

# A Secure Anonymous Authentication and Key Agreement Scheme for UAV Swarms in Emergency Rescue Environments

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**Abstract**—To achieve secure communication in unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) swarms during emergency rescue operations, a wide range of authentication key agreement (AKA) schemes has emerged in recent research. However, these schemes generally face three critical limitations. First, UAVs may struggle to maintain persistent communication with the trusted authority in complex environments, and efficient authentication cannot be guaranteed when the TA is offline. Second, most existing schemes lack traceability, preventing the TA from revealing the true identity of malicious UAVs. Finally, UAVs are constrained by limited computational and communication resources. So we propose an AKA scheme that enables secure communication between the UAV and BS. Specifically, proposed scheme eliminates reliance on a trusted authority during the AKA phase, while still ensuring the establishment of a secure communication channel. In addition, by combining the Chinese remainder theorem with the chameleon hash function, the scheme not only enables mutual authentication between UAVs and base stations but also enhances overall computational efficiency in complex environments. Formal security analysis and rigorous proof indicate this design upholds various protective attributes and effectively withstands diverse known attacks. Finally, experimental evaluations validate efficiency and practicality about proposed scheme in some environments.

**Index Terms**—Authentication, key agreement, chameleon hash function, Chinese remainder theorem (CRT).

## I. INTRODUCTION

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) are compact and versatile aerial platforms. Recently, UAVs have been widely adopted in emergency rescue environments [1], [2]. For instance, during fires, traffic accidents, and other sudden disasters, UAVs can be rapidly deployed for environmental monitoring, victim search and localization, and the delivery of essential supplies in affected areas, thereby substantially improving rescue efficiency [3]. However, in such emergency rescue environments, the stability and security of communication networks are critical, as they directly determine the efficiency of task coordination and the reliability of rescue operations. Therefore, constructing a reliable communication network is an essential prerequisite

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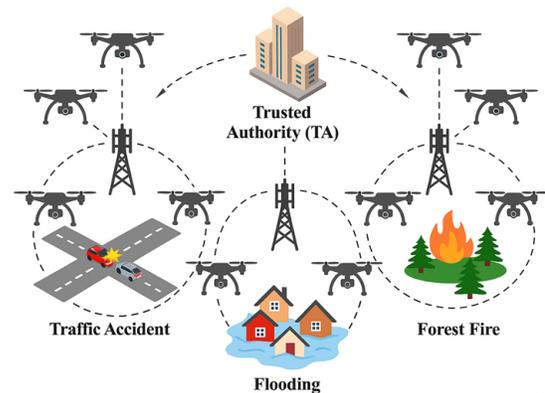


Fig. 1. UAV-Assisted Emergency Rescue Scenario.

for ensuring the successful execution of emergency rescue missions.

Fig. 1 illustrates a representative collaborative rescue framework utilizing a UAV swarm. In this framework, UAV swarm collaborate to transmit rescue data to base stations, where critical rescue information is subsequently extracted. By leveraging this collaborative mechanism, the UAV swarm efficiently acquires and processes data in complex environments, thereby reducing information acquisition costs and enhancing both data collection efficiency and response timeliness [4]. However, in practical applications, the framework continues to face several security and reliability challenges. In emergency rescue environments, data transmitted over public channels is highly susceptible to replay, tampering, and forgery attacks, which pose serious threats to the accuracy and integrity of rescue information [5], [6]. Moreover, UAV swarms involve multi-node collaboration, and without effective identity authentication mechanisms, malicious nodes may impersonate legitimate UAVs to join the swarm, thereby disrupting task execution or even compromising the entire rescue process [7], [8].

Authentication and Key Agreement (AKA) serves as the fundamental mechanism for establishing secure communications within UAV swarms [9]. It allows UAVs to authenticate with base stations and negotiate shared session keys, thereby

forming a trusted bidirectional communication channel [10], [11], [12]. As the operating environment of UAVs is relatively complex, they may be unable to maintain persistent communication with the trusted authority [13]. When the authentication process depends on online participation of a trusted authority, the complex interactions inevitably introduce extra communication rounds, incurring additional overhead and creating potential single-point-of-failure vulnerabilities [14], [15]. More critically, certain schemes risk disclosing true identities of UAVs during authentication, which can result in privacy leakage [16].

Moreover, an effective traceability mechanism within a UAV swarm is essential for enabling the timely identification and tracing of malicious nodes when abnormal behavior occurs [17], [18]. In practice, malicious UAVs may disrupt swarm collaboration through data tampering or other similar attacks. If traceability is lacking, malicious UAVs cannot be detected and revoked in a timely manner, potentially leading to mission failure or severe security incidents [19], [20]. In the event of a security incident, trusted authority should be able to uncover the UAV's identity. Therefore, in emergency rescue environments, it is necessary to design an AKA scheme with the ability to ensure secure authentication when the trusted authority is offline, preserves UAV identity privacy, and enforces effective traceability. The main contributions of this paper are summarized as follows.

- 1) Focusing on the security problems of UAV swarms in emergency rescue environments, we propose an AKA scheme. The scheme uses a chameleon hash function to enable rapid authentication of UAV by base station and leverages the Chinese remainder theorem (CRT) to facilitate distributing trapdoor key, ensuring that only UAVs possessing the trapdoor key can be successfully authenticated. Moreover, this scheme operates without requiring the trusted authority to participate online, thereby reducing reliance on it.
- 2) To address the disruption of swarm cooperation caused by malicious UAVs in emergency rescue environments, particularly through data tampering, we propose a traceability mechanism that provides reliable misbehavior detection and accountability.
- 3) A formal security analysis based on the Real-or-Random (ROR) model demonstrates the strength of the scheme. Performance assessments indicate that it delivers a secure AKA process while keeping both computational and communication overheads low.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section II reviews several representative studies. Section III introduces the necessary preliminary knowledge. Section IV provides background information. Section V introduces the full workflow of this scheme, Section VI provides a security analysis. Subsequently, Section VII presents the performance analysis. Finally, Section VIII wraps up the scheme and highlights possible avenues for future task.

## II. RELATED WORK

Owing to openness of wireless communication and high mobility of UAVs, UAV swarms encounter substantial challenges in AKA. The existing schemes have some limitations, particularly in emergency rescue environments.

Zhang et al. [21] proposed a seamless handover authentication scheme utilizing chameleon hash function. In this scheme, devices possessing trapdoor key are able to generate inputs that satisfy authentication requirements, whereas verifiers conduct identity authentication using predefined chameleon hash values. Pundir et al. [22] proposed a secure authentication scheme using hash functions with symmetric encryption algorithms, allowing UAVs and ground stations to establish session key under the supervision of a trusted authority. Xue et al. [23] proposed an authentication scheme using temporary credentials, where in the verifier authenticates a device's identity by validating the credential's legitimacy. However, renewing temporary credentials results in considerable overhead, and the update process also requires involvement from trusted authority.

Zhang et al. [24] proposed a dynamic AKA scheme that ensures sender non-repudiation and privacy protection. This scheme allows members to establish a key and distribute individual decryption keys with only one communication in open networks. However, the scheme requires numerous bilinear pairings, which renders it impractical for UAV swarm communications. Xiong et al. [25] proposed an authentication scheme utilizing Chinese remainder theorem and elliptic curve cryptography, which achieves authentication while simultaneously ensuring conditional privacy preservation. Liu et al. [26] proposed a collaborative key generation scheme. All nodes jointly generate and maintain the key. However, changes in node states render the key generation process complex and time-consuming, which may negatively impact task performance and overall efficiency.

Wang et al. [27] proposed UAV-assisted AKA scheme using three-factor authentication with physical unclonable function (PUF). It ensures the physical security of devices, thereby enhancing communication security in high-risk environments [28]. In [29], UAV-assisted authentication scheme was proposed that tailored for edge computing environments, where UAVs function as intermediate nodes to generate session keys between vehicles and roadside units. Zhang et al. [30] proposed chaotic mapping to generate symmetric session keys among UAVs and incorporated secret sharing techniques to derive group keys for UAV swarms. However, the scheme lacks traceability, which enables malicious UAVs to disseminate false information and consequently undermine group collaboration.

In [31], blockchain-based AKA scheme was proposed that exploits decentralization and fault-tolerance features of blockchain to mitigate single-point failures. Yu et al. [32] proposed an AKA agreement scheme. However, the authentication process between UAVs and base stations depends on blockchain access, which significantly decreases system

efficiency. In [33], blockchain-assisted AKA scheme was proposed. Although blockchain offers strong security guarantees, its heavy reliance on blockchain infrastructure substantially increases the complexity of system deployment. In complex environments, the efficient deployment and stable operation of such schemes remain challenging [34].

According to the above representative works, it can be observed that most existing schemes suffer from heavy reliance on trusted authority, high system overhead, and inadequate an effective traceability. The proposed scheme ensures system security while providing traceability.

### III. PRELIMINARIES

#### A. Chameleon Hash Function

The chameleon hash function is defined as  $CH_{pk}(m_0, r_0) = m_0 \cdot P + r_0 \cdot pk$ , with the trapdoor  $tp = (x, k^*)$ . Let  $k^* = m_0 + r_0 \cdot x$ . The properties of the chameleon hash function are as follows:

- 1) One-wayness: Given the input  $(m_0, r_0, pk)$ , computing  $CH_{pk}$  is straightforward. However, it is infeasible to compute  $m_0$  and  $r_0$  from the output value  $CH_{pk} = m_0 \cdot P + r_0 \cdot pk$ .
- 2) Trapdoor collision: Given the trapdoor  $tp = (x, k^*)$ , for an initial input  $(m_0, r_0)$ , and a given input  $r_1$ , one can compute  $CH_{pk}(m_1, r_1) = CH_{pk}(m_0, r_0)$ , where  $m_1 = k^* - r_1 \cdot x$ .
- 3) Collision resistance: Without the trapdoor  $tp$ , it is infeasible to find  $(m_1, r_1) \neq (m_0, r_0)$  such that  $CH_{pk}(m_1, r_1) = CH_{pk}(m_0, r_0)$  for a given initial input  $(m_0, r_0)$ .

#### B. Chinese Remainder Theorem

The CRT can be applied to address systems of linear congruences. If an integer  $n$  is divided by multiple integers and the remainders of each division are known, it is possible to compute the original integer  $n$  using these remainders. Based on this property, a group key can be embedded into corresponding congruences for secure key distribution. For  $k$  congruences:

$$\begin{cases} x \equiv a_1 \pmod{n_1} \\ x \equiv a_2 \pmod{n_2} \\ \vdots \\ x \equiv a_k \pmod{n_k} \end{cases}$$

The solution process of the Chinese remainder theorem mainly involves the following steps:

1) Compute the product of all moduli  $n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k$  as  $N = \prod_{i=1}^k n_i$ .

For the  $i$ th congruence equation:

- 1) Compute  $N_i = \frac{N}{n_i}$ .
- 2) Compute the modular inverse  $M_i$  of  $N_i$  modulo  $n_i$ , such that  $N_i \cdot M_i \equiv 1 \pmod{n_i}$ .
- 3) Finally, compute  $x = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \cdot N_i \cdot M_i \pmod{N}$ .

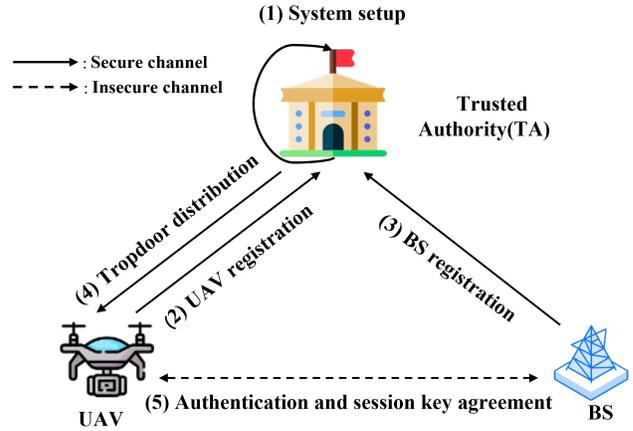


Fig. 2. System model for UAV-Assisted Emergency Rescue.

#### C. Complexity Assumptions

- DL Problem: Let  $G$  be a cyclic group of prime order  $q$  defined over an elliptic curve  $E(F_t)$ , and let  $P$  be its generator. Given  $(P, Q = kP)$ , it is computationally infeasible to derive  $k$  from  $Q = kP$ .
- CDH Problem: Consider a cyclic group  $G$  of prime order  $q$  with generator  $P$  defined on an elliptic curve  $E(F_t)$ . For  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$  and the corresponding points  $aP$  and  $bP$  in  $G$ , the CDH problem is described as determining  $abP$  from the tuple  $(P, aP, bP)$ .

### IV. BACKGROUND

#### A. System Model

The model involves three entities: Trusted Authority (TA), Base Station (BS), and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), as illustrated in Fig. 2.

- Trusted Authority (TA): TA acts as a fully trusted authority within the system. It providing registration support for UAVs and the BS, ensuring the security of registration information.
- Base Station (BS): It broadcasts messages to UAVs within the group and is responsible for authenticating external UAVs and establishing secure communication channels with them.
- UAV: The UAV is considered a semi-trusted entity with constrained computational resources. It is tasked with collecting and transmitting environmental data.

#### B. Threat Model

Similar to the schemes presented in [35] and [36], our approach adopts the recognized Dolev-Yao threat model. All entities interact via an insecure, physically open channel. The adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  possesses both active and passive attack capabilities, including impersonation, eavesdropping, message tampering, and other attacks.  $\mathcal{A}$  is a legitimate network user, capable of accessing all transmitted messages within the network, interacting with other users, receiving messages from the subject, and impersonating the subject to send messages

TABLE I  
NOTATIONS

Notation	Description
$BS_j$	The $j$ -th BS
$UAV_i$	The $i$ -th UAV
$PID_i$	The pseudonyms of $UAV_i$
$ID_i$	The real identity of $UAV_i$
$ID_j$	The real identity of $BS_j$
$T_i$	Timestamp
$s_i, s_j$	Secret key of $UAV_i$ and $BS_j$ , respectively
$R_i, R_j$	Public key of $UAV_i$ and $BS_j$ , respectively
$(k_i, x_g)$	The trapdoor of $UAV_i$
$MAC_i$	The message authentication code
$SK_{i,j}$	Secret session key between $UAV_i$ and $BS_j$

to other entities. However, adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  is computationally bounded and cannot accurately guess random numbers in sufficiently large finite fields, nor can it solve certain existing hard mathematical problems.

## V. THE PROPOSED SCHEME

This section presents the scheme and outlines its phases: system initialization, UAV and BS registration, tropdoor key distribution, mutual AKA and device traceability. Table I lists the symbols used in the scheme.

### A. System Initialization

TA initializes several system parameters. Over a finite field  $\mathbb{F}_p$ , and  $E : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b \pmod p$  is selected, where  $\mathbb{F}_p$  is a finite field defined by a prime number  $p$ , and  $a, b \in \mathbb{F}_p$ . A point  $P$  on  $E$  is chosen to generate a cyclic group  $G$  of order  $q$ . Additionally, TA select  $s_t \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , and compute  $P_{pub} = s_t \cdot P$ . Eventually, hash function  $h : \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^*$  and publishes common parameters  $\{E, q, G, P_{pub}, \mathbb{Z}_q^*, h\}$  to system.

### B. Entity Registration

Each legitimate UAV and BS must register with the TA for subsequent identity authentication and key exchange, as illustrated in Fig. 3. The process is executed via a secure channel.

#### 1) UAV Registration

- i)  $UAV_i$  sends its identity information  $ID_i$  to the TA.
- ii) Upon receiving the message, the TA checks whether  $ID_i$  already exists in its local database to determine whether  $UAV_i$  has previously registered. If it exists, the TA rejects the registration request. Otherwise, the TA selects  $s_i \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$  and chooses two initial inputs  $m_0, r_0 \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ . The  $R_i = s_i \cdot P$ . The TA then sends  $s_i, R_i, m_0$  and  $r_0$  to  $UAV_i$  and securely stores  $\{ID_i, R_i\}$ .
- iii) After receiving the message,  $UAV_i$  securely stores  $s_i, m_0, r_0$  and  $R_i$  in secret.

#### 2) BS Registration

- i)  $BS_j$  sends its identity information  $ID_j$  to the TA.
- ii) Upon receiving the message, the TA checks whether  $ID_j$  already exists locally to determine if  $BS_j$  has previously registered. If it does, the TA rejects the

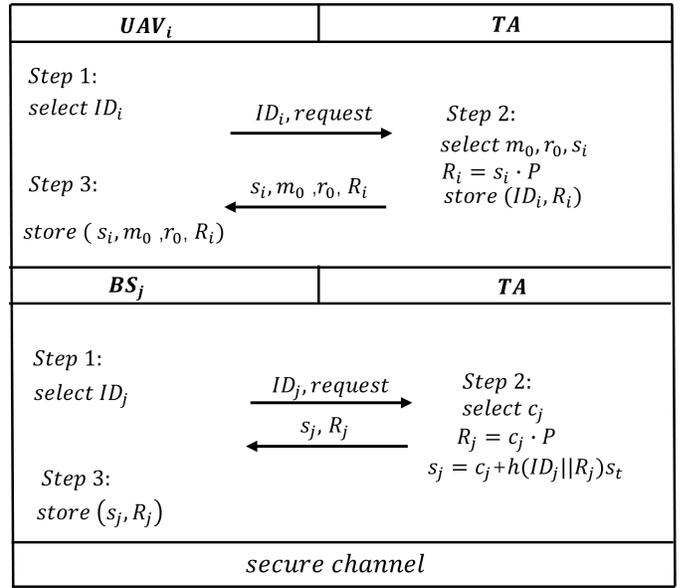


Fig. 3. Entity Registration.

registration request. Otherwise, TA selects  $c_j \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , computing the public key as  $R_j = c_j P$ , private key as  $s_j = c_j + h(ID_j || R_j) s_t$ . Then TA secretly store  $\{R_j, ID_j\}$ .

- iii) After receiving the message,  $BS_j$  securely stores  $\{s_j, R_j\}$  and publishes  $R_j$ .

### C. Tropdoor Key Distribution

- 1) After all UAVs within the group complete registration, the TA computes  $N = \prod_{i=1}^l s_i$ , where  $l$  is the number of UAVs in the group. Then, it calculates  $N_i = N/s_i$  and the multiplicative inverse  $M_i$  of  $N_i$ . Let  $v_i = M_i \cdot N_i$ , and compute  $u = \sum_{i=1}^l v_i$ . TA selects  $x_g \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$  as the group key, computing  $t_g = u \cdot x_g$  and the group public key  $PK_g = x_g \cdot P$ . It then computes  $ch_g = m_0 \cdot P + r_0 \cdot PK_g$ , and selects  $y_g \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , compute  $Y_g = y_g P$ . The TA generate the signature  $SIG = y_g + h(Y_g || t_g || PK_g || CT_i) s_t$ , where  $CT_i$  denotes the validity period of  $x_g$ . Then TA broadcast the message  $\{t_g, Y_g, PK_g, SIG, CT_i\}$  to the UAVs in the group via the  $BS_j$ . Meanwhile,  $ch_g$  is securely preloaded into the  $BS_j$ .
- 2)  $UAV_i$  verify the signature  $SIG \cdot P \stackrel{?}{=} Y_g + h(Y_g || t_g || PK_g || CT_i) P_{pub}$ . Each UAV in the group only needs to perform a single modular division operation  $x_g = t_g \pmod{s_i}$  to obtain the group key  $x_g$ . It then computes the trapdoor  $k_i = m_0 + r_0 \cdot x_g$ , and securely stores  $(k_i, x_g)$ .

### D. Mutual Authentication and Key Agreement

If  $UAV_i$  intends to communicate securely with  $BS_j$ , it must establish a secure session key  $SK$  through this step. The authentication procedure is shown in Fig. 4. The details of the authentication are as follows:

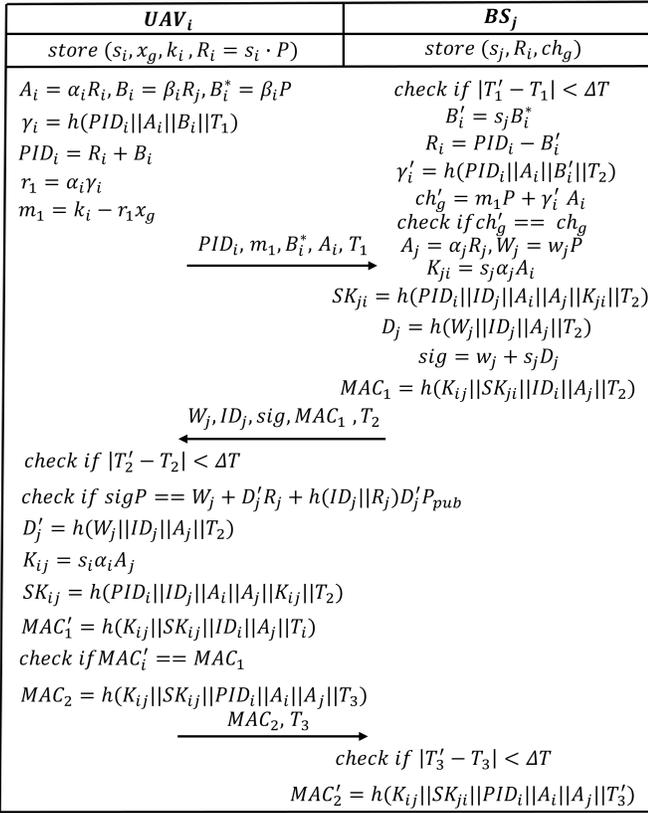


Fig. 4. Mutual authentication and key agreement.

- 1) When the  $UAV_i$  moves into the service range of BS  $BS_j$ , mutual AKA between  $UAV_i$  and  $BS_j$  must be initiated to establish a session key.  $UAV_i$  selects two random numbers  $\alpha_i, \beta_i \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , the current timestamp  $T_1$ . The  $UAV_i$  computes  $A_i = \alpha_i \cdot R_i$ ,  $B_i = \beta_i \cdot R_j$ ,  $B_i^* = \beta_i \cdot P$  and the pseudonym identity  $PID_i = R_i + B_i$ . It uses the locally stored  $(k_i, x_g)$  to compute the initial input  $\gamma_i = h(PID_i || A_i || B_i || T_1)$ ,  $r_1 = \alpha_i \gamma_i$  then  $m_1 = k_i - r_1 \cdot x_g$ . And  $UAV_i$  sends the message  $MSG_1 = \{PID_i, m_1, B_i^*, A_i, T_1\}$  to  $BS_j$ .
- 2) Upon receiving  $MSG_1$ ,  $BS_j$  selects the current timestamp  $T'_1$  to verify the freshness of  $T_1$ , ensuring that  $T'_1 - T_1 \leq \Delta T$ .  $\Delta T$  is a predefined time threshold. If the verification succeeds,  $BS_j$  computes  $B'_i = s_j \cdot B_i^*$  and recovers  $R_i = PID_i - B'_i$ , then checks the local database for the existence of  $R_i$ . If found, it computes  $\gamma'_i = h(PID_i || A_i || B'_i || T_1)$  and verifies  $ch'_g = m_1 \cdot P + \gamma'_i \cdot A_i$ . If  $ch'_g = ch_g$ , the authentication of  $UAV_i$  is successful. The BS then selects the current timestamp  $T_2$ , random numbers  $\alpha_j, w_j \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , and computes  $A_j = \alpha_j \cdot R_j$ ,  $K_{ji} = s_j \alpha_j A_i$ , and  $W_j = w_j \cdot P$ . The session key is derived as  $SK_{ji} = h(PID_i || ID_j || A_i || A_j || K_{ji} || T_2)$ . The  $BS_j$  computes  $D_j = h(W_j || ID_j || A_j || T_2)$  and generates the signature  $sig = w_j + D_j s_j$ . The message authentication code is computed as  $MAC_1 = h(K_{ji} || SK_{ji} || ID_i || A_j || T_2)$ . Then it send the message

$$MSG_2 = \{W_j, ID_j, A_j, sig, MAC_1, T_2\}.$$

- 3) Upon receiving message  $MSG_3$ , it selects the current timestamp  $T'_2$  to verify the freshness of  $T_2$ , ensuring  $T'_2 - T_2 \leq \Delta T$ . It then verifies  $sig \cdot P \stackrel{?}{=} W_j + D'_j R_j + h(ID_j || R_j) D'_j P_{pub}$ , where  $D'_j = h(W_j || ID_j || A_j || T_2)$ . If the verifications are successful, it computes  $K_{ji} = s_j \alpha_i A_j$ , and derives the session key  $SK_{ij} = h(PID_i || ID_j || A_i || A_j || K_{ji} || T_2)$ . Then, it computes  $MAC'_1 = h(K_{ij} || SK_{ij} || ID_j || A_j || T_2)$  and checks whether  $MAC'_1 = MAC_1$ . If this verification passes,  $SK_{ij}$  is accepted as the session key. Finally, it obtains  $T_3$ , computing  $MAC_2 = h(K_{ij} || SK_{ij} || PID_i || A_i || A_j || T_3)$ . Then send the message  $MSG_3 = \{MAC_2, T_3\}$  to  $BS_j$ .
- 4) Upon receiving message  $MSG_3$ ,  $BS_j$  first checks whether  $T'_3 - T_3 \leq \Delta T$ , where  $T'_3$  is current timestamp. It then computes  $MAC'_2 = h(K_{ji} || SK_{ji} || PID_i || A_i || A_j || T_3)$  and verifies whether  $MAC'_2 = MAC_2$ . If successful, the  $BS_j$  accepts  $SK_{ji}$  as the key shared with  $UAV_i$ .

### E. Device Traceability

When  $UAV_i$  uses the pseudonym  $PID_i = R_i + B_i$  to perform malicious activities, the TA can compute  $R_i = PID_i - B_i$ . Then, the TA queries the locally stored  $\{ID_i, R_i\}$  to reveal and revoke  $ID_i$  of  $UAV_i$ . Afterward, TA computes  $u' = u - v_i$ , selects  $x'_g \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , computing  $t'_g = ux'_g$  as well as  $PK'_g = x'_g P$ . Then, the TA computes  $ch'_g = m_0 P + r_0 PK'_g$ , selects  $y'_g \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , computing  $Y'_g = y'_g P$  to generate the signature  $SIG' = y'_g + h(Y'_g || t'_g || PK'_g || CT_i) s_t$ . Subsequently, the TA broadcasts the message  $\{t'_g, Y'_g, PK'_g, SIG', CT_i\}$  to the UAVs in the group via the  $BS_j$ , and preloads  $ch'_g$  securely into the  $BS_j$ . Upon receiving the message from the  $BS_j$ , UAVs in the group verify the signature by checking  $SIG' P \stackrel{?}{=} Y'_g + h(Y'_g || t'_g || PK'_g || CT_i) P_{pub}$ . If the verification passes, each UAV in the group only needs to perform one modular division operation to obtain  $x'_g$ , and then computes  $k'_i = m_0 + r_0 x'_g$ , which is secretly stored as  $(k'_i, x'_g)$ .

## VI. SECURITY ANALYSIS AND PROOF

We use the ROR model [37], [38] in conjunction with heuristic security analysis. These methods provide complementary perspectives that collectively offer strong support for the scheme's security, ensuring its resilience against various real-world security threats.

### A. Security Analysis

The ROR model functions as an established framework for analyzing various cryptographic schemes and security schemes, such as key agreement schemes, authentication mechanisms, and encryption systems. It has been extensively applied across both traditional network communication security and emerging domains such as UAVs and vehicular networks [39]. As a foundation for formal security analysis, the core idea is to evaluate whether an adversary differentiate between a session key and randomly created ones. If adversary

fails to make this distinction effectively, the scheme is deemed secure under the model.

**Participants:** Let  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$  and  $\Pi_{BS}^f$  denote the  $e$ th and  $f$ th instances of the scheme executed by the UAV and the BS, respectively.

**Acceptance State:** If all messages exchanged between the UAV and the BS are completed in the correct order and the final message is successfully received, then  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$  and  $\Pi_{BS}^f$  are said to be in an acceptance state.

**Matching Sessions:** If  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$  and  $\Pi_{BS}^f$  are part of the same session and both are in the acceptance state, they are considered matching instances.

**Freshness:** If  $SK$  established between  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$  and  $\Pi_{BS}^f$  has not been obtained by the adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ , the session is considered fresh.

**Adversary Model:** The adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  can interact with  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$  and  $\Pi_{BS}^f$  through the following predefined queries and is capable of modifying and replaying communication messages.

1)  $\text{Execute}(\Pi_{UAV}^e, \Pi_{BS}^f)$ : This query indicates that the adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  can eavesdrop on all messages exchanged between  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$  and  $\Pi_{BS}^f$ .

2)  $\text{Send}(\Pi_{UAV}^e, \Pi_{BS}^f, m)$ : This query represents a direct offensive attempt. It can generate, intercept, modify, and replay  $m$  to  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$  and  $\Pi_{BS}^f$ . Upon receiving message  $m$ ,  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$  and  $\Pi_{BS}^f$  will return a response message to  $\mathcal{A}$ .

3)  $\text{CorruptUAV}(\Pi_{UAV}^e)$ : Through it, adversary gains access to key information of  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$ .

4)  $\text{CorruptBS}(\Pi_{BS}^f)$ : Through it, adversary gains access to key information of  $\Pi_{BS}^f$ .

5)  $\text{Test}(\Pi_{UAV}^e, \Pi_{BS}^f)$ : When  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$  and  $\Pi_{BS}^f$  share the same  $SK$  and  $\mathcal{A}$  issues this query, if the hidden bit  $b = 1$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  receives the real  $SK$ . If  $b = 0$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  is given an unrelated bitstring matching the size of  $SK$ , while  $b$  remains unknown to  $\mathcal{A}$ . If  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$  and  $\Pi_{BS}^f$  do not share a session key,  $\mathcal{A}$  receives an invalid symbol  $\perp$ .

**Semantic Security of the Session Key:** We can infer that the generated  $SK$  is sufficiently random and avoids information leakage. The adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  can perform the  $\text{itTest}(\Pi_{UAV}^e, \Pi_{BS}^f)$  query and guess the bit  $b' \in \{0, 1\}$ . If  $b' = b$ , then  $\mathcal{A}$  wins. Let scheme be denoted by  $P$ .  $\mathcal{A}$ 's capability against scheme  $P$  within time  $t$  under the ROR model is quantified as  $Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^P = |2 \cdot \Pr[b' = b] - 1|$ , where  $\Pr[EV]$  represents the likelihood of event  $EV$  occurring. If  $Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^P$  is negligible,  $P$  is considered secure under the ROR model.

**Definition 1:** Given  $H : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^w$ , We quantify how often  $\mathcal{A}$  finds a collision within time  $t$  as  $Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^{HASH} = \Pr[(u_1 = u_2) \leftarrow \mathcal{A} : u_1 \neq u_2 \text{ and } H(u_1) = H(u_2)]$ , where  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  are randomly chosen by the adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ .

**Definition 2:** Given the set  $\{P, \delta_1 P, \delta_2 P\}$  with  $\delta_1, \delta_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , we define the probability that an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  successfully computes  $\delta_1 \delta_2 P$ , i.e., solves the CDH, as  $Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^{CDH}$ .

**Theorem 1:** Let  $q_H$  represent the count of hash invocations,  $|Hash|$  refer to the dimension of the hash function's output space, and  $Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^{CDH}$  capture the likelihood that  $\mathcal{A}$  solves the

CDH problem. The adversary's ability to compromise security of scheme is bounded by

$$Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^P \leq \frac{q_H^2}{|Hash|} + 2 \cdot Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^{CDH}.$$

**Proof:** We adopt the proof technique proposed in [40]. To compute  $Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^P$ , we define the following sequence of games  $Game_i$ , and let  $succ_i$  represent the case where  $\mathcal{A}$  identifies  $b' = b$  in  $Game_i$ .

**Game 0:** It allows  $\mathcal{A}$  to conduct an actual offensive action against scheme  $P$ . Before the game starts,  $\mathcal{A}$  is given a random bit  $b$ . It follows  $Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^P = |2 \cdot \Pr[succ_0] - 1|$ .

**Game 1:**  $\mathcal{A}$  is allowed to passively eavesdrop on the message exchange between  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$  and  $\Pi_{BS}^f$  by executing the query  $\text{Execute}(\Pi_{UAV}^e, \Pi_{BS}^f)$ . Eventually,  $\mathcal{A}$  performs it  $\text{Test}(\Pi_{UAV}^e, \Pi_{BS}^f)$ . Recall the key generation formula:  $SK = h(PID_i \| ID_j \| A_i \| A_j \| K_{ij} \| T_2)$ , where  $K_{ji} = s_i \alpha_i A_j = s_j \alpha_j A_i$ . However, cannot derive  $s_i, \alpha_i$  or  $s_j, \alpha_j$  through passive eavesdropping, and thus cannot compute real  $SK$ . Therefore,  $Game_0$  is equivalent to  $Game_1$ , It follows  $\Pr[succ_0] = \Pr[succ_1]$ .

**Game 2:** It allows  $\mathcal{A}$  to perform  $\text{itSend}(\Pi_{UAV}^e, \Pi_{BS}^f, m)$  query and make hash queries as in  $Game_1$ . At this stage,  $\mathcal{A}$  launches impersonation attacks by generating, modifying, and sending message requests to  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$  and  $\Pi_{BS}^f$ . In our scheme, the messages that  $\mathcal{A}$  can modify include  $PID_i, B_i^*$ , and  $\{MAC_1, sig, A_i, A_j\}$ , all of which incorporate random factors and independent timestamps. Therefore,  $\mathcal{A}$  can perform it  $\text{Send}$  without causing hash collisions. Based on birthday paradox, we obtain:

$$|\Pr[succ_1] - \Pr[succ_2]| \leq \frac{q_H^2}{2|Hash|}.$$

**Game 3:** It allows  $\mathcal{A}$  to obtain  $SK$  by executing  $\text{itCorruptUAV}(\Pi_{UAV}^e)$  or  $\text{itCorruptBS}(\Pi_{BS}^f)$ . The adversary can access information such as  $PID_i, B_i^*$ , and  $\{MAC_1, A_i, A_j\}$ . The key is generated as:  $SK = h(PID_i \| ID_j \| A_i \| A_j \| K_{ij} \| T_2)$ , where  $K_{ji} = s_i \alpha_i A_j = s_j \alpha_j A_i$ , which results from the unpredictable values  $\alpha_i, \alpha_j$ . These values arise only during the mutual AKA between  $\Pi_{UAV}^e$  and  $\Pi_{BS}^f$ , and not stored after use. Therefore, in order to derive  $SK$ , the adversary must compute  $K_{ij}$  from  $A_i$  and  $A_j$ , which reduces to solving the CDH problem. Thus, we obtain:

$$|\Pr[succ_2] - \Pr[succ_3]| \leq Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^{CDH}.$$

In the final game,  $\mathcal{A}$  has invoked all available query interfaces in an attempt to compromise the protection framework of  $P$ , must resort to guessing bit  $b$  to win. Therefore, we have:

$\Pr[succ_3] = \frac{1}{2}$ . Based on the inequalities above, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^p &= \left| \Pr[succ_0] - \frac{1}{2} \right| \\ &= |\Pr[succ_0] - \Pr[succ_3]| \\ &\leq |\Pr[succ_0] - \Pr[succ_1]| + |\Pr[succ_1] - \Pr[succ_2]| \\ &\quad + |\Pr[succ_2] - \Pr[succ_3]| \\ &\leq \frac{q_H^2}{2|Hash|} + Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^{CDH}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we obtain:

$$Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^p \leq \frac{q_H^2}{|Hash|} + 2 \cdot Adv_{\mathcal{A}}^{CDH}.$$

### B. Security Analysis

1) Mutual Authentication: The authentication between  $UAV_i$  and  $BS_j$  is based on the construction of  $PID_i$  and  $ch_i$ , where each entity verifies the other by checking the received messages.  $BS_j$  authenticates  $UAV_i$  by verifying  $PID_i$  and  $ch_i$ , and then  $UAV_i$  authenticates  $BS_j$  by verifying  $sig$ , thereby achieving mutual authentication.

2) Session Key Establishment: The scheme we propose enables both  $UAV_i$  and  $BS_j$  to construct SK, computed as  $SK = h(PID_i || ID_j || A_i || A_j || K_{ji} || T_2)$ , where  $T_2$  is a timestamp. The ability to decrypt the ciphertext and derive the SK is restricted to adversaries in possession of the private key.

3) Device Anonymity:  $UAV_i$  does not expose its real identity when the authentication process. Instead, it uses a dynamically updated pseudonym  $PID_i = R_i + B_i$ , where  $B_i = \beta_i R_j$ . Since the adversary cannot obtain  $s_j$ , it is infeasible to recover the  $UAV_i$ 's identity. Therefore, the proposed scheme achieves device anonymity.

4) Device Traceability: If  $UAV_i$  uses the pseudonym  $PID_i = R_i + B_i$  to perform malicious activities and is detected, TA can compute  $R_i = PID_i - B_i$ . Then, the TA queries the locally stored  $\{ID_i, R_i\}$  to reveal the UAV's true identity  $ID_i$ .

5) Resistance to Message Tampering Attacks: Adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot compute  $r_1$  without knowing  $x_g$  and  $s_i$ . Since the adversary does not possess trapdoor of chameleon hash function, they are unable to forge  $r_1$ . If  $\mathcal{A}$  forges  $\gamma'_i$ , the derived  $r_1$  will not pass verification by  $BS_j$ , making tampering with  $MSG_1$  infeasible. The  $UAV_i$  authenticates  $BS_j$  through  $sig$ , and ensures data integrity by verifying  $MAC_1$ . Since the adversary lacks access to  $s_j$ ,  $\alpha_j$ , and  $w_j$ , forging  $MAC_1$  is not possible. If  $MSG_2$  is tampered with, the  $MAC'_1$  computed by  $UAV_i$  will fail verification. The analysis for  $MSG_3$  is similar to that of  $MSG_1$  and  $MSG_2$ , and is therefore omitted.

6) Resistance to Replay Attacks: We use a widely accepted timestamp verification mechanism. When an adversary attempts to replay previously transmitted messages, the receiving party verifies whether  $T'_1 - T_1 \leq \Delta T$ . If holds, the verification proceeds to the next. Otherwise, the process is terminated.

7) Resistance to Impersonation Attacks: The adversary cannot compute  $x_g$  and  $s_i$ , thus making it infeasible to

TABLE II  
COMPARISON OF SECURITY PROPERTIES

Security Property	Xie et al.	Sutrala et al.	Saleem et al.	Ours
Replay Attack	✓	✓	×	✓
Anonymity	×	×	✓	✓
TA offline authentication	✓	✓	×	✓
No Password Exposure	✓	×	✓	✓
Data Tampering Attack	×	✓	✓	✓
Traceability	×	×	×	✓
Impersonation Attacks	✓	✓	×	✓
Man-in-the-middle Attack	✓	✓	×	✓
Forward Secret	✓	×	✓	✓
Known Session Key Attack	✓	✓	×	✓
Eavesdropping Attacks	✓	×	✓	✓

impersonate  $UAV_i$ . For impersonating  $BS_j$ , we assume that  $BS_j$  is secure and that the adversary cannot obtain local data from the BS. As a result, the adversary cannot forge a valid  $MAC_1$  that would pass verification by  $UAV_i$ . This ensures that the adversary cannot impersonate  $BS_j$ .

8) Resistance to Man-in-the-Middle Attacks: The attack occurs that adversary interacts separately with  $UAV_i$  and  $BS_j$ , attempting to authenticate with both. However, our scheme enables mutual authentication between entities. If the adversary were capable of impersonating a legitimate  $UAV_i$  or  $BS_j$ , it would contradict the resistance to impersonation attacks.

9) Resistance to Known Session Key Attacks: After authentication,  $UAV_i$  and  $BS_j$  establish a session key  $SK = h(PID_i || ID_j || A_i || A_j || K_{ji} || T_2)$ , where  $K_{ji} = s_j \alpha_j A_i$ . Constructing  $K_{ji}$  relies on  $s_j$  and the random number  $\alpha_j$ . Thus, although an attacker may gain access to SK, Other keys security is not compromised as a result. If an adversary intends to compute  $K_{ji}$ , it must first solve the CDH problem.

## VII. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The scheme is evaluated with respect to computation and communication cost, compared with three related schemes Xie et al. [35], Sutrala et al. [41], and Saleem et al. [42]. The evaluation utilised a system featuring an Intel i7-10700 2.90 GHz CPU and 32 GB of RAM. Cryptographic operations are implemented using the Miracl Core library, with the ED25519 elliptic curve selected and achieve 128-bit security level. PUF operations were simulated using the puf\_py library in Python 3.13.3. Lightweight operations such as XOR are considered negligible in terms of computational overhead. The SHA-256 algorithm was used as the secure hash function.

### A. System Security Property Analysis

We have analyzed the security properties of the scheme put forward, and further contrasted them with those of the reference schemes. From Table II, Our scheme has more security attributes and exhibits similar security features to [35]. In conclusion, our proposed scheme achieves the highest level of performance in the aspect of system security.

TABLE III  
BASIC OPERATION TIMES

Operation	Description	Time Cost (ms)
$T_h$	Hash operation	0.018
$T_{puf}$	PUF generation	0.756
$T_{pa}$	Point addition on ECC	0.004
$T_{sm}$	Scalar multiplication on ECC	0.586
$T_{enc}$	Encryption operation	0.356
$T_{dec}$	Decryption operation	0.378

### B. Comparison of Simulation Calculation Costs

This section provides a statistical analysis about computational cost associated with proposed scheme and offers a comparative evaluation against several related schemes. The overall computational cost is determined by tallying cryptographic operations required at each stage. Table III lists the execution time. The computational overheads of the registration phase and the mutual AKA phase are computed similarly, only the cost of the mutual AKA phase is presented for conciseness. As illustrated in Table IV, both the theoretical computational cost and the simulated cost derived from a single authentication process are compared. In the table, a dash (“-”) denotes that the respective entity takes no engage in the verification procedure. During the mutual AKA between the UAV and BS, the UAV incurs a computational cost of  $7T_{sm} + 3T_{pa} + 6T_h = 4.222$  ms, whereas the BS incurs  $7T_{sm} + 2T_{pa} + 5T_h = 4.20$  ms. Therefore, the total computational cost amounts to 8.422 ms.

As the computational costs for schemes [35] and [42] can be obtained through similar methodologies, this discussion primarily focuses on [41]. In [41], the computational cost on the device side is  $9T_{sm} + 3T_{pa} + 24T_h = 5.718$  ms, while the cost on the RSU side is  $3T_{sm} + 2T_{pa} + 8T_h = 1.91$  ms. Although our computational cost is higher than scheme [41], the significantly lower device-side cost is essential for resource-constrained platforms such as UAVs. Furthermore, the proposed scheme exhibits superior performance compared to that of scheme [35]. Although our computational cost is higher than scheme [42], the latter exhibits weaker anonymity and traceability, thereby resulting in reduced overall security. In addition, scheme [42] necessitates the involvement of a TA during the authentication process, which incurs additional communication overhead and increases system burden. Overall, the proposed scheme provides enhanced security features, including self-generated pseudonyms and traceability, which are not supported by the previously discussed schemes. Consequently, although the proposed scheme introduces slightly higher computational overhead, this represents a reasonable trade-off for attaining stronger security guarantees.

Fig. 5 presents a comparative visualization of the computational costs associated with various schemes, clearly illustrating the cost distribution across different entities. As illustrated, the computational costs incurred by both the UAV and the BS remain within a reasonable range.

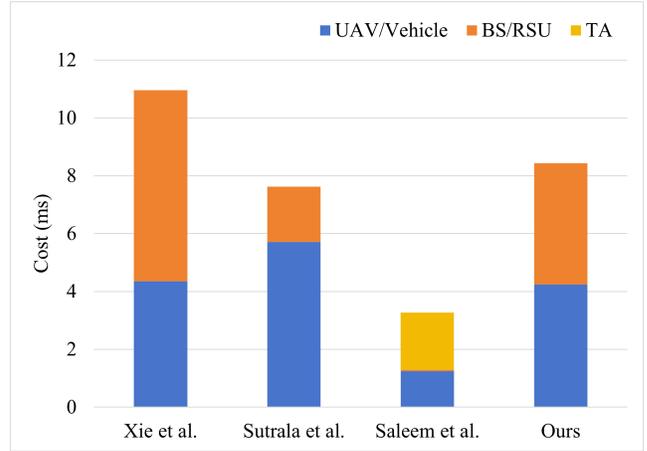


Fig. 5. Computation costs comparison.

### C. Communication Overhead

We analysis contrasts the communication overhead involved in the authentication process for different schemes. In our scheme, the lengths of the ID, random number, PUF challenge, response are all set to 128 bits, while the lengths of the ECC points, hash results, AES-256 ciphertext, private key, and timestamp are set to 512 bits, 256 bits, 256 bits, 256 bits and 32 bits, respectively. The difference of communication overhead is shown in Fig. 6. To calculate communication overhead, we first define the bit sizes for different messages. Specifically, the first message,  $MSG_1$ , sent by  $UAV_i$  to the  $BS_j$  is given by  $MSG_1 = \{PID_i, m_1, B_i^*, A_i, T_1\}$ , thus the size of  $MSG_1$  is  $|MSG_1| = 512 + 128 + 512 + 512 + 32 = 1696$  bits. The message sent by  $BS_j$  to  $UAV_i$ ,  $MSG_2 = \{W_i, ID_j, A_j, sig, MAC_1, T_2\}$ , has a size of approximately  $|MSG_2| = 512 + 512 + 256 + 128 + 128 + 32 = 1568$  bits. Finally, the message sent by  $UAV_i$  to  $BS_j$ ,  $MSG_3 = \{MAC_3, T_3\}$ , which contains only the hash value and timestamp, is approximately  $|MSG_3| = 256 + 32 = 288$  bits. Therefore, the total communication overhead is  $|MSG_1| + |MSG_2| + |MSG_3| = 1696 + 1568 + 288 = 3552$  bits.

Since the communication overheads of schemes [41] and [42] can be calculated in a similar way, we focus on Xie et al's scheme, and analyze detail. In scheme [35], the data sent from vehicle  $V_1$  to RSU is  $\{PID_i, A_1, D_i, PK_{V_i}, c_i, T_1\}$ , which has a size of approximately  $128 + 512 + 512 + 512 + 256 + 32 = 1952$  bits. The data sent from RSU to vehicle  $V_1$  is  $\{f_t, PK_{R_t}, E_t, Z_t, N_1, T_2, PID_i, RID_t\}$ , which has a size of approximately  $256 + 512 + 512 + 512 + 32 + 128 + 128 = 2080$  bits. The total overhead is 4032 bits. By comparing this with the two schemes, we has a lower overall communication overhead. We has significantly stronger security properties compared with the other schemes, especially in terms of defense capabilities. Compared with two of the schemes, our communication overhead is slightly lower, indicating that our scheme optimizes the use of communication resources while ensuring security. Overall, although the scheme has a higher communication overhead in some specific environments, the

TABLE IV  
COMPARISON OF COMPUTATION COST (MS)

Scheme	Device	BS/RSU	TA	Total
Xie et al. [35]	$7T_{sm} + 4T_{pa} + 13T_h \approx 4.352$	$2T_{puf} + 8T_{sm} + 4T_{pa} + 22T_h \approx 6.612$	–	10.964
Sutrala et al. [41]	$9T_{sm} + 3T_{pa} + 24T_h \approx 5.718$	$3T_{sm} + 2T_{pa} + 8T_h \approx 1.91$	–	7.628
Saleem et al. [42]	$T_{puf} + T_{dec} + 6T_h \approx 1.242$	$3T_h \approx 0.054$	$T_{puf} + T_{dec} + 2T_{enc} + 6T_h \approx 1.972$	3.268
Ours	$7T_{sm} + 3T_{pa} + 6T_h \approx 4.222$	$7T_{sm} + 2T_{pa} + 5T_h \approx 4.20$	–	8.422

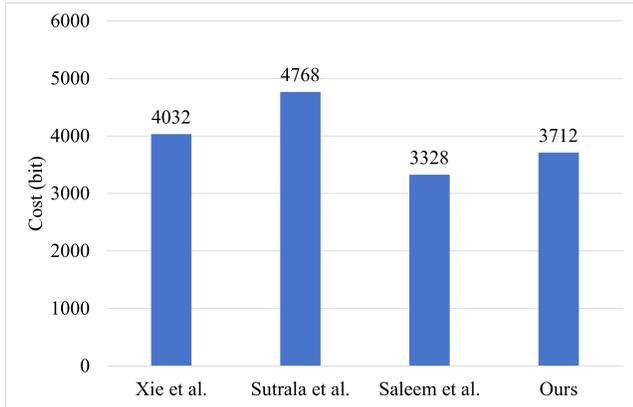


Fig. 6. Communication cost comparison.

security and robustness it provides make this overhead worthwhile. With further optimization, the communication overhead is expected to decrease further, thus improving the practical applicability and deployment effectiveness of our scheme.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

This paper centers on UAV application in emergency rescue environments and highlights the security challenges they face. The AKA scheme using chameleon hash function and CRT. The scheme demonstrates strong performance while reducing reliance on the TA. Compared with existing methods, our scheme provides stronger security, making it particularly suitable for UAV swarm rescue tasks requiring rapid response. To thoroughly verify its security, we conduct a formal proof through the ROR model, along with heuristic security analysis. Experimental results indicate we can effectively resist most common attacks, thereby ensuring both security and practical applicability. In the future, We will design an AKA scheme with cross-domain support for UAV swarms.

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