provide solutions for strong data confidentiality and low message overhead simultaneously.

Kristin Lauter [6] discussed about the Elliptic curve cryptography's advantages for Wireless security. It gives an overview of elliptic curves and their use in cryptography. The focus is on the performance advantages by using elliptic curve cryptography to be obtained in the wireless environment instead of a traditional cryptosystem like RSA. Specific applications to secure messaging and identity-based encryption are also discussed.

Besides, to keep the privacy of data, other research focuses on encryption algorithms, including attribute-based encryption [10], fuzzy attribute-based signcryption [11].

In [7], Kamlesh Gupta, Sanjay Silakari discusses about Elliptic Curve Cryptography over RSA for Asymmetric Encryption. To transmit the data securely cryptography is used in open network. Elliptic Curve Cryptography is compared to RSA and discrete logarithm systems, and is a better option for the future. For this reason Elliptic Curve Cryptography is such a good choice for doing public key cryptography in portable devices right now. The smaller Elliptic Curve Cryptography keys it turn makes the cryptographic operations that must be performing by the communicating devices to be embedded into significantly smaller hardware, so that the software applications may complete the cryptographic operations with fewer processor cycles. And also operations can be performed much faster, while still retaining equivalent security. This means, Elliptic Curve Cryptography, reduced the power consumptions, consumed less space on the printed circuit board, and the software applications that run more frequently make lower memory demands. In brief, for communication using smaller devices and asymmetric cryptosystem, Elliptic Curve Cryptography is needed.

Ramesh K and Somasundaram K discussed about cluster head Selection algorithms in Wireless Sensor Network sensor nodes. In Wireless Sensor Network, life time of the sensor node is the most critical parameter. Many researches on these lifetime extension are motivated by Low Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy scheme, which by allowing rotation of cluster head role among the sensor nodes tries to distribute the energy consumption over all nodes in the network. Selection of cluster head for such rotation greatly improves the energy efficiency of the network [8].

Most important public key algorithms include RSA, and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC). In RSA to implement security operations thousands of multiplication instructions are performed, which is time consuming. It was found that encryption and decryption operations in RSA usually take on the order of tens of seconds [9].

The Rivest-Shamir-Adleman (RSA)-based Public key solution is also used to protect data privacy [12]. However, few works can provide solutions for strong data confidentiality and low message overhead simultaneously. Cluster hierarchy is highly flexible and easily managed because of its great extensibility for large scale sensor networks [13].

In the existing system, the security of the data communication is provided through RSA. RSA is a public key cryptography. The data is encrypted using the public key and it is decrypted using the private key. It uses 1024 bit key. Data are directly sent and received through the Gateway. Each data element is encrypted and only the users with the appropriate decryption keys can decrypt the data. It is a centralized architecture. The main disadvantage of the existing system is message overhead occurred due to centralized architecture. Since RSA uses 1024 bit key, it needs high energy for computation.

III. HIERARCHICAL AND DYNAMIC ELLIPTIC CURVE CRYPTOSYSTEM FOR DATA TRANSFER

In the proposed system, Hierarchical Public-Key Cryptosystem is used. To overcome message overhead, Hierarchical structure is proposed. Hierarchical and Dynamic Elliptic Curve Cryptosystem

(HiDE) provides a hierarchical cluster-based architecture consisting of a Backbone Network and several Area Clusters. Backbone Network is formed by connect together many Gateways. Sensor Nodes in the WSN are group together based on area to form an Area Cluster (AC). Area Cluster consists of Cluster Head (CH), Sensor Nodes and the Gateway. Hierarchical structure consists of Source Node, Cluster Head, and Gateway.

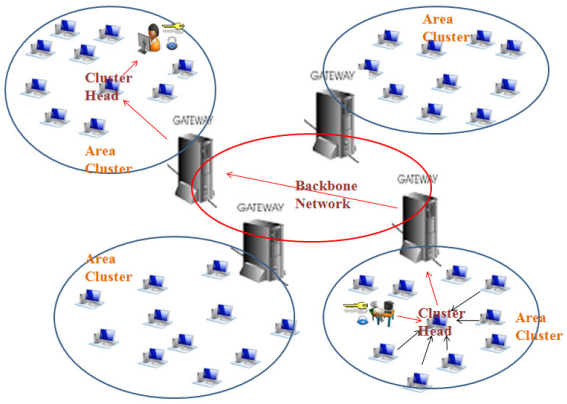


Figure 1 System Architecture

Each Area Cluster is Hierarchical. For energy efficient data transmission, Low Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy (LEACH) is used to select the Cluster Head dynamically.

The Cluster Head collects the data from the Source Node and transmit it to the Destination through the Gateway (GW) in the Backbone Network. Key management includes key computation, key exchanges, data encryption and decryption.

The system architecture is shown in Figure 1. The encrypted data from the source is gathering by the Cluster Head, one of the nodes in the Area Cluster. And the Cluster Head transmit the data to the Gateway. In the Gateway the data is again encrypted. The double encrypted data is passed through the Backbone Network to the destination.

In the destination Area Cluster the data gets decrypted in the Gateway and transmit to the destination node through the Cluster Head. In destination again the date gets decrypted to get the original data. Encryption and decryption process is done using Elliptic Curve Cryptography. Dynamic Cluster Head selection is done using LEACH mechanism.

The system implementation is done in three processes: Cluster Head Selection, Node Verification, Encryption Process, and Decryption Process.

A. Cluster Head Selection

First, the Cluster Head for both Source and Destination Area Cluster is selected by using the Low Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy (LEACH) mechanism. By using LEACH protocol, Cluster Head is selected dynamically. Sometimes the Source Node or the Destination Node itself acts as the Cluster Head. By LEACH, threshold value of the each node is calculated.

The threshold function is defined as

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{p}{1-p\left(r \bmod \left(\frac{1}{p}\right)\right)} & if n \in G \\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases}$$

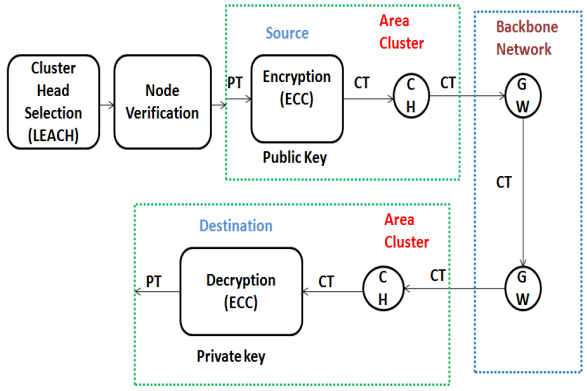
Where n is the given node, p is the a priori probability of a node being elected as a Cluster Head, r is the current round number and G is the set of nodes that have not been elected as Cluster Heads in the last 1/p rounds. Each node during Cluster Head selection will generate a random number between 0 and 1. If the number is less than the threshold (T (n)), the node will become a Cluster Head.

B. Node Verification

Since it is the distributed environment, during its deployment each node is provided with the certification. All the nodes in the Area Cluster have the certificate of their Cluster Member. After Cluster Head Selection, the Cluster Head compares the certificate of each Cluster Member. If all the certificates are matched then the nodes in the Area Cluster is an authenticated. Suppose if any of the node's certificate is wrongly matched then it is considered as the malicious node.

C. Encryption Process

The data is first encrypted in the source using the public key of the sender using Elliptic Curve Cryptography. Cluster Head (CH) collects the encrypted data from the source and transmits to the Gateway. In Gateway (GW) forwarded the encrypted data to the destination Gateway.



PT- Plain Text, CT- Cipher Text, ECC- Elliptic Curve Cryptography, CH-Cluster Head, GW- Gateway, LEACH- Low Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy

Figure 2 Encryption/Decryption Process

D. Decryption Process

The Gateway of the destination Cluster forward the data to the Cluster Head. Then the Cluster Head gather the data from the Gateway. Cluster Head transmits the encrypted data to the destination. In destination, the encrypted data is decrypted using the receiver private key. The Cluster Head is automatically changed during the data transmission. Figure 2 shows the encryption and decryption process of the data using Elliptic Curve Cryptography.

Encryption/Decryption Algorithm:

Elliptic curve cryptography is an approach to asymmetric cryptography based on the algebraic structure of elliptic curves over finite fields. Every user has a public and a private key. Public key is used for encryption/signature verification. Private Key is used for decryption/signature generation. The sender will be encrypting the message with receiver's public key and the receiver will decrypt its private key.

Let A be a sender node that sent a message 'Msg' to the receiver node B. Let Gateway G_a is the Gateway in the sender Area Cluster and G_b is the Gateway in the receiver Area Cluster. Let Pu_a, Pu_b are the Public Key of A and B. Let Pr_a, Pr_b be the Private key of A and B. Every nodes can have their own private key. Suppose message is sent from A to B through G_a, G_b. Randomly select 'k' from 1 to (n-1). 'n' be the number of nodes. 'P' is a point on the Elliptic Curve

$$y^2=x^3 + ax + b$$

The public key is calculated by

$$Pu_a = k * P$$

$$Pu_b = k * P$$

The message Msg is first encrypted by A using its the pubic key.

$$C_1 = k * P$$

$$C_2 = Msg + k * P$$

C_1 and C_2 are the Ciper Text of A. Again the C_1 and C_2 are encrypted in G_a by its Public key using ECC algorithm. Now the C_1 and C_2 are sent to the receiver Gateway in the Backbone Network.

In G_b decryption is done using ECC algorithm by using its Private Key. Now the

Encrypted message is decrypted using the Private Key Pr_b in the receiver node B by the below formula

$$Msg=C_2 – Pr_b * C_1$$

Thus the original message M is get by the node B. For key exchange, Diffie Hellman Key exchange algorithm is used.

IV RESULTS

For network and computation performance analysis, we evaluate the HiDE in the famous network simulator, ns2. 50 nodes are group together to form 7 clusters. Each has a Gateway. Cluster Head for both the source and destination Area Cluster is selected by using the LEACH protocol. After the Cluster Head Selection process the Node is verified by checking whether the certificate of each node in the Source and Destination Area Cluster is same. If the Certificate are same then the node is considered as the authenticated node as shown in the Figure 3.

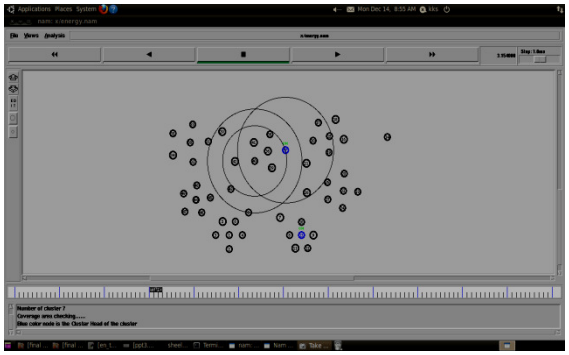


Figure 3 Cluster Head Selection and Node Verification

The data send by the sender is first encrypted using ECC. Then it can be collected by the Cluster Head in the Area Cluster. It can be send to the Gateway (GW). The data is again encrypted in GW using ECC for the second time as shown in Figure 4.

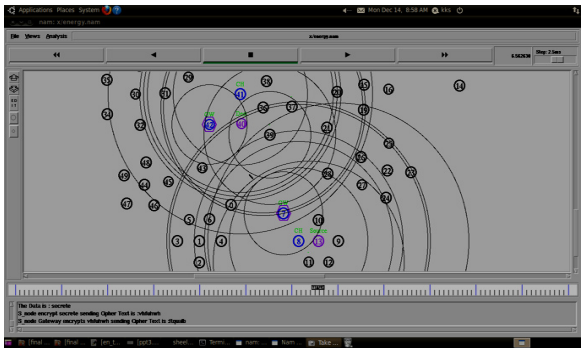


Figure 4 Encryption Process using ECC

The Destination Area Cluster receives data through the Gateway which is connected to the Backbone Network. The dynamically selected Cluster Head receives the data from the Gateway and transmit it to the receiver. The data get decrypted using ECC is received by the receiver as shown in the Figure 5.

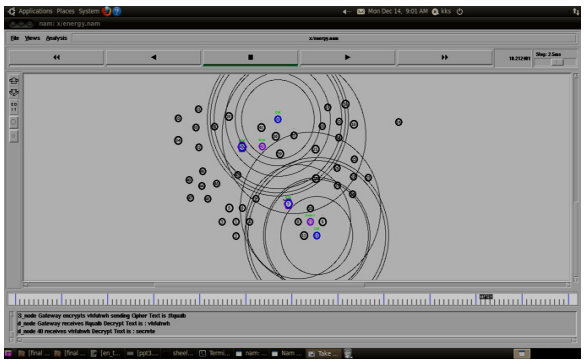


Figure 5 Decryption Process using ECC

The packet delivery ratio of the data encryption using both the existing RSA and the proposed HiDE is shown in the Figure 6. It shows that the packet delivery rate of data is more in ECC than the RSA.

In Figure 7, the comparison of the throughput of both RSA and HiDE

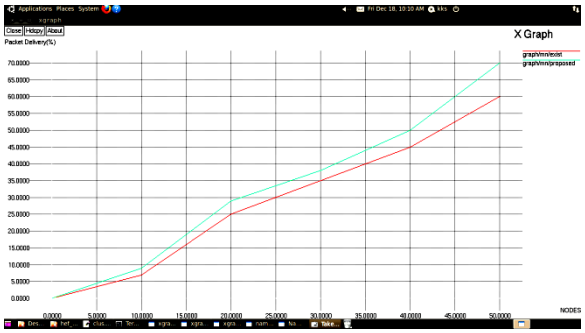


Figure 6 Comparison of Packet Delivery

Figure 7 Comparison of Throughput Graph

is shown as graph. It shows that the throughput is high for ECC than the RSA algorithm used for encryption and decryption of data.

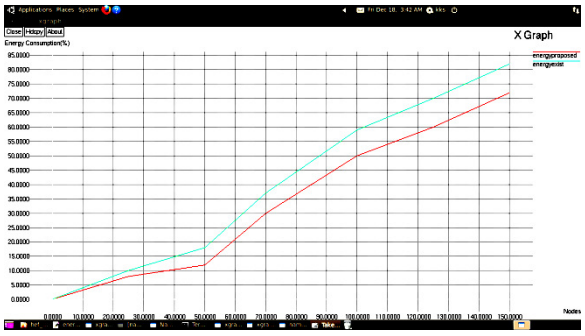


Figure 9 Energy Consumption comparison Graph

Figure 9 shows the comparison of the existing RSA and the proposed HiDE energy consumption graph.

V CONCLUSION

In the proposed system, security for the data transmission is provided using Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) which provides high security than the traditional RSA with smaller key size. Each node that transfers the data is also verified by using the certificates. Computation is also less because the use of the ECC with smaller key size. Energy need for computation is also less, which lead to low energy consumption in sensor nodes. Simulation results shows that the proposed system provide high security, low computational complexity than the existing RSA. Thus, the Cluster based Cryptographic mechanism; Secure and Energy Efficient Hierarchical and Dynamic Elliptic Curve Cryptosystem (HiDE) provide high security for data transmission and it is also highly energy efficient.

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