

Anonymous On-demand Routing and Secure Checking of Traffic Forwarding for Mobile Ad Hoc Networks

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Abstract—Anonymous communications in mobile ad hoc networks is an important and effective way against malicious traffic analysis. Various anonymous routing schemes have been proposed for MANETs. However, most works failed to resist the global tracker, and always ignored the reliability of data delivery. In this paper, a comprehensive anonymous communication protocol, called ARSC, is proposed. The ARSC consists of anonymous routing, which is based on identity-based encryption pseudonym and single-round onion, and secure checking of traffic forwarding in data transmission phase, to achieve strong route anonymity and improve reliability of packet delivery in the data transmission phase. From the security analysis, our protocol ARSC is more secure than other schemes such as ANODR, SDAR, AnonDSR, CAR and MASK. Moreover, simulation experiments show that the ARSC has better performance than any other onion-structured anonymous routing protocols.

Keywords—MANETs, on-demand routing, security, anonymous

I. INTRODUCTION

A Mobile Ad Hoc Network (MANET) is a self-organized and self-configuring network, which is more vulnerable to various attacks than conventional wired and wireless networks due to the absence of fixed infrastructure, the dynamic network topology, and the restricted energy resources. The traditional end-to-end security mechanisms can provide confidentiality for transferred data between communication nodes, but adversaries can easily overhear all messages ‘flying in the air’ without physically compromising nodes. In some security-sensitive scenarios, such as military ad hoc networks, the exposure of the locations of command centers or mobile high priority nodes will enable the adversaries to launch pinpoint attacks on them. Thus, rational anonymity communication protocols should be designed to restrict the collection of network information by eavesdropping in order to protect the privacy of nodes.

Anonymity for communication data means preventing adversaries from linking the communication message with the source or the destination, and making an anonymous route so that each intermediate forwarding node only knows its local route pseudonym and does not know who else is on the same anonymous route. The concept of anonymity could be summarized as entity anonymity, route anonymity, and topology anonymity [1]. From now on,

various anonymous routing schemes have been proposed for MANETs. The ANODR [2] is an anonymous on-demand routing which conceals the network identifiers of communicating nodes using onion routing [3, 4]. But it does not describe how the source and destination establish a shared secret key. Furthermore, a global attacker can easily find the path only by tracking and comparing the transferred data packet since there is an invariant element in the communication data part. The SDAR [5] improves the trapdoor solution. However, the security hazard is all the intermediate nodes will be exposed to the destination node. More seriously, the attacker can easily delete the last part of the variable-size path information. In AnonDSR [6], the authors improve trapdoor and onion design in SDAR to increase the anonymity degree as well as lower the computational complexity. In article [7], the author limits the number of onion nodes on a route to improve the protocol’s scalability for large-scale ad hoc networks.

Besides the onion-structure protocol, there are some protocols adopting novel method, including CAR[8], A3RP[9], MASK[10], PRISM[11], A-HIP[12]. However, these research works still failed to achieve strong route anonymity so that the global tracker could obtain the route information through tracking the data stream. Another Problem of these research works is the reliability of data delivery has been ignored.

Ad hoc networks are prone to self-interest and malicious behavior. For example, a misbehaving node on the detected path may simply refrain from participating in data forwarding; it may selectively drop packets to degrade performance. Some solutions against packet dropping have been proposed in [13-16]. But none of them is designed for anonymous system.

In this paper, we propose a novel anonymous communication protocol, called ARSC, to solve the above issues. The ARSC includes anonymous routing, which is based on identity-based encryption pseudonym and single-round onion routing, and secure checking of traffic forwarding based on hash chain. Our ARSC differs from previous anonymous communication systems for MANETs mainly in the following aspects. First of all, our protocol does not require extra regular neighboring authentications or pair key establishing procedure; instead, it integrates a suite of inter-operative authenticated key exchange mechanisms into the routing algorithm design. Second, by keeping the visible message dynamic in both the RREP packet and the data packet, the ARSC could achieve the strong route anonymity against the global tracker, which is

always neglected by most other research works. Moreover, the ARSC adopts the concept of onion routing, and only uses it in the RREP phase. The single-round onion routing is more efficient than the traditional two-round onion routing schemes. Finally, the passive attack in the data transfer phase such as packet dropping could be discovered through intermediate node checking the hash value.

II. SYSTEM ASSUMPTIONS AND INITIATION

A. Assumptions and Notations

A Trust Authority (TA) is required to generate and issue public keys before a node takes part in the network. We assume that each node can efficiently compute cryptographic algorithms and further assume that a source node knows the constant public key of the destination node. Finally, while the network is running, the time clock can be maintained by each node with exceedingly low error rate to judge the timeliness of route request. Table I summarizes the main notations used in our protocol.

TABLE I. NOTATIONS USED IN THE PAPER

Notations	Meanings
rreq,rrep,dfwd	Used to represent the three packet types
pseudoi	Pseudonym of node Ni generated by TA
IDs, IDd	The real identities of the source NS and destination ND
<Pi, Si>	Constant private key and public key of node Ni generated by TA. Where $P_i = H(pseudoi)$, $S_i = \omega P_i$
<PKi,SKi>	Dynamic public key and private key of Node Ni
<PKtemp, SKtemp>	The temporary public key and private key generated by destination
Ki,i+1	The session key between two adjacent nodes
Ki	The temporary session key generated by node Ni
{ }*	Encryption by PKi, PKtemp, Ki,i+1, or Ki
{ } _{SKs}	Signature by the dynamic private key SKs of source NS
ri, ni	Random numbers generated by node Ni
RAND,r	Random number generated by the source
CH _s ^j	The j times hashing value generated by the source
Oi	The route pseudonym of node Ni ,and Oi=PKi
Te	The timestamp for the RREQ message

B. Initiation of System

TA Determines an additive group G_1 of prime order q as a group of points on an elliptic curve over F_q , a multiplicative group G_2 of the same prime order q of a finite field F_{q^k} for $k \in Z_q^*$ where $Z_q^* = \{y | 1 \leq y \leq q-1\}$, a bilinear mapping $g: G_1 \times G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ satisfying the properties of cryptographic bilinear map, and collision resistant cryptographic hash functions H and H_0 , where $H: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow G_1$ mapping from strings of arbitrary length to points in G_1 and $H_0: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^m$ mapping from strings of arbitrary length to output of fixed length. TA also generate a system's secret $\omega \in Z_q^*$, where $Z_q^* = \{y | 1 \leq y \leq q-1\}$.

Thus, $\langle G_1, G_2, g, H, H_0 \rangle$ is the system public parameter issued to the system legal members.

When a legitimate node N_i is allowed to join the network, TA assigns it a pseudonym $pseudoi$. Then its constant public key is $P_i = H(pseudoi)$, and its private key is defined as $S_i = \omega P_i = \omega H_1(pseudoi)$. Each node stores the set $\langle P_i, S_i \rangle$, and according to the Discrete Logarithm problem, we can know that no one could determine the system secret ω .

Each node can generate its dynamic public key PK_i by computing $PK_i = r_i P_i = r_i H(pseudoi)$ which is also functioned as its dynamic route pseudonym O_i . r_i is a random number selected by node N_i . And the corresponding dynamic private key is $SK_i = \omega PK_i = \omega r_i P_i = r_i S_i$. The set $\langle PK_i, SK_i \rangle$ still holds the properties of cryptographic bilinear map.

According to the Computational Diffie-Hellman problem, the node N_i and node N_j could compute their session key K_{ij} through exchanging their dynamic public keys PK_i and PK_j , where

$$K_{ij} = g(SK_i, PK_j) = g(\omega PK_i, PK_j) = g(PK_i, PK_j)^\omega,$$

$$K_{ji} = g(PK_i, SK_j) = g(PK_i, \omega PK_j) = g(PK_i, PK_j)^\omega,$$

$$\text{and } K_{ij} = K_{ji}.$$

III. DESCRIPTION OF ARSC PROTOCOL

A. Route request (RREQ) phase

Source node: Whenever a source N_S communicates to a destination N_D , if a valid route is not in its route cache, it launches route discovery request to N_D . First, N_S generates two new dynamic public key pairs $\langle PK_S, SK_S \rangle$ and $\langle PK_0, SK_0 \rangle$, and generates a hash value CH_S^m by hashing r_s m times ($m > T_e$). N_S saves the hash chain values $CH_S^1, CH_S^2, \dots, CH_S^m$, then creates the following RREQ packet and broadcasts RREQ locally.

$$RREQ_S = rreq, tag, PK_0, Vchain_S, Trd$$

Where $tag \in Z_q^*$ is a sequence number, $Vchain_S = \{RAND\}_{K_S}$ which will be encrypted layer upon layer, Trd is a public key cryptographic trapdoor that defined as $Trd = \{tag \| ID_S \| ID_D \| \{T_e \| r \| PK_S \| CH_S^m\}_{S_S}\}_{P_D}$. N_S inserts a record $\{tag, ID_D, \langle PK_S, SK_S \rangle, \langle PK_0, SK_0 \rangle, RAND, r\}$ into its routing table.

Intermediate node: Once a RREQ message is received, each intermediate node N_i seeks the identical tag in its routing table. If same tag exists in the table, the given packet is discarded. Otherwise, each node N_i verifies the timestamp T_e , and tries to use its constant private key to decrypt the trapdoor Trd . If the top of the decrypted thing is different from the tag , it is not the target. It generates its own dynamic public key set, and replaces the last hop node's dynamic public key PK_{i-1} with its own dynamic public key PK_i . After that, each node N_i generates a temporary session key K_i that will be shared among the source, destination and itself, and then replaces the

$Vchain_{i-1}$ with $Vchain_i = \{Vchain_{i-1}\}_{K_i}$. The renewed RREQ message is

$$RREQ_i = rreq, tag, PK_i, Vchain_i, Trd, T_e$$

Each node N_i records $\langle tag, PK_{i-1}, SK_i, K_i, Vchain_i \rangle$ in its routing table and maintains it for a short period.

Destination node: When the RREQ packet reaches at the destination N_D , N_D verifies the signature $\{T_e \parallel RAND \parallel PK_S \parallel CH_S^m\}_{S_S}$. If the signature is true, similar to the previous nodes, N_D generates the dynamic public key pair $\langle PK_n, SK_n \rangle$, and computes the session key with the last hop node, for example node N_j , where $K_{Dj} = g(PK_j, SK_n) = g(PK_j, \omega PK_n) = g(PK_j, PK_n)^\omega$. N_D also generates another different dynamic public key pair $\langle PK_D, SK_D \rangle$, and computes the session key with the source $K_{DS} = g(PK_S, SK_D) = g(PK_S, \omega PK_D) = g(PK_S, PK_D)^\omega$.

B. Route Reply (RREP) Phase

Destination node: The destination N_D generates a temporary one-time public key pair $\langle PK_{temp}, SK_{temp} \rangle$, and makes a set of association $\langle O_D, Y/N \rangle$, in which $O_D = PK_D$ is the route pseudonym and the symbol Y or N indicates itself is or isn't the destination. N_D constructs the RREP packet as follows and broadcasts it to the last hop node N_j .

$$RREP_D = rrep, PK_n, Vchain_j, \{tag \parallel PK_{temp} \parallel onion_D \parallel CH_S^m \parallel PK_D \parallel \{tag \parallel ID_S \parallel ID_D \parallel r \parallel SK_{temp}\}_{K_{DS}}\}_{K_{Dj}}$$

Where $onion_D = \{tag \parallel r\}_{PK_{temp}}$, and $VChain_j$ is not altered.

Finally, N_D includes records $\{tag, ID_S, K_{Dj}, K_{DS}, \langle PK_{temp}, SK_{temp} \rangle, \langle O_D, Y/N \rangle\}$ into its routing table.

Intermediate node: Once N_i receives the above RREP packet, N_i computes the session key with N_{i+1} as $K_{i,i+1} = g(SK_i, PK_{i+1}) = g(PK_i, PK_{i+1})^\omega = K_{i+1,i}$. Hence, N_i could decrypt the encrypted message part and check tag and $VChain_i$. If there exists a matched tag stored in the routing table and the verification of $VChain_i$ successes, N_i gets $VChain_{i-1}$ from decrypting $VChain_i$ with the corresponding temporary key K_i . After that, N_i adds $\langle O_i, N \rangle$ and the destination's route pseudonym O_{i+1} into the routing table (During the data forwarding phase, we call the dynamic public key PK_i as route pseudonym O_i).

In addition, N_i also could compute the session key with the last hop node which is $K_{i,i+1} = g(SK_i, PK_{i+1}) = g(\omega PK_i, PK_{i+1}) = g(PK_i, PK_{i+1})^\omega$. Using this key, N_i updates the RREP packet as follows and broadcasts it to the last hop node N_{i-1} .

$$RREP_i = rrep, PK_i, Vchain_{i-1}, \{tag \parallel PK_{temp} \parallel onion_i \parallel CH_S^m \parallel PK_D \parallel \{tag \parallel ID_S \parallel ID_D \parallel r \parallel SK_{temp}\}_{K_{DS}}\}_{K_{i,i+1}}$$

Where $onion_i = \{onion_{i+1} \parallel K_i\}_{PK_{temp}}$.

Similarly, subsequent nodes successively execute the same operation until the RREP packet finally arrives at the source. Finally, the routing table of the intermediate node N_i is as follows. The flag cnt is a counter that is enabled when the node first uses this route to transfer data.

$\langle O_i, N \rangle$	O_{i+1}	$K_{i,i+1}$	$K_{i,i+1}$	K_i	CH_S^m	$cnt_i (=0)$
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Source node: When the RREP packet reaches at the source node N_S , N_S computes the session key K_{S1} and K_{SD} ,

and decrypts $onion_i$ layer by layer with private key SK_{temp} . Hence, it obtains the temporary session keys $\{K_1, K_2, \dots, K_i, \dots, K_j\}$ of all the intermediate nodes and stores them in the routing table. Finally, the routing table of the source is as follows:

ID_D	O_1	K_{SD}	$K_{S,i}$
$\{K_1, K_2, \dots, K_i, \dots, K_j\}$	$\{CH_S^1, \dots, CH_S^m\}$	$cnt_S (=0)$	

C. Data Forwarding Phase

In our protocol, the final hash chain value generated by the source is distributed to each participating nodes during the RREQ phase. After the route discovery done, whenever the source wants to send a data packet to the destination, it randomly picks an intermediate node N_i in advance as a traffic checking node. And every node on the path accumulates its corresponding counter cnt_i once it correctly receives a data packet. When the source sends the k 'th data packets to the same destination, $cnt_S = k$ and the k 'th data packet is as follows:

$$PACKET_i = dfwd, O_1, \{\{K_i \parallel CH_S^{m-k}\}_{K_i} \parallel \{K_i \parallel data\}_{K_{SD}}\}_{K_{S1}}$$

Each node receiving this packet tries to decrypt the encryption part $\{K_i \parallel CH_S^{m-k}\}_{K_i}$ using its own temporary session key. If the node could decrypt the encryption part correctly, it means the node is the designated traffic checking node. Then the traffic checking node fetches its counter cnt_i from routing table, and hashes $CH_S^{m-k} cnt_i$ times. If $H_0(CH_S^{m-k})^{cnt_i} \neq CH_S^m$, then node N_i creates a misbehavior report flooding to the source. If $H_0(CH_S^{m-k})^{cnt_i} = CH_S^m$, then the data message is forwarded conventionally.

Finally, in order to prevent the designated traffic checking node being attacked and replaced by the malicious node, the destination node should check whether the encryption part $\{K_i \parallel data\}_{K_{SD}}$ is correctly associated with $\{K_i \parallel CH_S^{m-k}\}_{K_i}$ or not.

IV. ANONYMITY AND SECURITY ANALYSIS

A. Anonymity Analysis

Entity anonymity: Every participating node uses its pseudonym P_i issued by TA and transforms it into a different pseudonym PK_i every time when a new route request is launched. Hence, the source and destination nodes cannot recognize the real identities of the intermediate nodes. Moreover, the source and destination nodes even cannot associate any link of the intermediate nodes from multiple route discoveries. At the same time, the real identities of the source and destination nodes which are included in the RREQ message are encrypted by destination's public key, hence only the source and destination nodes can know each other.

Route anonymity: While the route discovery process runs, the source, intermediate, and destination nodes only have the pseudonyms of previous and next hop, and some verification information. This means even if the participate nodes have no idea about the path between the source and destination. However, there may be another case: the global adversaries can track the RREP packet or data

packet in line with the invariant information of packets, so that they can determine a certain route. This case is always neglected by the previous works, but our protocol could prevent this case happening. In our protocol ARSC, besides the symbol $rrep$, the RREP packet includes terms PK_i , $Vchain_{i-1}$ and $\{*\}_{K_{i-1}}$, which keep changing at each hop. Thus, the global adversaries cannot derive a certain route by tracking because every RREP packet for different route discoveries cannot be distinguished. For the same reason, the data packets can resist tracking.

Topology anonymity: In ARSC, there is no clue about hop count of packets because the packets keep identical size for the route discovery. And also, the packet structure does not include any information to determine the network topology and the number of participating nodes, except that the source knows the hop number of the whole path.

B. Security Analysis

TABLE II. PROPERTIES COMPARISON OF SEVERAL PROTOCOLS

Properties	ANODR	SDAR	CAR	MASK	AnonDSR	ARSC
Entity anonymity	√		√		√	√
Route anonymity					√	√
Topology anonymity	√	√	√	√	√	√
Resist forgery attacks	√	√		√	√	√
Resist data packet dropping						√

Forgery attacks: Our protocol provides end-to-end authentication through the source and destination verifying the signature and generating the session key K_{SD} . Any exterior adversary cannot impersonate as a valid node to negotiate session key with the legal node because the system secret ω is confidential.

Data packet dropping: In our protocol, the traffic checking node is designated by the source in a random and secret fashion. And the test hash value is also protected by the traffic checking node's temporary key. The verification of the hash value is to ensure that the data packet number counter cnt_i of each node is always identical to the counter cnt_s of the source, which is the actual quantity of sent packets. If any compromising or misbehaving intermediate nodes arbitrarily drop data packet, the counters of the subsequent nodes must have discrepancy with the right number. Therefore, the verification will fail laterly. Thus, the data packet dropping attack will be discovered by the next traffic checking node.

Compared with some other anonymous routing protocols, the ARSC has some advantages listed in table II. From table II, ARSC and AnonDSR are more secure than the others.

V. PERFORMANCE SIMULATIONS

A. Cryptographic Implementation

The ARSC combines symmetric key cryptographic algorithm, public key cryptographic algorithm, and hash function together. To have a fair comparison, in the

simulation we unify the cryptographic mechanism, key and field size. We assume ARSC uses ECIES (256-bit key) as public key cryptographic algorithm while other protocols use RSA (2048-bit key). All the protocols use AES-CBC (256-bit key & block) as symmetric key encryption and MD5 (128 bit output) as a hash function.

Table III shows the processing time of different cryptographic operations in paper [17], which is measured on an Intel Core 2 1.83 GHz processor under Windows Vista in 32-bit mode. For public key cryptosystems, the table shows processing latency per operation. For symmetric key cryptosystems, it shows operation bit-rate.

TABLE III. PROCESSING TIME FOR VARIOUS CRYPTO SYSTEMS

Cryptosystem/Hashing	Processing speed
ECIES encryption/verification	4.21ms/operation
ECIES decryption/signature	3.98ms/operation
RSA encryption/verification	0.16ms/operation
RSA decryption/signature	6.08ms/operation
ECDH key agreement	2.82ms
DH key agreement	3.84ms
AES-CBC	80Mbps
MD5	255 Mbps

B. Simulation Environment and Metrics

The simulation is performed in omnet++^[18]. The network coverage area is a 1200-meter×600-meter area, within which 100 mobile nodes initially uniformly placed. Each node has a radio power range of 250 meters. Each run executes 900 seconds of simulation time. The supported channel capacity is 2 Mbps. The IEEE 802.11 Distributed Coordination Function is used as the MAC layer protocol to model transmission, queuing, and propagation delays and to provide reliable communication at the data link level. The sources and destinations are chosen randomly with uniform probabilities. Random Way Point (RWP) model is used to simulate node mobility, and the pause time is 30s. The size of all data packets is set to 512 bytes and the interval time to send packets is 0.25 second.

We present two sets of simulations. One set is to show routing performance variation when nodes speed increases from 0 to 10m/s under secure environment. The performance metrics are network connectivity, route establishing latency and control message overhead. In the other set of simulation, the malicious adversaries are introduced into the network. The adversaries are randomly selected out from the network nodes, and they reject to transmit the data packet. The main metrics are connectivity which represents the effect of misbehavior on route establish phase, and the packet delivery ratio which represents the effect of misbehavior on data transmission phase.

Connectivity: this is the ratio of the successful route discovery requests to the total route requests sent by the source. This represents the success probability of the route establishment.

Route establishing latency: the overall route establishing latency including the queuing, transmission and packet handling delays of RREQ message and RREP message. The packet handling delays are mainly based on the protocols and the actual measurement of the cryptographic systems mentioned in section 6.1.

Normalized control overhead: the normalized control message overhead is the total control packets per data packet delivered in terms of bytes.

Packet delivery ratio: this refers to the ratio of data packets correctly received by the destination to the data packets actually sent by the source under the adverse network environment.

C. Simulation Results

1) In Secure network environment

Fig.1 shows that ARSC and AnonDSR have approximately equal connectivity and the connectivity of both protocols a little bit varies as the speeds of the nodes increase.

Fig.2 illustrates the route establishing latency. Moreover, two presuppositions are made. First, overhead incurred in pre-configure phase or bootstrap phase, such as required for key generation and key distribution, is not counted in the evaluation. Second, since the ARSC protocol embodies the pairwise key exchange in the route discovery process, in order to keep fair comparison criteria, the security parameter establishment (SPE) protocol for AnonDSR protocol is also considered into the evaluation, i.e., the average overhead and latency will be calculated.

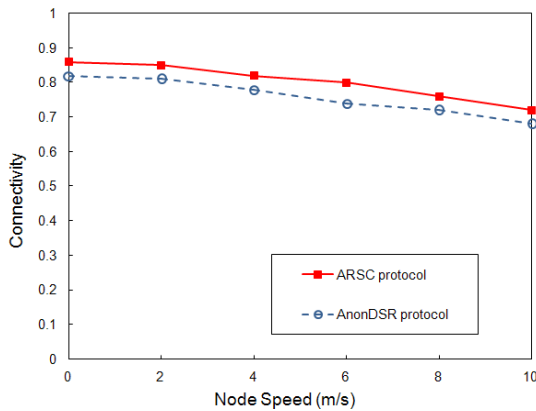


Figure 1. Connectivity in Secure Network

From Fig.2, route establishing latency of both protocols increases as the speeds increase, and that ARSC has a slightly lower latency than AnonDSR. The main reason is that the ARSC only includes single-round onion structure in the RREP phase, while the AnonDSR has two-round onion structure. The latency comes from the symmetric-structure onion of AnonDSR which requires the source node do n times more symmetric decryptions.

Fig.3 compares the normalized control overhead in terms of bytes. The normalized control bytes of both ARSC and AnonDSR are large because each packet needs carry a lot of keys, key negotiation materials and relevant verifiable information. The ARSC generates less normalized control bytes than AnonDSR. The result is expected, because AnonDSR has one more onion structure, the size of which is increasing along with the hops of returned RREP message. In addition, the periodically executed SPE protocol needs extra control bytes.

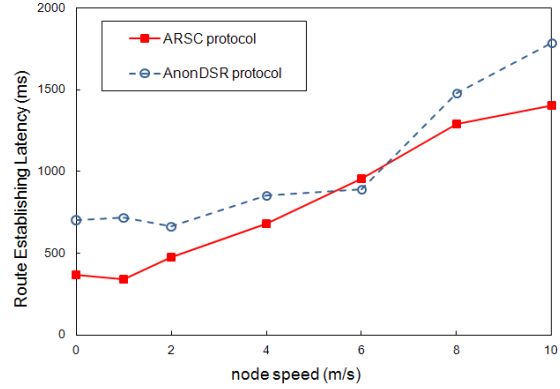


Figure 2. Route Establishing Latency

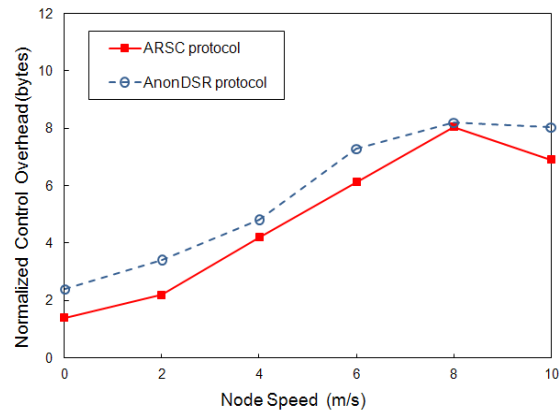


Figure 3. Normalized Control Overhead

2) In adversary network environment

Unlike the experiments described in the previous section, in this section, we measure the influence of malicious nodes on ARSC and AnonDSR. We involve malicious nodes in this set of experiments to illustrate the effect with the increase of their amount for the ARSC and AnonDSR protocols respectively.

Fig.4 shows that ARSC and AnonDSR have approximately equal connectivity under the adversary environment, and the connectivity of both protocols rapidly declines as the amount of malicious nodes increases.

Fig.5 compares the packet delivery ratio of ARSC scheme and AnonDSR scheme. Under the function of different percentage of misbehaving nodes that varied from 0 to 40%, the packet delivery ratio decreases as more nodes in the network misbehave. We can observe that ARSC could successfully deliver more data packets than AnonDSR under the same conditions. The fast degradation of the AnonDSR protocol comes no surprise, since AnonDSR does not provide any security mechanism against the data packets dropping, and the source node could detect a compromised route only when a link breakage is reported.

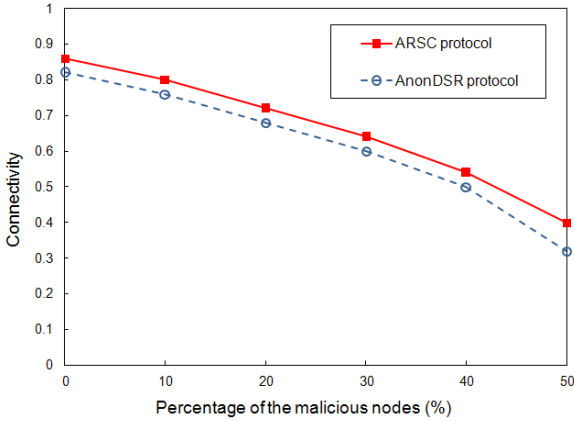


Figure 4. Connectivity in Adversary Network

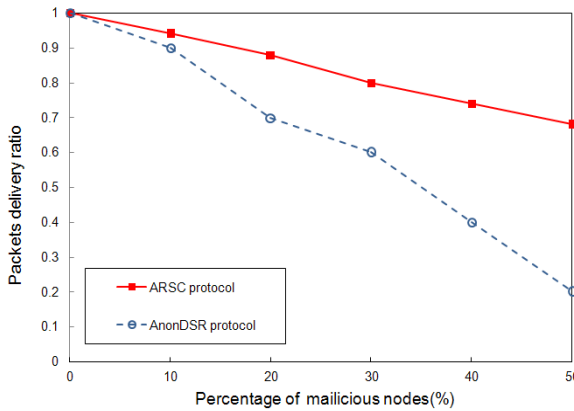


Figure 5. Packets Delivery Ratio

VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we propose a comprehensive anonymous communication protocol, named ARSC, which includes anonymous routing phase and secure traffic forwarding phase. Besides achieving the strong anonymity properties, we further address the data reliable delivery through a simple but effective way. From the security analysis, our protocol ARSC is more secure than other schemes such as ANODR, SDAR, AnonDSR, CAR and MASK. Also, our scheme ARSC has better performance than any other onion-structured anonymous routing protocols such as AnonDSR.

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