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Directed Transitive Signature on Directed Tree[1]

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Abstract. In early 2000's, Rivest [1,2] and Micali [2] introduced the notion of *transitive signature*, which allows a third party with public key to generate a valid signature for a composed edge (v_i, v_k), from the signatures for two edges (v_i, v_j) and (v_j, v_k). Since then, a number of works, including [2,3,4,5,6], have been devoted on transitive signatures. Most of them address the undirected transitive signature problem, and the directed transitive signature is still an open problem. S. Hohenberger [4] even showed that a directed transitive signature implies a complex mathematical group, whose existence is still unknown. Recently, a few directed transitive signature schemes [7,8] on directed trees are proposed. The drawbacks of these schemes include: the size of composed signature increases linearly with the number of nested applications of composition and the creating history of composed edge is not hidden properly. This paper presents a RSA-Accumulator [9] based scheme **DTTS**—a *Directed*-Tree-Transitive Signature scheme, to address these issues. Like previous works [7,8], **DTTS** is designed only for directed trees, however, it features with constant (composed) signature size and privacy-preserving property. We prove that **DTTS** is transitively unforgeable under adaptive chosen message attack in the standard model.

Keywords. Homomorphic Signature, Transitive Signature, Directed Transitive Signature, Redactable Signature, Privacy-Preserving

1. Introduction

In 2000, Rivest [1] introduced the notion of homomorphic signatures (formalized in [10, 11] etc.) and proposed an open problem on the existence of directed transitive signatures. Later, Micali and Rivest [2] proposed the first undirected transitive signature scheme, and raised the directed transitive signature as open problem again and officially. A transitive signature scheme aims to authenticate the transitive closure of a dynamically growing graph [7]. The scheme works in this way: a signer has a pair of public/private signing key, and is able to sign a new vertex or edge when it is generated at any time. Unlike standard digital signature, the transitive signature scheme supports a transitive property. That is,

[1] A full version is available at Cryptology ePrint Archive https://eprint.iacr.org/2009/209

given the signatures $\sigma_{i,j}$ and $\sigma_{j,k}$ of edges (v_i, v_j) and (v_j, v_k) respectively, anyone can produce a signature $\sigma_{i,k}$ for composed edge (v_i, v_k) using the public key only, where v_i, v_j, and v_k are vertices, and $(v_i, v_j), (v_j, v_k)$ are edges in a graph. If the graph is undirected, such scheme is called *undirected transitive signature* scheme; if the graph is directed, it is called *directed transitive signature* scheme. This paper attempts to attack the directed transitive signature problem in a restricted but meaningful setting: (1) The graph is a rooted directed tree (arborescence); (2) When composing two signatures of two adjacent edges, the second signature must be provided by the original signer.

Since Rivest's talk in 2000, a number of undirected transitive signature schemes [2,3,5,6,12,13] have been proposed. However, the directed transitive signature is still an open problem [4,8], although some plausible directed transitive signature schemes [14,7,8] on restricted directed graphs, like directed tree, have been proposed. Y. Xun et al. [15] pointed out that Kuwakado-Tanaka transitive signature scheme [14] on directed trees is insecure under chosen message attack by proposing a forgery attack. Y. Xun [7] also proposed a transitive signature scheme **RSADTS** on directed trees , but the (composed) signature size is not constant. G. Neven [8] pointed out that it would be much easier to construct a directed transitive signature scheme (on directed tree) if the signature size is allowed to grow linearly, and gave a simple scheme as a demonstration. So far, to our knowledge, there is no known transitive signature scheme on directed trees, which is provably secure and has constant signature size. Table 1 and Table 2 compare various transitive signature schemes appeared in literatures with **DTTS** proposed in this paper, from different aspects.

Scheme	Signing cost	Verification cost	Composi-tion cost	Signature size	Compos-ed Signature size	Supported Graph
DLTS [2]	2 stand. sigs. 2 exp. in **G**	2 stand. verifs 1 exp. in **G**	2 adds in $\mathbb{Z}_q$	2 stand. sigs 2 points in **G** 2 points in $\mathbb{Z}_q$	constant	undirected graph
RSATS-1 [2]	2 stand. sigs. 2 RSA encs	2 stand. verifs 1 RSA enc.	$O(\|n\|^2)$ ops	2 stand. sigs. 3 points in $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$	constant	undirected graph
F*act***TS**-1 [6]	2 stand. sigs $O(\|n\|^2)$ ops	2 stand. verifs $O(\|n\|^2)$ ops	$O(\|n\|^2)$ ops	2 stand. sigs 3 points in $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$	constant	undirected graph
G*ap***TS**-1 [6]	2 stand. sigs 2 exp. in $\hat{\mathbb{G}}$	2 stand. verifs 1 S_{ddh}	$O(\|n\|^2)$ ops	2 stand. sigs. 3 points in $\hat{\mathbb{G}}$	constant	undirected graph
RSADTS [7]	2 stand. sigs 1 exp. in $\langle \mathscr{G} \rangle$	2 stand. verifs 1 exp. in $\langle \mathscr{G} \rangle$	$\leq \|M\|$ ops	2 stand. sigs 2 points in $\langle \mathscr{G} \rangle$ 1 label $\delta_{i,j} \leq M$	increase	directed tree
DTTS (This paper)	$\leq$ 2 stand. sigs 2 exp. in $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$	2 stand. verifs 2 exp. in $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$	1 exp. in $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$	2 stand. sigs. 3† points in $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$	constant	directed tree (Arborescence)

Table 1. Performance comparison among transitive signature schemes([6,7]). †: The left labels in a signature can be reduced using a hash function (See our full version [16]).

In **RSADTS**, each edge (i, j) is associated with a random number $r_{i,j}$ as the label. Given two adjacent edges (i, j) and (j, k) and their signatures, anyone with public key can produce a signature for the composed edge (i, k), whose label is the integer product $r_{i,j} \times r_{j,k}$. If we apply the transitive property recursively, the length of the label of the newly composed edge increases linearly with the depth of the recursion. Furthermore, the integer multiplication reveals some information about the creating history of the newly composed edge: if the original random numbers chosen by the signer are small, then adversaries could factorize the integer product; otherwise the bit-length of the product may reveal significant information about the number of multiplications, which implies the length of the path used to create the composed edge.

The directed transitive signature scheme **DTTS** on directed tree proposed in this paper, is inspired by the relation between transitive signature and redactable signature (Chang et al. [17]), and is different from previous schemes at least in these aspects: (1) It is provably secure under adaptive chosen message attack; (2) The length of signature of a composed edge is constant; (3) The creating history of a composed edge is hidden properly; (4) The directed tree supported by **DTTS** is slightly more restricted (precisely, every vertex has at most one incoming edge) than that of **RSADTS** (See Section 2); (5) When the transitive property is applied repeatedly on a path, for example path $i_1 \to i_2 \to i_3 \to i_4$, the order of nested applications is predetermined. That is, compose a signature for (i_1, i_3) first from signatures of edge (i_1, i_2) and edge (i_2, i_3), then compose a signature for (i_1, i_4) from signatures of edge (i_1, i_3) and edge (i_3, i_4). This is because, in **DTTS**, Comp requires the second edge is original, i.e. signed directly by the original signer. Note that the last difference does not restrict the power of transitive property of **DTTS**. Instead, this difference can be treated as a feature, and can be utilized to provide the signer with control on composition (See our full version [16] for details).

Scheme	Assumptions for Provable Security	Privacy Preserving	How to grow?	Persis-tent Vertex?
DLTS [2]	Security of standard signature scheme; Hardness of discrete logarithm in prime order group	Perfect,Transparent	Arbitrarily	No
RSATS-1 [2]	Security of standard signature scheme; RSA is secure against one-more-inversion attack	Perfect,Transparent	Arbitrarily	No
F*act*TS-1 [6]	Security of standard signature scheme; Hardness of factoring	Perfect,Transparent	Arbitrarily	No
G*ap*TS-1 [6]	Security of standard signature scheme; One-more gap Diffie-Hellman assumption	Perfect,Transparent	Arbitrarily	No
RSADTS [7]	Security of standard signature scheme; RSA Inversion Problem in a Cyclic Group is hard	No (due to integer multiplication)	From a single source	No
DTTS (This paper)	Security of standard signature scheme; Strong RSA Problem is hard	Computational,Non-Transparent	From a single source	Yes

Table 2. All of these schemes are transitive unforgeable under adaptive chosen-message attack in standard model [6].

1.1. Contributions of this paper

Directed transitive signature is a hard open problem. We attack this problem from a different angle in a simplified but meaningful setting: (1) The graph is a directed tree (arborescence); (2) When composing two signatures of two adjacent edges, the second signature must not be a composed signature itself. The contributions of this paper include:

1. We present **DTTS**, a directed transitive signature scheme on directed trees with constant signature size (Section 3.1).
2. We prove that **DTTS** is transitively unforgeable under adaptive chosen message attack in standard model, and the creating history of composed signature is hidden properly (Section 3.2).

2. Definitions

Notations. Let $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \ldots\}$ be the set of integers. The notation $x \leftarrow a$ denotes that x is assigned a value a, and $x \xleftarrow{\$} S$ denotes that x is randomly selected from the set S. Let Prime be the set of all odd prime numbers.

Graph. Let $G = (V, E)$ be a simple directed graph with a set V of nodes (or vertices) v_i's and a set E of directed edges. In this paper, we focus on directed trees. Note that there exist different definitions of directed tree in the literature: (1)A directed tree is a directed graph that would be a (undirected) tree if ignoring the direction of edges; (2)A directed tree (or *Arborescence*) is a directed graph, where edges are all directed away from a particular vertex. The second definition is slightly more restricted than the first one. In this paper, we adopt the second definition for directed tree and the term "directed tree" refers to arborescence by default. Notice that Y. Xun [7] adopted the first definition of directed tree and G. Neven [8] adopted the second definition.

A *transitive closure* of a directed graph $G = (V, E)$, is a directed graph, denoted as $\widetilde{G} = (V, \widetilde{E})$, where $(v_i, v_j) \in \widetilde{E}$ if and only if there is a directed path from vertex v_i to vertex v_j in graph G.

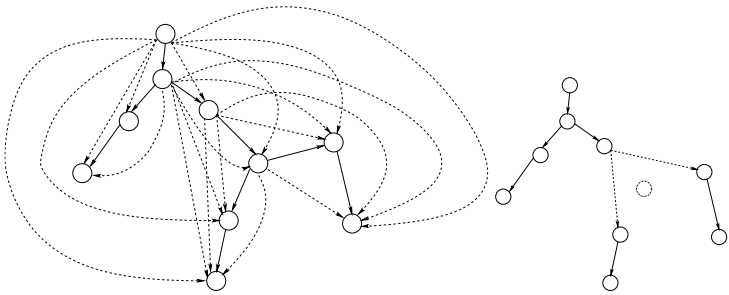
Directed Transitive Signature Scheme. A directed transitive signature scheme $\mathbf{DTS} = (\mathsf{TKG}, \mathsf{TSign}, \mathsf{TVf}, \mathsf{Comp})$ is specified by four polynomial-time algorithms, and the functionality is as follows [6,7]:

- The randomized *key generation* algorithm TKG takes as input 1^k, where k is the security parameter, and returns a pair of keys (tpk, tsk), where tpk is the public key and tsk is the private key.
- The *signing* algorithm TSign could be randomized or/and stateful. TSign takes the private key tsk, two vertices v_i and v_j, and returns a value called an *original signature* of the edge (v_i, v_j) relative to tsk. If stateful, it maintains a state which it updates upon each invocation.
- The deterministic *verification* algorithm TVf, given tpk, two vertices v_i, v_j and a candidate signature σ, returns either `TRUE` or `FALSE`. We say that σ is a *valid signature* of edge (v_i, v_j) relative to tsk, if the output is `TRUE`.
- The deterministic *composition* algorithm Comp takes as input tpk, two directed edges (v_i, v_j) and (v_j, v_k) and two signatures $\sigma_{i,j}$ and $\sigma_{j,k}$, and returns either a *composed signature* $\sigma_{i,k}$ of the composed edge (v_i, v_k), or $\perp$ to indicate failure.

An edge e is called *original edge* if $e \in E$, or *composed edge* if $e \in \widetilde{E} - E$. All original edges are signed by the signer using TSign and tsk, and all composed edges could be indirectly signed by anyone using Comp and tpk.

Two different views of Transitive Signatures. Transitive signatures are originally designed to authenticate a transitively closed graph in an economic way, i.e. sign as least as possible number of vertices and edges to authenticate a transitively closed graph. Viewed from another angle, transitive signatures are actually redactable signatures on growing graph (Figure 1). The redaction operation can be implemented straightforwardly just using the composition operation Comp.

Correctness, Security and Privacy. We slightly modify the definitions of correctness and security of (directed) transitive signature scheme in [6,7] to adapt for **DTTS**. We also formalize the definition of privacy of transitive signatures when viewed as redactable signatures. Due to space constraint, we will leave details of these definitions to our full version [16].



(a) Transitive Closure (b) Redaction

Figure 1. This graph illustrates the two different views of transitive property. In Subfigure (a), composed edges represented by dashed lines are signed indirectly by applying composition operation Comp. In this graph of 10 vertices and 29 edges, 9 original edges are signed directly using TSign, and the signatures of the other 20 composed edges (dashed line) can be saved due to transitive property. In Subfigure (b), a vertex represented by the dashed circle is redacted from the graph, and the edges connecting its parent and children are created and signed by applying Comp.

3. DTTS: Transitive Signature on Directed Tree

3.1. The scheme

Let $\mathbf{SDS} = (\mathsf{SKG}, \mathsf{SSign}, \mathsf{SVf})$ be a standard signature scheme (For example, the signature scheme proposed by Goldwasser et al [18]). We define the directed transitive signature scheme $\mathbf{DTTS} = (\mathsf{TKG}, \mathsf{TSign}, \mathsf{TVf}, \mathsf{Comp})$ as follows.

$\mathsf{TKG}(1^k)$. The key generation algorithm TKG taking 1^k as input, runs as follows:

1. Run $\mathsf{SKG}(1^k)$ to generate a key pair (spk, ssk).
2. Choose a RSA modulus $n = pq$, such that $p = 2p'+1, q = 2q'+1$, p, q, p' and q' are all prime, and $|p| = |q|$. Let Carmichael function $\lambda(n) = lcm(p-1, q-1)$.
3. Choose an element g from $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$, such that the multiplicative order of g modulo n is p'. Let $\langle g \rangle$ denote the subgroup of $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$ generated by g. Let $\mathscr{P}$ denote the set of all odd primes in $\mathbb{Z}_{p'}$, i.e. $\mathscr{P} = \mathbb{Z}_{p'} \cap \mathsf{Prime}$.
4. Output $tpk = (spk, n)$ as the public key and $tsk = (ssk, \lambda(n), p', g)$ as the private key.

$\mathsf{TSign}_{tsk}(v_i, v_j)$. The signing algorithm TSign maintains a state $(V, E, L, \Pi, \Delta, \Sigma)$:

- $V \subset \{0,1\}^*$ is a set of queried nodes;
- $E \subset V \times V$ is a set of directed edges;
- The function $L : V \to \mathscr{P} \times \mathbb{Z}_n^*$ assigns to each node $v \in V$ a public label $L(v)$, which consists of a prime (called left label, denoted as $L_{\mathscr{L}}(v)$) from $\mathscr{P}$ and an element (called right label, denoted as $L_{\mathscr{R}}(v)$) from $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$ ($L(v) \equiv (L_{\mathscr{L}}(v), L_{\mathscr{R}}(v))$);
- The set Π records all prime numbers chosen in the signing process;
- The function $\Delta : E \to \mathbb{Z}_n^*$ assigns to each edge $(v_i, v_j) \in E$ a label $\delta_{i,j}$;
- The function $\Sigma : V \to \{0,1\}^*$ assigns to each node $v \in V$ a standard signature $\Sigma(v)$.

Initially, all of V, E and Π are empty sets. When invoked on input v_i, v_j ($v_i \neq v_j$) and tsk, the signing algorithm TSign runs as follows:

1. Case 1: $v_i, v_j \notin V$, i.e. neither vertex v_i or vertex v_j is signed.

(a) Choose r_i randomly from $\mathscr{P}-\Pi$: $r_i \xleftarrow{\$} \mathscr{P}-\Pi$. Update Π: $\Pi \leftarrow \Pi \cup \{r_i\}$.
(b) The left label $L_{\mathscr{L}}(v_i)$ of v_i is: $L_{\mathscr{L}}(v_i) \leftarrow r_i$. The right label $L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_i)$ of v_i is: $L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_i) \leftarrow g^{r_i} \mod n$.
(c) Choose r_j randomly from $\mathscr{P}-\Pi$: $r_j \xleftarrow{\$} \mathscr{P}-\Pi$. Update Π: $\Pi \leftarrow \Pi \cup \{r_j\}$.
(d) The left label $L_{\mathscr{L}}(v_j)$ of v_j is: $L_{\mathscr{L}}(v_j) \leftarrow r_j$. The right label $L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_j)$ of v_j is: $L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_j) \leftarrow L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_i)^{r_j} \mod n$.
(e) $\Sigma(v_i) \leftarrow \mathsf{SSign}_{ssk}(v_i, r_i, L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_i))$; $\Sigma(v_j) \leftarrow \mathsf{SSign}_{ssk}(v_j, r_j, L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_j))$.
(f) The certificate of v_i is: $C(v_i) \leftarrow (v_i, r_i, L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_i), \Sigma(v_i))$. The certificate of v_j is: $C(v_j) \leftarrow (v_j, r_j, L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_j), \Sigma(v_j))$
(g) The label of the edge (v_i, v_j) is: $\Delta(v_i, v_j) \leftarrow g$.

2. Case 2: $v_i \in V, v_j \notin V$, i.e. vertex v_i is signed already but vertex v_j is not signed yet.

(a) Let the certificate of v_i be $C(v_i) = (v_i, r_i, L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_i), \Sigma(v_i))$, where $r_i = L_{\mathscr{L}}(v_i)$.
(b) Randomly choose r_j from $\mathscr{P}-\Pi$: $r_j \xleftarrow{\$} \mathscr{P}-\Pi$. Update Π: $\Pi \leftarrow \Pi \cup \{r_j\}$.
(c) The left label $L_{\mathscr{L}}(v_j)$ of v_j is: $L_{\mathscr{L}}(v_j) \leftarrow r_j$. The right label of v_j is $L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_j) \leftarrow L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_i)^{r_j} \mod n$.
(d) The certificate of vertex v_j is $C(v_j) \leftarrow (v_j, r_j, L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_j), \Sigma(v_j))$, where $\Sigma(v_j) \leftarrow \mathsf{SSign}_{ssk}(v_j, r_j, L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_j))$.
(e) The label of the edge (v_i, v_j) is: $\Delta(v_i, v_j) \leftarrow L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_i)^{\frac{1}{r_i}} \mod n$.

3. Case 3: $v_i \notin V, v_j \in V$, i.e. vertex v_j is signed already but vertex v_i is not signed yet.

(a) Let the certificate of v_j be $C(v_j) = (v_j, r_j, L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_j), \Sigma(v_j))$, where $r_j = L_{\mathscr{L}}(v_j)$.
(b) Randomly choose r_i from $\mathscr{P}-\Pi$: $r_i \xleftarrow{\$} \mathscr{P}-\Pi$. Update Π: $\Pi \leftarrow \Pi \cup \{r_i\}$.
(c) The left label $L_{\mathscr{L}}(v_i)$ of v_i is: $L_{\mathscr{L}}(v_i) \leftarrow r_i$. The right label of v_i is: $L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_i) \leftarrow L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_j)^{\frac{1}{r_j}} \mod n$.
(d) The certificate of vertex v_i is: $C(v_i) \leftarrow (v_i, r_i, L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_i), \Sigma(v_i))$, where $\Sigma(v_i) \leftarrow \mathsf{SSign}_{ssk}(v_i, r_i, L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_i))$.
(e) The label of the edge (v_i, v_j) is: $\Delta(v_i, v_j) \leftarrow L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_i)^{\frac{1}{r_i}} \mod n$.

For all cases, update V and E: $V \leftarrow V \cup \{v_i, v_j\}, E \leftarrow E \cup \{(v_i, v_j)\}$, and output $(C(v_i), C(v_j), \Delta(v_i, v_j))$ as the signature of (v_i, v_j).

$\mathsf{TVf}_{tpk}(v_i, v_j, \sigma_{i,j})$. The verification algorithm TVf, when revoked on input tpk, nodes v_i, v_j and a candidate signature $\sigma_{i,j}$ on directed edge (v_i, v_j), runs as follows:

1. Parse $\sigma_{i,j}$ as $(C_i, C_j, \delta_{i,j})$. Parse C_i as $(v_i, r_i, L_{\mathscr{R},i}, \sigma_i))$ and parse C_j as $(v_j, r_j, L_{\mathscr{R},j}, \sigma_j)$.
2. If $\mathsf{SVf}_{spk}((v_i, r_i, L_{\mathscr{R},i}), \sigma_i) = \mathtt{FALSE}$ or $\mathsf{SVf}_{spk}((v_j, r_j, L_{\mathscr{R},j}), \sigma_j) = \mathtt{FALSE}$, then reject.
3. Accept if $\delta_{i,j}^{r_i r_j} \equiv L_{\mathscr{R},j} \pmod n$.

$\mathsf{Comp}_{tpk}(v_i, v_j, v_k, \sigma_{i,j}, \sigma_{j,k})$. The composition algorithm Comp, when invoked on input tpk, nodes v_i, v_j, v_k, and two signatures $\sigma_{i,j}$ and $\sigma_{j,k}$, runs as follows:

1. Parse $\sigma_{i,j}$ as $(C_i, C_j, \delta_{i,j})$ and $\sigma_{j,k}$ as $(C'_j, C_k, \delta_{j,k})$.
2. If C_j and C'_j are different, output $\perp$ and abort.

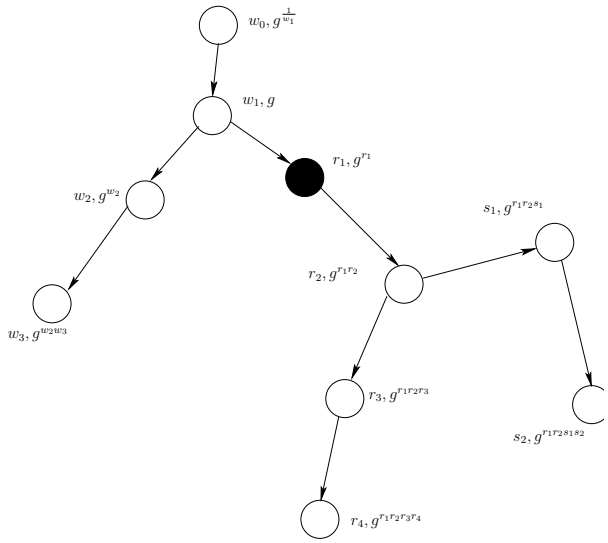


Figure 2. This figure shows the left label $L_{\mathscr{L}}(v)$ and right label $L_{\mathscr{R}}(v)$ associated with every vertex v. Note this graph grows from the vertex represented by the dark circle.

3. Parse C_i, C_j, C_k as $(v_i, r_i, L_{\mathscr{R},i}, \sigma_i), (v_j, r_j, L_{\mathscr{R},j}, \sigma_j)$ and $(v_k, r_k, L_{\mathscr{R},k}, \sigma_k)$ respectively.
4. If $\mathsf{SVf}_{spk}((v_i, r_i, L_{\mathscr{R},i}), \sigma_i) = \mathtt{FALSE}$ or $\mathsf{SVf}_{spk}((v_j, r_j, L_{\mathscr{R},j}), \sigma_j) = \mathtt{FALSE}$ or $\mathsf{SVf}_{spk}((v_k, r_k, L_{\mathscr{R},k}), \sigma_k) = \mathtt{FALSE}$, output $\perp$ and abort.
5. If $L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_j)^{r_k} \not\equiv L_{\mathscr{R}}(v_k) \mod n$, output $\perp$ and abort[2].
6. Compute $\delta_{i,k} \leftarrow \delta_{i,j}^{r_j} \mod n$.
7. Output $(C_i, C_k, \delta_{i,k})$ as the signature of edge (v_i, v_k).

Figure 2 shows the left and right labels associated with every vertex v_i.

3.2. Security

Theorem 1. **DTTS** $= (\mathsf{TKG}, \mathsf{TSign}, \mathsf{TVf}, \mathsf{Comp})$ *as defined in Section 3.1 is transitively unforgeable under adaptive chosen message attack, assuming the standard signature scheme* **SDS** $= (\mathsf{SKG}, \mathsf{SSign}, \mathsf{SVf})$ *is unforgeable under adaptive chosen message attack and the Strong RSA problem is difficult.*

4. Conclusion

In this paper, we gave the first directed transitive signature scheme **DTTS** on directed trees, which is inspired by the relationship between transitive signatures and redactable signatures. Unlike previous schemes, **DTTS** features with constant signature size and privacy preserving property. We proved that **DTTS** is transitively unforgeable and non-transparently privacy-preserving under reasonable assumptions. In summary, we solved the open problem of directed transitive signature in a relaxed setting, although in general the directed transitive signature remains open problem.

[2]This means the Comp algorithm requires that the second edge (v_j, v_k) is an original edge, i.e. signed by the signer, instead of edge generated by composing a path.

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