

## **Key agreement protocol based on extended chaotic maps with anonymous authentication**

Ping Zhen<sup>1</sup>, Geng Zhao<sup>2</sup>, Lequan Min<sup>3</sup> and Xiaodong Li<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of Automation and Electrical Engineering, University of Science and Technology Beijing, Beijing, 100083, China  
(E-mail: zhenping1989@126.com)

<sup>2</sup> Beijing Electronic Science and Technology institute, Beijing, 100070, China  
(E-mail: zg@besti.edu.cn, lxd@besti.edu.cn)

<sup>3</sup> School of Mathematics and Physics, University of Science and Technology Beijing, Beijing, 100083, China  
(E-mail: minlequan@sina.com)

**Abstract.** Key agreement protocol is used to establish shared secret key for the network system, which is quite important to guarantee secure communication. This paper proposes a two-party key agreement protocol. In order to improve the efficiency and enhance the security, we utilize extended chaotic maps to generate the shared key, which can be used to encrypt and decrypt the transmitted messages in the subsequent communications. The proposed protocol can guarantee anonymity of user's identity and provide mutual authentication. In addition, it also can resist various attacks. The explicit analysis show that the protocol is secure, reliable and applicable in practice.

**Keywords:** Key agreement protocol, Chaotic maps, Anonymous authentication.

### **1 Introduction**

Key agreement protocols are basic to modern cryptography, which are used to guarantee the security of secret keys which are exchanged over the insecure public network. The shared keys are used in the subsequent communication for encryption, authentication, access control, and so on. In 1976, Diffie and Hellman[1] introduced the first key agreement protocol. However, both of communication parties don't verify the identity of each other and it is vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attack. In order to solve the problem, an authenticated key agreement protocol[2] is proposed. The authenticated key agreement not only allow two parties to agree on a session key, but also ensure the authentication of the participant. Since then, many related key agreement protocols have been proposed[3-5].

Chaotic systems have complicated behaviors, which are sensitive to initial conditions and system parameters, and are not predictable in the long term. These properties, as required by several cryptographic primitives, render chaotic systems a potential candidate for constructing cryptosystem. The application of



chaotic maps in cryptography has been studied for more than twenty years. There are chaos-based symmetry key cryptosystem[6,7], public key cryptosystem[8,9], Hash functions [10,11], and so on.

In 2005, Xiao et al.[12] proposed a chaos-based key agreement protocol, which utilizes Chebyshev chaotic maps. Alvarez[13] demonstrated this protocol is vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attack. Xiao et al.[5] proposed an improved key agreement to enhance the security, but Han et al.[14] pointed out the improved protocol cannot resist the replay attack. Tseng et al.[15] proposed an anonymous key agreement protocol using smart cards. Niu et al.[16] demonstrated the protocol is vulnerable to the insider attacker and cannot protect user anonymity and then proposed a new key agreement protocol, which is also proved to have low computational efficiency problem by Yoon[17].

Recently, Tan[18] proposed a novel authenticated key agreement protocol with strong anonymity, which is based on smart cards. However, the expense of smart cards and readers will make the protocols costly in practical use. In Ref.[19], Gong et al. proposed a secure chaotic maps-based key agreement protocol without using smart cards and claimed that the protocol is secure. Wang et al.[20] pointed out that there are some problems existing in Gong et al.'s protocol, such as the stolen-verifier attack, forged message flood and key management problems. Then they proposed a new key agreement protocol. We have explicitly analyzed Wang et al.'s protocol. The protocol cannot provide the anonymity of users' identities. But in many insecure channels, especially in e-commerce applications, anonymity is also an very important issue. There also exists key distribution and management problems, which can be easily avoided. Lee et al.[21] proposed a three-party password-based authenticated key exchange protocol with user anonymity. However, the introduced trusted third party not only adds extra overhead, but also becomes another security and performance bottleneck, which will bring potential threats to the system. Motivated by this, this paper proposed a two-party key agreement protocol with anonymous authentication. an anonymous authenticated key agreement protocol based on extended chaotic maps to solve these problems. It doesn't need smart cards and at the same time preserves user anonymity. Besides, "two-party" will decrease the computation and communication cost and at the same time make the protocol secure and efficient. Explicit security analysis and performance analysis of the proposed protocol are also given in this paper.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces the preliminaries about extend Chebyshev chaotic maps. Then the proposed two-party key agreement protocol is described in section 3. Security and performance analysis are given in section 4 and section 5 separately. The last section presents the conclusions.

## 2 Preliminaries

**Definition 1.** Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  and  $x \in [-1, 1]$ , then a Chebyshev polynomial of order  $n$ ,  $T_n(x) : [-1, 1] \rightarrow [-1, 1]$  is defined as:

$$T_n(x) = \cos(n \cdot \arccos(x))$$

It is recursively defined using the following recurrent relation:

$$T_n(x) = 2xT_{n-1}(x) - T_{n-2}(x), n \geq 2$$

where  $T_0(x) = 1$  and  $T_1(x) = x$ .

The first few Chebyshev polynomials are

$$T_2(x) = 2x^2 - 1$$

$$T_3(x) = 4x^3 - 3x$$

$$T_4(x) = 8x^4 - 8x^2 + 1$$

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The Chebyshev polynomials exhibit the following important properties: the semigroup property and the chaotic property.

(1) The semi-group property:

$$\begin{aligned} T_r(T_s(x)) &= \cos(r \cos^{-1}(\cos(s \cos^{-1}(x)))) \\ &= \cos(rs \cos^{-1}(x)) \\ &= T_{sr}(x) \\ &= T_s(T_r(x)) \end{aligned}$$

$r$  and  $s$  are positive integer numbers and  $x \in [-1, 1]$ .

(2) The chaotic property

When the degree  $n > 1$ , the Chebyshev polynomial map  $T_n(x) : [-1, 1] \rightarrow [-1, 1]$  of degree  $n$  is a chaotic map with its invariant density

$$f^*(x) = 1 / (\pi \sqrt{1 - x^2}), \text{ and positive Lyapunov exponent } \lambda = \ln n > 0.$$

To improve security, Zhang[22] proved that the semi-group property holds for extended Chebyshev polynomials defined on  $(-\infty, +\infty)$ , which can enhance the property, as follows:

$$T_n(x) = 2xT_{n-1}(x) - T_{n-2}(x) \bmod P$$

where  $n \geq 2$  and  $P$  is a large prime. We can also obtain:

$$T_r(T_s(x)) \equiv T_{sr}(x) \equiv T_s(T_r(x)) \bmod P$$

**Definition 2** The discrete logarithm problem (DLP) is explained by the following: Given an element  $y$ , the task of DLP is to find the integer  $s$ , such that  $T_s(x) = y$ .

**Definition 3** The Diffie-Hellman problem (DHP) is explained by the following: Given the elements  $T_r(x)$  and  $T_s(x)$ , the task of DHP is to compute  $T_{rs}(x)$ .

It is generally believed that there is no polynomial time algorithm to solve the DLP and DHP problems with non-negligible probability.

Table 1. The notations in the protocol

Notations	Descriptions
$ID_i$	Identity of client $U_i$
$ID_S$	Identity of server $S$
$E_k(\cdot), D_k(\cdot)$	Secure symmetric encryption and decryption
$H(\cdot)$	Secure one-way hash function
$T_k(\cdot)$	Chebyshev chaotic map
$x$	The seed of Chebyshev chaotic map
$r, s, r_1, r_2$	The degree of Chebyshev chaotic map
$PW_i$	Password of client $U_i$
$K_S$	The secret key of server $S$
$T_1, T_2, T_3$	Time stamps
$\Delta T_1, \Delta T_2$	The specified valid time period
$sn$	The session identifier
$KA$	The established shared session key

### 3 The proposed protocol

This section will present our proposed two-party key agreement protocol based on extended Chebyshev chaotic maps. It consists of four phases: (1) the parameter generation phase; (2) the registration phase; (3) the key agreement phase; (4) the password updation phase. For the easy understanding of subsequent content, the commonly used notations are listed in Table 1.

#### 1. Parameter generation phase

In order to perform the protocol, the server  $S$  firstly needs to generate some parameters as follow:

- (1)  $S$  selects a secure symmetric cryptosystem with encryption  $E_k(\cdot)$  and decryption  $D_k(\cdot)$ , where  $k$  is the key of symmetric cryptosystem;
- (2)  $S$  selects a secure one-way hash function  $H(\cdot)$ ;
- (3)  $S$  select a private key  $K_S$ , which is specialized for client registration.
- (4) Utilizes the public key cryptosystem based on Chebyshev chaotic maps,  $S$  chooses two random large integers  $x$  and  $s$  as the seed and degree of Chebyshev maps respectively and computes  $T_s(x)$ . Then publish  $(x, T_s(x))$  as the public parameters and keep  $s$  private.

#### 2. Registration phase

The Client  $U_i$  with the identity  $ID_i$  registers with server  $S$  by the following two steps:

- (1)  $U_i$  selects a password  $PW_i$ , and sends the  $ID_i$  and  $PW_i$  to  $S$  through a secure channel.
- (2) After receiving  $ID_i$  and  $PW_i$ ,  $S$  use its private key  $K_S$  to computes  $M_{reg} = H(ID_i, PW_i, K_S)$  and store  $M_{reg}$  as the register message securely.

### 3. Key agreement phase

The client and server need to perform the following four steps to realize mutual authentication and establish a common session key to complete the protocol. The simplified description of the phase is shown in Fig.1. The details are described in the following steps:

- (1)  $U_i \rightarrow S : M_1 = \{T_{r_1}(x), C_1 = E_{SK}(sn, ID_i, ID_S, PW_i, T_{r_1}(x), T_1)\}$ .

$U_i$  selects a random large integer  $r_1$ , and computes  $T_{r_1}(x)$  and  $SK = T_{r_1}(T_s(x))$ .  $SK$  is used as the temporary key of symmetric cryptosystem to compute  $C_1 = E_{SK}(sn, ID_i, ID_S, PW_i, T_{r_1}(x), T_1)$ , where  $sn$  is a session identifier and  $T_1$  is a timestamp. Then  $U_i$  sends the message  $M_1 = \{T_{r_1}(x), C_1\}$  to the server.

- (2)  $S \rightarrow U_i : M_2 = \{sn, C_2 = E_{SK}(sn, T_{r_2}(x), H_1 = H(KA, ID_S), T_1)\}$ .

After receiving the message  $M_1$ ,  $S$  first compute  $SK = T_s(T_{r_1}(x))$  and use it to decrypt  $C_1$ . Then  $S$  checks whether  $|T_2 - T_1| \leq \Delta T_1$ , where  $T_2$  is the current timestamp and  $\Delta T_1$  is the specified valid time period.  $S$  continues to compute  $M_{reg}' = H(ID_i, PW_i, K_S)$  and validates whether  $M_{reg}' = M_{reg}$ . If so,  $S$  can authenticate the identity of client  $U_i$ , otherwise, the process will be terminated immediately.  $S$  selects a random large integer  $r_2$ , and computes  $T_{r_2}(x)$ ,  $KA = T_{r_2}(T_{r_1}(x))$ ,  $H_1 = H(KA, ID_S)$  and  $C_2 = E_{SK}(sn, T_{r_2}(x), H(KA, ID_S), T_1)$ .  $S$  sends the message  $M_2 = \{sn, C_2\}$  to the client.

- (3)  $U_i \rightarrow S : M_3 = \{sn, H_2 = H(sn, ID_i, KA)\}$ .

Upon receiving the message  $M_2$  from  $S$ ,  $U_i$  first decrypts  $C_2$  with the secret key  $SK$ . Then  $U_i$  checks whether  $|T_3 - T_1| \leq \Delta T_2$ , where  $T_3$  is the current timestamp.  $U_i$  computes  $KA = T_{r_1}(T_{r_2}(x))$  and  $H_1' = H(KA, ID_S)$ , and validates whether  $H_1' = H_1$ . If so,  $U_i$  will authenticate the identity of  $S$ . Any fail will lead to the termination of the protocol.  $U_i$  continues to compute  $H_2 = H(sn, ID_i, KA)$  and sends  $M_3 = \{sn, H_2\}$  to the server.

(4) Having received the message  $M_3$  from the client  $U_i$ ,  $S$  will compute  $H_2' = H(sn, ID_i, KA)$  and check whether  $H_2' = H_2$ . If so, the server  $S$  can affirm that  $U_i$  has received  $KA$  and  $KA$  will be the common session key used in the subsequent communications.

#### 4. Password update phase

If the client  $U_i$  want to update the password,  $U_i$  and  $S$  need to perform the following steps:

- (1)  $U_i$  selects a random large integer  $r$ , and computes  $T_r(x)$  and  $K_{PW} = T_r(T_s(x))$ . Similar with the first step in key agreement phase,  $K_{PW}$  will be used as the temporary key of symmetric cryptosystem. Then  $U_i$  encrypts  $C_{PW} = E_{K_{PW}}(ID_i, PW_i, PW_i', T_r(x))$  and sends  $M_{PW} = \{T_r(x), C_{PW}\}$  to the server, where  $PW_i'$  is the updated password.
- (2) Having received the message  $M_{PW}$  from  $U_i$ ,  $S$  firstly computes  $K_{PW} = T_s(T_r(x))$  and decrypts  $M_{PW}$ . Then  $S$  checks the validity of  $ID_i$  and  $PW_i$ . If so, then  $S$  continues to compute  $M_{reg}' = H(ID_i, PW_i', K_s)$  and store  $M_{reg}'$  as the updated register message securely.

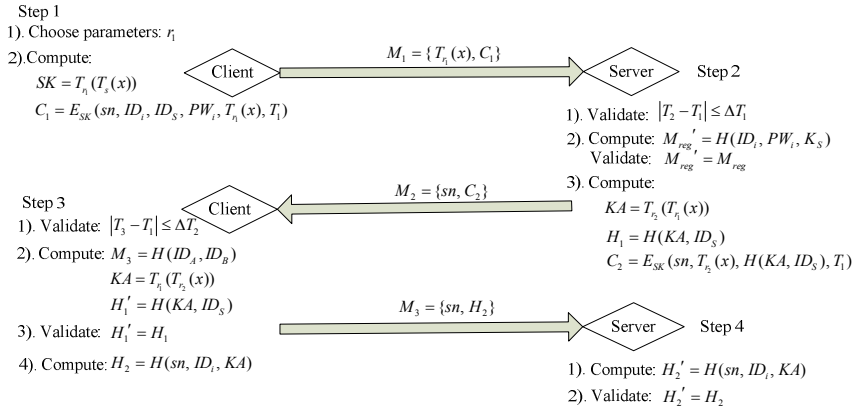


Fig. 1. The key agreement phase of the proposed protocol

## 4 Security analysis

In this section, we will analyze the security of the proposed protocol and show it can resist various attacks. Here, we claim that our protocol satisfy the following security properties:

(1) **Identity anonymity** With the popularization of internet application, identity privacy has become an important requirement. Identity anonymity means that in the key agreement phase, the attacker cannot find the information about user's ID by intercepting the communication messages. The attacker may eavesdrop the communication channel and try to find some sensitive information to trace the real identity. In the proposed protocol, the identity of Client and Server are encrypted by secure symmetric cryptosystem  $C_1 = E_{SK}(sn, ID_i, ID_s, PW_i, T_{r_1}(x), T_1)$ . In order to decrypt, the attack need the temporary secret key, which involve the DHP difficult problem mentioned in section 2. Only the server can decrypt the message and get the identity information. Thus, anonymity can be achieved during the key agreement phase.

(2) **Mutual authentication** The goal of mutual authentication is to confirm both the identities of the client and server and establish a common shared session key between them. In step 2 of the key agreement phase, only the server can decrypt the message  $C_1 = E_{SK}(sn, ID_i, ID_s, PW_i, T_{r_1}(x), T_1)$  and authenticate the identity of the client by comparing the  $ID_i$  and  $PW_i$  with registered message  $M_{reg}$ . Client can authenticate the identity of server by the session

identifier  $sn$  and comparing hash value  $H_1' = H(KA, ID_s)$ . The illegal attacker may modify the communication messages being transmitted over an insecure network. It is extremely difficult for the attacker to fabricate the false authentication information and any message modification during transmission will be detected by the protocol participant. So the proposed protocol can achieve the mutual authentication.

(3) **Resistance to tamper attacks** A tamper attack is an attempt by an adversary to modify information in an unauthorized manner. This is an attack against the integrity of the information. We have stressed the problem in the analysis above and will explain how our protocol can resist this attack in this part. In the key agreement phase, the session identifier  $sn$  and  $T_{r_1}(x)$  are transmitted in the plaintext form and ciphertext form, respectively, which is used to validate whether the plaintext or ciphertext is being tampered. What is more, hash function is also utilized to further realize message integrity. If the adversary forges the message, the receiver can detect it by checking Hash value immediately. This leads to the termination of the protocol. According to the analysis, our protocol can resist the tamper attacks.

(4) **Fairness in the key agreement** The property fairness in the key agreement is also called the contributory property, which means that the session key is determined cooperatively by both the communicating parties. In [0], the author has given a strictly formal definition. The fairness in key agreement means that any communicating party cannot decide a shared session key in advance. In this protocol, we can see client and server choose random integers  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  separately. Through the commutative property of extended Chebyshev chaotic map, they can compute the shared session

key  $KA = T_{r_1}(T_{r_2}(x)) = T_{r_2}(T_{r_1}(x))$ . Therefore, the protocol can ensure the fairness in the key agreement.

(5) **Resistance to man-in-the-middle attack** Man-in-the-middle means that an active attacker intercepts the communication messages between communication participants and adopts some special means to successfully masquerade as the both parties communicate with each other. From previous analysis, the attack even doesn't know the identities of communicating parties since they are kept anonymous and any modification to the transmitted message will be detected. So the attacker cannot impersonate one participant to another during key agreement process. Therefore, the proposed protocol can withstand man-in-the-middle attack.

(6) **Resistance to replay attack** A replay attack is an offensive action in which an adversary impersonates or deceives another legitimate participant through the reuse of information obtained in a protocol. The proposed protocol can resist the replay attacks, which is realized by using the session identifier  $sn$  and time stamps  $(T_1, T_2, T_3)$ . Time stamp is attached to verify freshness of every transmitted message. Furthermore, it cannot be modified because it is encrypted during transmission process. Thus, it is impossible for the replayed message to pass the verification with incorrect session identifier and timestamp. Therefore, our protocol can resist replay attack.

(7) **Resistance to password-based attacks** Dictionary attack is always used to crack the password in the protocol. There are three kinds of dictionary attack[21]: Off-line dictionary attack, undetectable on-line dictionary attack and detectable on-line dictionary attack. Both off-line and undetectable on-line dictionary attack can cause serious consequences among them. In the key agreement phase, the attacker needs to decrypt the message  $C_1 = E_{SK}(sn, ID_i, ID_s, PW_i, T_{r_1}(x), T_1)$  to steal the password  $PW_i$ . To obtain the secret key  $SK$ , the attack faces the DHP difficult problem. So the attacker cannot launch any of these attacks. Therefore, our protocol is quite effective to resist password-based attacks.

(8) **Resistance to stolen-verifier attack** Then stolen-verifier attack means that an adversary who steals the password verification information from the server can use it directly to masquerade as a legitimate user in authentication phase[16]. In the protocol, we assume the registered message  $M_{reg} = H(ID_i, PW_i, K_s)$  is safely stored by the server and cannot be accessed by the attacker. Even if it is stolen, the attacker still cannot carry out the stolen-verifier attack to get the client's password  $PW_i$  without the server's secret key  $K_s$ . So the secret key  $K_s$  can strength the security of password and resist the stolen-verifier attack.

(9) **High efficiency in key distribution and management** It need Server  $S$  to publish its public parameters  $(x, T_s(x))$  and store the registered value  $M_{reg} = H(ID_i, PW_i, K_s)$ . Each entity only needs to keep his own password  $PW_i$ . This will improve the performance of the key distribution.



What's more, the symmetric secret keys  $SK$  are established temporarily utilizing the Chebyshev semigroup property and will be altered in each session according to the selected random numbers  $r_i$ . So the communication entity does not need to store  $SK$  and it can decrease the key management cost and strengthen the security.

## 5 Performance analysis

In this section, we will compare the performance and security of our protocol with Tseng et al.'s protocol[15] and Wang et al.'s protocol[20]. For the convenience of evaluating the computational complexity, let  $T_X$ ,  $T_S$ ,  $T_C$  and  $T_H$  be the computation cost of one XOR operation, one symmetric encryption/decryption operation, one Chebyshev polynomial computation and one Hash operation, respectively. From table 2, we can see that our key agreement protocol need  $(T_S + T_C)$  more computation cost for the client and  $(T_S + T_C + T_H)$  more for the server than Wang et al.'s. In practical use, symmetric encryption/decryption and hash function can be quite efficient. As for the Chebyshev operation, the authors in[5,24,25] gave some implementation methods to decrease the computational cost. Our protocol provides user anonymity and can be more efficient in key distribution and management compared to Wang et al.'s protocol. What's more, our two-party protocol can decrease the communication cost. Our protocol only needs 3 times message transmission, which the number is 4 in Wang et al.'s protocol.

Table 2: Performance analysis and comparisons

	Tseng et al.'s	Wang et al.'s	Our protocol
User anonymity	No	No	Yes
Mutual authenticity	No	Yes	Yes
Fairness	Yes	Yes	Yes
Man-in-the-middle attack	No	No	No
Replay attack	No	No	No
Password-based attack	No	No	No
Stolen-verifier attack	No	No	No
Cost of Client	$2T_X + 2T_S + 2T_C + 5T_H$	$T_S + 2T_C + 2T_H$	$2T_S + 3T_C + 2T_H$
Cost of Server	$T_X + 2T_S + 2T_C + 3T_H$	$T_S + 2T_C + 2T_H$	$2T_S + 3T_C + 3T_H$

## Conclusions

In this paper, we propose a two-party key agreement protocol based on extended chaotic maps. It securely establishes a shared session key, and provides identity anonymity and mutual authentication at the same time. It is demonstrated that

the protocol can resist various attacks, such as man-in-the-middle attack, replay attack, stolen-verifier attack, and so on. The protocol is also very efficient in key distribution and management. Compared with some previously proposed protocols, our protocol has shown its advantage in security and efficiency, which can be applicable in practical use. However, the two-party party protocol may not be suitable in large peer-to-peer network situations, which still needs further research.

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