# A Novel Authentication Scheme for Multi-Server Environment of Industrial Internet

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#### Abstract

Aiming at the security problems of authentication in multi-server environments, a novel three-factor authentication scheme for multi-server environments of industrial Internet is proposed. After verifying password and face, a temporary session key is established for the user and server. Then the user obtains the permission of application services and accessing resources. In process of verifying password, hash function is used to hide password. The method of verifying face is the face recognition based on singular value decomposition. During the key agreement phase, only four dot multiplication operations based on elliptic curve cryptography is used to realize one-time key for cryptograph transmission and mutual authentication. Through security analysis and performance comparison, the proposed scheme has stronger robustness, higher security, better convenience and less computation cost than other similar schemes, and has high application value for multi-server environments of industrial Internet.

**Keywords:** Multi-server environment, industrial Internet, authentication, singular value decomposition, key agreement

#### I. Introduction

With the widespread application of distributed systems, the authentication schemes of application services in traditional single-server environment require users to memorize many different passwords. For this reason, people began to propose authentication protocol for the multi-server environment of industrial Internet. The users can access many servers after registering only once. The details are shown in Figure 1.

Aiming at the security problems of authentication in multi-server environments, many multi-factor authentication schemes<sup>[1-6]</sup> were proposed. However, Yoon's scheme<sup>[1]</sup> cannot resist impersonation and other attacks. Preeti's scheme<sup>[2]</sup> doesn't have strong robustness, and each authentication requires server participation; He's scheme<sup>[3]</sup> cannot effectively resist impersonation attack. Odelu's scheme<sup>[4]</sup> doesn't have strong robustness, and may suffer insider attack.

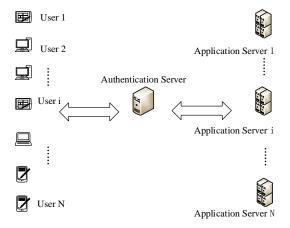


Fig. 1. Authentication framework of multi-server environment

In general, the schemes for multi-server environment can be classified into five groups in terms of the underlying intractability problem: based on discrete-logarithm-problem<sup>[7]</sup>, based on pairing<sup>[8]</sup>, based on chaotic-map<sup>[9]</sup>, based on integer-factorization-problem<sup>[10]</sup>, and based on hash<sup>[11]</sup>.

The RC online authentication mode generally leads to increase calculation and communication cost, and reduces the real-time response speed of the system. The RC offline authentication mode is vulnerable to masquerade attack. Aiming at the problems above, a novel scheme is proposed in this paper.

#### II. Paper contents

Section 3: the related theories. Section: the proposed scheme. Section 5: security analyses and comparison with other similar schemes. Section 6: performance comparison. Section 7: the conclusion is given.

#### III. Related theory

3.1 Face recognition based on singular value decomposition

Tai et al.<sup>[12]</sup> propose a novel method named learning discriminative singular value decomposition representation (LDSVDR) for face recognition. The details of the LDSVDR model are as follows.

Letting k = rank(A), face image **A** can be represented as

$$A = USV^{T} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_{i} u_{i} v_{i}^{T}$$
 (1)

$$Vec(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_i Vec(u_i v_i^T)$$
 (2)

Where  $A \in R^{m \times n}$ ,  $m \ge n$ , k is the rank of A, k = n,  $Vec(\cdot)$  is a function that converts the matrix into vector. The optimal set is  $n \times 1$ . For each face image, we can always build a basis set as  $(Vec(u_1v_1^T), \dots, Vec(u_nv_n^T)) \in R^{(m \times n) \times n}$ .

The rank of the newly formed representation image needs to introduce a scalar  $n_r$  ( $n_r \le n$ ). Eq. (2) can be rewritten as

$$Vec(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_i Vec(u_i v_i^T) \approx \sum_{i=1}^{n_r} \lambda_i Vec(u_i v_i^T)$$
(3)

Where  $\lambda_1 \ge \lambda_2 \ge \cdots \ge \lambda_k > 0 = \lambda_{k+1} = \cdots + \lambda_n = 0$ .

Letting  $\xi_i = Vec(u_i v_i^T) \in R^{(m \times n) \times 1}$ , Eq. (3) can be rewritten as

$$Vec(A) \approx \sum_{i=1}^{n_r} \lambda_i \xi_i = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_{n_r}) (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{n_r})^T \underline{\underline{\triangle}} \Psi \Phi$$

$$\tag{4}$$

where  $\Psi = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_{n_r}) \in R^{(m \times n) \times n_r}$  and  $\Phi = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{n_r})^T \in R^{n_r \times 1}$ .  $\Psi$  is the newly constructed basis set and  $\Phi$  is the coefficient set of  $\Psi$ .

The next step of the method is to seek the most discriminant weight vector  $\Phi_S = (\lambda_1^S, \lambda_2^S, \dots, \lambda_{n_r}^S)^T$ ,  $\lambda_1^S \ge \lambda_2^S \ge \dots \ge \lambda_{n_r}^S > 0$ , for constructing a new representation image B of the original image A, which can be written as

$$Vec(B) = \Psi \Phi_{s} \tag{5}$$

Then, the optimal solution can be gotten through solving several quadratic programming subproblems.

# 3.2 Elliptic curve public key cryptography

Because of the lower computational cost of an elliptic curve point multiplication operation, researchers began to pay attention to protocols based on point multiplication operation.

In 2017, Wang<sup>[13]</sup> presented a key agreement protocol by making use of operation amount is four. In 2019, Sun<sup>[14]</sup> presented Wang's protocol could not resist the temporary secret key leakage attack, proposed an improved protocol. This improved protocol is efficient with four operations of point multiplication in key agreement phase.

### IV. The proposed scheme

# 4.1 Notations description

Table 1 Notations description

Symbol	Description			
RC	Registration center			
KGC	Key generate center			
G	Additive cyclic group			
q	The order of additive cyclic group $G$			
p	A large prime number (k-bit)			
P	a generator of $G$ in finite field $F_p$			
S	Master private key			
$P_{sys}$	Master public key			
$H_1(\cdot), H_2(\cdot)$	Hash function			
$S_{j}$	Application server			
$SID_j$ The unique identity of application server $S_j$				
$t_i^{}, t_j^{}$	The current time			
$\Delta t$	The effective time interval			
$r_i$ , $r_i^{reg}$ , $r_j$	Random number			
$d_{j}$	Private key			
$P_{j}$	Public key			
$\boldsymbol{U}_{i}$	user			
$ID_i$	The unique identity of user $U_i$			
$pw_i$	Password of user			
$B_i^{reg}$ , $B_i$	The biometric data of the user's face image			
$\oplus$	Exclusive OR (XOR)			
	Concatenation operation			
$\Psi_i$	The SVD basis set of a face image			

- $Φ_{iS}$  The coefficient set of  $Ψ_i$   $P_i$  Public key of user  $d_i$  Private key of user  $e_i, e_j$  Temporary private key  $E_i, E_j$  Temporary public key  $SK_{ij}, SK_{ji}$  Shared session key  $D_A(M)$  Digital signature about message M
- $E_A(M)$  Encrypt message M

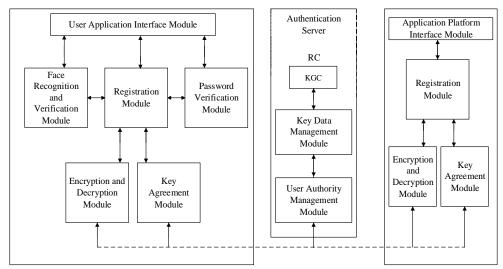


Fig. 2. Framework of the proposed scheme

# 4.2 Framework of the proposed scheme

The authentication system includes three parts: authentication server (including RC), mobile terminal and application server.

Registration center (RC): including Key generate center (KGC) module, key data management module, user authority management module.

Mobile terminal: including registration module (including functions such as storing and locking data), face recognition and verification module, password verification module, encryption and decryption module, key agreement module, application interface module.

Application server: including registration module, encryption and decryption module, key agreement module, application platform interface module.

The scheme is shown in Figure 2.

- 4.3 The proposed scheme
- 4.3.1 System initialization

KGC firstly selects the security parameter k, then structure  $(E/F_p, G, q, P)$ , where P is a k-bit large prime number,  $E/F_p$  is an elliptic curve of finite field  $F_p$ , P is a generator of  $F_p$ , G is an additive cyclic group of  $F_p$ , Q is the order of G.

KGC chooses a random element S from group  $Z_q^*$  as the master private key, computes  $P_{Sys} = SP(P_{Sys})$  is non-infinity point) and regards the computational result as the master public key, and selects two hash function.

```
H_1: \{0,1\}^* \times G \to Z_q^*,

H_2: \{0,1\}^* \times \{0,1\}^* \times G^4 \to \{0,1\}^k;
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KGC preserves the master private key s secretly, publishes  $(E/F_p, G, q, P, P_{sys}, H_1, H_2)$ .

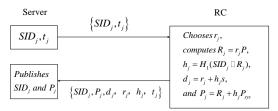


Fig. 3. Application server registration phase

#### 4.3.2 Registration phase

- (1) Application server registration phase (as shown in Fig. 3)
- Step 1. Server  $s_i$  selects the unique identity  $SID_i$ , then sends  $SID_i$  and  $t_i$  to RC via secure channel.
- Step 2. RC receives the requesting registration information  $\{SID_j, t_j\}$  from  $S_j$  and checks firstly if the value of the timestamp  $t_j$  exceeds the allowed maximum range  $\Delta t$  or not. RC refuses repetitive registration request from the same one within the time interval  $\Delta t$ . If  $\Delta t$  meet the requirement, RC checks whether the identity  $SID_j$  has already been registered, in order to avoid the same identity for different server's registration. If the result holds, KGC chooses a random element  $r_j$  from group  $Z_q^*$  for server  $S_j$ , computes  $R_j = r_j P$ ,  $h_j = H_t(SID_j \square R_j)$ , privet key  $d_j = r_j + h_j s$  and public key  $P_j = R_j + h_j P_{sys}$ . Then RC stores  $\{SID_j, P_j, d_j, r_j, h_j, t_j\}$  in the key data management module, and sends the data above to application server  $S_j$  via security channel.
- Step 3. After receiving  $\{SID_j, P_j, d_j, r_j, h_j, t_j\}$ , application server  $S_j$  ensures the security of  $d_j$ ,  $r_j$ ,  $h_j$  and  $t_j$ . Then the server  $S_j$  publishes own identity  $SID_j$  and public key  $P_j$ .
- (2) User registration phase (as shown in Fig. 4)

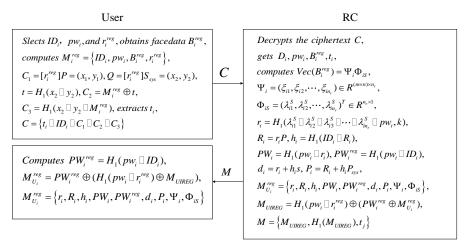


Fig. 4. User registration phase

Step 1. User  $U_i$  chooses the unique identity  $ID_i$  and passwords  $pw_i$ , then cooperates with the face recognition and verification module to use the camera of the terminal device to get face image in accordance with the requirements for image collection. After face detection, the registration module obtains the data  $B_i^{res}$  of user's face image, chooses a random element  $r_i^{reg}$  from group  $Z_q^*$  and composes registration information  $M_i^{reg} = \{ID_i, pw_i, B_i^{reg}, r_i^{reg}\}$ .

Step 2. The encryption and decryption module of mobile terminal encrypts the registration information  $M_i^{reg} = \{ID_i, pw_i, B_i^{reg}, r_i^{reg}\}$  with the master public key of RC. Firstly, the module above computes point  $C_1 = [r_i^{reg}]P = (x_1, y_1)$  of the elliptic curve  $E/F_p$  and point  $Q = [r_i^{reg}]S_{yy} = (x_2, y_2)$ , then converts data type of  $x_2$  and  $y_2$  to bit string if the point Q is non-infinity point, otherwise choosing  $r_i^{reg}$  again. Then the module above computes  $t = H_1(x_2 \Box y_2)$ . If the bit string of t is all zeros, the random element  $r_i^{reg}$  must be chosen again. Then the module above computes  $C_2 = M_i^{reg} \oplus t$  and  $C_3 = H_1(x_2 \Box y_2 \Box M_i^{reg})$ . After extracting current time  $t_i$ , the user  $U_i$  sends the message  $C = \{t_i \Box ID_i \Box C_1 \Box C_2 \Box C_3\}$  to RC via public network.

Step 4. After getting the user's face image data  $B_i^{reg}$ , RC computes  $Vec(B_i^{reg}) = \Psi_i \Phi_{is}$  with singular value decomposition, where  $\Psi_i = (\xi_{i1}, \xi_{i2}, \dots, \xi_{in_i}) \in R^{(m \times n) \times n_i}$  and  $\Phi_{iS} = (\lambda_{i1}^S, \lambda_{i2}^S, \dots, \lambda_{in_i}^S)^T \in R^{n_i \times 1} (\lambda_{i1}^S \ge \lambda_{i2}^S \ge \dots \ge \lambda_{in_i}^S > 0)$ .  $\Psi_i$  is the singular value base set of the face image data  $B_i^{reg}$  of user  $U_i$ ,  $\Phi_{iS}$  is the coefficient of  $\Psi_i$ .

Table	2	User's	permission	table
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Identity	Status	Class of identity	Authority	User's information
******01	valid	System Administrator	All authorized	ID, PW and so on.
*****02	valid	Normal User	Read only	ID, PW and so on.
*****ab	valid	Senior User	Read and modify	ID, PW and so on.
*****3y	invalid	Normal User	Read and write	ID, PW and so on.
		•••		

Step 5. RC computes  $r_i = H_1(\lambda_{71}^S \square \lambda_{72}^S \square \lambda_{73}^S \square \cdots \square \lambda_{7n_r}^S \square pw_i, k)$  ( $r_i \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ ),  $R_i = r_i P$ ,  $h_i = H_1(ID_i \square R_i)$ ,  $PW_i = H_1(pw_i \square r_i)$  (certificate for authentication),  $PW_i^{reg} = H_1(pw_i \square ID_i)$  (certificate for multiple registration),  $d_i = r_i + h_i s$  (private key of user),  $P_i = R_i + h_i P_{sys}$  (public key of user).

Step 6. RC stores user's important information  $ID_i, PW_i, PW_i^{res}, B_i^{res}, \Psi_i, \Phi_{is}, R_i, h_i$  and  $P_i$  in the user's permission table of the server, publishes  $ID_i$  and  $P_i$  of user  $U_i$  (As shown in the Table 2).

Step 7. RC encrypts the registration information  $M_{U_i}^{reg} = \{r_i, R_i, h_i, PW_i, PW_i^{reg}, d_i, P_i, \Psi_i, \Phi_{is}\}$  with the algorithm as  $M_{UIREG} = H_1(PW_i \square r_i^{reg}) \oplus (PW_i^{reg} \oplus M_{U_i}^{reg})$ , then sends the message  $\{M_{UIREG}, H_1(M_{UIREG}), t_j\}$  to  $U_i$  via public network.

Step 8. After receiving  $\{M_{UREG}, H_1(M_{UREG}), t_j\}$ , user  $U_i$  checks firstly if the value of timestamp  $t_j$  exceeds the allowed maximum range  $\Delta t$  or not. If the value of the timestamp exceeds the allowed maximum range, the user  $U_i$  must discard the message received and re-register. If it meets the requirements, the user  $U_i$  computes  $H_i(M_{UREG})$  and verifies that the information is the same as the received  $H_1(M_{UREG})$ .

If the result doesn't hold, the user  $U_i$  must discard the message received and re-register. If it meets the requirements, the user  $U_i$  computes  $PW_i^{reg} = H_1(pw_i \square ID_i)$  and  $M_{U_i}^{reg} = PW_i^{reg} \oplus (H_1(pw_i \square r_i^{reg}) \oplus M_{UIREG})$ , sequentially gets the registration information  $M_{U_i}^{reg} = \{r_i, R_i, h_i, PW_i, PW_i^{reg}, d_i, P_i, \Psi_i, \Phi_{S}\}$ .

Step 9. The user  $U_i$  publishes the information  $ID_i$ ,  $P_i$  and  $R_i$ , stores the information  $r_i, h_i, PW_i, PW_i^{reg}, d_i, \Psi_i, \Phi_{iS}$  secretly in the registration module.

In order to avoid user secret information leakage problem because of the loss of terminal, registration module encrypts user's secret information with symmetric cipher before storing in the smart terminal (password of the user as key). The number of password authentication error is within limits. Only after password authentication is passed, the registration module automatically decrypts the stored information and makes it available to users.

#### 4.3.3 Login and authentication phase (as shown in Fig. 5)

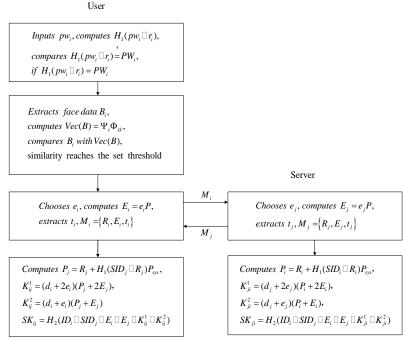


Fig. 5 Login and authentication phase

Step 1. User  $U_i$  types in the password  $PW_i$  to decrypt information stored in the registration module if the password input is correct. Then the registration module computes  $H_1(PW_i \square r_i)$  and compares the calculation consequence to the stored information  $PW_i(PW_i = H_1(PW_i \square r_i))$ . If the result is different, password authentication cannot be passed

which results in terminating the authentication service. If the result is the same, password authentication can be passed.

- Step 2. The user  $U_i$  uses the camera to obtain the face image, extracts the user's face data  $B_i$  through face detection, computes  $Vec(B) = \Psi_i \Phi_{iS}$  and compares the user's face data  $B_i$  with the result of calculation Vec(B). Similarity that does not reach the set threshold cannot pass face authentication. Otherwise face authentication can be passed.
- Step 3. The user  $U_i$  selects a random element  $e_i$  from group  $Z_q^*$  as the temporary private key, computes the temporary public key  $E_i = e_i P$ . After extracting current time  $t_i$ , the user  $U_i$  sends  $\{R_i, E_i, t_i\}$  to  $S_j$  via public network.
- Step 4. The application server  $S_j$  selects a random element  $e_j$  from group  $Z_q^*$  as the temporary private key, computes the temporary public key  $E_j = e_j P$ . After extracting current time  $t_j$ , the application server  $S_j$  sends  $\{R_j, E_j, t_j\}$  to  $U_i$ .
- Step 5. After receiving  $\{R_j, E_j, t_j\}$ ,  $U_i$  checks firstly if the timestamp  $t_j$  exceeds the allowed maximum range  $\Delta t$  or not. If the value of the timestamp exceeds the allowed maximum range, the user  $U_i$  must refuse the request. If the result meets the requirements, the user  $U_i$  computes  $P_j = R_j + H_1(SID_j \square R_j)P_{sys}$ ,  $K_{ij}^1 = (d_i + 2e_i)(P_j + 2E_j)$ ,  $K_{ij}^2 = (d_i + e_i)(P_j + E_j)$  and the shared and temporary session key  $SK_{ij} = H_2(ID_i \square SID_j \square E_i \square E_j \square K_{ij}^1 \square K_{ij}^2)$ .
- Step 6. After receiving  $\{R_i, E_i, t_i\}$ , the application server  $S_j$  checks firstly if the timestamp  $t_i$  exceeds the allowed maximum range  $\Delta t$  or not. If the value of the timestamp exceeds the allowed maximum range, the application server  $S_j$  must refuse the request. If the result meets the requirements, the application server  $S_j$  computes  $P_i = R_i + H_1(SID_i \square R_i)P_{sys}$ ,  $K_{ji}^1 = (d_j + 2e_j)(P_i + 2E_i)$ ,  $K_{ji}^2 = (d_j + e_j)(P_i + E_i)$  and the shared session key  $SK_{ji} = H_2(ID_i \square SID_j \square E_i \square E_j \square K_{ji}^1 \square K_{ji}^2)$ .

The equations  $K_{ij}^1 = K_{ji}^1$ ,  $K_{ij}^2 = K_{ji}^2$  and  $SK_{ij} = SK_{ji}$  can be verified by calculation. Therefore, the temporary session key can ensure the following communication security after mutual authentication.

# 4.3.4 Password change phase

User  $U_i$  chooses new password  $pw_i^{new}$  firstly, then incorporates a new password  $pw_i^{new}$  into the registration information  $M_i^{reg} = \{ID_i, pw_i, pw_i^{new}, B_i, r_i\}$ .

The following process is almost the same as the user registration phase except RC needing verify the user's face data in the password phase.

# 4.3.5 Re-registration

If terminal is lost or changed, the user must use another one to register afresh and login the authentication system because the user's data stored in the original terminal cannot be obtained.

The user  $U_i$  chooses a new  $ID_i^{new}$  firstly, then incorporates  $ID_i^{new}$  into the registration information  $M_i^{reg} = \left\{ ID_i, ID_i^{new}, pw_i, B_i^{reg}, r_i^{reg} \right\}$ .

The following process is almost the same as the password change phase.

# V. Security analysis of the proposed scheme

#### 5.1 The robustness of the scheme

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RC participates in the authentication process only during the register process of users and application servers in the proposed scheme. Authentication process requires only temporary key and shared session key, without the participation of RC. This method enhances the robustness of the scheme.

5.2 Password guessing attack

This proposed scheme requires user's correct password and face information. Even if the attacker may get password by guessing, the attacker still cannot pass the authentication.

5.3 Terminal lost attack

The user's information stored in the terminal is encrypted. The attacker cannot decrypt the secret information without the correct password.

5.4 Impersonation attack

The identities are public. After obtaining the identity of the user, the attacker cannot sponsor the impersonation attack without the user's password, face data and the private key. Similarly, the attacker cannot sponsor the impersonation attack without the private key.

5.5 Man-In-The-Middle attack

The transmitted information is encrypted. Attacker cannot obtain the user's temporary session key and sponsor Man-In-The-Middle attack.

5.6 Denial of service attack

Registration or authentication phase in the scheme has the maximum limitation for the time interval of repetitive operation and the number of requestion within a certain time. The design can effectively control the frequent registration or authentication requests initiated by the attacker.

5.7 Replay attack

In the process of information transmission, time information added in the message has the function of timestamp and can effectively avoid replay attack.

5.8 Privileged insider attack

In this scheme, the user's password and private key are not saved in RC. The hash function is irreversible. Even if the system administrator can obtain the other information of the user, he cannot calculate the pivotal and secret information  $r_i$ ,  $p_{ij}$  and  $p_{ij}$  and  $p_{ij}$  of the user.

5.9 Forward secrecy

The temporary session key is one-time. The session key generated from each authentication is different. The scheme can ensure forward security.

5.10 Mutual authentication

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In this paper, only the legal user and the legal application server have their own private key. Only the calculation results of legal user or application server which competes the session key with own private keys are correct and identical.

The security comparisons are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Security comparison

Security aspect	Odelu[4]	Chuang[5]	Irshad[6]	Proposed scheme
Robustness of scheme	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Terminal lost attack	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Impersonation attack	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Denial of service attack	No	No	No	Yes
Man-In-The-Middle attack	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Privileged insider attack	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Perfect forward secrecy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mutual authentication	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

# VI. Performance comparison

The consumption is measured on an Intel Core i5-3470 platform. The results of execution time are shown in table 4 and 5.

Table 4 Consumption time table

Variety of computing	Execution time (s)
XOR operation: $T_x$ . Face matching: $T_{B_i}$	tiny and negligible
Hash operation(MD5) : $T_H$	0.00097
Symmetric encryption(DES) : $T_E$	0.01600
Symmetric decryption(DES) : $T_D$	0.01600
Chebyshev chaotic mapping $T_n(x) \mod p$ : $T_M$	0.61122
Obtaining P and R from $W: T_{Gen}$	0.78097
Recovering R from $w'$ and P: $T_{Rep}$	0.18097
Public key encryption based on elliptic curve: $T_{PM}$	0.93896
Public key decryption based on elliptic curve: $T_{PD}$	0.93896
Elliptic curve point multiplication operation: $T_m$	0.00223
Compute the singular value of the matrix: $T_{SVD}$	0.25000

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Scheme	User	Application server	RC	Total time (s)	
Odelu[4]	$7T_H + T_E + T_X + T_{Rep} + 3T_{PM}$	$T_{\scriptscriptstyle E} + 6T_{\scriptscriptstyle H} + 2T_{\scriptscriptstyle PM} + T_{\scriptscriptstyle D}$	$T_E + T_{PM} + 2T_D + 11T_H$	0.28	
Chuang[5]	$5T_H + 2T_X + 4T_M$	$T_{\scriptscriptstyle X} + 4T_{\scriptscriptstyle H} + 4T_{\scriptscriptstyle M}$	0	1.36	
Irshad[6]	$5T_X + 8T_H$	$2T_{\scriptscriptstyle X} + 8T_{\scriptscriptstyle H}$	0	0.02	
Proposed	$3T_H + 5T_m + T_{SVD} + T_{B_i}$	$2T_H + 5T_m$	0	0.27	

Table 5 Execution time comparison of login and authentication

#### VII. Conclusion

Aiming at solving password memory and exposure in traditional identity authentication, the scheme proposed in this paper combines password hiding, face recognition and elliptic curve cryptography to realize three-factor authentication. The results show that the proposed scheme has stronger robustness, higher security, better convenience and less computation cost than other similar schemes.

## Acknowledgements

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