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End-To-End Secure Transmission of SMS Using EASYSMS Protocol

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Abstract— Nowadays, short message service (SMS) is being used in many daily life applications, including healthcare monitoring, Mobile banking, mobile commerce, and so on. But when we send an SMS from one mobile phone to another, the information contained in the SMS transmit as plain text Sometimes this information may be confidential like account numbers, passwords, license numbers, and so on, and it is a major drawback to send such information through SMS while the traditional SMS service does not provide encryption to the information before its transmission. In this paper, we propose an efficient and secure protocol called EasySMS, which provides end-to- end secure communication through SMS between end users. The working of the protocol is presented by considering two different scenarios. The analysis of the proposed protocol shows that this protocol is able to prevent various attacks, including SMS disclosure, over the air modification, replay attack, man-in-the- middle attack, and impersonation attack. The EasySMS protocol generates minimum communication and computation overheads as compared with existing SMSSec and PK-SIM protocols. On an average, the EasySMS protocol reduces 51% and 31% of the bandwidth consumption and reduces 62% and 45% of message exchanged during the authentication process in comparison to SMSSec and PK-SIM protocols respectively. Authors claim that EasySMS is the first protocol completely based on the symmetric key cryptography and retain original architecture of cellular network.

Index Terms— Authentication, over-the-air, security, SMS, symmetric key.

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I. Introduction

Nowadays Short Message Service (SMS) has become one of the fastest and strong communication channels to transmit the information across the worldwide. On December 3, 2013, SMS service has completed its 21 years as on December 3, 1992, the world's first SMS was sent by Neil Pap worth from the UK through the Vodafone network [1].The SMS are used in many real world applications as a communication medium such as in Transportation Information System [2], Mobile Deck [3], SMSAssassin [4], SMS-basedweb search such as SMSFind [5], Monitoring Community

A. Research Problem

Sometimes, we send the confidential information like password, pass code, banking details and private identity to our friends, family members and service providers through an SMS. But the traditional SMS service offered by various mobile operators surprisingly does not provide information security of the message being sent over the network. In order to protect such confidential information, it is strongly required to provide end-to-end secure communication between end-users. SMS usage is threatened with security concerns, such as SMS disclosure [10], man-in-the-middle attack [11], replay attack [12] and impersonation attack [13]between end-users. SMS usage is threatened with security concerns, such as SMS disclosure [10], man-in-the-middle attack [11], replay attack [12] and impersonation attack [13]. There are some more issues related to the open functionality of SMS which can incapacitate all voice communications in a metropolitan area [14], and SMS-based mobile botnet [15] as Android botnet [16]. SMS messages are transmitted as plaintext between mobile user (MS) and the SMS center (SMSC), using wireless network. SMS contents are stored in the systems of network operators and can be read by their personnel

B. Key Contribution

The above requirements can be accomplished by proposing a protocol called EasySMS which provides end-to-end security during the transmission of SMS over the network. The EasySMS protocol prevents the SMS information from various attacks including SMS disclosure, over the air (OTA) modification, replay attack, man-in-the-middle attack, and impersonation attack. This EasySMS sends lesser number of transmitted bits, generates less computation overhead, and reduces bandwidth consumption and message exchanged as compared to SMSSec [17] and PK-SIM [18] protocols.

C. Organization

This paper has organized into VII sections. Section II presents literature review of the work done related to SMS security. In section III, a new protocol is proposed which provides end-to-end secure transmission of SMS in cellular networks. Section IV illustrates the analysis of proposed protocol. Section V, discusses suitable symmetric algorithm for EasySMS protocol. Section VI presents formal proof of EasySMS protocol. Finally, section VII summarizes conclusion of the work.

II. Related Work

Previously, various authors have proposed different techniques to provide security to the transmitted messages. An implementation of a public key cryptosystem for SMS in a mobile phone network has been presented in [19] but, the security analysis of the protocol has not discussed. A secure SMS is considered to provide mobile commerce services in [20]and is based on public key infrastructure. A framework Secure Extensible and Efficient SMS (SEESMS) is presented in [21], which allows two peers to exchange encrypted communication between peers by using public key cryptography. Another new application layer framework called SSMS is introduced in [22] to efficiently embed the desired security attributes in SMS to be used as a secure bearer for m-payment systems and solution is based on the elliptic curve-based public key that uses public keys for the secret key establishment. An efficient framework for automated acquisition and storage of medical data using the SMS based infrastructure is presented in [23] and the results conclude that the proposed SMS based framework provides a low-bandwidth, reliable, efficient and cost effective solution for medical data acquisition. The [20] and [22] generate shared key for each session but also generate huge overheads and not suitable for the real world applications. In all [19]–[23], it is not clear whether the proposed approaches are able to prevent SMS against various attacks. All the above mentioned approaches/protocols/frameworks generate a large overhead as they propose an additional framework for the security of SMS. Due to physical limitations of the mobile phones, it is recommended to develop a protocol which would make minimum use of computing resources and would provide better security. However, implementation of framework always increases the overall overhead which is not much suitable for the resource constraints devices such as mobile phones. Thus, in this paper we compared our proposed protocol with the existing SMSSec and PK-SIM protocols.

The reason for chosen these protocols for comparison is that these are the only existing protocols which do not propose to change the existing architecture of cellular networks. We wanted to compare our proposed

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protocol with some existing protocols devoted to provide end-to-end SMS security with symmetric key cryptography, but there is no such protocol exists. Both protocols are having two phases similar to the proposed protocol and are based on symmetric as well as asymmetric key cryptography while the proposed protocol is completely based on symmetric key cryptography.

The SMSSec protocol can be used to secure an SMS communication sent by Java's Wireless Messaging API while the PK-SIM protocol proposes a standard SIM card with additional PKI functionality. Both protocols are based on client-server paradigm, i.e., one side is mobile user and the other side is authentication server but they do not present any scenario where an SMS is sent from one mobile user to another mobile user. The SMSSec protocol does not illustrate the security analysis.

TABLE I
DEFINITION OF FUNCTIONS USED

Symbol	Definition
f1	Message authentication code function
f2	Key generation function for DK1
()SK_AS-CA	Encryption function with SK_AS-CA key
()SK_AS1-AS2	Encryption function with SK_AS1-AS2 key
()DK1	Encryption function with DK1 key
{}SK_MS2	Function with symmetric key of MS2 shared b/w MS2 and AS/AS2
||	Concatenation

of proposed protocol. Table II represents definition of various used in the paper with their sizes, while Table I lists various functions used in the paper with their definitions.

A. Attack Model

An attack model describes different scenarios for the possibilities of various attacks where a malicious MS can access the authentic information, or misguide the legitimate MS. Since, the SMS is sent as plaintext, thus network operators at SMSC.

This leads to SMS disclosure attack. In traditional cellular network, the OTA interface between the MS and the Base Transceiver Station (BTS) is protected by a weak contained in the SMS or can alter the SMS information.

TABLE II
A BBREVIATION AND S YMBOLS

Symbol	Definition	Bits
MS	Mobile Station referring user	-
AS	Authentication Server referring AuC	-
CA/RA	Certification/Registration Authority	-
IDMS	International Mobile Subscriber Identity of MS	128
Q/Qn	New Session Identifier	28
Rc/Nc/Ns/Na	Random Number	128
Pf	Private Port Number	16
ReqNo	Request Number	8
SK/SK_MS	Symmetric key shared b/w MS and AS	128
DK1	Delegation key	256
MAC/H	Message Authentication Code/Hash	64
Ti	Timestamp	64
CertSAG	Certificate of Security Access Gateway	40
SK_AS-CA	Symmetric key shared b/w AS and CA/RA	128
SK_AS1-AS2	Symmetric key shared b/w AS1 and AS2	128
SQ/Seq	Sequence Number	28
PK/PK_PK-SIM	Public key of Server	128
UAKey	Primary key	128
Expiry/ExpT	Expiry Time	64

III. SECURITY GOALS & P ROPOSED SOLUTION

This section focuses on the attack model, system and communication model, basic assumption and detail description establishes an independent the sequence of messages for getting the authentication token. An attacker can also perform a man-in-the-middle attack when an MS is connected to a BTS through wireless network and eavesdrops the session initiated by legitimate MS. The attacker establishes an independent connection with both the victim's MS. It performs eavesdropping on the active connection, must intercept the transmitted message between two victim MS and inject false information, which is straightforward in the circumstances where communication is done in an unencrypted or weak encryption network. But all is possible when an attacker gets the secret key or some information based on which he/she could guess the secret key. Normally,this attack executes during the key exchange phase of the protocol pretend like a legitimate MS and ask to the AS for valid authentication tokens in order to make the AS believe that

can easily access the contents of SMS during the transmission
encryption algorithm (such as A5/1 or A5/2), thus an attacker
can compromise these algorithms to capture the information

originate from the authentic MS. Similarly, he/she can also show him(her)self like a valid AS and ask legitimate MS to send the information in order to make the target MS believe that originate from a genuine AS.

B. System and Communication Model

In order to overcome the above stated attacks, various cipher algorithms are implemented with the proposed authentication protocol. We recommend that the cipher algorithms should be stored onto the SIM (part of MS) as well as at AS.

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Since providing security needs to do some extra effort which is measured in terms of cost, thus providing or adding extra security means increasing more cost. Authors propose to include one more service as 'Secure Message' in the menu of mobile software developed by various mobile companies as shown in Fig. 1. Mobile operators can add some extra charges to send secure message by their customers over the networks.

Whenever a user wants to send a secure message to other user, the proposed protocol namely EasySMS is executed which makes available the symmetric shared key between both MS and then ciphering of message takes place using a symmetric key algorithm.

C. Proposed Protocol: EasySMS

In this section, we propose a new protocol named EasySMS with two different scenarios which provide end-to-end secure transmission of information in the cellular networks. First scenario is illustrated in Fig. 2 where both MS belong to the same AS, in other words share the same Home Location Register (HLR) while the second scenario is presented inFig.3 where both MS belong to different AS, in other word both are in different HLR. There are two main entities in the EasySMS protocol. First is the Authentication Server (AS), works as Authentication Center (AuC) and stores all the symmetric keys shared between AS and the respective MS. In this paper, we refer AuC as the AS. Second entity is the Certified Authority/Registration Authority (CA/RA) which stores all the information related to the mobile subscribers.

We assume that every subscriber has to register his/her mobile number with CA/RA entity and only after the is responsible to validate the identity of the subscribers.

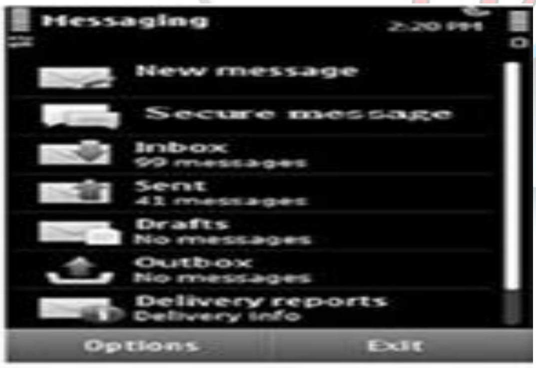

Fig. 1. Secure Message in Menu

We also assume that a symmetric key is shared between the AS and the CA/RA which provides the proper security to all the transmitted information between AS and CA/RA. It is considered that various authentication servers are connected with each other through a secure channel since one centralized server is not efficient to handle data all around.

We consider all the transmission among various AS take place by encrypting the message with a symmetric key shared between each pair of AS. Both scenarios of this protocol are as follows Scenario-1 When Both MS Belong to Same AS: This scenario is presented in Fig. 2 where MS1 sends a message to MS2 and both MS belong to the same AS. This scenario is subdivided into two phases.

Phase-1: (1) First, the mobile user who wants to send the SMS (say MS1) transmits an initial request to other mobile user (say MS2) for the connection. This initial request consists of International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) of MS1 (say IDMS1), a timestamp T1, a request number ReqNo and a message authentication code MAC1 = f1SK1(IDMS1 ReqNo). Here, SK1 is a symmetric key

identity, the SIM card gets activated by this entity. Thus, this

shared between the MS1 and the AS2. (2) On receiving the message from MS1, the mobile user who receives this request (say MS2) computes the MAC2 = f1SK2 (IDMS2||T2||MAC1). Then MS2 sends a message to the AS containing the IDMS1, IDMS2, T2, MAC1, ReqNo and MAC2 where IDMS2 is the IMSI of the MS2. The SK2 is a symmetric key shared between MS2 and the AS.

With this message, the MS2 requests to the AS to check the validity of the IDMS1. (3) When the AS receives a message from the MS2, it computes the MAC2' =f1SK2(IDMS2||T2||MAC1) and compares it with the received MAC2. If it holds then the AS sends not only the IDMS1 but also the IDMS2 to the CA/RA along with a timestamp T3 using a symmetric shared key between AS and CA/RA (say SK_AS-CA) to validate the identity of both MS. If, MAC2 and MAC2' are not equal then the connection is terminated. (4) Next, the CA/RA checks the validity of both entities and sends the reply back to the with

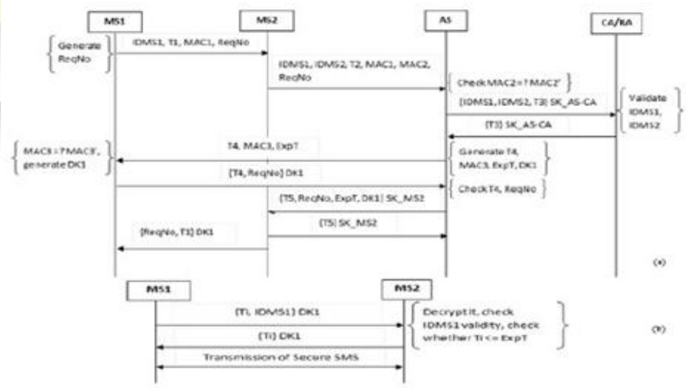

Fig.2. EasySMS Scenario 1: (a) Phase-1; (b) Phase-2.

received timestamp T3. (5) On receiving the message from the CA/RA, if the AS finds any of the entities is invalid

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then the connection is simply terminated and MS1 needs to send a fresh connection request. If both entities are valid then the AS generates a new timestamp T4, an expiry time to authenticate MS1 (say ExpT), a delegate key DK1 generated from the SK1 using a function f2 and a new messageauthenticationcodeMAC3=f1SK1(T4||ExpT||ReqNo) and DK1=f2SK1(T4||ReqNo). Then the AS sends (T4, MAC3, ExpT)to the MS1. (6) After receiving the message from AS, theMS1 first computes MAC3' and compares it with the receivedMAC3, where MAC3'= f1SK1(T4||ExpT||ReqNo). If both are same then MS1 computes the DK1. Next, MS1 sends T4 and the corresponding ReqNo to the AS encrypted with the DK1key. (7) The AS checks the received T4 with its stored valueand confirms ReqNo. If both are correct then the authentication of MS1 is completed. Thereafter, the AS sends DK1 to the MS2 along with a new timestamp T5, ExpT and ReqNo after encrypting all using the SK of MS2 (SK_MS2) which is a shared key between AS and MS2. (8) The MS2 simply confirms the reception of DK1 key by replying to the AS ,the T5 encrypted with the SK of MS2. (9) MS2 also sends ReqNo and T1 to the MS1 encrypted with DK1 so that MS1 can verify the correctness of T1 and ReqNo. This message also verifies the successful reception of DK1 by the MS2.

Phase-2: Once both MS have a shared secret symmetric key, they can exchange the message information in a secure manner using a suitable and strong cryptographic algorithm like AES/MAES (explained later). After phase-1, a session is generated which provides the secure communication between both MS for a specified time period ExpT. In this time period the same DK1 key is used to provide ciphering between MS1 and MS2but after the ExpT time the session gets expire and MS1 needs to send a fresh request to MS2 with a new request number ReqNo with the same procedure of phase-1. Within the ExpT, the following steps are used for the communication between both MS: (1) The MS1 sends the IDMS1 and a timestamp (say Ti) to the MS2 encrypted with symmetric key of MS1 i.e., DK1. (2) MS2 decrypts the message using the same DK1 key and checks the validity of IDMS1 and verifies whether Ti <= ExpT. If both are correct then MS1 is successfully authenticated and proved as a valid user for the connection. Then MS2 replies the same received Ti encrypted with DK1 as an acknowledgement to MS1. (3) Secure SMS communication between both MS takes place.

Scenario-2 When Both MS Belong to Different AS: This scenario is presented in Fig. 3 where MS1 sends a message to MS2 while both MS belong to the different AS. This case is one where both mobile users are located in the geographically far areas and they have different authentication centers. It may be the case where both MS are of different service providers so they genuinely have different authentication centers. This scenario is also subdivided into two phases.

Phase-1: (1) It is same as presented in step-1 of scenario-1.Here, SK1 is a symmetric key shared between MS1 and AS1.(2) The MS2 passes (IDMS1, IDMS2, ReqNo, T2, MAC1, MAC2) to the AS through which it is connected (say AS2).The SK2 is a symmetric key shared between MS2 and the AS2. With this message, the MS2 requests to the AS2 to check the validity of the IDMS1. The MS2 stores the timestamp T1in the memory which was received from the MS1. (3) TheAS2 computes the same as presentedstepscenario1andcheckswhetherMAC2?=MAC2'. (4)The CA/A checks the validity of both entities and sends the reply back to theAS2 with the received timestamp T3 and the identity of AS to which MS1 belongs (say AS1). (5) The AS2 checks the same as in scenario-1 step-5, if both entities are valid then the AS2sends (IDMS1, ReqNo, MAC1) to the AS1 through a secure channel or using a symmetric key shared between AS1 andAS2 (say SK_AS1-AS2). We assume that all AS communicate with each other using the pre-computed symmetric shared keys. (6) . When theAS1 receives the message from the AS2, it computes MAC1'=f1SK1(IDMS1||ReqNo) and compares MAC1' with the received MAC1. If both are different then the connection is terminated.

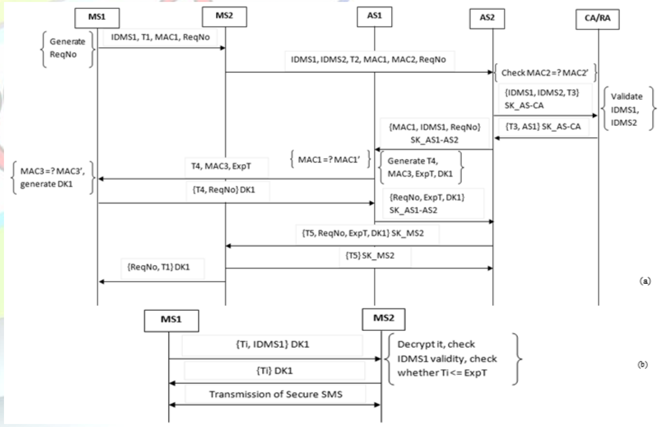

Fig. 3. EasySMS Scenario 2: (a) Phase-1; (b) Phase-2.

IV. Analysis Of Proposed Protocol

This section analyzes proposed protocol in various aspects such as mutual authentication, prevention from various threats and attacks, key management, and computation & communication overheads.

Is the Secret Key SK Safely Stored? Since the malicious user does not know the structure of cryptographic functions like f1() and f2(), so he/she can neither generate the correct MAC1 nor correct delegation

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key DK1. Further, the secret key SK is stored on the authentication server/center as well as embedded onto the SIM at the time of manufacturing. Thus, it is almost impossible to extract the SK. The storage scenario of SK key we presented is same as nowadays used for the voice communication in the traditional cellular networks. If some service providers do not wish to use actual SK in the protocol execution, they can compute alternate secret keys with a new function f" as: SK1' =f'SK1(IDMS1) and SK2'= f'SK2(IDMS2). We do not prefer to do it because it increases the overall overhead of protocol.

Is There Any Alternative for IMSI? Since a malicious user with only known IMSI (by some IMSI catcher but functions and secret keys are still unknown) cannot break the security of proposed protocol. Thus, the proposed protocol is secure. We can also have one alternate for it. We can propose a new function f'() which computes a temporary IMSI for each MS whenever it wants to communicate. At MS: compute IDMS1 = f'(IMSI1, MAC1); At AS: compute IMSI1 = f'(IDMS1, MAC1). This is simply possible by XOR ing the IMSI1 (or IDMS1) and MAC1 (twice), because the size of MAC1 is 64 bits while IMSI1/IDMS1 is of 128 bits. The function f'() should be known to MS as well as AS but publically unknown. But we recommend using a complex function to compute the same. However, we do not prefer because it increases the overhead at MS as well as at AS.

A. Mutual Authentication Between MS and AS

In scenario-1 of EasySMS protocol, the AS authenticates MS1 by verifying the MAC2 and checks the identity of MS1 through CA/RA. When AS receives MAC2, it simply calculates MAC2' and compares it with the received MAC2.

If it matches, then authentication of MS1 is done by the AS. Similarly, on receiving MAC3, the MS1 computes MAC3'to authenticate the AS. If MAC3 is equal to the MAC3' then the authentication of AS is successful. All this ensures the mutual authentication between MS1 and AS through MS2. Similarly, in scenario-2, the AS1 authenticates MS1 through AS2 and MS2. The integrity is maintained between MS1-AS1 and MS2-AS2 by comparing the MAC1-MAC1' and MAC2-MAC2' respectively. The MS1 authenticates AS1 by comparing MAC3 with MAC3'.

B. Efficient Key Management

The EasySMS protocol is able to efficiently handle the key management issue in both scenarios where the DK1 key (from the symmetric key of MS1) is securely transmitted by the AS to the MS2 (scenario-1) or by the AS2 to the MS2through AS1 (scenario-2). Thus, this protocol successfully ciphers the message before its transmission over the network.

We preferred a symmetric key algorithm because these algorithms are 1000 times faster than the asymmetric algorithms [24] and improve the efficiency of the system.

C. Resistance to Attacks

In this subsection, we justify that the EasySMS protocol is able to prevent the transmitted SMS from various attacks over the network. It is assumed that the cryptographic functions used in the paper are not publically available and are secret. The capturing of any secret key SK is not possible because no secret key has been transmitted in any phase of the proposed protocol and always a delegation key DK1 is being transferred in the cipher mode whenever is required. Secret keys are also not publically available and are secret.

1) SMS Disclosure: In the EasySMS protocol, a cryptographic encryption algorithm AES/MAES is maintained to provide end-to-end confidentiality to the transmitted SMS in the network. Thus, encryption approach prevents the transmitted SMS from SMS disclosure.

2) Replay Attack: The proposed protocol is free from this attack because it sends one timestamp (like T1, T2, T3, T4 and T5) with each message during the communication over the network. These unique timestamp values prevent the system from the replay attack. This attack can be detected if later previous information is used or modified.

3) Man-in-the-middle Attack: In the EasySMS protocol, a symmetric algorithm AES/MAES is used for encrypting/ decrypting end-to-end communication between the MS and the AS in both scenarios. The message is end-to-end securely encrypted/decrypted with DK1 key for every subsequent authentication and since attacker does not have sufficient information to generate DK1, thus it prevents the communication from MITM attack over the network.

4) OTA Modification in SMS Transmission: The EasySMS protocol provides end-to-end security to the SMS from the sender to the receiver including OTA interface with an additional strong encryption algorithm AES/MAES. The protocol does not depend upon the cryptographic security of encryption algorithm (such as A5/1, A5/2) exists between MS and BTS in traditional cellular networks. This protocol provides endto- end security to end users. It protects the message content being access by mobile operators as well as from attackers present in the transmitted medium.

5) Impersonation Attack: There are two cases to evaluate this attack with EasySMS protocol. Both cases are

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as follows: (a) *When an attacker impersonates the MS:* In Easy SMS ,if an attacker tries to impersonate the MS, he/she will not get success because in scenario-1, the AS calculates the MAC2' and compares it with the received MAC2, while in scenario- 2, the AS2 computes MAC2' and compares with MAC2.

Thereafter, the AS1 computes MAC1' and checks whether MAC1' is equal to the MAC1. Thus, at any stage if the AS finds the above comparison false then the connection is simply terminated. (b) *When an attacker impersonates the AS:* If an attacker tries to impersonate the AS (or AS1/AS2), the attempt to impersonate the AS will be failed as the MS1 computes MAC3' and compares it with the received MAC3. Thus, an attempt to impersonate the AS terminates the connection

D. Computation Overhead

We have considered all the security functions used in EasySMS, SMSSec, and PK-SIM a unit value. On the basis of authentication requests 'n' and number of functions used in three protocols, we calculate computation overhead as:

1. *SMSSec Protocol:* Phase-1: [H, {}PK, {}SK, {}SK,{}SK] = 5; *Phase-2:* [H, HU, {}SK, {}SK_n, {}SK_n,{}SK_n]*n = 6*n; Total Overhead = 5+6*n
2. *PK-SIM Protocol: Phase-1:* [H(CertSAG), {}SK_SAG,H(C_ME),{}SK_SAG,H(Ns,Nc,UAKey,Expiry),{}SK_SAG, {}PK_PK-SIM, {}E_UAKey]=8; *Phase-2:*[MAC, {}E_SK, MAC', {}E_SK]*n = 4*n; Total = 8+4*n
3. *EasySMS Protocol: Scenario-1: Phase-1:* f1, f1, f1,f1, f1, f2, f2, {}SK_AS-CA, {}SK_AS-CA,{}SK_MS2,{}SK_MS2, {}DK1, {}DK1 = 13; *Phase-2:* [{}DK1,{}DK1]*n = 2*n; Total Computation Overhead = 13+2*n

Scenario-2: Phase-1: f1, f1, f1, f1, f1, f1, f2, f2, {}SK_AS-CA, {}SK_AS-CA, {}SK_AS1-AS2, {}SK_AS1-AS2, {}SK_MS2, {}SK_MS2, {}DK1, {}DK1=16; *Phase-2:* [{}DK1, {}DK1]*n = 2*n; Total Overhead = 16+2*n

E. Communication Overhead

In this subsection, we calculate the transmitted message size to evaluate communication overhead in EasySMS, SMSSec, and PK-SIM protocols. The total number of transmitted bits can be calculated with the help of the size specified in Table I. Total number of transmitted bits in each protocol is as:

1) SMSSec Protocol:

Phase1:(1)+(2)+(3)+(4)=(40+64+64+28+128)+(128+16+28)+(28)+(28) = 552 bits;

Phase-2: (for n values) = ((1)+(2)+(3)+(4))*n = ((64+40+64+64+28+128)+(128+16+28)+(28)+(28))*n = 616*n;

Total bits = 552 + 616*n; Here, random number Rc is128 bits.

3) EasySMS Protocol: Case-1:

Phase1:(1)+(2)+(3)+(4)+(5)+(6)+(7)+(8)+(9)=(128+64+64+8)+(128+128+64+64+64+8)+(128+128+64)+(64)+(64+64+64)+(64+8)+(64+8+64+256)+(64)+(64+8) = 1896 bits;

Phase-2: ((1)+(2))*n = ((64+ 128)+(64))*n = 256*n bits;

Total bits = 1896 + 256*n bits

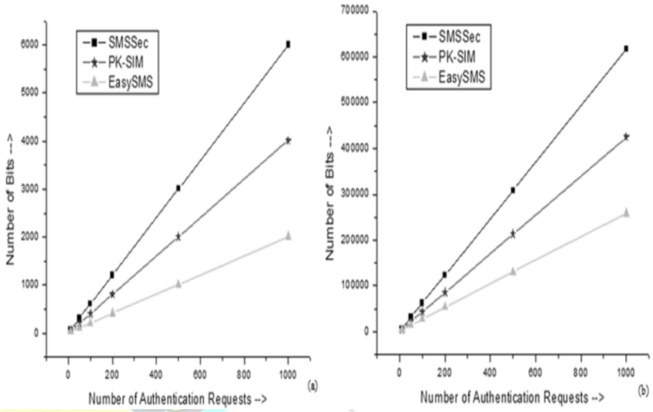

Fig. 4. (a) Computation. (b) Communication Overhead.

TABLE III
BANDWIDTH UTILIZATION

No.of Auth. Requests	EasySMS/SMSSec	EasySMS/PK-SIM
10	0.76	0.99
50	0.48	0.69
100	0.45	0.64
200	0.43	0.62
500	0.42	0.61
1000	0.41	0.6
Average	**0.49**	**0.69**

Case-2: Consider the identity of AS1 is 128 bits.

Phase-1: (1)+(2)+(3)+(4)+(5)+(6)+(7)+(8)+(9)+ (10)+ (11) = (128+64+8)+(128+128+64+64+64+8)+(128+128+64)+(64+128)+(64+128+8)+(64+64+64)+(64+8)+(8+64+256)+(64+8+64+256)+(64)+(8+64)=2552 bits;

Phase-2: ((1))+(2))*n = ((64+128)+(64)*n= 256*n bits; Total bits = 2552 + 256*n

Fig. 4 shows the graphs between the number of bits for overhead and the number of authentication requests generated. It can be clearly observed that EasySMS generates lesser computation overhead (Fig. 4(a)) and communication overhead(Fig. 4(b)) as compared to SMSSec and PK-SIM protocols.

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F. Bandwidth Utilization

This subsection evaluates the bandwidth utilized by all three protocols and compares them with respect to each other. Table III presents the bandwidth utilization of EasySMS with respect to SMSSec and PK-SIM protocols. It can be easily concluded that on an average, the EasySMS protocol reduces

TABLE IV
MESSAGE EXCHANGED RATIO

No.of Auth. Requests	EasySMS/SMSSec	EasySMS/PK-SIM
10	0.55	0.75
50	0.38	0.55
100	0.35	0.
200	0.34	0.62
500	0.33	0.61
1000	0.33	0.6
Average	**0.38**	**0.69**

51% and 31% of the bandwidth consumption during the authentication process as compared to SMSSec and PK-SIM respectively, while the number of authentication requests is considered as 10, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000. Similarly, Table IV shows that proposed protocol reduces 62% and 45% of the message exchanged in comparison both protocols respectively.

V. SYMMETRIC ENCRYPTION ALGORITHM

In this section, we focus on the selection criteria to choose a block cipher based symmetric key algorithm. The efficiency of a block cipher algorithm depends upon the block size and key size. Since, with a larger block size we can encrypt large chunk of data in one cycle of the algorithm, thus, it speeds up the execution of algorithm. However, a larger key results in a slower algorithm, because in general, all bits of key are involved in an execution cycle of the algorithm .A large number of rounds make the algorithm slower but, are supposed to provide greater security [25]. Thus, there is always a trade-off between security and performance in block cipher algorithms [26]. Eli Biham [27] has suggested that performance of algorithm should be measured by timing the minimum number of secure rounds for each algorithm ,i.e., the estimated number of rounds needed to make a brute force key search which is the most efficient form of attack,

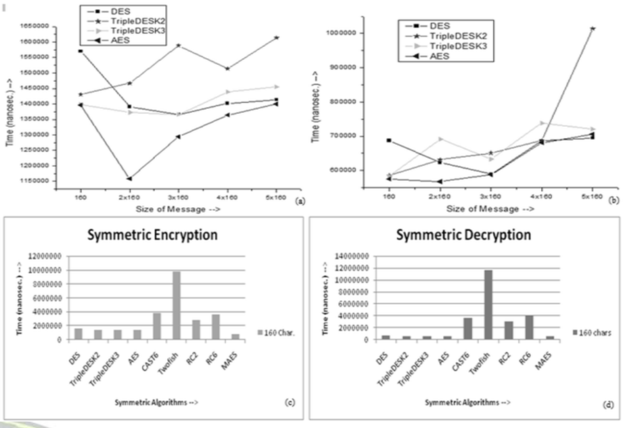

Fig. 5. Encryption and Decryption with different size of messages.

In J2ME, the WMA (Wireless Messaging API) [28] provides tools for sending and receiving SMS messages. Our solution is based on JDK 1.6 and is simulated with Java MID let, which is an application written in Java for the Micro Edition platform. The application can send and receive SMS messages in binary format using the WMA. Since the J2ME does not contain cryptographic algorithms, we used Lightweight API from the Legion of the Bouncy Castle.

A. Simulation

Some existing symmetric key algorithms like DES, Triple- DES with 2-keys, Triple-DES with 3-keys, and AES have been implemented. The results have generated on a PC with configuration of Core i3 processor, 4 GB RAM, 320 GB HD and Windows7 OS. J2ME implementation of these algorithms is limited with 160 characters only, i.e., single SMS. We have used JDK 1.6 for the implementation of these algorithms with more than 160 characters. The standard key size used in DES, Triple DES with 2-keys, Triple-DES with 3-keys and AES are 64 (out of which 56 bits are used), 112, 168, and 128 bits respectively. Fig. 5(a) and Fig. 5(b) show the results observed through JDK1.6 for encryption and decryption with DES, Triple-DES with 2-keys, Triple-DES with 3-keys, and AES. The results conclude that out of these algorithms, AES takes minimum time to encrypt and decrypt the SMS with various sizes where one SMS size is 160 characters

TABLE V
MESSAGE SIZE (PLAIN TEXT, CIPHER TEXT)

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Mode	DES	TripleDES-2K	TripleDES-3K	AES
PCBC	160, 80	160, 155	160, 155	160, 80
ECB	160, 143	160, 160	160, 168	160, 80
CBC	160, 80	160, 156	160, 156	160, 155
CTR	160, 82	160, 82	160, 82	160, 160
CFB	160, 82	160, 82	160, 159	160, 161
OFB	160, 161	160, 82	160, 82	160, 82

Table V represents the pairs of plain text and cipher text with respect to various algorithms DES, AES, Triple-DES with 2 keys, and Triple-DES with 3-keys implemented in various modes of operations like Propagation Chain Block Cipher (PCBC), Electronic Code Book (ECB), Chain Block Cipher (CBC), Counter (CTR), Output Feedback Block (OFB) and Cipher Feedback Block (CFB). Out of all these modes, CTR mode is the most popular and usable, because it provides the parallelism to encrypt and decrypt all blocks of data simultaneously. Nowadays, DES and Triple-DES algorithms are not considered as very secure algorithms [29], [30] since previously some attacks have been found on both algorithms. Thus, AES is the best option for this purpose which is considered one of the best secure algorithms. With the input of 160 characters, DES, AES, Triple-DES with 2-keys, and Triple-DES with 3-keys algorithms in CTR mode generate 82, 82, 82 and 160 characters cipher respectively, which means through AES, we can still send 160 characters after encrypting the SMS. Each algorithm results are calculated 30 times by repeating execution and the average value is considered.

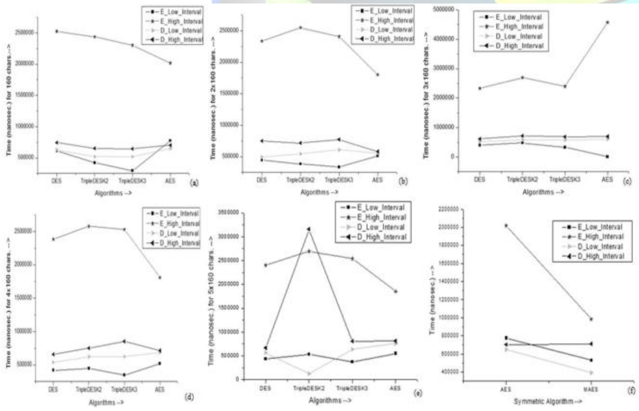

Fig. 6. Confidence interval with SMS Size (char.) (a) 160; (b) 2 × 160; (c) 3 × 160; (d) 4 × 160; (e) 5 × 160; (f) 160.

B. Reliability Analysis With Confidence Interval

We have also calculated the range of confidence interval, considering it 95% for each algorithm with 160 characters as input because the reported margin of error is typically about twice the standard deviation [31]. Confidence interval is an interval estimate of a population parameter and is used to indicate the reliability of an estimate.

Fig. 6(a), 6(b), 6(c), 6(d) and 6(e) represent the range of confidence interval (high & low range values) for both encryption (E_low_interval, E_high_interval) and decryption (D_low_interval, D_high_interval) of the message (SMS) with160, 320, 480, 640 and 800 characters in length for DES, Triple-DES with 2-keys, Triple-DES with 3-keys and AES algorithms where all times are in nanoseconds. We have used t-distribution to calculate the confidence interval because it computes confidence intervals for large 'n' (100 samples in our analysis) if the data is not normally distributed [32].

In this process, the SMS size from 160 to 800 characters is evaluated where more than 160 characters in an SMS is split and concatenated with another SMS. Thus, transmitted message can contain a range of 1120 to 56000 bits where each character is mapped with 7-bit ASCII value. A low standard deviation indicates that the data points tend to be very close to the mean, whereas high standard deviation indicates that the data points are spread out over a large range of values. Since, the AES algorithm is strict to its output range, hence, it is best among them

C. A Variant of AES: MAES Algorithm

AES with 128-bit key has proved to be an efficient algorithm. To encrypt the SMS but, its security cannot be remain maintained in the subsequent years. Various researchers have found attacks on AES with 128-bit key [33], [34] with some assumptions. Thus, we propose a variant of AES called MAES (modified AES) which is more secure with 256-bit key (as original AES) and 256-bit each block of data. The increase in length of each block improves the performance of MAES than the original AES. Various steps of the MAES algorithm are as follows:

(1) Key Generation:

In EasySMS protocol, 256-bit of DK1 key is generated at the MS1 and AS which is used as cipher key for MAES and round keys are derived from this256 bits cipher key using AES key schedule. (2) Initial Round: Add Round Key—each byte of the state is combined with the round key using bitwise XOR. (3) Rounds: (i) Sub Bytes—a non-linear substitution step where each byte is replaced with another according to a look up table ,(ii)Shift Rows—a transposition step where each row of the state is shifted cyclically a certain number of steps, (iii) Mix Columns— a mixing operation which operates on the columns of the state, (iv) Add Round Key. (4) Final Round (no Mix Columns): (i) Sub Bytes (ii) Shift Rows (iii) Add Round Key.

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On considering the best assembly code combinations and continuance memory usage, the order of Sub Byte and Shift Row processes are swapped, to reduce the number of times in memory reads and writes, as well as increase the computation speed without compromising the actual result [35],and this is done with MAES algorithm. Next, in AES, the Mix Columns step is defined as a multiplication of columns with the matrix M. The matrix M used in the AES and its inverse matrix $M{-}1$, both are different and the calculation of inverse of a matrix increases the computation. Thus, we used

TABLE VI
SMS SIZE (INPUT, OUTPUT)

One SMS Size	AES	MAES
In Bits	1120, 1540	1120, 1111
In Characters	160, 220	160, 158

an alternative matrix $M1$ because for new matrix, $M1 = M{-}1$

02 03 01 01 0E 0B
01 02 03 01
−1 09 0E
M = M =
01 01 02 03 0D 09
03 01 01 02 0B 0D

1 2 4 6
2 1 6 4
−1M1 = M1 =
4 6 1 2
6 4 2

Table VI shows the performance of AES and MAES algorithms with one SMS size of plaintext and cipher text pairs in bits and characters, where MAES generates 158 Characters after ciphering the SMS of 160 characters. We have implemented various algorithms DES, Triple-DES, AES,CAST6, Two fish, RC2, RC6, MAES and performed the encryption/decryption of SMS with 160 characters which are shown in Fig. 5(c) and Fig. 5(d). Finally, we conclude that out of these algorithms, the MAES algorithm is more efficient to encrypt the SMS. The confidence interval for AES and MAES can be observed from Fig. 6(f) where confidence interval (high & low range values) of the MAES is strictly close to the encryption process.

VI. Formal Proof Of Proposed Protocol

In order to clear statement of our analysis, we use the BAN Logic symbols to formally proof the authentication process of the proposed protocol. (1) *P*| ≡ *X*: P believes X, or P would be entitled to believe X, (2) *P* _ *X*: P sees X. Someone has sent a message containing X to P, who can read and repeat X, (3) *P*| ~ *X*: P once said X. P at some time sent a message including the statement X, (4) *P*| ⇒ *X*: P has jurisdiction over X. P is an authority on X and should be trusted on this matter, (5) *#(X)*: The formula X is fresh, that is, X has not been sent in a message at any time before the current run of the protocol, (6) *P K↔ Q*: P and Q may use the shared key K to communicate, (7) *P X⇔ Q*: The formula X is a secret known only to P and Q, (8) *(X)y* : This represents X combined with the formula Y that Y be a secret.

1) The Formal Messages in EasySMS Protocol*: Phase-1:*

1. *MS*1 → *MS*2 : *I D*1, *Ta*, Req*No*,f1SK1 (ID1||ReqNo*)*;*MS*1*S*↔*K*1 *AS*1;
2. *MS*2 → *AS*2 : *I D*1, *I D*2, *Tb*, *ReqNo*,f1SK1*(*ID1|| ReqNo*)*, f1SK2*(*ID2||Tb||f1SK1 (ID1||ReqNo*))*; *MS*2 *S*↔*K*2*AS*2;
3. *AS*2 → *CA/RA* : {*I D*1, *I D*2, *Tc*}*SKAS*−*CA*; ∀*ASi SKASi*−*CA* ↔ *CA*;
4. *CA/RA* → *AS*2 : {*AS*1, *Tc*}*SKAS*−*CA*;
5. *AS*2 → *AS*1 : {*I D*1, Req*No*, f1SK1 *(ID*1 ||*ReqNo)*}*SKAS*1−*AS*2; ∀*ASiSKASi*−*AS j* ↔ ∀*ASj* , *where i* = *j* ;
6. *AS*1 → *MS*1 : *Td*, *Exptime*, f1SK1*(*Td||Exptime|| ReqNo*)*;
7. *MS*1 → *AS*1 : {*Td*, ReqNo}DK1 ; *MS*1 *D*↔*K*1 *AS*1;
8. *AS*1 → *AS*2 : {*ReqNo*, *Exptime*, f2SK1*(*Td|| ReqNo*)*}*SKAS*1−*AS*2
9. *AS*2 → *MS*2 : {*Te*, *ReqNo*, *Exptime*, f2SK1 {*(*Td||ReqNo*)*}*SKAS*1−*AS*2}*SK*2;
10. *MS*2 → *AS*2 : {*Te*}SK2;
11. *MS*2 → *MS*1 : {*Ta*, Req*No*}DK1

Phase-2:

1. *MS*1 → *MS*2 : {*Ti* , *I D*1}DK1;
2. *MS*2 → *MS*1 : {*Ti* }DK1

2) Security Assumptions*:* (a). It is assumed that SK is a secure key which is shared between MS and AS. (1) MS has SK key and *MS*| ≡ *MS* ↔*SK AS*, (2) AS has SK key and *AS*| ≡ *MS S*↔*K AS*; (b). It is assumed that AS trusts the CA/RA through a secret key. *CA/RA*| ≡ *CASKCA*−*AS* ↔ *AS* and *AS*| ≡*CA/RASKCA*−*AS*↔ *AS* ;(c). It is assumed that communication between all AS are done with a secret key shared between each pair of AS, i.e., *ASi*| ≡ *ASi*

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*SKAS*1−*AS*2 ↔ *ASj* and *ASj*| ≡ *ASj SKAS*1−*AS*2 ↔ *ASi* , where *i* = *j* .:

***3) Security Analysis**: Phase-1:*

1. *MS*1 → *MS*2 : *MS*1| ≡ *#(Ta)* ∧ *AS*1| ≡ *#(Ta)*; *MS*2 *I D*1, *Ta*, ReqNo,f1SK1 *(*ID1||ReqNo*)*;*MS*1 *S*↔*K*1 *AS*1;
2. *MS*2 → *AS*2 : *MS*2| ≡ *#(Tb)* ∧ *AS*2| ≡*#(Tb)*; *AS*2_*I D*1, *I D*2, *Tb*, ReqNo,f1SK1 *(*ID1||ReqNo*)*,f1SK2 *(*ID2||Tb||f1SK1 *(*ID1||ReqNo*))*; *MS*2*S*↔*K*2 *AS*2;
3. On receiving, the *AS*2 calculatesf1SK2 *(*ID2||Tb||f1SK1 *(*ID1||ReqNo*))*, if it matches then *AS*2 → *CA/RA* : {*I D*1, *I D*2, *Tc*}*SKAS*−*CA*;∀*ASi SKASi*−*CA* ↔ *CA*,
4. After receiving the message from *AS*2 the CA/RA validate *I D*1 and *I D*2 and then *CA/RA* → *AS*2 :{*AS*1, *Tc*}*SKAS*−*CA*;
5. *AS*2→*AS*1 : {*I D*1, ReqNo, f1SK1 *(*ID1||ReqNo*)*}SKAS1−AS2 ;∀ASiSKA Si−ASj ↔ ∀ASj, wherei = j;
6. First *AS*1 computes f1SK1 *(*ID1||ReqNo*)* then*AS*1 →*MS*1 : *Td*, *Exptime*, f1SK1 *(*Td||Exptime||ReqNo*)*;
7. The *MS*1 computes f1SK1 *(*Td||Exptime||ReqNo*)* and compares it with the received one, then *MS*1 → *AS*1 :{*Td*, ReqNo}DK1 ; *MS*1*D*↔*K*1 *AS*1;
8. *AS*1 checks ReqNo and #Td then *AS*1 → *AS*2 :{ReqNo,*Exptime*,f2SK1*(*Td||ReqNo*)*}*SKAS*1−*AS*2;
9. *AS*2→*MS*2{*Te*,ReqNo,*Exptime*,f2SK1*(*Td||ReqNo*)*}*SKAS*1−*AS*2

***4) Message Meaning Rule**:)*

1. *MS*1| ≡*(MS*1*D*↔*K*1 *MS*2*)*∧*(MS*2*S*↔*K*2 *AS*2*)*∧ *(MS*1*S*↔*K*1 *AS*1*)*, *AS*2 _ f1SK2 *(*ID2||Tb||f1SK1 *(*ID1||ReqNo*))MS*2| ≡ *AS*2| ~ f1SK2 *(*ID2||Tb||f1SK1 *(*ID1||ReqNo*))*
2. *AS*1| ≡ f2SK1 *(*Td||ReqNo*)* ∧ *(*AS1S↔K1 MS1*)*,MS1_f1SK1*(*Td||Exptime||ReqNo*)AS*1|≡*MS*1|~f1SK1*(*Td||Exptime||ReqN*)*

***5) Nonce/Timestamp Verification Rule**:*

1. *MS*1|≡*#(Ta)MS*2|≡*#(Tb)*,*MS*2|≡*AS*2|~f1SK2*(*ID2|Tb||f1S1*(*ID1||ReqNo*))MS*2|≡*AS*2|≡f1SK2*(*ID2||Tb||f1SK1*(*ID1||Req*))*
2. *AS*2| ≡ *#((Tc)* ∧ *#(Te))* ∧ *AS*1| ≡ *#(Td)*, *AS*1| ≡ *MS*1|~f1SK1*(*Td||Exptime||ReqNo*)**AS*1|≡*MS*1|≡f1SK1*(*Td||Exptime||Reqo*)*

***6) Jurisdiction Rule** :*

1. *MS*2| ≡ *AS*2 ⇒ f1SK2 *(*ID2||Tb||f1SK1 *(*ID1||ReqNo*))*,MS2 AS2| ~ f1SK2 *(*ID2||Tb||f1SK1 *(*ID1||ReqNo*))MS*1| ≡ *MS*2| ≡ *AS*2| ≡ *AS*1
2. *AS*1| ≡ *MS*1 ⇒ f1SK1 *(*Td||Exptime||ReqNo*)*, AS1 _ MS1| ~ f1SK1 *(*Td||Exptime||ReqNo*)(AS*1| ≡ *MS*1*)* ∧ *(AS*2| ≡ *MS*2*)*| ≡ *AS*2| ≡ *MS*1

10. *MS*2 → *AS*2 : {*Te*}SK2 and checks #Te with the received #Te;

11. *MS*2 → *MS*1 : {*Ta*, ReqNo}DK1, if *MS*1 finds correct #Ta and ReqNo then the authentication is successful.

Phase-2:

1. *MS*1 → *MS*2 : {*Ti* , *I D*1}DK1 ; On receiving the message the *MS*2 checks validity of *I D*1 and *Ti* ≤ *Exptime*.
2. *MS*2 → *MS*1 : {*Ti* }DK1 ; If received *Ti* is same as was sent then authentication is completed.

***7) Protocol Goals**:*

a. ***Mutual Authentication Between the MS and the AS:*** *MS*2| ≡ *AS*2 ∧ *AS*1| ≡ *MS*1 → *MS*1| ≡ *MS*2| ≡ *AS*2| ≡ *AS*1, thus mutual authentication is hold.
b. ***Efficient Key Management Between Sender and Receiver MS**:* A *DK*1 key is used between the MS and the AS to provide agreement. *AS*1| ≡ *#(Td)*, *MS*1| ≡ *DK*1 ∧ *#(Td)*, since *DK*1 = f2SK1 *(*Td||ReqNo*)*; *AS*2| ≡ *#(Te)*, *MS*2| ≡*SK*2 ∧ *#(Te)*, and *(AS*1 → *AS*2*)* ∧ *(AS*2 → *MS*2*)*| ~ *DK*1,
c. ***Key Freshness between the MS and the AS:****AS*1| ≡ *#(Td)* ∧ *MS*1| ≡ *#(Td)*, *AS*2|*AS*2| ≡ *#(Te)* ∧ *MS*2| ≡*#(Te)*, *DK*1 = f2SK1 *(*Td||ReqNo*)*,
d. ***Confidentiality Between the End-to-End MS via AS:*** *MS*1| ≡ *(MS*1*D*↔*K*1 *MS*2*)*, *MS*2 _ {*Msg*}*DK*1*MS*1| ≡ *MS*2| ~ *MsgMS*2| ≡ *(D*↔*K*1 *MS*1*)*, *MS*1 _ {*Msg*}*DK*1*MS*2| ≡ *MS*1| ~ *Msg*
e. ***Resistance Replay Attack:*** If the attacker gets #Ta from message (1) and #Tb from message (2), he/she is unable to forge the message because he/she doesn't know*SK*1 and *SK*2. If the attacker gets #Td from message (6) and #Te from message

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(9), he/she is unable to forge the message because he/she doesn't know*DK*1 and*SK*2. Since #Ta, #Tb, #Td and #Te will be changed next time, hence, it defeats the attack.

f. ***Resistance Man-in-the-middle Attack:*** Since attacker knows neither *DK*1 nor {}*DK*1 encryption algorithm, hence it prevents the communication from being eavesdropped.

g. ***Resistance SMS Disclosure and OTA Attack****:* The MAES algorithm is proposed to use as {}*DK*1which prevents SMS disclosure attack. End-to-end security of message OTA between both MS is provided by MAES with *DK*1.

h. ***Resistance Impersonation Attack:*** *(1) Adversary tries to Impersonate MS:* Since f1SK2 *(*ID2||Tb||f1SK1 *(*ID1||ReqNo*))* and f1SK1 *(*ID1||ReqNo*)* are computed at *MS*2 and*MS*1, and are compared at *AS*2 and *AS*1 respectively .This prevents the MS from the impersonation attack. *(2) Adversary tries to impersonate AS:* The integrity value f1SK2 *(*ID2||Tb||f1SK1 *(*ID1||ReqNo*))* at *MS*2 and at*AS*2 willbeviolated.Additionally,iftheMS1receivesf1SK1*(*Td||Exptime||ReqNo*)* at any time, then the connection will be terminated because *MS*1 had not sent any request.

VII. CONCLUSION

EasySMS protocol is successfully designed in order to provide end-to-end secure communication through SMS between mobile users. The analysis of the proposed protocol shows that the protocol is able to prevent various attacks. The transmission of symmetric key to the mobile users is efficiently managed by the protocol. This protocol produces lesser communication and computation overheads, utilizes bandwidth efficiently, and reduces message exchanged ratio during authentication than SMSSec and PK-SIM protocols.

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