

# Light Weight WSN Authentication Protocol Suite

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MTech Project Report

**Abstract:** *Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) consists of low cost, light weight, low processing power, shrunked life sensor nodes known as motes with an ability to communicate with each other over short ranges. The network formed out of sensor motes is controlled by a Base Station which has far more processing power and life as compared to sensor nodes. As WSNs are used for many practical purposes including matters related to national security, it becomes imperative to ensure that the underlying communication is secured. However, the scarcity of resources in a sensor mote makes it highly challenging to ensure secured communication and long life of a sensor network at the same time. Several protocols have been proposed for authentication mechanisms in WSNs but most of them either are weak or have resulted in large energy expenditure. We through this paper have proposed a light weight protocol suite which has tried to cover almost all the authentication requirements of WSN. The proposed authentication protocol suite has been made light weighted by using symmetric encryption/decryption in most of the situations and the security has been made comparable to that of asymmetric encryption/decryption by introducing randomization in symmetric cryptosystem. We have proposed protocols for node authentication, broadcast authentication, data transfer and network monitoring using a combination of public key and symmetric cryptography. Previous works have been used for the calculation and comparison of energy expenditures in detail.*

**Keywords:** Symmetric Key Cryptography, Randomisation, Wireless Sensor Node, Authentication Protocols, Energy Saving

## 1. Introduction

Wireless Sensor Network is a network of sensors laid down in a particular area for a specific purpose. Of late, it has found its utility in variety of real life applications which range from simple temperature/pressure sensing to complex IOT network monitoring. Military applications of WSNs certainly does not need special mention. Ability of sensors to be easily deployed in inhospitable terrain, communicate with each other and form a network gives an edge to the usage of WSNs for several applications (specially in Military parlance). Sensors are low power, low cost devices with very limited resources like memory, battery, processing power etc. These are tiny devices which can communicate in short distances only. A sensor node typically contains a power unit, a sensing unit, a processing unit, a storage unit and a wireless transmitter / receiver.

Even though WSNs has benefits, limited resources of a sensor node brings out a lot of challenges in establishing a secure communication in the network and use the data sensed by nodes. This is because more the network communication is made secure more will the usage of sensor resources which are themselves very scarce. Consequently, the lifetime of sensor network is affected and as a result there has to be trade off between the security requirements and sensors life. In any given network of wireless sensors, there is supposed to be one network controller (known as Base Station) which is far more trustworthy, has more computing power and manages the entire network. As it is supposed to manage the network, it is the one which is generally responsible for setting up of the cryptographic primitives of the network, establish secure communication channel between sensor nodes and between individual nodes and itself, raising queries to the nodes and processing after receiving replies from those nodes.

Several Node Authentication, Broadcast Authentication, Message Transfer and Key Management Protocols have been proposed till date; however, all have their own shortcomings. Moreover, in general, all the protocols focus individually on one authentication requirement and many

amongst those have been proposed without discussing the energy expenditure/consumption which is indeed the basic requirement of any protocol in WSNs. We not only have to look for an increased security but also security protocol needs to be light-weight. In this proposed work of ours we have attempted to fulfill most of the security requirements of WSN through a suite of light weight protocols. We have also done energy calculation and comparison corresponding to sub-protocols and found that our proposal gives considerable savings in terms of energy as compared with other existing work.

The remaining part of the report is organized as follows. Section 2 brings out the Literature Survey conducted by us, in section 3 we have proposed our protocol suite. In section 4 we have calculated and compared energy expenditure. Section 5 discusses Future Work and finally Section 6 concludes this report.

## 2. Literature Survey

We surveyed several existing protocols in WSNs which includes protocols of Node Authentication, Broadcast Authentication, User Authentication, Data Transfer etc. and found that all have their own issues. Moreover, in general all the protocols focus individually on one authentication requirement. Our literature survey is focussed on the requirement aspect of secured communication with increased life of sensor node.

In [1] pure MAC scheme has been used to provide data integrity and authentication of communication entities. Disadvantage of this scheme is that the maintenance overhead is high in pure MAC based schemes. Tesla [2] and its several modifications have been proposed for broadcast authentication of messages in WSN, however, all of the variants suffer from delayed authentication and consequently prone to DOS attack. Localized Encryption and Authentication Protocol (LEAP) [3] in WSN offers multiple keying mechanisms to provide confidentiality and authentication. It comprises of Tesla, one way key chain authentication, key revocation and key refreshing. However

drawback is again delayed authentication due to Tesla. Secured Network Encryption Protocol (SNEP) in which each node shares a pair of key with BS and other required keys are obtained from master key available with the BS is a useful protocol to provide confidentiality and integrity. However, it is not able to handle node capture and DOS attacks effectively. Authors of [4] talk about the authentication scheme which is based on key pre distribution however there are two cases and corresponding issues with the scheme discussed. First if in case a single session key is used for the entire network then capture of one node reveals the entire network. Moreover in case each node needs to store a shared secret key corresponding to other node then there has to be n-1 entries in the database of each node which is again a great storage requirement. In [13] A Dynamic User Authentication Scheme for Wireless Sensor Networks has been proposed wherein there are some flaws. It cannot provide resistance against replay and forged attacks. It also suffers from stolen verifier attack; both gateway and login-node have the lookup table which contains secret information about registered users. Passwords may be exposed by any of the sensor nodes and the user is unable to alter the password.

In [5] authors talk about multihop node authentication using ECDH wherein they have given four different protocols for the same purpose but they do not mention as to how BS understands the ID of node requesting authentication. In [6] authors propose an authentication model that aims at reducing overhead for the re-authentication of sensor nodes. It works only well when the node is in direct range with the base station also the initial authentication phase suffers from internal attacks.

In [7][8][9] authors have employed ECC to perform security functions in WSN however each node is supposed to be in direct communication with certifying authority and moreover nothing is spoken about node re-authentication. In [10] multi user authentication scheme has been defined where bloom filter has been used to store user IDs and public keys, however the drawback of bloom filter is that it can be forged and can't prevent DoS attacks.

Several authentication protocols using hash chain have also been defined in WSN. In [11] node authentication and key establishment for new nodes have been proposed by including node boot strapping time and its identity in the procedure, however the demerit is that it assumes that each sensor node can sustain time interval before it can be compromised. In [12] authors have proposed authentication scheme again based on hash chain and ECC which is supposedly simple and supports new node addition as well but it has been found to be vulnerable to replay attack and node masquerading attack.

### 3. Our Proposal

In this report, we propose a set of lightweight authentication, data transfer and key management protocols using symmetric/asymmetric key encryption and message authentication code (MAC) to be used for secure communication in wireless sensor networks (WSN). The proposed protocols address the security issues and gives

considerable savings in terms of energy as compared with other existing protocols. We first propose the protocols and then compare the energy requirement of our proposed protocol with that of existing protocols.

### 3.1 Notations

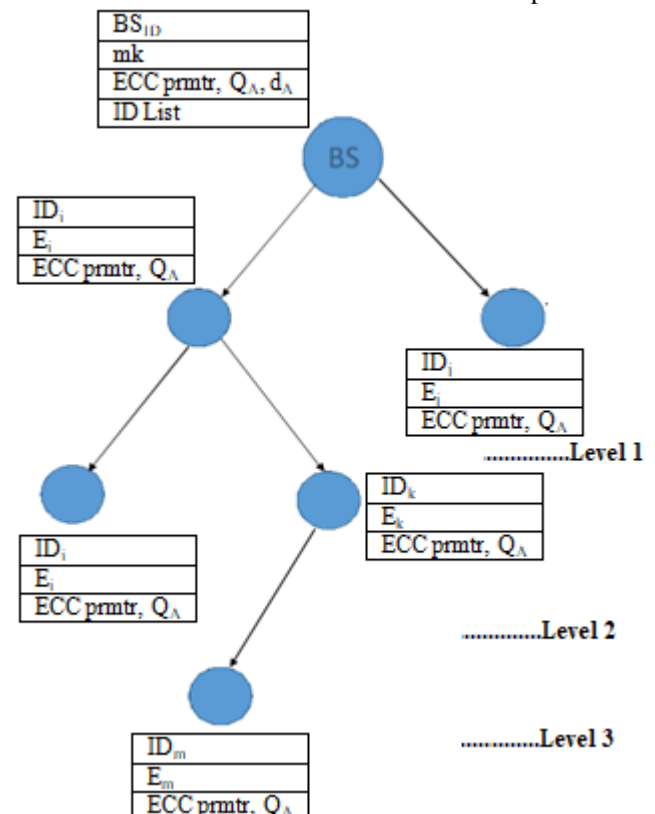
The notations and formulas used in protocols are listed in Table I.

**Table 1:** List of Notations Used in the Proposed Protocols

Symbol	Meaning
$I, j, \dots, t$	Nodes
BS	Base Station
$ID_i$	ID of node $i$
$E_i$	$Enc_{mk}[ID_i]$
$N_i, N_j, \dots, N_{BS}$	Nonces
mk	Master Secret Key with BS
$Q_A$	Indian Public Key of BS
$d_A$	Indian Private Key of BS
$k_e^n$	Group Key in round $n$
$K_{BSi}$	Shared secret key between BS and node $i$
$K_{ij}$	Shared secret key between node $i$ and node $j$
MAC	Message Authentication Code
AN	Aggregator Node
DN	Data Client Nodes

### 3.2 Assumptions and Initialization

- 1) BS and nodes are initialized and algorithm to form a tree is run.
- 2) The sensor network is arranged in a tree structure where BS is the root of the tree and sensor nodes are arranged in a hierarchical structure [Fig. 1]. There exists a control room responsible to control the entire network and moreover it is assumed that BS cannot be compromised.



- 3) The initial tree formed is unauthenticated and the authentication protocol is run to make the entire tree authenticated. After that group key is distributed and broadcast authentication protocol is run.
- 4) Control room loads BS with the list of IDs of all the sensor nodes who possibly may be the part of network. It maintains the same ECC parameters (Curve, G, n) in BS and all sensor nodes. Initial keys for BS  $Q_A$ ;  $d_A$  are determined and  $Q_A$  is preloaded in each sensor node as well.
- 5) Control room pre-loads a 128-bit master secret key  $mk$  and an initial group key  $k_g^1$  in BS. It also pre-conditions each sensor node  $i$  with its corresponding ID  $ID_i$  and  $ID_i$  encrypted using  $mk$ ,  $E_i$ .
- 6) After the authenticated tree formation, aggregator nodes of the tree are decided by the base station in consultation with control room which may vary as per the application query. Each node gets the application specific aggregator node corresponding to it and each aggregator node also gets the IDs of all the nodes which are supposed to relay data to it. Each node establishes a shared secret key with its aggregator node.

### 3.3 Node Authentication

In the proposed protocol, after an unauthenticated network of nodes is formed, each sensor node sends an authentication request to BS through its parent node. Parent node is supposed to relay the request to BS but for that parent node itself should be authenticated. In case parent is not authenticated then the authentication request will have to wait at the parent node till it gets itself authenticated. Consequently the first set of authentication request is from level 1 nodes which is in direct range of BS.

In order to create an authentication request, a node  $i$  will generate a 16B random nonce  $N_i$  and use it along with its 16B encrypted ID  $E_i$  to create a one-time key

$$K_i = N_i \oplus E_i$$

$i$  will then forward authentication request message consisting of its 7B ID  $ID_i$  and  $N_i$ . It also calculates the 32B MAC of message using the one-time key and appends it to the message. Format of the authentication request message generated by  $i$  is

$\langle header \rangle || ID_i || N_i || MAC_{K_i} [\langle header \rangle || ID_i || N_i]$

**Header Encoding**  
**Table 1**

First three bits	Message Type	Fourth Bit	Last Four Bits
000	Broadcast Reply	Message Size	
001	Authentication Request	Originator Bit	Message Size
010	Relay Message	Relay Bit	Message Size
011	Authentication Reply	Destination Bit	Message Size
100	Broadcast	Message Size	
101	Group Key	Message Size	
111	Group Key Ack	Message Size	

**Message Size:** In multiple of 16 B

Encoding of  $\langle header \rangle$  is as per Table 1. A node requesting authentication will set its originator bit to '0'. In case  $i$  is a level 1 node, last 4 bits of header will be 0100 to represent a size of 64B. Please note that, if required, message is padded with 0's to make its size in multiple of 16B.

BS on receiving the message will first check the existence of  $ID_i$  in its ID list and if found, it will use  $N_i$  from message and  $mk$  from its database to calculate

$$K_i' = Enc_{mk}[ID_i] \oplus N_i$$

BS will use  $K_i'$  to verify MAC on the received message. 0 originator bit indicates that  $i$  is in direct range of BS and that BS is supposed to be  $i$ 's parent. Post verification of MAC, BS generates a shared secret key between itself and  $i$  and forwards it to  $i$  using the similar approach which was used by  $i$  to forward its authentication request to BS.

If  $i$  is at a level other than level 1 then it will forward its request to nearest available authenticated node. MAC is created and verified at each intermediate node using the shared secret key between the intermediate nodes which they already have by virtue of them being authenticated before  $i$ . If  $i$  forwards its authentication request to  $j$  in the above given format,  $j$  from header understands that  $i$  is making an authentication request.  $j$  will add its ID  $ID_j$  and a new header to the message with message type as 'Relay Message', Relay bit set to 1 and message size 128B. It then calculates MAC of entire message using the shared secret key  $K_{jk}$  between itself and its parent node  $k$  and forwards the message along with MAC to  $k$ .

$k$  reads the header to understand that the message type is 'relay'. It then verifies the MAC using  $K_{jk}$  which exists in its database as well and since 'relay bit' is '1', does no change to message. If the MAC gets verified then it simply replaces the previous MAC with new MAC calculated over the message using shared secret key between itself and its parent. This approach of message relay is followed till the message reaches BS.

BS on receiving message initially verifies the MAC using shared key between itself and level 1 node. Once verified, it verifies the MAC calculated by  $i$  using the same approach as stated before. It computes the shared key between itself and node  $i$ ,  $BS_i$  and also between node  $i$  and node  $j$ ,  $K_{ij}$ . Both the keys  $BS_i$ ,  $K_{ij}$  are then relayed to  $i$  and  $K_{ij}$  is relayed to  $j$  as well.

Please note that after authenticating each node BS updates its database of authenticated nodes with node ID, node's parent, level and shared secret between it and BS. Also it updates the child Node ID of the parent node in consideration. Similarly, each sensor node also updates its own database.

In the following we propose a light weight sensor node authentication protocol. We have explained the case of authentication requesting node  $i$  being in direct range of BS or having several nodes  $j; k...t$  in between enroute to BS in the same protocol.

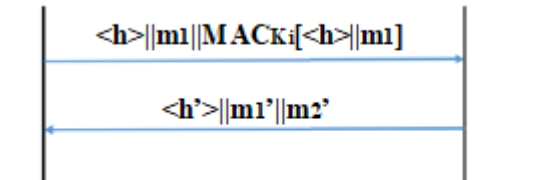
3.3.1 Light Weight WSN Authentication Protocol (LWWAP)

The sequence of messages for LWWAP protocol is as shown in Fig. 2, 3 and 4 and the description of the messages is as given below.

1) Node  $i \rightarrow BS/j$  :  $\langle \text{header} \rangle || m_1 || MAC_{K_i} [\langle \text{header} \rangle || m_1 || m_1]$   
 where  $\langle \text{header} \rangle = 00100100$

$m_1 = ID_i || N_i$

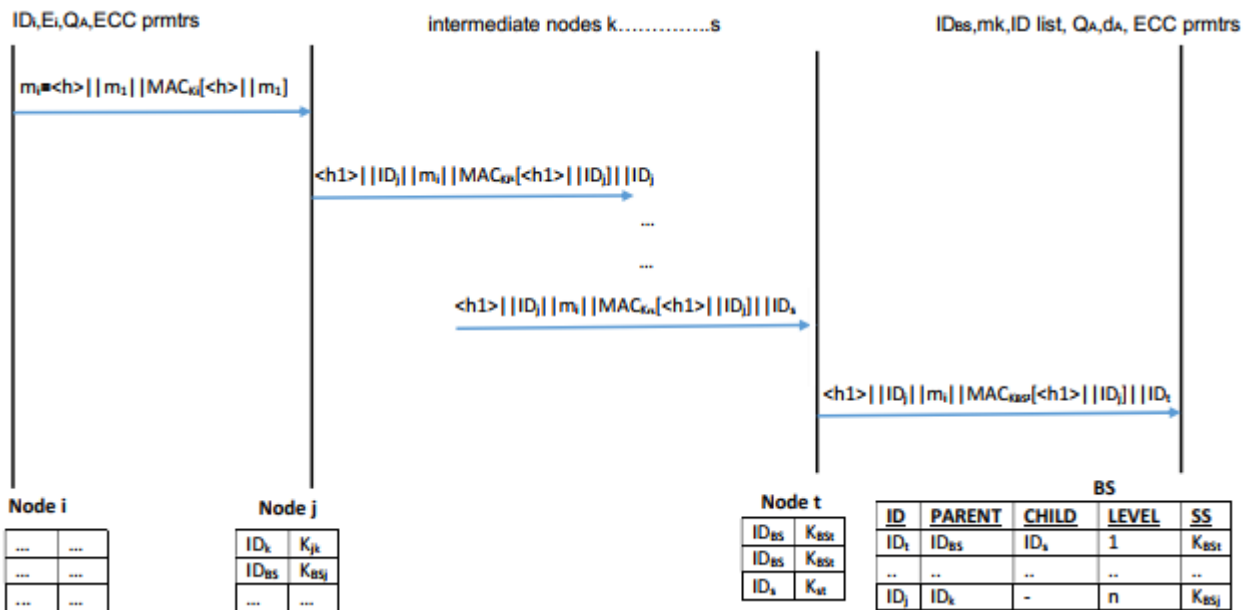
$ID_i, E_i, Q_A, ECC \text{ prmters}$   $ID_{BS}, mk, ID \text{ list}, Q_A, dA, ECC \text{ prmters}$



Node i		Base Stn				
$ID_{BS}$	$K_{BSi}$	ID	Parent	Child	Level	SS
$ID_{BS}$	$K_{BSi}$	$ID_i$	$ID_{BS}$	-	1	$K_{BSi}$
-	-					

$\langle h \rangle$  : 00100100  
 $\langle h' \rangle$  : 01100110  
 $m_1$  :  $ID_i || N_i$   
 $m_1'$  :  $ID_{BS} || ID_i || N_{BS}' || N_{BS}'' || Enc_{K_{BS}} [K_{BSi}]$   
 $m_2'$  :  $MAC_{K_{BS}} [\langle h' \rangle || m_1']$

Authentication Request and Reply: Level 1 Nodes  
 Figure 2



$\langle h \rangle$  : 00100100  
 $\langle h_1 \rangle$  : 01011000  
 $m_1$  :  $ID_i || N_i$

Authentication Request from Higher Level Nodes  
 Figure 3

4) At BS:  
 In case of (3), check ID  $ID_t$  at message end. Remove  $ID_t$  and verify MAC on remaining received message using BS,

2)  $j \rightarrow k$  :  
 $\langle \text{header } 1 \rangle || ID_j || m_i || MAC_{K_{jk}} [\langle \text{header } 1 \rangle || ID_j || m_i || ID_j]$   
 Where  $\langle \text{header } 1 \rangle = 01011000$   
 $m_i$  = message received from  $i$   
 $j$  adds its ID and a new header in the beginning of message.  
 It computes MAC using  $K_{jk}$  and appends to the extended message.

It adds  $ID_j$  in the end of the entire message to indicate that it is the originator of the relay message.

3)  $k \rightarrow l \rightarrow m \dots \rightarrow t \rightarrow BS$ :  $\langle \text{header } 1 \rangle || ID_j || m_i || MAC_{K_{BS}} [\langle \text{header } 1 \rangle || ID_j || m_i || ID_t]$

$k$  on receiving the 'relay' message in (2) verifies the MAC using  $K_{jk}$  available in its database. On reading header's fourth bit as 1 does no addition to message. Changes  $ID_j$  in the end of the message to  $ID_k$ . Calculates and adds the MAC on remaining part using  $K_{kl}$ . Forwards the changed message to  $l$ . Message gets relayed till BS through other nodes using similar approach.

- Search  $ID_i$  in its ID-List
- if found, compute  $K_i' = Enc_{mk}[ID_i] \oplus N_i$
- Verify MAC on  $00100100 || ID_i || N_i$  using  $K_i'$

If verified, using  $m_i$  or in case of (1), do following:

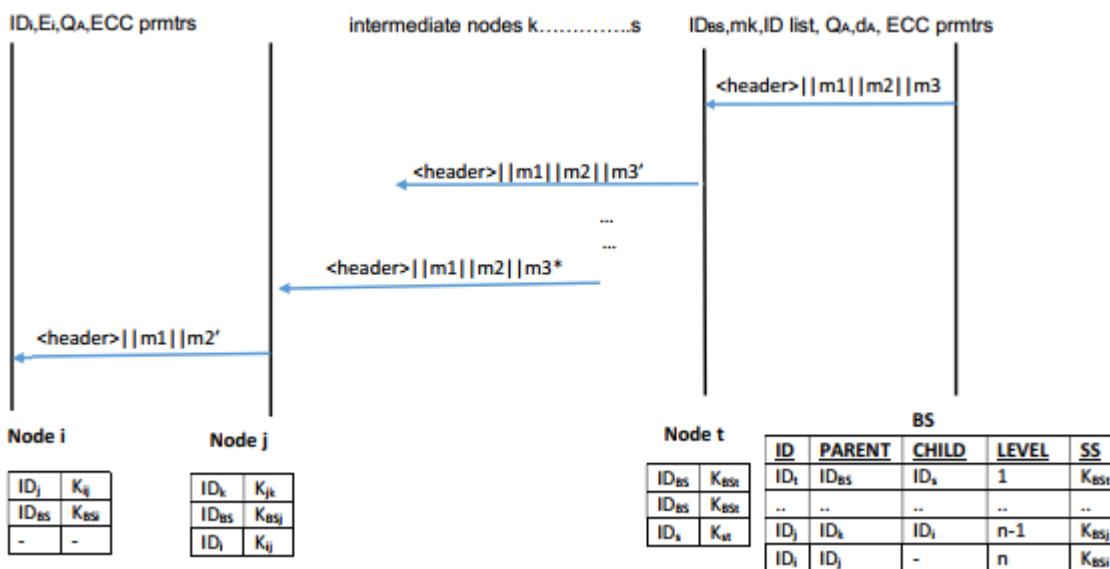


- Store  $ID_i$  and corresponding data in authenticated ID table
- Generate nonces  $N'_{BS}$ ;  $N''_{BS}$  and shared secret  $K_{BSi}$  between BS and  $i$ . Also generate  $K_{ij}$ , shared secret between  $i$  and  $j$  in case of (3).
- Create one time keys  $K'_{BS} = Enc_{mk}[ID_i] \oplus N'_{BS}$  and  $K''_{BS} = Enc_{mk}[ID_i] \oplus N''_{BS}$  in case of (1)

5)  $BS \rightarrow i$ :  $\langle header \rangle || m_1 || m_2$  where  $\langle header \rangle = 01100110$

$$m_1 = ID_{BS} || ID_i || N'_{BS} || N''_{BS} || Enc_{K'_{BS}}$$

$$m_2 = MAC_{K'_{BS}}[\langle header \rangle || m_1]$$



$\langle header \rangle$ : 01111001

$$m_1 = ID_{BS} || ID_j || ID_i || N'_{BS} || N''_{BS} || Enc_{K'_{BS}}[K_{BSi}, K_{ij}]$$

$$m_2 = MAC_{K'_{BS}}[\langle header \rangle || m_1] || Enc_{K_{BSj}}[K_{ij}]$$

$$m_3 = MAC_{K_{BSi}}[m_1 || m_2] || ID_{BS}$$

$$m'_3 = MAC_{K_{kt}}[m_1 || m_2] || ID_i$$

$$m_{3*} = MAC_{K_{jk}}[m_1 || m_2] || ID_k$$

$$m'_2 = MAC_{K_{ij}}[\langle header \rangle || m_1]$$

Authentication Reply from BS for Higher Level Nodes

Figure 4

in case of (3)

7)  $BS \rightarrow t$ :  $\langle header \rangle || m_1 || m_2 || m_3$  where

$\langle header \rangle = 01111001$

$$m_1 = ID_{BS} || ID_j || ID_i || N'_{BS} || N''_{BS} || Enc_{K'_{BS}}$$

$$m_2 = MAC_{K'_{BS}}[\langle header \rangle || m_1] || Enc_{K_{BSj}}[K_{ij}]$$

$$m_3 = MAC_{K_{BSi}}[m_1 || m_2] || ID_{BS}$$

Destination bit of header is 1 which indicates that the message needs to be relayed. IDs of  $m_1$  represents originator, last hop and destination IDs in sequence. ID in  $m_3$  represents the originator of relay.

$t$  will verify  $MAC$  on  $[m_1 || m_2]$  using  $BS_t$ .

It then compares its ID with last hop ID in  $m_1$ , since both are not same it will replace  $m_3$  with  $m'_3$  where  $m'_3 = MAC_{K_{kt}}[m_1 || m_2] || ID_i$ . It forwards  $\langle header \rangle || m_1 || m_2 || m'_3$  to  $s$ .

8)  $t \rightarrow s \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow j$ :  $\langle header \rangle || m_1 || m_2 || m_{3*}$  where  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are same as before.  $m_{3*} = MAC_{K_{jk}}[m_1 || m_2] || ID_k$ .  $j$  verifies the  $MAC$  using  $K_{jk}$ . Since last hop ID is  $ID_j$  it decrypts  $Enc_{K_{BSj}}[K_{ij}]$  of  $m_2$  using  $K_{BSj}$  from its database. Stores  $ID_i$  as child and  $K_{ij}$  as corresponding shared key.

Destination bit is 0 in case reply is directly for  $i$  without any relay in between.

6) At  $i$ :

i.  $K' = E_i \oplus N_{BS'}$

ii.  $K'' = E_i \oplus N_{BS''}$

iii. Verify  $MAC$  on  $m_1$  using  $K'$ . If verified decrypt  $Enc_{K'_{BS}}[K_{BSi}]$  using  $K''$

iv. Store  $ID_{BS}$  as parent ID and BS ID and  $K_{BSi}$  as shared key.

9)  $j \rightarrow i$ :  $\langle header \rangle || m_1 || m_2$  where  $m_1$  is same as before, however  $m_2$  is reduced to  $m'_2 = MAC_{K'_{BS}}[\langle header \rangle || m_1]$ . Steps of (6) are followed to get  $K_{ij}$  and  $K_{BSi}$

3.4 Group Key Distribution and Net-work Monitoring

Once a network gets initially authenticated, BS is supposed to distribute a common group key  $k_g^n$  to all the nodes. This common group key is used by BS to carry out a broadcast using broadcast protocol given in section 3.5. It is also supposed to monitor the network and look out for any unwanted/unaccepted changes in the network and if there is any change in the network then the group key needs to be changed for the entire network. We have considered two aspects to look out for:

- i. Node dies due to exhaustion of battery life.
- ii. Node clone: It is an attack situation wherein a node is captured and it's credentials are copied into several other nodes. When cloned nodes are placed in network, they communicate with BS as authenticated nodes using the credentials of the node which got captured.

For distribution of  $k_g^n$  BS will use its authenticated node table and generate message of type  $\langle header \rangle || ID_i || K_{BSi} [k_g^n] || ID_j || K_{BSj} [k_g^n] || \dots || ID_l || K_{BSl} [k_g^n]$  in such a way that IDs of nodes of higher level always come after those of lower level. Each node  $i$  will extract its ID  $ID_i$  and encrypted group key  $K_{BSi} [k_g^n]$  from the message and relay remaining message down the tree. It will then decrypt  $K_{BSi} [k_g^n]$  using  $K_{BSi}$  from its database.

BS monitors a network by periodically broadcast-ing a ID query message to the network and monitoring the reply from each node. The broadcast message is sent using LWWBA protocol of section 3.5. For any query message, each node is supposed to reply back. BS will monitor the replies and if a reply doesn't come from a node, it considers the node to be dead. More-over, if reply comes from more than one node with same ID, that ID is considered to be cloned. In both cases, BS will delete the IDs of a ected nodes from it database and generate a new group key. This new group key will then be forwarded to the nodes in a way that only the nodes which have not been deleted from BS database gets it. In the following we bring Group Key Distribution and Network Monitor Proto-col (NMGKC). We have considered the tree given in Fig 1 to discuss the protocol

### 3.4.1 Group Key Distribution and Network Monitor Protocol (GKDNM)

#### Group Key Distribution

1)  $BS \rightarrow i=j:$

$\langle header \rangle || ID_i || Enc_{K_{BSi}} [k_g^1] || ID_j || Enc_{K_{BSj}} [k_g^1] || ID_l || Enc_{K_{BSl}} [k_g^1] || ID_k || Enc_{K_{BSk}} [k_g^1] || ID_m || Enc_{K_{BSm}} [k_g^1]$   
where  $\langle header \rangle = 10101000$

2) At  $i/j:$

Decrypt  $Dec_{K_{BSi}} [Enc_{K_{BSi}} [k_g^1]]$  to get  $k_g^1$  and store it in database.

3)  $i \rightarrow k/l:$

$\langle header \rangle || ID_j || Enc_{K_{BSj}} [k_g^1] || ID_i || Enc_{K_{BSi}} [k_g^1] || ID_k || Enc_{K_{BSk}} [k_g^1] || ID_m || Enc_{K_{BSm}} [k_g^1]$

4) At  $k/l:$

Repeat step (2)

5)  $k \rightarrow m:$

$\langle header \rangle || ID_j || Enc_{K_{BSj}} [k_g^1] || ID_i || Enc_{K_{BSi}} [k_g^1] || ID_l || Enc_{K_{BSl}} [k_g^1] || ID_m || Enc_{K_{BSm}} [k_g^1]$

Repeat step (2)

6) Each node  $i \rightarrow BS: 11100001; ID_i$

#### Network Monitoring

7)  $BS \rightarrow nodes: \langle header1 \rangle \langle m' \rangle; \Pi$  where

$$m' = Enc_{k_g^1} [m]$$

$$\Pi = Enc_{d_A} [m]$$

$$\langle header1 \rangle = 10000110$$

$m$  is an ID-Query message and nodes verify and de-crypt the message as discussed in LWWBA.

8) Node  $i \rightarrow BS: 00000010 || \langle ID_i, Enc_{K_{BSi}} [ID_i] \rangle$

Each node will send it's ID and ID encrypted using shared secret between itself and BS.

8) BS will first verify IDs using shared secret. Post verification if any ID comes to BS more than once or if any ID from it's authenticated list doesn't appear, BS simply deletes those IDs from it's authenticated ID table.

9) BS generates new group key  $k_g^2 = Enc_{mk} [k_g^1]$ .

Steps (1) - (5) are repeated. Deleted IDs do not form the part of message. For instance if  $j$  is deleted by BS then  $BS \rightarrow i/j:$

$10100110 || ID_i || Enc_{K_{BSi}} [k_g^1] || ID_l || Enc_{K_{BSl}} [k_g^1] || ID_k || Enc_{K_{BSk}} [k_g^1] || ID_m || Enc_{K_{BSm}} [k_g^1]$

### 3.5 Broadcast Authentication

Once the authenticated network of nodes is formed, the network is used by network users to broadcast messages through BS. For this purpose broadcast authentication is required to ensure that the messages broadcast by BS reaches sensor nodes without any manipulation. We propose the usage of Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm as it gives significant energy saving in comparison to the PKC-DSA scheme. This can be simply understood from the fact that in order to achieve 80 bits security the public key size required in ECDSA is 160 bits whereas in PKC it is 1024 bits. So in WSN where we are dealing with energy constrained sensor nodes it is better to work with ECDSA to increase the longevity of nodes. Energy comparison is well explained in [15] and [16].

As assumed earlier, BS has it's initial set of public/private key pair  $(Q_A; d_A)$  and the public key of BS  $Q_A$  is pre-configured in all the nodes of the network. Also the ECC parameters have already been agreed upon earlier. BS will first encrypt the broadcast message  $m$  using group key  $k_g$  and then sign it using it's private key  $d_A$ . It will broadcast encrypted message along with signature on it to the nodes. Message can be anything including query messages. Each node will first verify the signature using the BS public key and then decrypt the message using group key. BS will change it's public/private key pair after every broadcast and will send the new public key encrypted once again by group key and signed by old private key. In the following we present the Light Weight WSN Broadcast Authentication protocol (LWWBA)

#### 3.5.1 Light Weight WSN Broadcast Authentication Protocol (LWWBA)

1)  $BS \rightarrow nodes: \langle header \rangle \langle m' \rangle; \Pi$  where

$$m' = Enc_{k_g^1} [m]$$

$$\Pi = Enc_{d_A} [m]$$

First three bits of header is 000 representing broadcast and last five bits is for message size which in this case is 64B

BS encrypts  $m$  using  $k_g^1$  and broadcasts along with signature on it.

2) Each node will first verify the signature using method given in [14] and if the signature is verified extract the

message  $m = Dec_{kg} I [m']$ . Acknowledgement message specific to the broadcast query is sent back to BS

3) BS randomly chooses a  $d'_A$  in  $[1; n-1]$  and computes corresponding public key  $Q'_A = d'_A X G$ .

4) BS  $\rightarrow$  nodes:  $\langle header \rangle \langle m', \Pi \rangle$  where  
 $m' = Enc_{kg} I [Q'_A]$   
 $\Pi = Enc_{dA} [m']$

### 3.6 Data Transfer from Nodes to BS

The data gathered by nodes should be forwarded to BS in a secured manner. Forwarding of data can be done either in aggregated manner or non-aggregated manner. We will explain both the concepts one-by-one.

#### 3.6.1 Data forwarding without aggregation

In this case each node forwards its data to BS as it is without any changes along with its ID. In order to make the data transmission secure, a node encrypts the data with the shared secret key between BS and itself which already exists in its database after initial node authentication. Since the implementation of WSN is over tiny db, BS can make SQL queries to the nodes for e.g. SELECT humidity FROM SENSORS. BS makes a DATA-QUERY broadcast using the broadcast protocol and nodes simply replies back.

#### 3.6.2 Data forwarding with aggregation

Data Aggregation is the method of getting data from sensors wherein data from each individual sensor doesn't reach the BS as in the previous case; rather data from sensors reaches BS in summarized form. This reduces the data size and also the number of forwards from network to BS. Thus, it's an effective way to reduce communication and bandwidth overheads in a resource constrained WSN. In order to get aggregated data the BS needs to issue queries to the network with the condition. For e.g. SELECT max (temperature) FROM SENSORS or SELECT avg (humidity) FROM SENSORS WHERE ID = 5. Sensor nodes then forward their data to the application specific aggregator node. As already assumed aggregator nodes and their corresponding data nodes are already decided and conveyed by BS. If the aggregator node of a given node is same as its parent or child, then there already exists a shared secret between them in the node's database. In other cases, nodes do ECDH as mentioned in the proposed protocol given below. In the following we propose a protocol for data forwarding with aggregation in WSN.

Aggregated Data Transmission in WSN (ADTW)

1)  $AN : \langle Q_{AN}; d_{AN} \rangle$

AN uses the ECC curve parameters to generate public/private key pair.

2)  $AN_i \rightarrow DN_i : Q_{AN_i}$

As the tree is already authenticated, it then simply forwards its generated public key to nodes corresponding to the query received from the BS.

3)  $DN_i \rightarrow AN_i : Q_{DN_i}$

DNs on receiving the public key from AN will generate their own public key/private key pair using the same curve parameters and forward their public key AN.

4)  $AN : k_{ss} = Q_{DN_i} \cdot d_{AN_i}$

$DN : k_{ss} = Q_{AN_i} \cdot d_{DN_i}$

AN and each DN will calculate the shared key  $k_{ss}$  between them.

5) DNs will encrypt their data using  $k_{ss}$  and aggregator node will decrypt the data using  $k_{ss}$ . Aggregator node will then aggregate the data and forward the same for further processing.

## 4. Energy Calculations and Comparisons

In this section we will compute the energy requirement of our protocol and compare it with other existing protocols. For the computation of energy we have following assumptions:

- 1) We consider a complete binary tree of sensor nodes (as shown in figure) for the ease of calculations. We have considered tree of level 3 consisting of 14 sensor nodes and 1 BS.
- 2) We assume all the sensor nodes to be TelosB nodes of Texas Instruments with operating system tinyOS and tinyECC library [17] implemented. We assess the ECC point multiplications and ECDSA verifications involved in ECDH-ECDSA relying on the results of [18]. They implemented ECC and ECDSA in TinyOS for many platforms including TelosB. We use their results for the secp160r1 elliptic curve domain parameters (160-bit keys). The technical specification of telos mote and its comparison with other available sensors is given in [19].
- 3) We will use precomputed values for energy calculation. Energy required for the calculation of MAC and its verification has been taken from [20]. Energy required for operations on mote and signature calculation/verification using ECC has been taken from table II and table IV of [21]. Energy required for symmetric AES encryption/decryption has been taken from Table 2 and Table 3 of [22].

Energy cost of various operations on TELOS B sensor node with Message Size of 28 B (Lj)

Table 2

SYMMETRIC ENCRYPTION (AES)	207.36
SYMMETRIC DENCRIPTION (AES)	318.72
ECC-160 POINT MULT	17000
ECDSA-160 SIGN	15000
ECDSA-160 VERIFY	19000
RSA-1024 SIGN	304000
RSA-1024 VERIFY	11900
DATA SENT	737.28
DATA RECEIPT	829.44
MAC CALCULATION	410.98
MAC VERIFICATION	410.98

- 4) In case of LW2AP even though the message length would vary at each stage but for the sake of convenience we will consider the average message length as 128B on the lines of kerberos [21] for relay at

each stage. This average message length is w.r.t. our assumed underlying tree.

- 5) We will calculate energies corresponding to Encryption/Decryption, Signature and its Verification, MAC calculation and its verification and finally data transfer and receipt. We will ignore all other operations for e.g. XOR, Sleep etc. because their effect on energy would be quite negligible. We also assume that each node has a seed and it simply encrypts it everytime to get a new nonce. So w.r.t. nonce we will use the cost of symmetric encryption. The average energy requirement per mote in microjoules for various operations (considering 128 byte message size) on telosB motes are cumulatively given in the table 2

#### 4.1 Node Authentication

Our proposed protocol uses symmetric encryption in maximum occasions. Symmetric cryptography with randomisation (including nonces in our case) increases the security of protocol and makes it comparable with Asymmetric cryptosystem. Most of the protocols discussed lately has made use of ECC-PKC for the authentication of node with argument that ECC provides considerable savings in terms of energy requirements. We will calculate the energy expenditure in our initial node authentication scheme and compare it with an existing node authentication protocol [5]. We will do our computations w.r.t. the tree considered. Assuming Nonce selection as one symmetric encryption, the cumulative number of operations carried out at nodes at various levels is shown in the table below:

#### No. of Operations Carried Out at Nodes of Various Level in the Tree Considered

Table 3

Operation → Nodes Level ↓	Symmetric Encryption	Symmetric Decryption	MAC Calculation	MAC verification
Level	2	2	2	2
Level	4	8	12	8
Level	8	16	32	32
Total	14	26	46	42

Using Table 2 and Table 3, total energy consumed by our scheme w.r.t. tree formed is

$$E_{tot} = 14 \times 207.36 + 26 \times 318.72 + 46 \times 410.98 + 42 \times 410.98$$

$$E_{tot} = 47356 \mu J$$

On the other hand if we use [5] to carry out similar authentication of 14 sensor nodes of the tree then there would be 14 ECDSA-SIGN and VERIFY operations and 14 ECC-160 POINT MULT operations and thus total energy consumed is given by

$$E'_{tot} = (17000 + 15000 + 19000) \times 14$$

$$E'_{tot} = 714000 \mu J$$

Certainly  $E'_{tot} \gg E_{tot}$  and even if we consider that sensor nodes have precomputed key parameters and ignore the ECC-160 POINT MULT operations then also total cost is

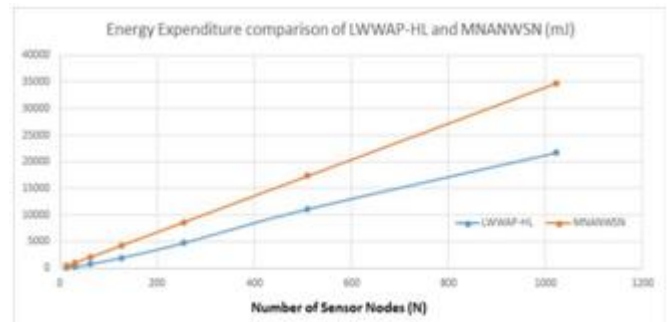
$E'_{tot} = (17000 + 15000) \times 14 = 448000 \mu J$  which is again approximately 9 times more than our proposal.

Next if we consider the energy cost towards data transfer then in our example there would be over 34 sent and 34 receipt operations. Considering the maximum possible message size of 128B, total expenditure (as per [21]) towards data transfer is given by

$$E_{data} = 34 \times 737.28 + 34 \times 829.44$$

$$E_{data} = 53268.48 \mu J$$

Overall energy expenditure of our proposal :  $E_{overall} = E_{tot} + E_{data} = 47356 + 53268.48 = 100624.48 \mu J$  which is again better than the energy requirement of [5] even without adding the data transfer energy expenditure in the later case. Below find the graph comparison of MNANWSN [5] and our proposed node authentication protocol with binary tree as underlying network structure for the ease of calculation. In case of MNANWSN we have ignored the data transfer energy expenditure and also considered that each node has precomputed key parameters.



#### 4.2 Broadcast Authentication

In previous case we considered an average message length as 128B but in this case we will try to calculate the exact energy required to carry out broadcast authentication by BS. We will compare our energy requirement with the IMBAS protocol proposed in [23].

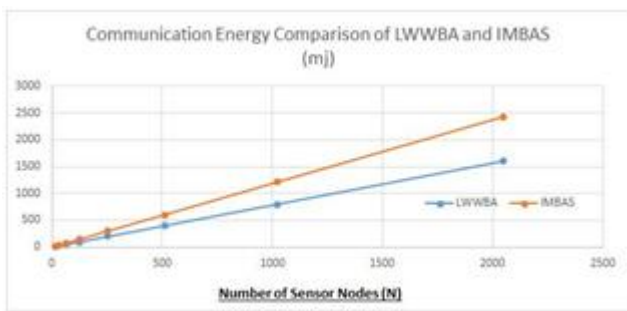
For BS to broadcast a message it has to send message encrypted using group key and the signature on it. Considering the original message size to be 16B, the message encrypted using 128 bit group key by AES scheme would be 16B. Signature using ECDSA-160 will be of length 40B. We also have 8-bits header. Consequently the total length of the broadcast message will become 64B which also includes '0' padding. Also, in our assumed arrangement of nodes, each node will receive the message once and send it twice (both its children) except for the leaf nodes which will have only one receipt. So total number of messages received and sent in our network are  $14 \times 1 = 14$  and  $6 \times 2 = 12$  respectively. Total energy consumed (using Table 2) towards message transmit and receipt in the whole network is  $12 \times \frac{737.28}{128} \times 64 + 14 \times \frac{829.44}{128} \times 64 = 10229.76 \mu J$ .

Each node on receiving a message will carry out a signature verification and symmetric decryption. Total energy spent



(using Table 2) by a node in these two operations are  $19000 + \frac{318.72}{128} \times 16 = 19039.84 \mu J$ . Total energy spent towards these two operations by entire network =  $19039.84 \times 14 = 266557.76 \mu J = 266.56 mJ$ .

IMBAS Protocol [23] for broadcast authentication has done all its energy calculations corresponding to MI-CAZ mote and thus we can't directly compare the energy consumption of both protocols because MI-CAZ signature verification consumes three times more energy [21] (63mJ) than in case of Telos B mote. But with a message (m) size of 10B, the overall size of broadcast message in [23] is 97B whereas in our case the broadcast message is of size 64B even with m of size 16B. So we have a savings of 33B in terms of broadcast message size. Moreover, we have assumed a tree structure which results in 1 receipt and 2 send operations per node whereas in case of [23] it would be N-1 receipts and 1 sent operation per node (where N is the number of nodes). So even if we use same specification sensor node in both protocols, our protocol gives considerable energy saving in terms of message size and number of receipt operations per node. The graph given below compares the two protocols i.e. our proposed LWWBA and IMBAS only in terms of communication energy requirement (in mJ) with number of nodes plotted on x-axis and energy plotted on y-axis. We have considered that the underlying network has binary tree structure in both cases.



### 4.3 GKDNM and ADTW

Both NMGKC and ADTW are specific to our proposed protocol suite and thus we have only carried out energy requirement calculations. No energy comparison has been made in both cases. Again we consider underlying structure to be a complete 3-level binary tree.

#### 4.3.1 GKDNM

For the distribution of group key in a network tree consisting of 14 nodes, the size of message transmitted by BS would be 336B. Thus, the level 1 nodes would receive message of size 336B. Of which they will remove their ID and encrypted group key and send the remaining message to their children. Thus, in our assumed underlying tree, nodes of level 2 will receive message of size 304B. Similarly nodes of level 3 will receive message of size of 288B. Each node will also carry out a symmetric decryption to get its group key. Finally, each node will send will 16B acknowledgement to BS. Therefore, total number of operations and data transmissions and corresponding energy expenditures (in microjoule) are:

$$i. 2 \text{ receipts of } 336B : \frac{829.44}{128} \times 336 \times 2 = 4354.6$$

$$ii. 4 \text{ receipts and } 4 \text{ transmissions of } 304B : \frac{1566.72}{128} \times 304 \times 4 = 14883.8$$

$$iii. 8 \text{ receipts and } 8 \text{ transmissions of } 288B : \frac{1566.72}{128} \times 288 \times 8 = 28201$$

$$iv. 14 \text{ transmission of } 16B : \frac{737.28}{128} \times 16 \times 14 = 1290.2$$

$$v. 14 \text{ symmetric key decryptions} : \frac{318.72}{128} \times 16 \times 14 = 557.8$$

Thus, the overall energy expenditure in the considered network for group key distribution is sum of all above i.e. 49.28 mJ.

In the case of Network Monitoring once each node receives a broadcast from BS, simply forwards its ID and ID encrypted using shared secret between BS and the concerned node. Assuming the ID to be 7 B and its encryption using 16B shared key by AES-CBC yields 16B cipher text, total length of transmission from one node is 32B which also includes '0' padding. So if there is no change in network, then the energy spent (in μJ) at each node in this phase is

$$\frac{737.28}{128} \times 32 + \frac{207.36}{128} \times 16 = 210.24$$

Overall energy expenditure in the assumed network is  $14 \times 210.24 = 2943.36$  J. This is over and above the energy expenditure of LWWBA.

#### 4.3.2 ADTW

In this phase once an aggregator node and corresponding data node establishes ECDH shared key between them, then its only symmetric encryption and decryption. For example if in the underlying complete binary structure each parent node acts as aggregator node for corresponding children data nodes then there would be 14 symmetric encryptions and 6 symmetric decryption. Considering 7B ID and 16B encrypted data there would 14 send operations of 32B and 6 receipt operations of 32 B. Total energy is given by

$$\left( \left( \frac{737.28}{128} \times 32 + \frac{207.36}{128} \times 16 \right) \times 14 \right) + \left( \left( \frac{829.44}{128} \times 32 + \frac{318.72}{128} \times 16 \right) \times 6 \right)$$

$$2943.36 + 1483.2 = 4426.56 \mu J$$

### 5. Future Work

In this proposed work of ours, we have assumed that a tree of sensor nodes exists before carrying out the authentication of nodes. However, considering the requirement of future, the tree has to be formed while carrying out authentication of nodes. This requirement falls in line with the current situation at LAC (Line of Actual Control). If the tree gets formed while carrying out the authentication of nodes then we may use a WSN to monitor the intrusion of enemy into our side of LAC. This can be done by dropping sensor nodes using drone at the enemy's side of LAC and having BS on our side. BS and sensor nodes would authenticate each other and form a tree with BS at root. Consequently any intrusion may get monitored and actions may be taken accordingly.

## 6. Conclusion

In this report we first identified the problem of authentication protocols in WSNs. We pointed out that the asymmetric-key based solutions achieve required security level but is expensive in terms of energy expenditure whereas symmetric-key based solutions are inexpensive but weak in security as well. We then came up with an effective protocol suite which covers almost all authentication protocols of WSNs and also achieves the requirement of secured as well as light weight. Consequently, WSNs may be used for several purposes which have been challenging and wanting till date. Our proposed protocol has attempted to meet both requirements of communication in WSN. Further attempts may be made to improvise the security and reduce the energy requirement for which our report may act as starting point.

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