



Authentication protocol for RFID-enabled TMIS: An LCD code-based approach

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Abstract

Radio frequency identification (RFID) is a wireless technology used to identify objects without line-of-sight contact. RFID technology has many applications in the medical field because it ensures security and reliability. Telecare medical information systems (TMIS) have recently received prominent attention in healthcare systems. The combination of an RFID system and TMIS gives various advantages, like reducing administrative costs, improving the quality of services, keeping accurate medical records, etc. Through TMIS, the patient's medical information is transferred via radio waves in the RFID system. Due to wireless communication, there are many security and privacy issues associated with TMIS systems, such as private data leakage, traceability attacks, replay attacks, man-in-middle attacks, etc. To ensure secure communication in TMIS, we introduce a lightweight mutual authentication protocol by employing LCD code properties. The protocol's formal security is done using BAN logic and the Scyther tool. We show that tags untraceability and sensitive information protection are preserved using Juels and Weis's privacy model. In addition, we analyze the performance of the protocol in terms of processing, transmission, and storage costs.

Keywords RFID systems · Authentication protocol · Linear codes · Security · Privacy · TMIS

1 Introduction

In recent years, e-health and telemedicine services have become more popular. With e-Health and telemedicine services, people can access medical facilities such as primary care consultations, psychotherapy, remote monitoring, treatment, and emergency services. Through the development of TMIS, people can consult doctors online, bringing about substantial improvements.

Instead of going to the hospital, people can access telemedicine services from the convenience of their own homes because people may be affected by other patients in the hospital. Patients and doctors are more at ease with the treatment approach because of TMIS's procedures. The TMIS is helpful for various healthcare services that are required due to the current demand in the healthcare sector. These programmes offer patients at-home support for private healthcare. The network's technological advancement has improved healthcare services. As a result, the patient can access medical services via electronic devices. One of the popular research topics in IoT healthcare applications is RFID-based identification for the TMIS domain. An RFID system can peruse and store data precisely, so it assumes an extraordinarily significant part in the development of TMIS. The RFID system makes the hospital's workflow [33] more automated, supplies patients with additional advantages with more clinical choices, and reduces medical costs.

RFID technologies are useful for low-cost devices that identify assets via radio waves [14, 15]. An RFID system comprises the following elements [26]; RFID reader, RFID tags, and a back-end server. Tags are electronic microchips usually containing private and fundamental data about the items. The reader attempts to constantly lay out an

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association with the tag to separate the data from it. The server receives a tag's associated information via a reader for processing. RFID enables higher levels of security than traditional barcodes, as RFID tags are more sensitive and resourceful than barcodes. RFID is being used in a variety of healthcare settings, including counting regions following clinical resources, newborn and patient-recognized proof, clinical treatment following, consent, and patient tracking. In an RFID-enabled TMIS system [5, 22, 41], patient identification is given by a wearable device that contains a tag. The tag could contain relevant data for clinical staff to obtain blood classification, date of birth, sensitivities, and prescriptions. A nurse can retrieve the patient's records from the tag using a reader. The information is then sent to a server so that doctors can view the patient record's remotely, which makes it easier for them to keep an eye on each patient.

With the TMIS [7], sensitive information is shared among doctors, patients, insurance companies, etc. However, the interconnection nature of TMIS creates several privacy and security issues, such as unauthorized access to patient records, valuable financial information, insurance information, etc. Nowadays, protecting healthcare data is vital considering the number of cyber-criminals launched malicious attacks. To overcome security and privacy concerns, TMIS requires a mechanism that only authorized persons can access sensitive information. Authentication is an excellent way to check the authenticity of a person who wants to access sensitive information. An effective RFID authentication protocol helps in preserving privacy in the TMIS system. Therefore, it becomes very vital and appealing to build RFID ultralightweight protocols with high-security functionalities at low expenses in TMIS.

1.1 Motivation

Researchers have presented many authentication protocols [9, 20, 27, 29, 36, 38, 42] by using some cryptographic primitives. However, due to the computational and storage costs in TMIS, they are unsuitable for tiny powered tags. Additionally, an adversary can intercept, alter, or tamper with a patient's sensitive data over a wireless channel. For this reason, there are many protocols [5, 6, 18, 28] where common security attacks can occur over the channel. Therefore, it is difficult to formulate a TMIS protocol that is both practical and reasonable. With LCD codes over a finite field, we have developed a secure and trustworthy RFID authentication protocol for inexpensive tags that can address present TMIS problems.

The primary objectives of the proposed protocol are given below:

1. To achieve common verification between the tag and the server via the reader.
2. To preserve tag anonymity and tag location privacy.

3. To conquer known attacks like disclosure, de-synchronization, traceability, etc.
4. To optimize storage cost, communication cost and computation cost.

1.2 Our contribution

Based on LCD codes, the present work provides a mutual authentication mechanism over TMIS. The following is a summary of the most important contributions.

1. To reduce the computational cost, we only used the left shift operator, concatenation, bitwise operations, and fundamental properties of LCD codes over finite fields.
2. The Scyther tools and BAN principles are used to evaluate the basic security.
3. By applying Juels and Weis model, we prove that our protocol preserves tags untraceability.
4. Our protocol is compared to some similar protocols regarding communication and computational costs.

2 Related work

In this decade, several RFID authentication protocols have been designed for security purposes. Many authors have proposed authentication protocols, but they are unsuitable for resource-constrained tags due to their high computational storage costs and other various reasons. So, it is not easy to present a safe and identifying RFID protocol in TMIS. Therefore, we have discussed some existing related protocols with their leverages and shortcomings.

Sun et al. [35] presented an RFID-based protocol using the integration of barcodes and RFID tags. This protocol demonstrated a compelling and safe patient care environment for preventing the danger of medication blunders. Later, Huang and Ku [17] designed an RFID grouping proof protocol for the medication well-being of inpatients. This protocol becomes lightweight as it is used the pseudo-random number generator (PRNG) and cyclic redundancy code (CRC). Chien et al. [8] proved that the protocol [17] suffers from replay attacks and de-synchronizations. Then, they proposed two RFID protocols, one for the online case and another for the offline case, to improve medication security.

Tian et al. [37] represented an RFID-based protocol using permutation operation, XOR, a circular left rotation on tags. Later, Ahmadian et al. [1] performed the cryptanalysis of [37] and demonstrated the security weakness in contrast to the de-synchronization attack. Wu et al. [40] suggested a novel password enable authentication protocol in TMIS, attracting many researchers in this field. In this protocol, the authors have used symmetric cryptography and discrete

logarithm problem as cryptographic primitives. The password change phase cannot be verified using this protocol.

In light of coding theory, Maurya et al. [24] presented an ultralightweight authentication protocol. The protocol used CRC and syndrome decoding techniques for better security, privacy, and low computational costs. Also, they compared their protocol with some related protocols in terms of security and computational costs and showed that the protocol provides better security with much less computational cost. Aghili and Mala [2] show that the protocol [24] is defenceless against tag impersonation and tag traceability attacks.

Fan et al. [11] proposed an RFID-based ultralightweight authentication protocol using left rotation, random number generators, XOR, and concatenation operations. The protocol [11], however, is not ideal for dealing with rogue RFID tags or cloud providers. After that, Fan et al. [12] suggested an RFID-based protocol for healthcare protection in the IoT. The protocol used cross operation, rotation, and bit-wise XOR to provide the authentication. Later, Khan et al. [21] addressed some security flaws of the protocol [12], which include tag anonymity and traceability attacks.

Salem and Amin [30] proposed an RFID protocol for a secure TMIS based on the El-Gamal cryptosystem. Also, they analyze the formal security by AVISPA tools. However, this protocol has an excessively high storage expense. Maurya and Bagchi [25] designed a group-based protocol for RFID systems utilizing left shift and modulo operations.

Shariq and Singh [31] proposed a lightweight RFID protocol that incorporates the properties of vector space. Utilizing BAN logic, the protocol's accuracy has been completed. Wang et al. [39] designed an ultralightweight RFID protocol for the protection of medical privacy in modern life using Bit-Crossing XOR and cyclic shift operations. Later, Gao and Lu's [13] designed an ultralightweight authentication protocol in a passive RFID system. This protocol used bit-wise XOR and circular left-rotation operations and verified security using GNY (Gong, Needham, and Yahalom) logic.

Chander and Gopalakrishnan [5] suggested a TMIS authentication method to lessen the computational burden on mobile nodes with limited resources. Using the Scyther and AVISPA tools, the authors analyze the security of the protocol. This protocol, however, is liable to modification and impersonation attacks. Kumar et al. [22] designed an ultralightweight RFID authentication protocol for healthcare systems to improve medication safety for patients. The protocol employs reformation operation, bitwise XOR, and circular left-right rotations. The formal security analysis of the protocol is performed by the Scyther tool.

Studying the existing approaches, we observe that each one has certain drawbacks or may not be appropriate for a low-cost tag. Accordingly, we presented a reliable and efficient authentication protocol for TMIS for low-cost tags.

3 Preliminaries

In this section, we discussed some preliminaries about LCD codes and their properties.

3.1 Linear codes

Suppose p is a prime and \mathbb{F}_q is a finite field, where q is a power of p . A linear code D of length n is a subspace of \mathbb{F}_q^n . It is denoted by $D = [n, k]$, where k represents the dimension of the subspace. An element of the code D is called a codeword. As D is a subspace, there exists a basis b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k . A matrix whose rows generate the codeword of D is known as a generator matrix G . The dual or orthogonal code of D is denoted by D^\perp , and is defined as $D^\perp = \{b \in \mathbb{F}_q^n : a \cdot b = 0 \forall a \in D\}$. A parity-check matrix H of D is the generator matrix of D^\perp . A linear code D is called a linear complementary dual (LCD) code if D meets D^\perp trivially [23].

Lemma 3.1 *Let D be a linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with G and H , then D becomes an linear complementary dual code if and only if $\begin{pmatrix} G \\ H \end{pmatrix}$ is invertible [23].*

3.2 Secret codeword recovery

Let $D = [n, k]$ be an LCD code over \mathbb{F}_q^n with G and H . Let $X = x_1x_2 \dots x_n$ be a codeword of D and $Y^T = G \cdot X^T$. We assume that X is a secret codeword that we have to find out. Suppose we know G , H , and the value of Y^T . Using these parameters, we can get a secret codeword X as follows.

As we know

$$G \cdot X^T = Y^T \quad (3.1)$$

The system of equations' solution set (3.1) forms an affine space with associated vector space D^\perp . Because D is an LCD code, the system of Eq. 3.1 admits a unique solution in D . We can get a unique solution by solving the following linear system.

$$\begin{pmatrix} G \\ H \end{pmatrix} X^T = \begin{pmatrix} Y^T \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

4 Proposed protocol

The proposed protocol is split into two parts, the first of which presents the initialization phase and the second of which presents the authentication phase. The notation

definitions are given in Table 1, and the flow diagram of the proposed protocol is given in Fig. 1. The notations K_R and K_L denote the right and left parts of K , respectively. If the number of bits in K is n , then K_R is the first $\frac{n}{2}$ bits and K_L is the last $\frac{n}{2}$ bits of K . The same meaning applies to all other parameters used in the proposed protocol in left (L) or right (R) form.

4.1 Assumption

The proposed protocol operates under the accompanying important suppositions listed below:

1. The random number(s) is/are generated by the legitimate tag (\mathcal{T}) and the legitimate reader (\mathcal{R}).
2. An adversary in the system can fake a correct \mathcal{R} or a valid \mathcal{T} .
3. An adversary has the ability to block, adjust, or even tamper with all messages during communication.
4. The connecting channel is considered to be secure between \mathcal{R} and the back-end server (\mathcal{S}).
5. The back-end server is regarded as trustworthy, and the communication route between \mathcal{R} and the \mathcal{S} is safe.
6. The connecting channel is considered insecure between \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{R} .

4.2 Initialization phase

1. Because the basis of a linear space is not unique, neither is the generator matrix of a linear code. As a result, we must indicate which generating matrix is utilized. Regarding this, the manufacturer chooses an LCD code $D = [n, k]$. The initiator stores an arbitrary but fixed generator matrix G and a corresponding parity check matrix H on the server.

Table 1 Proposed protocol employs notations and explanations

Notation	Explanation
D	An LCD code.
G	A generator matrix of D .
H	A parity-check matrix of D .
IDS	Index pseudonym of a tag.
ID	Tag’s unique identifying number.
r_1, r_2	Random number produced by a reader.
K	Tag’s secret key.
K_R	First $\frac{n}{2}$ bits of K .
K_L	Last $\frac{n}{2}$ bits of K .
\ll	Circular left shift operator.
\parallel	Concatenation.
\oplus	Exclusive-or operator.

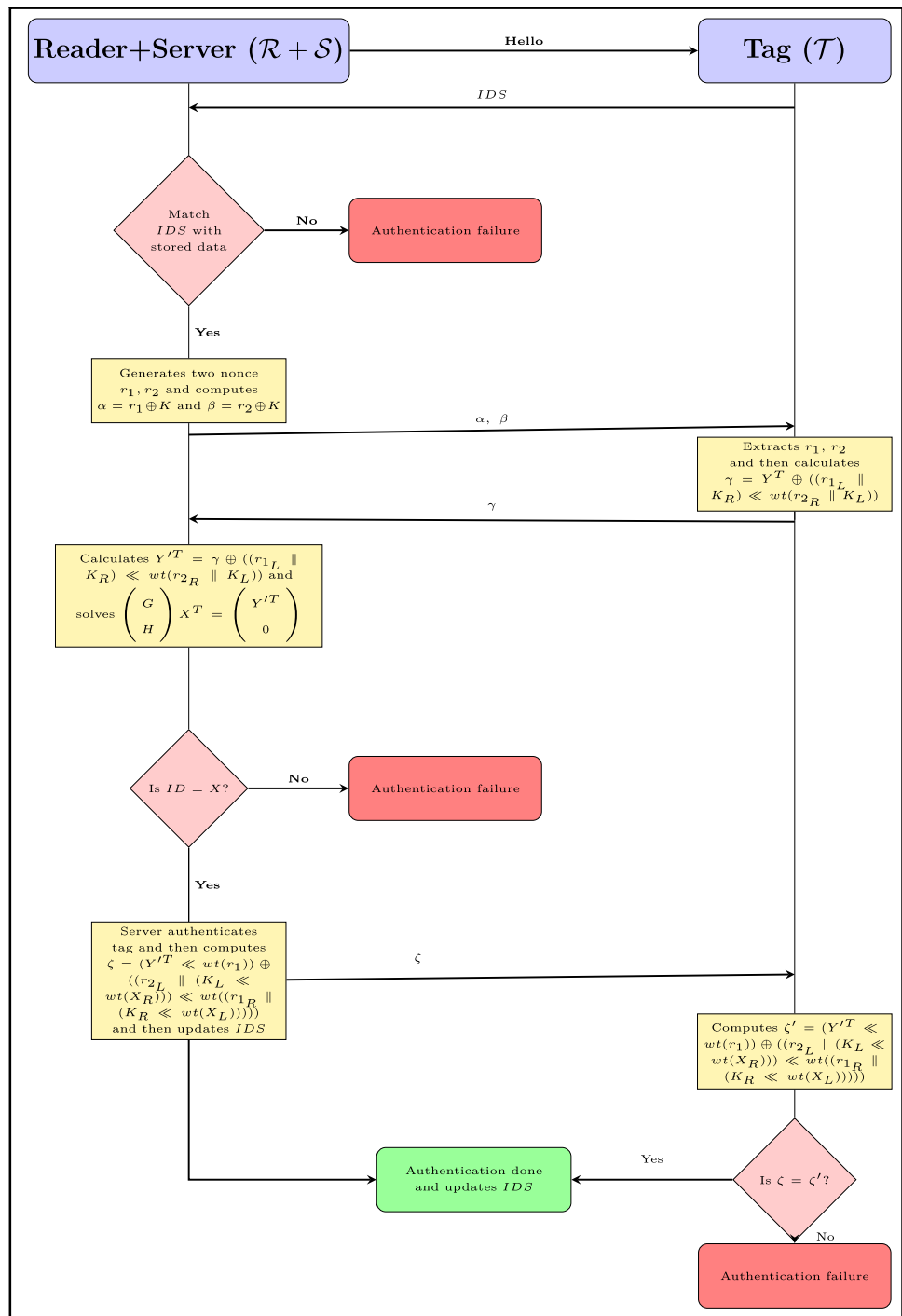
2. The initiator chooses a unique codeword ID from D and assigns it as a tag’s distinctive identifying number. In addition, it calculates a vector $Y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)$, where $y_i = g_i \cdot ID^T$. Here, g_i is the i^{th} row of G . The initiator stocks Y to the tag’s memory and chooses a key K and a pseudonym IDS for each tag, where IDS works as an index in the database.
3. The initiator stores ID , K and IDS for each \mathcal{T} with the server (\mathcal{S}). In addition, for each \mathcal{T} , \mathcal{S} stores a new pseudonym IDS_{new} . Initially, IDS_{new} is $NULL$. The communication route between \mathcal{R} and \mathcal{S} is thought to be secure. Thus, \mathcal{R} and \mathcal{S} may be regarded as a single entity.

4.3 Authentication phase

This phase consists of the following steps.

1. Whenever a tag (\mathcal{T}) enters the scan area of a reader (\mathcal{R}), \mathcal{T} gets a message from \mathcal{R} .
2. Then \mathcal{T} transmits its IDS to \mathcal{R} .
3. After getting IDS from \mathcal{T} , \mathcal{R} performs the following steps:
 - \mathcal{R} match IDS with stored IDS_{old} and IDS_{new} . If a match is made, \mathcal{R} retrieves \mathcal{T} ’s pairing values K and ID .
 - After that, \mathcal{R} generates two nonce r_1, r_2 and sends $\alpha = r_1 \oplus K$ and $\beta = r_2 \oplus K$ to \mathcal{T} .
4. \mathcal{T} extracts r_1 and r_2 from α and β respectively. \mathcal{T} calculates $\gamma = Y^T \oplus ((r_{1L} \parallel K_R) \ll wt(r_{2R} \parallel K_L))$ and transmits γ to \mathcal{R} .
5. Upon receiving γ from \mathcal{T} , \mathcal{R} performs the following steps:
 - \mathcal{R} calculates $Y'^T = \gamma \oplus ((r_{1L} \parallel K_R) \ll wt(r_{2R} \parallel K_L))$ and solves the system of linear equations $\begin{pmatrix} G \\ H \end{pmatrix} X^T = \begin{pmatrix} Y'^T \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and get a unique solution $X = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$.
 - \mathcal{R} checks whether fetched ID is the same as X or not. If it holds, \mathcal{R} authenticates \mathcal{T} .
 - After that, \mathcal{R} calculates $\zeta = (Y'^T \ll wt(r_1)) \oplus ((r_{2L} \parallel (K_L \ll wt(X_R))) \ll wt((r_{1R} \parallel (K_R \ll wt(X_L))))))$ and transmits it to \mathcal{T} , also updates $IDS_{new} = ((IDS_{current} \oplus r_2) \ll wt(Y'^T \oplus r_1))$.
6. After receiving ζ from \mathcal{R} , \mathcal{T} performs the following steps:

Fig. 1 Flow diagram of the proposed protocol



- \mathcal{T} calculates $\zeta' = (Y'^T \ll wt(r_1)) \oplus ((r_{2L} \parallel K_L \ll wt(X_R)) \ll wt((r_{1R} \parallel K_R \ll wt(X_L))))$.
- Checks whether ζ' is the same as receiving ζ or not. If so, \mathcal{T} verifies \mathcal{R} and revises $IDS = ((IDS_{current} \oplus r_2) \ll wt(Y'^T \oplus r_1))$.

5 Security analysis

In this section, we analyze the security features of the proposed protocol by applying formal methodologies and informal techniques.

5.1 Formal security analysis

This section demonstrates formal security by using the following models.

5.1.1 Juel and Weis model

Juel and Weis [19] model is a challenge-response model in which the attacker tempers pseudonym numbers and shared keys after executing the model. This model comprises a system of n tags T_i and one reader R . Different messages are utilized by the adversary (\mathcal{A}): (a) The **SetKey** message assigns a new secret key to the tag. The tag receives the **SetKey** message and modifies the last key value to an unrestricted secret key. (b) The **TagInit** message is utilized to start the current session of the tag and end the prior session, and (c) The **ReaderInit** is utilized to introduce an ongoing session to a reader R . In this experiment, the objective of \mathcal{A} is to differentiate between two distinct tags within the bounds of their computational capability and functionality-call bounds. \mathcal{A} is capable of executing, sending, corrupting, and testing requests.

- **Execute**(R, T, i): This query is a passive attack in which \mathcal{A} listens in on the actual protocol execution between R and T in session i .
- **Send**(P_1, P_2, i, m): \mathcal{A} sends any message m when two parties, P_1 and P_2 are communicating in a protocol session i .
- **Corrupt**(T, k): An adversary \mathcal{A} controls the secret key k of the tag T through this query.
- **Test**(T_1, T_2, i): \mathcal{A} has to assume the bit $b \in \{0, 1\}$ correctly in order to succeed based on an identity Id_b which is picked out of $\{Id_1, Id_2\}$ for a session i . This query awards consent to testing the thought for untraceability.

Our suggested protocol is deemed secure against untraceability if and only if \mathcal{A} 's benefit in predicting the value of b is marginal. The objects and the adversary \mathcal{A} must participate in the game. The adversary's objective is to find the right tag, and both need to be fresh. The privacy model in the game is implemented in the following stages.

- **Learning phase**: \mathcal{A} initialized an Execute query so that \mathcal{A} can eavesdrop to authenticate the session between reader and tags and obtain the authentication variables γ and ζ of the proposed protocol.
- **Challenge phase**: In this phase, \mathcal{A} chooses fresh tags T_0, T_1 with identifiers Id_0, Id_1 . \mathcal{A} then sends a Test query and consequently, \mathcal{A} is given a challenge to test identifier $Id_b = \{Id_0, Id_1\}$. We consider the least significant bits (LSB), so $b = Id_{bLSB}$.
- **Guessing phase**: The accurate guess of \mathcal{A} is

$$Adv_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = |Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ wins}] - \frac{1}{2}|,$$

where t represents the security parameter. The adversary \mathcal{A} outputs a guess $b' \equiv \gamma_{LSB} \oplus \zeta_{LSB}$, which is derivable as,

$$Adv_{\mathcal{A}}(k) = |Pr[b' = b] - \frac{1}{2}| = |Pr[\gamma_{LSB} \oplus \zeta_{LSB}] - \frac{1}{2}|.$$

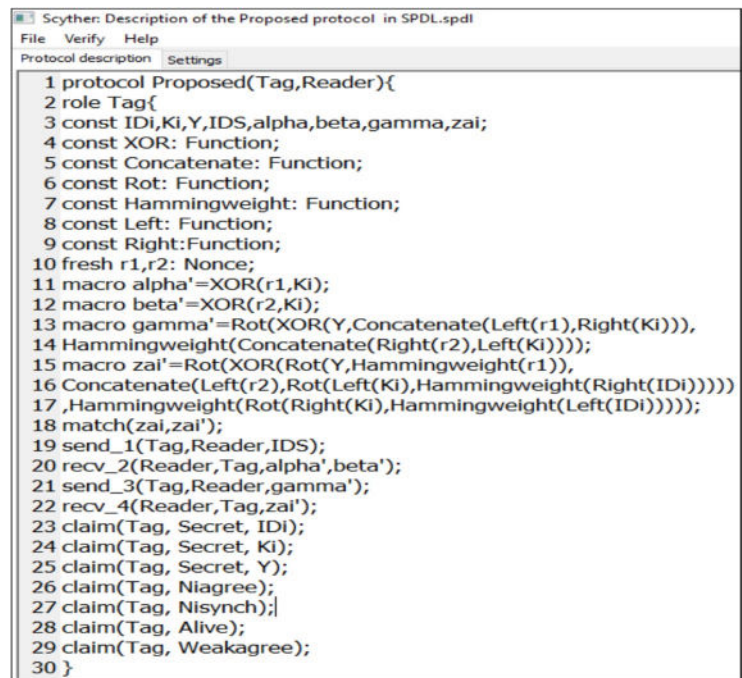
Now, $\gamma = Y^T \oplus ((r_{1L} \parallel K_R) \ll wt(r_{2R} \parallel K_L))$ and $\zeta = (Y^T \ll wt(r_1)) \oplus ((r_{2L} \parallel (K_L \ll wt(X_R))) \ll wt((r_{1R} \parallel (K_R \ll wt(X_L))))$ are still uncertain because Y^T, K are all balanced in the proposed protocol. Also, the use of two nonce r_1 and r_2 makes γ, ζ uncertain; therefore, it is difficult for \mathcal{A} to compute left shift operation. Moreover, during the game, \mathcal{A} cannot infer the K and IDS values as IDS updates in each session by using r_1 and r_2 . Thus, $Adv_{\mathcal{A}}(k) < \epsilon(k)$, some of insignificant function $\epsilon(\cdot)$. Hence, the proposed protocol cannot reveal sensitive information to the adversary \mathcal{A} . Consequently, the proposed protocol does not vulnerable to traceability attacks.

5.1.2 Formal security verification by Scyther tool simulation

In this section, we executed our proposed protocol on the Scyther tool for security verification. The Scyther tool is an automatic tool for verifying and analyzing the security properties of security protocols. The scyther tool is built with many novel features, such as multi-protocol analysis, analyzing security protocols by providing a class of attacks, unbound checking, etc., with state-of-the-art performance. It uses protocol descriptions in security protocol description language (SPDL) and tests the security claims of the protocols in different situations. In addition, the Scyther tool automatically creates security claims for a protocol and check them against these claims.

To write protocol descriptions in SPDL, we have to describe the protocol's behaviour in terms of its role. The communication agents perform a role. In our model, we consist of two communication agents, tag and reader. Each role specification consists of a sequence of events performed by the network agents, such as macro, send, receive, claim, etc. The role specification of the agent tag is shown in Fig. 2. It shows that the tag describes cryptographic primitives in terms of symbols like XOR, Hammingweight, Rot, etc., by using *const* keyword. It constructs messages using *macro* keyword. The tag transmits a message that contains IDS to the reader when it comes to the reader's reading spectrum through $send_1$ function. The tag receives $beta$ and $gamma$ by using $recv_2$ function from the reader. Upon receiving, the tag sends $gamma$ to the reader and receives zai from the reader using $send_3$ and $recv_4$ functions, respectively. Similarly, the role descriptions of

Fig. 2 The tag's role specification



```

Scyther: Description of the Proposed protocol in SPDL.spdl
File Verify Help
Protocol description Settings
1 protocol Proposed(Tag,Reader){
2 role Tag{
3 const IDi,Ki,Y,IDS,alpha,beta,gamma,zai;
4 const XOR: Function;
5 const Concatenate: Function;
6 const Rot: Function;
7 const Hammingweight: Function;
8 const Left: Function;
9 const Right:Function;
10 fresh r1,r2: Nonce;
11 macro alpha'=XOR(r1,Ki);
12 macro beta'=XOR(r2,Ki);
13 macro gamma'=Rot(XOR(Y,Concatenate(Left(r1),Right(Ki))),
14 Hammingweight(Concatenate(Right(r2),Left(Ki))));
15 macro zai'=Rot(XOR(Rot(Y,Hammingweight(r1)),
16 Concatenate(Left(r2),Rot(Left(Ki),Hammingweight(Right(IDi)))))
17 ,Hammingweight(Rot(Right(Ki),Hammingweight(Left(IDi))));
18 match(zai,zai');
19 send_1(Tag,Reader,IDS);
20 rcv_2(Reader,Tag,alpha',beta');
21 send_3(Tag,Reader,gamma');
22 rcv_4(Reader,Tag,zai');
23 claim(Tag, Secret, IDi);
24 claim(Tag, Secret, Ki);
25 claim(Tag, Secret, Y);
26 claim(Tag, Niagree);
27 claim(Tag, Nisynch);
28 claim(Tag, Alive);
29 claim(Tag, Weakagree);
30 }

```

the reader are shown in Fig. 3. Each role specification concludes with a list of claim events. Claim events such as *secret*, *Niagree*, *Alive*, *Weakagree* are security properties we want to verify in the proposed protocol. The Scyther tool simulation result is shown in Fig. 4. It demonstrates the validity of the proposed protocol and has no vulnerability within the bounds.

5.1.3 BAN logic proof

This subsection presents the correct proof of our proposed protocol by utilizing BAN logic [4]. The BAN logic is a technique that verifies the correctness of security protocols. It works on beliefs and knowledge and derives new beliefs from existing beliefs to verify the trustworthiness of network agents. The notations of BAN logic are shown in Fig. 5.

Rules The BAN logic uses the following rules:

Rule1 : $\frac{U \models U \stackrel{s}{\leftarrow} V, U \triangleleft \{M\}_s}{U \models V \sim M}$. *Rule1* says that suppose U believes that s is a secret shared between U and V, and if U receives a message M that is encrypted by the secret s, then U believes that V has sent the message M.

Rule2 : $\frac{U \models \#M_1}{U \models \#M_1, M_2}$. *Rule2* says that if U believes that a statement M_1 is fresh, U then accepts a communication that contains M_1 , $\{M_1, M_2\}$ is also fresh.



```

Scyther: Description of the Proposed protocol in SPDL.spdl
File Verify Help
Protocol description Settings
31 role Reader{
32 const IDi,Ki,Y,IDS,alpha,beta,gamma,zai;
33 const XOR: Function;
34 const Concatenate: Function;
35 const Rot: Function;
36 const Hammingweight: Function;
37 const Left: Function;
38 const Right:Function;
39 fresh r1,r2: Nonce;
40 macro alpha'=XOR(r1,Ki);
41 macro beta'=XOR(r2,Ki);
42 macro gamma'=Rot(XOR(Y,Concatenate(Left(r1),Right(Ki))),
43 Hammingweight(Concatenate(Right(r2),Left(Ki))));
44 macro zai'=Rot(XOR(Rot(Y,Hammingweight(r1)),
45 Concatenate(Left(r2),Rot(Left(Ki),Hammingweight(Right(IDi)))))
46 Hammingweight(Rot(Right(Ki),Hammingweight(Left(IDi))));
47 rcv_1(Tag,Reader,IDS);
48 send_2(Reader,Tag,alpha',beta');
49 rcv_3(Tag,Reader,gamma');
50 macro DII=XOR(gamma', Rot(Concatenate(Left(r1),Right(Ki))
51 ,Hammingweight(Concatenate(Right(r2),Left(Ki))));
52 match(IDi,DII);
53 send_4(Reader,Tag,zai');
54 claim(Reader, Secret, IDi);
55 claim(Reader, Secret, Ki);
56 claim(Reader, Secret, Y);
57 claim(Reader, Niagree);
58 claim(Reader, Nisynch);
59 claim(Reader, Alive);
60 claim(Reader, Weakagree);
61 }
62 }

```

Fig. 3 The reader's role specification

Fig. 4 Scyther tool result

Claim		Status	Comments	
Proposed	Tag			
	Proposed,Tag1	Secret IDi	Ok	No attacks within bounds.
	Proposed,Tag2	Secret Ki	Ok	No attacks within bounds.
	Proposed,Tag3	Secret Y	Ok	No attacks within bounds.
	Proposed,Tag4	Niagree	Ok	No attacks within bounds.
	Proposed,Tag5	Nisynch	Ok	No attacks within bounds.
	Proposed,Tag6	Alive	Ok	No attacks within bounds.
	Proposed,Tag7	Weakagree	Ok	No attacks within bounds.
Reader	Proposed,Reader 1	Secret IDi	Ok	No attacks within bounds.
	Proposed,Reader 2	Secret Ki	Ok	No attacks within bounds.
	Proposed,Reader 3	Secret Y	Ok	No attacks within bounds.
	Proposed,Reader 4	Niagree	Ok	No attacks within bounds.
	Proposed,Reader 5	Nisynch	Ok	No attacks within bounds.
	Proposed,Reader 6	Alive	Ok	No attacks within bounds.
	Proposed,Reader 7	Weakagree	Ok	No attacks within bounds.

Done.

Fig. 5 BAN logic notations

$U \models M$:	The network entity U believes that statement M is true.
$U \triangleleft M$:	U receives a statement M from another network entity.
$U \sim M$:	U has sent a message containing M.
$\#M$:	M is fresh.
$U \stackrel{M}{\Leftarrow} V$:	M is a secret key shared in between U and V.
$U \stackrel{M}{\leftrightarrow} V$:	M is a shared statement between two network entities U and V.
$M \vdash M_1$:	M can drive M_1 .

Now, we analyze the suggested protocol's correctness evidence by using the BAN logic symbols and rules. We divide the correctness proof into different parts as below. In the analysis, R indicates for a network agent reader, and T indicates for a network agent tag.

- Protocol descriptions:** The descriptions of the messages transmitted between a tag and a reader are as follow.
 - $T \rightarrow R: \{IDS, \gamma\}$
 - $R \rightarrow T: \{\alpha, \beta, \zeta\}$
- Protocol idealizations:** It presents the descriptions of the transmitted messages in the BAN logic terminology.
 - $T \rightarrow R: R \triangleleft \{IDS, \gamma\}$
 - $R \rightarrow T: T \triangleleft \{\alpha, \beta, \zeta\}$
- Initial assumptions:** The initial assumptions are as follows.
 - $T \models \#r_1, \#r_2$
 - $R \models R \stackrel{ID, K}{\Leftarrow} T$

$$3. T \mid \equiv T \stackrel{ID, K}{\rightleftharpoons} R$$

$$4. T \mid \equiv T \stackrel{IDS}{\rightleftharpoons} R$$

4. **Protocol goals:** The security goals are as below.

$$1. R \mid \equiv T \mid \sim \gamma$$

$$2. T \mid \equiv R \mid \sim \zeta$$

$$3. T \mid \equiv \# \gamma$$

5. **Proof process:** In this part, we demonstrate the proof process of the security goals. From idealization (a), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & R \quad \triangleleft \{IDS, \gamma\} \\ & R \quad \triangleleft \{\gamma\} \\ \Rightarrow R & \triangleleft \{Y^T \oplus ((r_{1L} \parallel K_R) \ll wt(r_{2R} \parallel K_L))\} \quad (5.1) \\ \Rightarrow R & \quad \mid \equiv Y^T \\ \Rightarrow R & \quad \mid \equiv g_i.ID^T \end{aligned}$$

From Rule1 and Eq. 5.1, we get

$$R \mid \equiv T \mid \sim \gamma.$$

Thus, goal 1 is achieved. According to protocol idealization (b), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & T \quad \triangleleft \{\alpha, \beta, \zeta\} \\ \Rightarrow T & \quad \mid \equiv r_1 \text{ and } r_2 \quad (\text{extracts from } \alpha \text{ and } \beta) \\ \Rightarrow T & \quad \mid \equiv \zeta \\ & \parallel (K_L \ll wt(X_R)) \ll wt((r_{1R} \parallel (K_R \ll wt(X_L)))) \quad (5.2) \end{aligned}$$

From Rule1 and Eq. 5.2, we get

$$T \mid \equiv R \mid \sim \zeta$$

Hence, protocol goal 2 is proved. From idealization (a), we get

$$T \mid \sim \gamma \quad (5.3)$$

From Rule2 and Eq. 5.3, we get

$$T \mid \equiv \# \gamma$$

Hence, goal 3 is proved. 5.2 Informal security analysis

This section offers an informal discussion of the proposed protocol's security aspects. We demonstrate that our protocol can withstand many known assaults. Table 2 compares different comparable authentication protocols in terms of security analysis.

1. Confidentiality- All the transmitted messages are in the form of ciphertext in the proposed protocol. Therefore, it is challenging for an adversary to extricate the values ID and K from the transmitted message γ due to the shift operation from the left half.
2. Integrity- The secret values (ID , K) of the protocol are only known by the tag and the server. These values are used to compute γ and ζ , which are transmitted between two entities. Therefore, if an adversary attacks the authentication process by changing the sent values, the process will be halted, and the attacks can be effortlessly distinguished. Therefore, it is impossible to send secret values directly during communication; rather, our improved protocol guarantees the security of the sent secret data.
3. Impersonation attack- In our protocol, the initiator assigns a unique identity and IDS for each tag. In each session, random numbers and IDS are updated. So, if an adversary eavesdrops on a session, he/she cannot get the identity of the tag and the secret value K .

Table 2 Security performance comparison

Protocol	[34] (2015)	[36] (2017)	[30] (2020)	[10] (2021)	[3] (2021)	[32] (2022)	[5] (2022)	[22] (2023)	Proposed
Private data leakage	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	ND	×
Confidentiality	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Integrity	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×
Traceability attack	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Mutual authentication	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
De-synchronization attack	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Man-in-middle attack	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	×	ND	×
Replay attack	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Tag anonymity	ND	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Impersonation attack	×	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	×
Disclosure attack	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×

ND - Not Discussed, ✓ - Vulnerable, × - Not Vulnerable

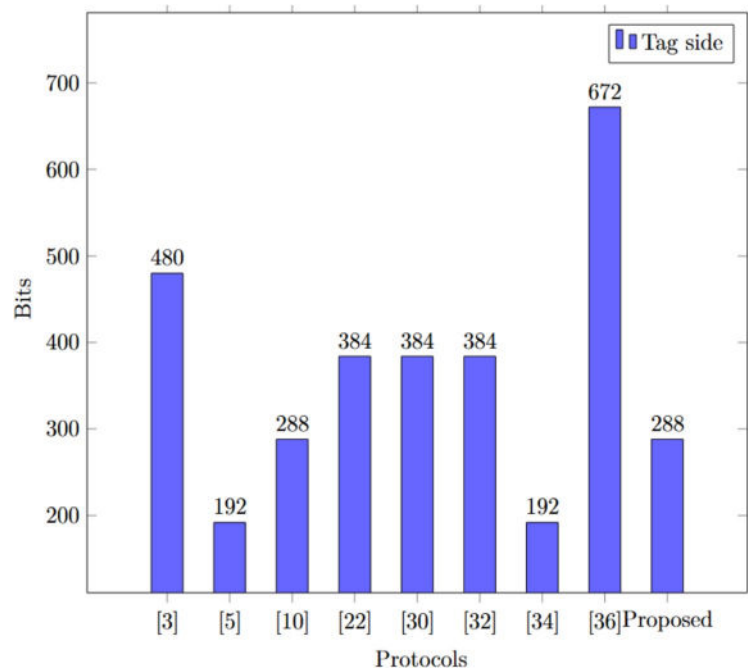
Therefore, the adversary cannot impersonate an honest tag. Additionally, if the adversary wants to imitate as an honest server, he/she should start a substantial verification reaction in the type of ζ . Since random numbers are refreshed in every session, and K is a secret value, the adversary cannot deliver a valid request on behalf of the server. So, the proposed protocol prevents server impersonation attacks.

4. De-synchronization- For each tag, we keep two pseudonyms on the server side. IDS_{old} utilized in the previous effective authentication session, and IDS_{new} which is utilized in the current session. If an adversary changes the sent messages, the server only updates the IDS , but the tag does not update. Then, in the later authentication process, as soon as the tag sends its IDS to the server, the server matches IDS with the IDS_{new} , but it does not match. So, the server compares IDS with IDS_{old} , and the process continues for authentication. Hence, the proposed protocol can stand up to de-synchronization attacks.
5. Replay attack- By replying, an adversary can utilize the intercepted data to confirm that the tag is a legitimate one. In the proposed protocol, the value of γ depends on the nonce r_1 and r_2 , which are different in different sessions. Therefore, the adversary may eavesdrop on an authentication session and collect data, but the protocol will terminate when he/she tries to replay older messages.
6. Man-in-middle attack- It is an active eavesdropping, where the adversary starts independent connections with the reader or the tag and transfers messages between them. Though the adversary intercepts the values γ and ζ , if he/she is unknown, the values K and IDS , the man-in-middle attack cannot be completed. Accordingly, our proposed protocol can oppose this kind of attack.
7. Disclosure attack- In the proposed protocol, the secrets are K and ID . To resist the disclosure of the secrets, the tag utilizes a left shift operator between the values of K , r_1 and r_2 , which are different in each session. The authentication protocol is, therefore, not compromised by any secret disclosure.
8. Mutual authentication- In our protocol, the server authenticates the tag by comparing X and ID . The tag also authenticates the server by comparing the received value ζ and the calculated value ζ' . Hence, both the valid tag and the server are authenticated.
9. Anonymity- Since there is no plain message transmitted across the channel, the key component can ensure security. To protect the tag's privacy, we used left shift operations and random numbers in the proposed protocol in each authentication session so that an adversary cannot trace the tag's location. Also, the legitimate tag and reader provide these random numbers. As a result, the tag's identity cannot be tracked by an adversary.
10. The leakage of short-term secret attack- If an adversary knows the temporary secrets r_1 and r_2 , he/she cannot calculate Γ or ζ because he/she does not know the values ID and K of the tag. Thence, our protocol can defend against the leakage of short-term secret attacks.
11. Collaborative attack mitigation: While collaborative attacks typically involve multiple compromised tags or readers sharing information to breach system security, our protocol inherently limits the effectiveness of such strategies. The protocol ensures that each tag maintains a unique secret key and identity that is not shared or derivable across tags. Furthermore, session-based randomness (via fresh nonces r_1, r_2) and pseudonym updates prevent one tag from leveraging knowledge of another. We have elaborated on these safeguards to emphasize their resistance to collusion-based inference.
12. Denial of service (DoS) attack resilience: Although DoS attacks aim to overwhelm or disrupt system functionality rather than compromise data confidentiality, our protocol minimizes the impact of such attacks by using lightweight computations (only shift and XOR operations) and efficient session handling. Additionally, the server's $O(1)$ search complexity and the dual-pseudonym mechanism (IDS_{old} and IDS_{new}) allow rapid recovery from session mismatches without requiring heavy computation or manual resets, which can otherwise be exploited in DoS scenarios. We have included a brief description of these resilience features in the informal security analysis.
13. Resistance to lost tag attacks: In practical RFID deployments, the risk of lost or stolen tags is a critical security concern. The protocol incorporates several mechanisms to enhance security, particularly in the event of a lost RFID tag. It enforces mutual authentication between the tag and the reader, ensuring that an adversary cannot impersonate a lost tag without also being authenticated by the server. The tag's confidential parameters, such as its secret key (K) and identity (ID), are never transmitted in plaintext; instead, communication relies on random nonces (r_1, r_2) and secure cryptographic operations like bitwise manipulation and circular shifts. Additionally, the pseudonym (IDS) is dynamically updated after each session, rendering any previously captured pseudonym obsolete and useless for replay attacks. On the server side, monitoring mechanisms are in place to track both the old and new pseudonyms (IDS_{old} and IDS_{new}). If a tag presents an outdated or mismatched pseudonym, common in cases of cloning or loss, the server can detect the inconsistency and deny access or flag the event. Together, these strategies significantly reduce the risk of unauthorized access or misuse due to lost RFID tags.

Table 3 Computation cost comparison

Protocol	Entity	[34] (2015)	[36] (2017)	[30] (2020)	[10] (2021)	[3] (2021)	[32] (2022)	[5] (2022)	[22] (2023)	Proposed
Rot/ Ref/ Cro/	T	×	4 (Rot)	2 (ME), 1 (FM)	3 (ChM)	×	3 (Cro), 2 (Rot)	×	2 (Rot), 4 (Ref)	5 (Rot)
SSLE/ FMI/ ChM	R+S	×	4 (Rot)	1 (ME), 1 (FMI), 1 (FM)	4 (ChM)	×	3 (Cro), 2 (Rot)	×	2 (Rot), 4 (Ref)	5 (Rot), 1 (SSLE)
Hash	T	5	×	2	6	4	×	9	×	×
	R+S	6	×	2	4	6	×	9	×	×
No. of PRNG	T	1	×	2	2	1	×	1	×	×
	R+S	1	×	1	1	2	×	2	×	×
Required memory	T	2L	7L	4L	3L	5L	4L	2L	4L	3L
Searching Complexity		$O(N)$	$O(N)$	$O(1)$	$O(N)$	$O(1)$	$O(1)$	$O(N)$	$O(1)$	$O(1)$

T - Tag-side, R - Reader-side, S - Server-side, Cro - Cross operation, Ref- Reformation, Rot - Rotation, ChM- Chaotic map, SSLE - Solving System of Linear Equations, FMI - Field Multiplicative Inverse, FM - Field Multiplication

Fig. 6 Storage cost analysis

6 Performance analysis

In this portion, we assess the effectiveness of the proposed protocol's storage, computational, and communication costs by contrasting it and some related protocols [3, 5, 10, 22, 30, 32, 34, 36].

6.1 Storage cost analysis

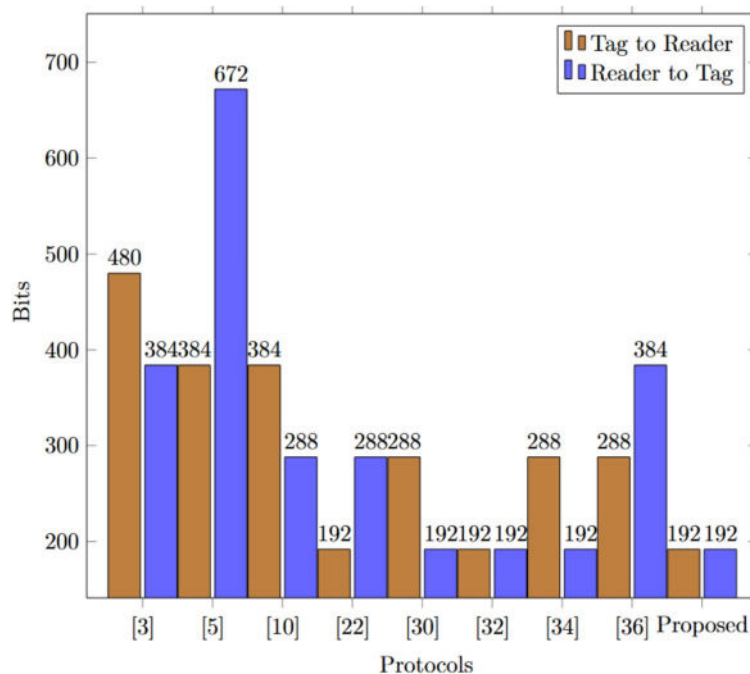
The tag's memory is exceptionally restricted compared with the reader and the server. In the proposed protocol, we stored ID , K , and IDS , which are $3L$ bits of memory on the tag side. Every parameter length is $L = 96$ bits according to RFID EPCglobal, so the tag side storage of the proposed protocol is 288 bits, which is less than some existing protocols

except [5] and [34], as mentioned in Table 3. However, both the protocols are vulnerable to various attacks, as shown in Table 2. Moreover, the storage cost analysis is given graphically in Fig. 6.

6.2 Computational cost analysis

To lower the processing cost, we do not employ ECC, hash function, and modular exponentiation because these cryptographic primitives have high computational costs. We used only 2 pseudo-random numbers, circular shift operations, and bitwise operations. Hence, our protocol is more effective and can be implemented for low-cost tags in RFID systems. Table 3 shows the computation cost of the proposed protocol and other comparable protocols.

Fig. 7 Communication cost analysis



6.3 Communication cost analysis

In the proposed protocol, the tag transmitted two messages IDS and γ to the reader. Hence, the total communication cost is $2L$ bits. Considering $L = 96$, the total communication cost from the tag to the reader is $2 \times 96 = 192$ bits, and the total transmission expense from the reader to the tag is 192 bits. We give a graphical comparison of our protocol with some associated RFID-based protocols in Fig. 7. The graph shows our proposed protocol has minimal communication costs comparing the associated protocols.

6.4 Server inquiry difficulty

The search complexity of the proposed authentication protocol is commonly measured by the back-end server when it searches for a match record in its database. The back-end server only matches the ID string IDS and the tag identity ID with the database once during a single search attempt during the authentication phase. Therefore, the search complexity is constant, i.e., $O(1)$, which gives better scalability.

6.5 The Benefits of the suggested protocol

RFID adaption is one of the integrated information technologies in medicine and healthcare. RFID technology is becoming more and more prevalent for a variety of applications, including TMIS. Through a wireless channel, RFID technology in healthcare can verify the validity of patients and doctors. However, because these services are provided through an unsecured channel, this system is subject to a variety of assaults [3, 5, 10].

To address privacy and security concerns, we developed a mutual authentication mechanism based on the features of LCD codes and circular left shift operations. The benefits of the suggested protocol are as follows-

1. The suggested protocol uses only 3 rotation operations on the tag side. Hence, the protocol is suitable for low-cost RFID tags.
2. The tag-side storage is $3L$ -bits which is small compared to the other protocols except [5, 34].
3. The proposed protocol used the server search complexity $O(1)$ for better scalability.
4. The communication cost between tag and reader is $2L$ -bits, which is comparatively less than other related protocols, as shown in Figure 7.
5. The Scyther simulation tool performs the security verification, as shown in Fig. 4. These findings show that the proposed protocol is immune to certain potential attacks.

6.6 Discussion

Additionally, practical issues like signal interference, prevalent in hospital settings due to metal surfaces, wireless congestion, or electromagnetic noise, are acknowledged as physical-layer concerns. While these factors may affect communication reliability, the protocol's use of dynamic pseudonyms and session-based randomization ensures that disrupted sessions do not compromise security. In future implementations, these challenges can be further mitigated by integrating error detection mechanisms and collision-avoidance techniques at the system level. We also recognize the growing impact

of emerging technologies such as quantum computing [16]. Although our current design prioritizes efficiency in classical environments, we plan to extend the protocol by incorporating lightweight post-quantum cryptographic primitives, such as lattice-based or code-based constructions, to withstand quantum attacks. Exploring hybrid designs that balance quantum resistance with minimal resource overhead will be a key direction for future work, ensuring the protocol remains secure and scalable in next-generation IoT and healthcare infrastructures.

7 Conclusion

We have given in this article an ultralightweight authentication RFID-based protocol for healthcare systems. We have used LCD codes, shift operators, and some basic operations to avoid high computation costs. We have shown that the proposed protocol could prevent various vulnerabilities and ensure mutual authentication. We used the BAN logic and Scyther simulation tools to demonstrate the formal security verification. Using the Juels and Weis model, we have shown that our protocol is safe against tag untraceability. In addition, performance evaluations reveal that the suggested protocol is more cost-effective for storage, communication, and computation. As a result, healthcare settings can benefit from implementing our protocol. It is also a real-world application that uses online treatment to protect humans from attackers. To improve the protocol's efficiency, we will consider developing a lattice-based key agreement protocol for TMIS in future work.

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Author Contributions The authors H. Ghosh and P. Maurya conceived the idea and wrote the manuscript. P. Maurya prepared all figures, and H. Ghosh prepared all tables in the manuscript. S. Bagchi contributed an overview and overall organisation. All authors reviewed the results and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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Data Availability No datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

Declarations

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Consent for publication Not applicable.

Competing interests The authors declare no competing interests.

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