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Secure Multi-Party Computation for Decentralized Distributed Systems

Masterarbeit von Frederic Klein

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Abstract

In recent years gamification has become a part in many areas of our daily routine. In regard to our personal life, companies like Amazon or Runtastic can base their gamification approach on publicly sharing personal achievements and statistics to improve user commitment. In contrast, gamification concerning our work life has to satisfy much higher privacy demands. Since comparison is a key component for gamification, privacy protecting computations of system wide statistical values (for example minimum and maximum) are needed. The solution comes in the form of secure multi-party computation (SMPC), a subfield of cryptography. Existing frameworks for SMPC utilize the Internet Protocol, though access to the Internet or even a local area network (LAN) cannot be provided in all environments. Facilities with sensible measuring systems, e.g. medical devices in hospitals, often avoid Wi-Fi to reduce the risk of electromagnetic interference. To be able to utilize SMPC in environments with Wi-Fi restrictions, this thesis studies the characteristics of mobile ad hoc networks (MANET) and proposes the design of a SMPC framework for MANET, especially based on Bluetooth technology, and the implementation as a C library.

Since MANETs have a high probability for network partition, a centralized architecture for the computation and data preservation is unfavorable. Therefor a blockchain based distributed database is implemented in the framework. Typical problems of distributed systems are addressed with the implementation of algorithms for clock synchronization and coordinator election as well as protocols for the detection of computation partners and data distribution. Since the framework aims to provide distributed computations of comparable values, protocols for secure addition and secure comparison are implemented, enabling the computation of minimum, maximum and average.

Devices of diverse computational power will be used to verify the applicability for wearables and Internet of Things (IoT) grade devices. Also field-tests with a smart phone ad hoc network (SPAN)(20-50 nodes) will be conducted to evaluated real life use cases. In contrast, the security of the framework and attack scenarios will be discussed. In summary, this thesis proposes a framework for SMPC for decentralized, distributed systems.

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List of Acronyms

2PC secure two-party computation.

API application programming interface.

DDoS Distributed Denial of Service.

GSM Global System for Mobile Communications.

HTTPS HTTP over Transport Layer Security (TLS).

IoT Internet of Things.

L2CAP Logical Link Control and Adaptation Protocol.

LAN local area network.

LSB least significant bit.

MANET mobile ad hoc networks.

MSB most significant bit.

NDK Native Development Kit.

PRNG pseudo-random number generator.

RFCOMM Radio frequency communication.

RTT Round Trip Time.

SDK software development kit.

SMPC secure multi-party computation.

SPAN smart phone ad hoc network.

TLS Transport Layer Security.

UML Unified Modeling Language.

UTC Coordinated Universal Time.

Chapter 1

Introduction

In the last couple of years gamification has found it's way into many areas of our daily life. In regard to our personal life, companies like Amazon or Runtastic can base their gamification approach on publicly sharing personal achievements and statistics to improve user commitment. In contrast, gamification concerning our work life can have much higher privacy demands. Since comparison is a key component for the gamification approach, privacy protecting computations of system wide statistical values (for example minimum and maximum) are needed. The solution comes in the form of SMPC, a subfield of cryptography.

Existing frameworks for SMPC utilize the Internet protocol, though access to the Internet or even a LAN cannot be provided in all environments. Especially many hospitals tend to avoid Wi-Fi to reduce the risk of electromagnetic interference with medical devices.

To be able to utilize SMPC in environments with Wi-Fi restrictions, this thesis studies the characteristics of mesh-networks and proposes describes the design of a SMPC framework for mesh-networks.

Context

Restatement of the problem

Restatement of the response

Roadmap

1.1 Case Study: "The Hygiene Games"

Gamification

Wireless Networks in Hospitals

Chapter 2

Background

In this chapter a general understanding of SMPC and the key features of MANETs is established.

First the general idea for SMPC is introduced in 2.1 Secure Multi-Party Computation. Since secret sharing is used for the development of SMPC protocols, Shamir's secret sharing scheme is presented in 2.1.1 Secret Sharing. Protocols for secure addition and secure comparison with passive security are introduced in 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 and existing frameworks for SMPC are discussed in 2.1.4.

To be able to define requirements for the new framework, the key features of MANETs are identified in 2.2 Mobile Ad Hoc Networks, with a focus on the wireless technology standards Bluetooth and Wi-Fi and the differences to similar network types like mesh networks.

Since the SMPC protocols expect a secure communication channel, while a pairing-less connection doesn't provide security by default, public key cryptography is needed. The key generation, as well as Shamir's secret sharing scheme, requires random numbers. Computer systems can generate pseudo-random numbers and the randomness of such an pseudo-random number generator (PRNG) is discussed in4.1 Communication Layer.

2.1 Secure Multi-Party Computation

SMPC is a subfield of cryptography. The target of SMPC is to run computations over inputs from multiple parties while keeping these inputs secret. In 1982 Yao described the problem of two millionaires trying to find out, which one is wealthier, without giving each

other information about their actual capital (Yao 1982). Yaos solution for this secure two-party computation (2PC) is considered to be the basis for general SMPC protocols. Cramer, Damgard, and Nielsen (2015) describe for example benchmark analysis as a use-cases for SMPC: companies want to know how well they are doing in their business area compared to other companies, while they do not want to share their current business numbers with competitors. Using a protocol for secure comparison (as described in 2.1.3 Secure Comparison Protocol) the companies can calculate the best performer without leaking business information. Clifton et al. (2002) describe privacy preserving data mining as another use-case: while data mining on patient data could for example indicate disease outbreaks but there is of course a privacy concern. Using SMPC algorithms statistics can be computed while keeping the personal patient data private.

For SMPC two types of adversaries have to be considered: semi-honest and malicious adversaries. Semi-honest adversaries "follow the protocol specification, yet may attempt to learn additional information by analyzing the transcript of messages received during the execution" (Aumann and Lindell 2007). Malicious adversaries "are not bound in any way to following the instructions of the specified protocol" (Aumann and Lindell 2007). SMPC protocols that can tolerate semi-honest parties (up to a specific threshold) provide semi-honest or passive security. SMPC protocols that are secure against malicious adversaries achieve malicious or active security. Cramer, Damgard, and Nielsen (2015, p. 82) also differentiate between unconditional or perfect security and computational security: if security can be proven for an adversary with unlimited computation power a protocol has unconditional security. In contrast, computational security can only be proven for a polytime adversary.

Since the target group for the protocols used in this thesis are gamification systems potential adversaries are likely of the semi-honest type. Gamification system are usually based on intrinsic motivation. Especially in the context of workplace related gamification without public recognition, there is nothing to be gained from trying to corrupt the system, only the significance of the computation results is reduced.

Honest, but curious parties are more likely, but providing the majority of semi-honest parties, requires considerable efforts and even gaining a single score is of little interest. This thesis focuses on practical SMPC protocols for passive security based on secret sharing.

2.1.1 Secret Sharing

Cramer, Damgard, and Nielsen (2015, p. 32) describe secret sharing schemes as the main tool to build a SMPC protocol with passive security. In 1979 Adi Shamir described a (k, n) threshold scheme for sharing secret data D: "Our goal is to divide D into n pieces D_i, ..., D_n in such a way that: (1) knowledge of any k or more D_i pieces makes D easily computable; (2) knowledge of any $k-1$ or fewer D_i pieces leaves D completely undetermined (in the sense that all its possible values are equally likely)." (Shamir 1979) Shamir's secret sharing scheme is based on polynomials of degree $k-1$ with $a_0 = D$ (compare 2.1).

$$q(x) = D + a_1 \cdot x + ... + a_{k-1} \cdot x^{k-1} \tag{2.1}$$

To divide D into n pieces the polynomial is evaluated: $D_i = q(i),\ i = 1, ..., n$.

For cryptographic protocols it is not practical to work with real arithmetic, instead a finite field is used. Shamir (1979) specifies that modular instead of real arithmetic is used. A prime p with $p > D, p > n$ is selected and used to define the set $[0, p)$. "The coefficients $a_1, ..., a_{k-1}$ in $q(x)$ are randomly chosen from a uniform distribution over the integers in $[0, p)$, and the values $D_1, ..., D_n$ are computed modulo p." (Shamir 1979, p. 613) (compare 2.2)

$$q(x) = D + a_1 \cdot x + ... + a_{k-1} \cdot x^{k-1} \mod p \qquad D,\ a_i \in [0, p)\ , \quad p \in \mathbb{P} \tag{2.2}$$

Cramer, Damgard, and Nielsen (2015, p. 7) declare the set restricted by p as $\mathbb{Z}_p = \{0, 1, ..., p-1\}$. They also use the notion *secret* S for the data to be shared and *shares* s_i for the computed pieces of the secret.

The reconstruction of a secret S can be done using Lagrange interpolation (compare 2.3).

$$S = \sum_i s_i \prod_{i \neq j} \frac{-x_j}{x_i - x_j} \mod p \tag{2.3}$$

k shares s_i are needed to reconstruct S, so only the associated values for i are used in the Lagrange interpolation.

Example Computation

Consider the following task: a secret $S = 8$ is supposed to be shared among $n = 4$ parties $P_i, \quad i = 0, ..., 3$. The threshold for the number of needed shares for the reconstruction of the secret shall be $k = 3$ (public).

First a prime p has to be chosen, which has to be larger than the secret ($p > S$) and the number of parties ($p > n$): $p = 17$ (public information)

Since $k = 3$, the polynomial has a degree of $k - 1 = 2$ (compare 2.4).

$$f(x) = S + a_1 \cdot x + a_2 \cdot x^2 \mod p \tag{2.4}$$

The coefficients are selected randomly uniformly out of $\mathbb{Z}_p = \{0, 1, ..., p-1\} = \{0, 1, ..., 16\}$: $a_1 = 13$ and $a_2 = 4$ and the shares s_i are computed (compare 2.5).

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= 8 + 13 \cdot x + 4 \cdot x^2 \mod 17 \qquad (2.5) \\ &\Downarrow \\ f(x_1) &= f(1) = 25 \mod 17 = 8 = s_1 \\ f(x_2) &= f(2) = 50 \mod 17 = 16 = s_2 \\ f(x_3) &= f(3) = 83 \mod 17 = 15 = s_3 \\ f(x_4) &= f(4) = 124 \mod 17 = 5 = s_4 \end{aligned}$$

If for example parties P_2, P_3 and P_4 pool their shares, they can reconstruct the secret S using Lagrange interpolation (using also the public information: $p = 17$):

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \sum_i s_i \prod_{i \neq j} \frac{-x_j}{x_i - x_j} \mod 17 \qquad \textit{with } i, j \in \{2, 3, 4\} \qquad (2.6) \\ &= s_2 \cdot \frac{-x_3}{x_2 - x_3} \cdot \frac{-x_4}{x_2 - x_4} + s_3 \cdot \frac{-x_2}{x_3 - x_2} \cdot \frac{-x_4}{x_3 - x_4} + s_4 \cdot \frac{-x_2}{x_4 - x_2} \cdot \frac{-x_3}{x_4 - x_3} \mod 17 \\ &= 16 \cdot \frac{-3}{2-3} \cdot \frac{-4}{2-4} + 15 \cdot \frac{-2}{3-2} \cdot \frac{-4}{3-4} + 5 \cdot \frac{-2}{4-2} \cdot \frac{-3}{4-3} \mod 17 \\ &= 96 - 120 + 15 \mod 17 \\ &= -9 \mod 17 \qquad (2.7) \\ &= 8 \end{aligned}$$

Note: in cryptography $a \mod n$ for $a < 0$ (negative dividend) is calculated by adding a

multiple of n, so that $m \cdot n + a > 0$: e.g. $-9 \mod 17 = (\underbrace{1 \cdot 17 - 9}_{>0}) \mod 17$ (compare 2.7).

2.1.2 Secure Addition Protocol

For an environment with honest parties there are simple SMPC protocols to compute the sum over shares. Clifton et al. (2002) describe a ring based method, where the initializing party adds a random number R to the secret input s_1 before passing it to the next node. Each node then adds its secret until the first party receives the result. By removing R the party can than reconstruct the sum over all secret inputs (see figure 2.1).

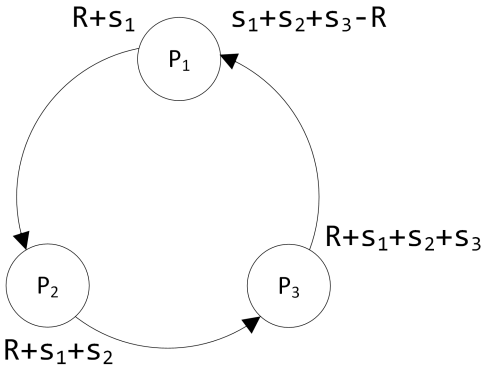

Figure 2.1: Simple secure sum protocol for ring

This method is efficient ($2n$ messages for computation and announcing the sum in a n-node ring) but if parties collude, party P_i only needs the output of P_{i+1} as received by party P_{i+2} to reconstruct the secret input of P_{i+1}. Clifton et al. (2002) propose using shares in combination with permutation of the ring order, so neighbors change in each iteration and the number of parties in need to pool their data increases. This approach was extended in the "k-Secure Sum Protocol" (Sheikh, Kumar, and Mishra 2009).

Using Shamir's secret sharing a In 2.1.1 it was demonstrated how a secret can be reconstructed from the shares using Lagrange interpolation. It is also possible to reconstruct the sum of secrets by using the sums of shares for a Lagrange interpolation.

Proof:

n shares for m secrets s_l:

$$s_{l,i} = f_l(x_i) = s_l + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \alpha_{l,i} x_i^i \mod p \tag{2.8}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} s_{1,i} = f_1(x_i) = & s_1 + \alpha_{1,1} x_i + \alpha_{1,2} x_i^2 + ... + \alpha_{1,k-1} x_i^{k-1} \mod p \\ & \vdots \\ s_{m,i} = f_n(x_i) = & s_n + \beta_{n,1} x_i + \beta_{n,2} x_i^2 + ... + \beta_{n,k-1} x_i^{k-1} \mod p \end{cases}$$

$$\text{with } \{l \in \mathbb{N} \mid 1 \leq l \leq m\},\ \{i \in \mathbb{N} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\},\ \{p \in \mathbb{P} \mid p > \sum_l s_l\},$$

$$\{\alpha \in \mathbb{N} \mid 0 \leq \alpha \leq p\},\ \{k \in \mathbb{N} \mid 2 < k \leq n\}$$

Lagrange-interpolation for secret s_l:

$$s_l = \sum_{i=1}^{n} s_{l,i} \prod_{i \neq j} \frac{-x_j}{x_i - x_j} \mod p \tag{2.9}$$

Sum s over secrets s_l:

$$s = \sum_{l=1}^{m} s_l \overset{\text{with 2.9}}{=} \sum_{l=1}^{m} \sum_{i=1}^{n} s_{l,i} \prod_{i \neq j} \frac{-x_j}{x_i - x_j} \mod p \tag{2.10}$$

$$\text{with} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{m} a_{ij} = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ij} \text{follows for 2.10}$$

$$\underbrace{s = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \underbrace{\sum_{l=1}^{m} s_{l,i}}_{\text{sum over shares}} \prod_{i \neq j} \frac{-x_j}{x_i - x_j} \mod p}_{\text{Lagrange-interpolation for sum over shares}} \tag{2.11}$$

Example Computation

Public information: $n = 3$, $p = 67$, $k = 3$

Secrets: $s_1 = 13$, $s_2 = 27$, $s_3 = 17$, $s_4 = 1$

Target computation: sum s over secrets $s = \sum_{i=1}^{4} s_i = 58$ without revealing ones secret

to another party.

$$s_{1,i} = f_1(x_i) = 13 + 35x + 22x^2 + 7x^3 \mod 67 \tag{2.12}$$

$$s_{2,i} = f_2(x_i) = 27 + 3x + 19x^2 \mod 67 \tag{2.13}$$

$$s_{3,i} = f_3(x_i) = 17 + 9x^2 + 27x^3 \mod 67 \tag{2.14}$$

$$s_{4,i} = f_4(x_i) = 1 + 13x + 31x^2 + 40x^3 \mod 67 \tag{2.15}$$

with $x_1 = 1$, $x_2 = 2$, $x_3 = 3$, $x_4 = 4$ follows

$$\begin{aligned}
&\overset{2.12}{\Rightarrow} s_{1,1} = 10 && s_{1,2} = 26 && s_{1,3} = 36 && s_{1,4} = 15 \\
&\overset{2.13}{\Rightarrow} s_{2,1} = 49 && s_{2,2} = 42 && s_{2,3} = 6 && s_{2,4} = 8 \\
&\overset{2.14}{\Rightarrow} s_{3,1} = 53 && s_{3,2} = 1 && s_{3,3} = 23 && s_{3,4} = 13 \\
&\overset{2.15}{\Rightarrow} s_{4,1} = 18 && s_{4,2} = 2 && s_{4,3} = 59 && s_{4,4} = 27 \\
&\Rightarrow \sum_l s_{l,1} = 130 && \sum_l s_{l,2} = 71 && \sum_l s_{l,3} = 124 && \sum_l s_{l,4} = 63
\end{aligned}$$

Lagrange-interpolation:

$$\begin{aligned}
s =& \sum_{i=1}^{4} \sum_{l=1}^{4} s_{l,i} \prod_{i \neq j} \frac{-x_j}{x_i - x_j} \mod 67 \\
=& 130 \frac{-2}{1-2}\frac{-3}{1-3}\frac{-4}{1-4} + 71 \frac{-1}{2-1}\frac{-3}{2-3}\frac{-4}{2-4} \\
&+ 124 \frac{-1}{3-1}\frac{-2}{3-2}\frac{-4}{3-4} + 63 \frac{-1}{4-1}\frac{-2}{4-2}\frac{-3}{4-3} \mod 67 \\
=& 527 \mod 67 = 58 = \sum_{i=1}^{4} s_i
\end{aligned} \tag{2.16}$$

As expected, the result of the Lagrange-interpolation for the sum over shares is equal to the sum over the initial secrets (compare 2.16).

Protocol Description

Assumptions:

- number of parties $n > 2$
- secure communication channel
- no malicious adversaries

- upper bound of sum $s \leq b$ can be estimated, so a prime $p > b$ can be chosen

The secure addition protocol, as used in this thesis, consists of six phases:

1. The coordinator announces the number of parties for the computation and the indexation of each party.
2. Each party j sends shares $s_{j,i}$ of the secret input s_j to the other parties.
3. Each party i computes the sum over the received shares $s_{j,i}$.
4. Each party sends the computed sum to the coordinator.
5. The coordinator reconstructs the sum over the inputs using Lagrange-interpolation.
6. The coordinator broadcasts the reconstructed sum.

In total $(n+3)\cdot(n-1) = n^2+2n-3$ messages are exchanged, so the traffic increases with the number of parties squared. Selecting a lower threshold for the secret reconstruction $\frac{n}{2} \leq k < n$ lowers the total messages by $\Delta_{\text{messages}} = n^2 - n(k-1)$.

For a secure channel this protocol is information-theoretically secure: independent from computation power an adversary with $m_{\text{leaked}} < k$ shares will gain no information regarding the inputs.

2.1.3 Secure Comparison Protocol

The secure comparison protocol compares the secret inputs and provides the minimum and the maximum in a set without revealing the inputs or the parties holding the minimum or the maximum.

The general idea: the secure comparison protocol uses bit-decomposition and utilizes the secure addition protocol. In iterations the secure-sum for the bits $(0 \vee 1)$ of the secrets multiplied with a random value are computed, starting from the most significant bit (MSB) lower than a predefined upper bound to the least significant bit (LSB). The announced sum gives each party the information if at least one party has this bit set, if the sum is unequal zero. If a party has this bit not set itself it has a lower value and commits only zeros in the following iterations. Storing the result of each iteration, the parties can reconstruct the maximum. For finding the minimum the inputs are negated (using the binary operation NOT), making the minimum in the set the largest value. Afterwards the maximum is determined as described above. Finally the found maximum is negated again to reconstruct the minimum in the set.

Example Computation

Public information: $n = 3$, $p = 67$, $\mathbb{Z}_p = \{1, ..., p-1\}$, $k = 3$, $s_i < b = 64$ (upper bound for secret value range)

Secrets: $s_1 = 13$, $s_2 = 27$, $s_3 = 17$

Target computation: $\min(s_i) = 13$, $\max(s_i) = 27$

Since $64_{10} = 1000000_2$ is defined as upper bound for the secret values the MSB is the sixth bit (second column in table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Binary representation of secrets s_i

Decimal $s_{i,10}$	Binary $s_{i,2}$					
13	0	0	1	1	0	1
27	0	1	1	0	1	1
17	0	1	0	0	0	1

Each party multiplies each bit with a random within $\mathbb{Z}_l$:

Table 2.2: Randomized binary representation of secrets

Decimal $s_{i,10}$	Binary $s_{i,2}$						Randomized					
13	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	45	61	0	57
27	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	12	31	0	5	15
17	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	24	0	0	0	9

There are six bits, therefore six rounds of secure addition ($\sum_{secure}$) are computed:

$$1^{st} \text{ round:} \quad \sum_{secure} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 6^{th} \text{ bit of the maximum is } \quad 0$$

$$2^{nd} \text{ round:} \quad \sum_{secure} = 36 > 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 5^{th} \text{ bit of the maximum is } \quad 1$$

Party p_1 disqualifies itself as the maximum (see table 2.3)

$$3^{rd} \text{ round:} \quad \sum_{secure} = 31 > 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 4^{th} \text{ bit of the maximum is } \quad 1$$

Party p_3 disqualifies itself as the maximum (see table 2.4)

$$4^{th} \text{ round:} \quad \sum_{secure} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 3^{rd} \text{ bit of the maximum is } \quad 0$$

$$5^{th} \text{ round:} \quad \sum_{secure} = 5 > 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 2^{nd} \text{ bit of the maximum is } \quad 1$$

$$6^{th} \text{ round:} \quad \sum_{secure} = 15 > 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 1^{st} \text{ bit of the maximum is } \quad 1$$

Table 2.3: Party p_1 disqualifies itself as maximum in 2^{nd} round

Decimal $s_{i,10}$	Randomized					
13	0	$\underline{0}$	~~45~~ ^{0}	~~61~~ ^{0}	0	~~57~~ ^{0}
27	0	12	31	0	5	15
17	0	24	0	0	0	9

Table 2.4: Party p_3 disqualifies itself as maximum in 2^{nd} round

Decimal $s_{i,10}$	Randomized					
13	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	0	12	31	0	5	15
17	0	24	$\underline{0}$	0	0	~~9~~ ^{0}

In total, each party has the bits 0|1|1|0|1|1 stored and can reconstruct the correct maximum $\max(s_i) = 27$.

Using the negation of the binary representation, the order of the corresponding values in decimal numeral system is inverted (compare table 2.5). The computation is then the same as for the maximum search. The reconstructed maximum is finally negated to result in $\min(s_i)$.

Table 2.5: Negation of binary representation for minimum determination

Decimal $s_{i,10}$	Binary $s_{i,2}$						Negated					
13	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
27	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
17	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0

Protocol Description

Assumptions:

- number of parties $n > 2$

- secure communication channel
- no malicious adversaries
- upper bound of sum $s \leq b$ can be estimated, so a prime $p > b$ can be chosen

The secure comparison protocol, as used in this thesis, consists of the phases for secure addition within iterations for the bitwise length of a predefined upper bound for the inputs:

1. The coordinator announces the number of parties for the computation and the indexation of each party.
2. For minimum-search: each party negates the secret input.
3. For each bit in the secret input starting from MSB to LSB each party runs through iterations:
   (a) If input is flagged as lower than maximum, then use $s_j = 0$ as the input. Otherwise multiply actual bit b with a random value R: $s_j = b \cdot R$.
   (b) Each party j sends shares $s_{j,i}$ of the input s_j to the other parties.
   (c) Each party i computes the sum over the received shares $s_{j,i}$.
   (d) Each party sends the computed sum to the coordinator.
   (e) The coordinator reconstructs the sum over the inputs using Lagrange-interpolation.
   (f) The coordinator broadcasts the reconstructed sum.
   (g) Each party stores if the sum for the bit was equal 0 (set bit 0) or unequal 0 (set bit 1).
   (h) Each party compares if bit from the computed sum is greater than own bit. If so input is flagged as lower than maximum.
4. For minimum-search: each party negates the stored sum-result.

Note: the assumption $n > 2$ for the secure addition and secure comparison protocols is not strict enough, if sum, min and max are computed for the same parties, since for $n = 3$ the secret between minimum and maximum can be restored (the mapping of values to parties is still secure though).

2.1.4 Existing Frameworks

SMCL discontinued; points to: VIFF discontinued; points to: SPDZ

SPDZ Software link

SEPIA link

MpcLib link

Sharemind link

Enigma link

2.2 Mobile Ad Hoc Networks

The framework developed as part of this thesis focuses on providing SMPC for MANETs. In this section the network topologies related to MANETs are briefly described (see 2.2.1) and the implementability based on current technology standards are examined (see 2.2.2).

2.2.1 Network Topologies

Dorri, Kamel, and Kheirkhah (2015) describe a MANETs as an "infrastructure-independent network with wireless mobile nodes" (Dorri, Kamel, and Kheirkhah 2015, p. 15). MANETs are similar to mesh networks, but the distinctive feature is the nodes' spatial degree of freedom. In comparison to a star network, there is no central switch dedicated to routing messages. Instead each node provides message passing abilities and acts as a multi-hop relay. The advantage of MANETs is the open network boundary: nodes can freely join and leaving nodes do not affect the functionality of the MANET:

- continuously self-configuring
- self-forming
- self-healing
- infrastructure-less

- peer-to-peer
- Difference to mesh: mobility of nodes

The message passing can either be done by routing or flooding. Since the nodes can move freely, the neighbors will change often, so maintaining routing tables is expensive. The passing of messages without the availability of authentication protocols like HTTP over TLS (HTTPS) makes the communication vulnerable against man-in-the-middle attacks. Of course flooding means broadcasting and is not cheap either. For simplicity all communications related to this thesis are flooding broadcasts, if they have non-critical privacy demands and direct, encrypted message exchanges between neighbors for all SMPC.

2.2.2 Implementability on Android Devices

MANETs are especially of interest for military applications and disaster management but they are also gaining research focus for civil usage for example in context of IoT devices. Demonstrations of the implementability can be found for example in Open Gardens MeshKit software development kit (SDK) (Opengarden.com 2016a), which offers MANET abilities for Android and iOS devices and thereby forming a SPAN. MeshKit is also the foundation for Open Gardens well-known FireChat (Opengarden.com 2016b), which is for example known in context of pro-democracy demonstrations. MeshKit is not open source, so a simplified (but extendable) implementation of SPAN is developed (compare 4.1). Both for Wi-Fi and Bluetooth based connections, there can be limitations in regard to maximum concurrent connections. Vendor specific restrictions (hardware, driver) are hard to compensate reactive at runtime, so this issue has to be addressed proactive in 3.3 Architecture.

Bluetooth Based MANET

Usually Bluetooth connections with smart phones requires pairing and user actions. This is not a useful process flow to build a MANET since nodes cannot simply join the network. Using the Bluetooth protocol Radio frequency communication (RFCOMM) an insecure connection can be established, without the need for pairing and user interaction. Andersson et al. (2016) describe RFCOMM as the emulation of serial ports over Logical Link Control and Adaptation Protocol (L2CAP), supporting the emulation of multiple ports

between two devices and ports between multiple devices (device dependent). Since multiple simultaneous connection have to share the available bandwidth per node, it takes $\frac{n}{2}$ times longer to share the same amount of data using only one-to-one connections. For the targeted number of computation partners in this thesis, this is a tolerable overhead. The Bluetooth Special Interest Group has announced mesh networking protocols for upcoming specifications (Hegendorf 2016).

Wi-Fi Based MANET

Situations in which we can use Wi-Fi (or Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM)) usually provide Internet access, so Wi-Fi is not the primary target technology for this thesis. The callback-based architecture of the developed framework (compare 3.3 Architecture) enables the usage of different wireless technologies. With Android 4.0 (application programming interface (API) level 14) the Wi-Fi Peer-to-Peer framework was introduced, which complies with the Wi-Fi Alliance's Wi-Fi Direct certificate program. Wi-Fi Direct states that one-to-one or group (many-to-one) connections are possible. One device acts as a group owner (soft access point), so it forms a star topology. To imitate a SPAN with Wi-Fi Direct multi-group communication has to be provided. In Funai, Tapparello, and Heinzelman (2016) limitations of Android in regard of multi-group networking as well as solutions are discussed. Other solutions (compare Thomas (2014)) include usage of custom kernels on rooted smart phones. Even though demonstrations on selected devices have shown the feasibility, such system modifications neglect the target group and the intentions of this framework.

Chapter 3

Design

Based on the findings in chapter 4 Background extended with UML use case diagrams the requirements for the framework are specified in 3.1 Requirements. In 3.2 Decentralized, Distributed Computing specific requirements in context of complex processes are substantiated with algorithms for decentralized, distributed computing. Finally, a draft design is presented 3.3 Architecture.

3.1 Requirements

3.1.1 Functional Requirements

Functional requirements define the functions the framework has to offer to meet the acceptance criteria. Based on 4 Background we can divide the requirements into two main fields: features regarding the accurate computation of the SMPC protocols and functions required to compensate the lack of an MANET API and technical limitations. Figure 3.1 presents the general functionality a node or a party expects from the system: especially the need for a secure channel and the limitation for nearby computation partners is caused by the missing multi-hop capabilities.

Since most functions (like the time synchronization and the multi-party computation) require the interaction between nodes, these processes need to be coordinated. In a distributed system there is no central authority, so a node has to become the temporal leader or coordinator for the duration of a process. In figure 3.2 the processes requiring coordination are described as use cases for a temporal coordinator.

Functional requirements:

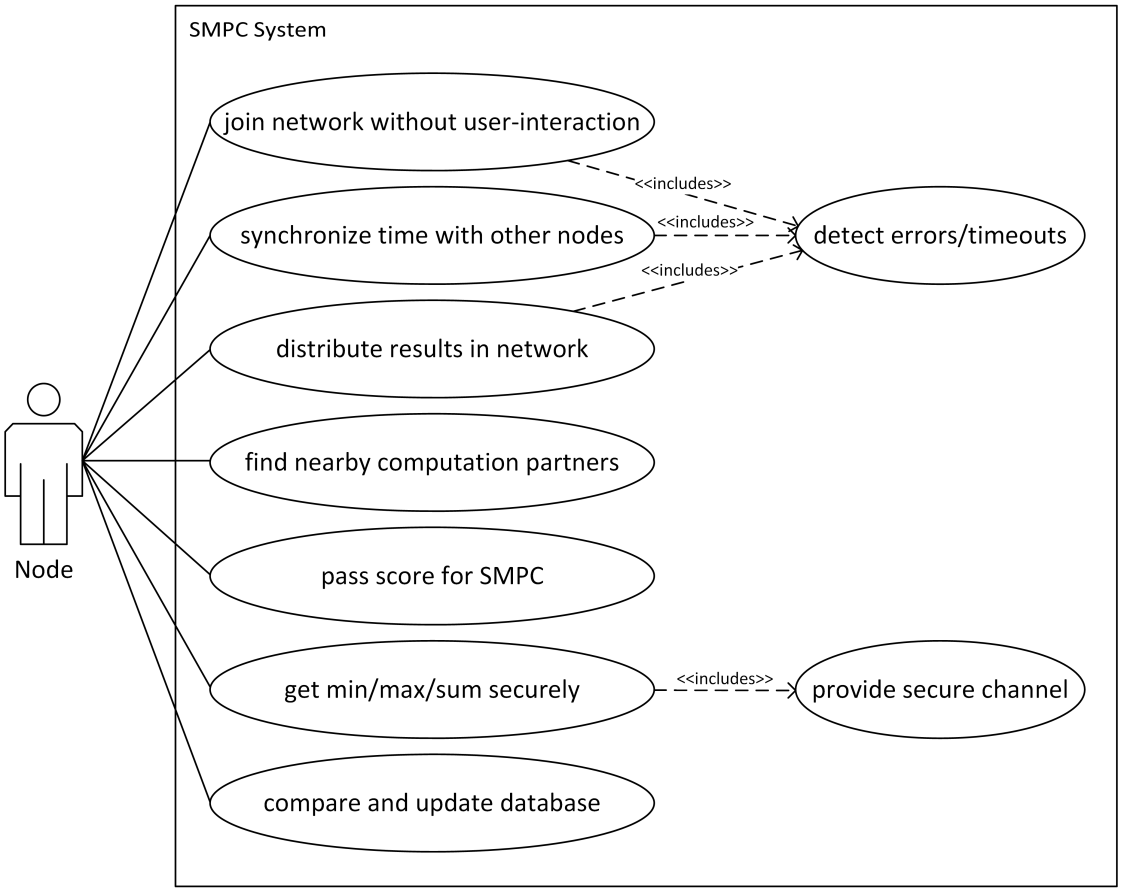

Figure 3.1: UML use case diagram for the general functional requirements of a node

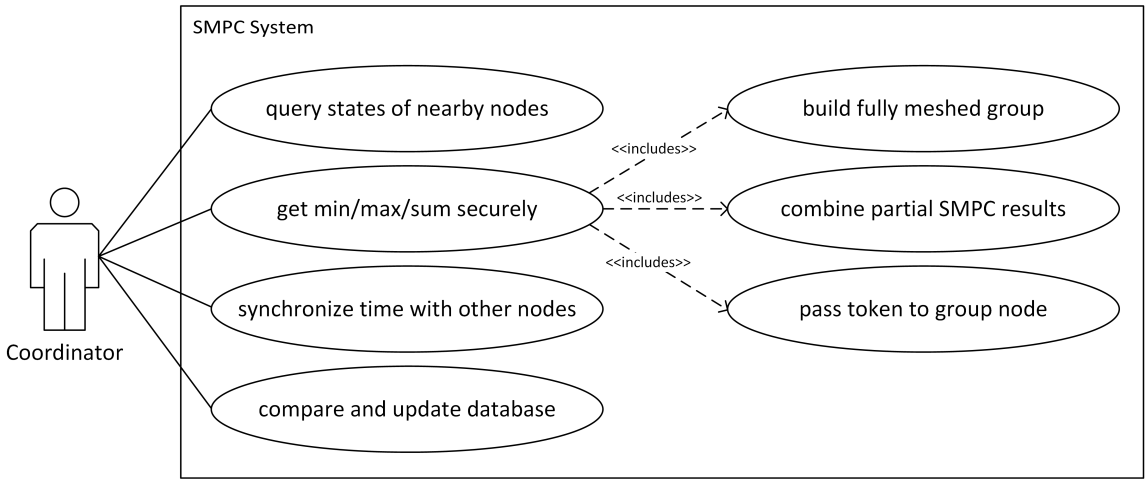

Figure 3.2: UML use case diagram for the functional requirements for the coordinator

Table 3.1: Functional requirements

Name	**FR01 Pairing-less Connection**
Requirement	As a node I want to join the system without having to pair with other devices.
Assumptions	Device has Bluetooth capabilities with RFCOMM protocol.
Name	**FR02 Heartbeat**
Requirement	As a node I need to inform my coordinator if my computation is running longer than expected. As a coordinator I need to inform all group nodes if a computation is running longer than expected.
Assumptions	Hosting system provides system time.
Name	**FR03 Non-termination Detection**
Requirement	As a node I must be able to detect a communication problem so I can reset my status.
Assumptions	Hosting system provides system time.
Name	**FR04 Coordinator Election**
Requirement	As a node I want to become coordinator for nearby nodes. While I am coordinator I want to be able to assign a group-member to coordinate a subprocess.
Name	**FR05 Token-Passing**
Requirement	As coordinator I want to be able to assign a group-member to coordinate a subprocess.
Name	**FR06 Secure Multi-Party Computation Module**
Requirement	As a coordinator I want to form a group of fully meshed nodes and coordinate the execution of the secure addition and secure comparison protocols using a secure communication channel.
Assumptions	group >2All group-members have a score within the same time-frame limits.
Testability	Unit tests to proof correctness of implementation. Performance-tests with different number of computation partners and validation of result.
Name	**FR07 Clock Synchronization**
Requirement	As coordinator I want to synchronize the clocks of nearby nodes.
Testability	Unit tests to proof correctness of implementation.
Name	**FR08 Database Synchronization**
Requirement	As coordinator I want to compare my database status with nearby nodes without having to compare entry-wise and exchange entries.
Assumptions	Participating nodes are idle and not waiting for a computation.

3.1.2 Non-Functional Requirements

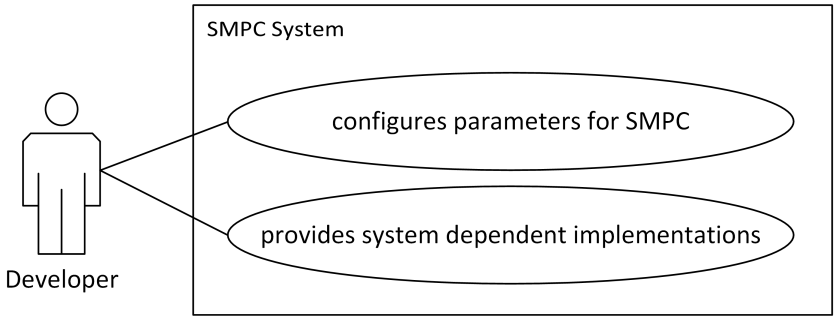

Figure 3.3: UML use case diagram for developer

Table 3.2: My caption

Name	**NFR01 Configurability**
Requirement	As a developer using the framework I want to configure the settings for the SMPC.
Name	**NFR02 Usability**
Requirement	As a developer it must be clear what callbacks have to be implemented and how the framework can be used in an Android device.

3.2 Decentralized, Distributed Computing

Some of the specified requirements

3.2.1 Coordinator Election and Coordinator Role

As discussed in 2.2.2 Implementability on Android Devices fully featured MANETs are currently not provided and mapping it completely in the application layer is beyond the scope of this thesis. Overcoming the technical limitation, the system can be build with sequential communications instead of parallel. As stated in 2.2.1 Network Topologies communication in context of SMPC computations is only done in a fully meshed subgroup of the network, which simplifies the coordinator election.
A node will try to become the coordinator, when

1. a new personal score is ready for SMPC: event driven.

2. all SMPC

3. an event driven attempt failed an a certain amount of time passed: timer based.

To avoid situations of competing nodes trying to become coordinator and thereby booth repeatedly failing, because not enough computation partners can be acquired, the timer based approach is supported by the exponential backoff algorithm. Ganga et al. (2010, p.67) describes the exponential backoff algorithm for collision detection and retransmission: if a coordinator appointment failed (equivalent to collision detection in original description) a factor for the waiting time till the next attempt is selected uniformly random from an increasing range, reducing the probability for competing coordinator candidates (compare figure 3.4).

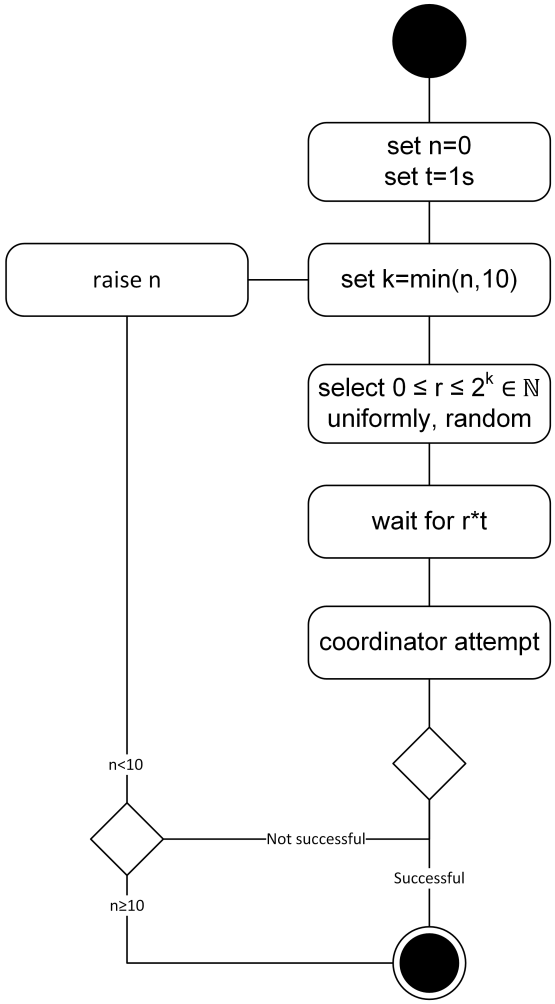

Figure 3.4: UML activity diagram for exponential backoff algorithm

Since parallel message exchange for the computation group cannot be guaranteed (see 2.2.2), the coordinator controls sequential message exchanges with token passing. For example when n nodes want to exchange n secrets divided into n shares each, the coordinator first requests successively the shares for himself $(s_i, 1)$ from the other $n-1$

nodes, while transmitting his own shares (s_1, j) with the request. Then the communication token gets passed to the next node, which in turn requests the shares from himself from the other $n-2$ nodes while transmitting his own shares and so on. An exemplary share-exchange for $n = 3$ with token-passing is illustrated in figure 3.5.

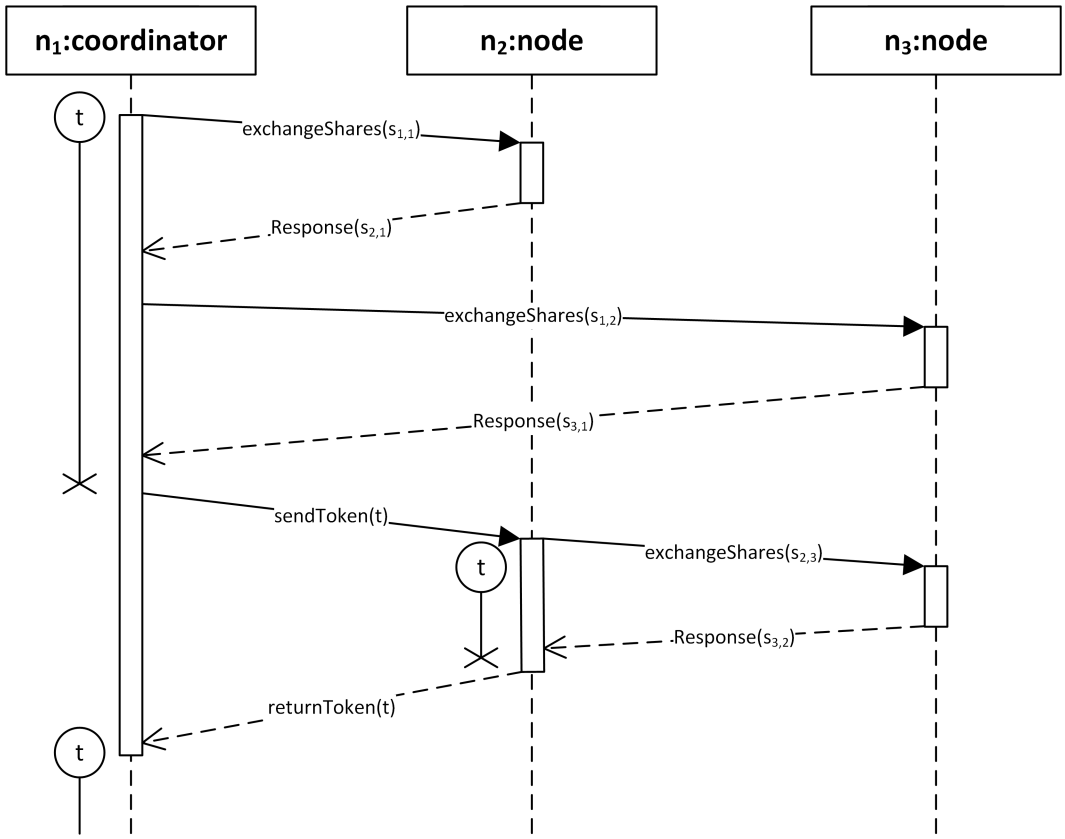

Figure 3.5: UML sequence diagram for passing of communication token

The combination of processes with the same communication partners, single-digit bytes of payloads and short process termination is a good option to reduces the total message-occurrence in the network: for example when a coordinator requests the states of nearby nodes, it can be combined with the clock synchronization.

3.2.2 Clock Synchronization

For statistical data in a gamification system, the sequence of events in infinitesimal time units is not as important as comparing the data for the same durations in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), so a synchronization of physical clocks is needed. In this thesis the well known Berkeley-algorithm for internal clock synchronization in distributed systems is used as described in Ghosh (2015).

The coordinator

1. requests the current time values t_i from participating nearby nodes i.
2. computes the average of these values $t_{average}$.
3. reports back the adjustments $\Delta_i = t_{average} - t_i$

Since the communication between the coordinator and a node takes time, the received response is already outdated. This is compensated by observing the Round Trip Time (RTT) and using half of the duration as a correction value (compare 3.1). The RTT is herein the timespan between sending a request to a node and receiving its response (see figure 3.6).

$$t'_i = t_i + \frac{RTT}{2} = t_i + \frac{t_e - t_s}{2} \tag{3.1}$$

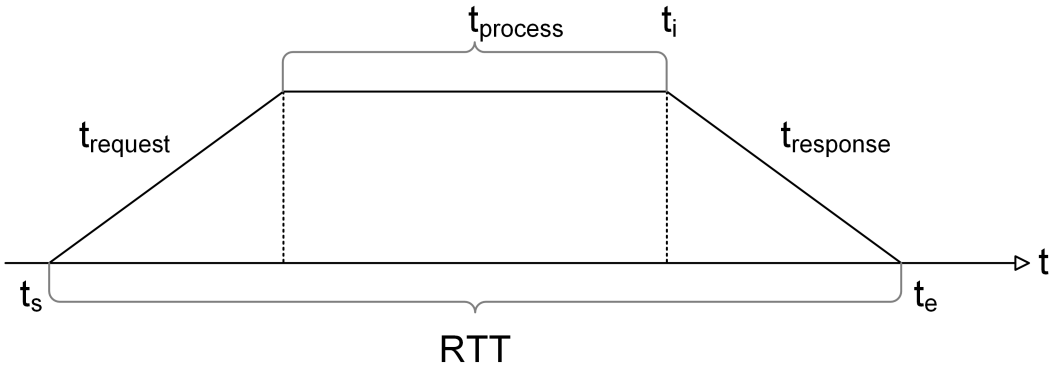

Figure 3.6: Round Trip Time

By sending the adjustments Δ_i instead of the adjusted time, the receiving nodes do not need to compensate the received value with the RTT. Figure 3.7 depicts the computation of the adjustments using Berkeley with RTT correction for three nodes.

For further improvement of the accuracy the processing duration between receiving a request and sending the response $t_{process}$ can be measured and send to the coordinator. In this thesis the simple approximation for $t_{response}$ is used, since the additional payload extends the transmission duration. The RTT has to be below an upper bound though, otherwise there is to much uncertainty regarding the influence of $t_{request}$, $t_{process}$ and $t_{response}$. Also bounds for the deviation of the time can be defined to reduce the influence of outliers.

The framework does not change the actual clock setting on the hosting system, but stores the computed time difference Δ_t and applies the value to all time-related actions.

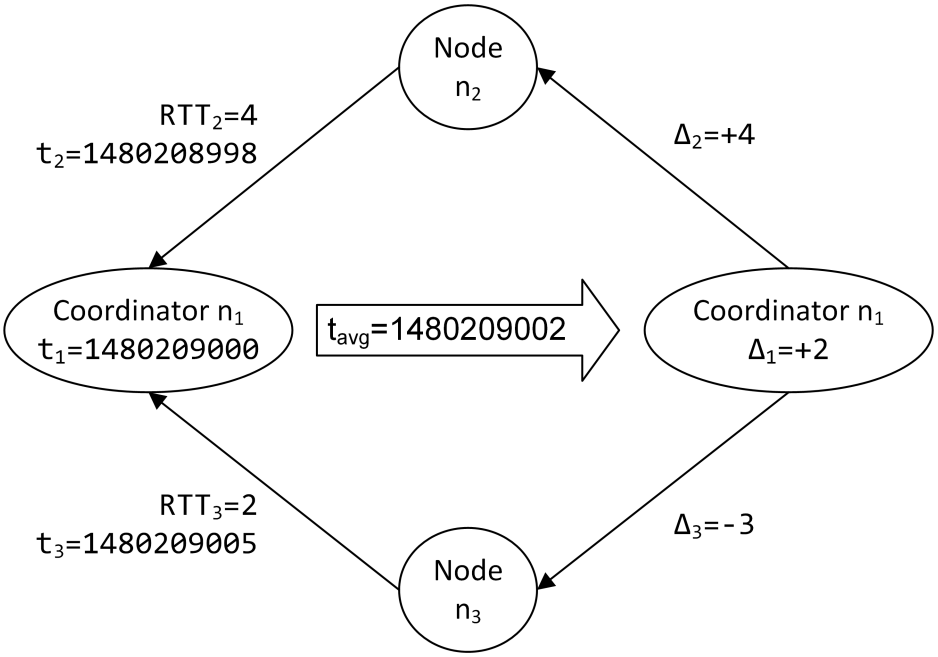

Figure 3.7: Example computation of adjustments with Berkeley

To make sure that a node is time-synchronized before scores and computations are acquired, it is reasonable to trigger a synchronization when the node joins the network.

3.2.3 Distributed Databases

3.2.4 Securing the Communication Channel

The requirement

Description of asymmetric cryptography/public-key cryptosystem RSA

3.3 Architecture

Chapter 4

Implementation

4.1 Communication Layer

4.1.1 Pairing-less Connection

4.1.2 Securing Channel

RSA with wolfCrypt: Embedded Crypto Engine wolfssl.com (2016)

4.2 Secure Multi-Party Computation Module

4.3 Data Storage and Distribution

wolfssl.com (2016)

Hashing with wolfCrypt: Embedded Crypto Engine

4.4 Interfacing the Library

4.4.1 Configuration

4.4.2 Usage in C

4.4.3 Usage in Android

Chapter 5

Evaluation

5.1 Testing Tools

5.2 Examination of Computation Time Dependent on Computing Power

5.3 Examination of Computation Time Dependent on Number of Participants

Chapter 6

Discussion

Chapter 7

Conclusion

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Appendix A

Some name

Nulla malesuada porttitor diam. Donec felis erat, congue non, volutpat at, tincidunt tristique, libero. Vivamus viverra fermentum felis. Donec nonummy pellentesque ante. Phasellus adipiscing semper elit. Proin fermentum massa ac quam. Sed diam turpis, molestie vitae, placerat a, molestie nec, leo. Maecenas lacinia. Nam ipsum ligula, eleifend at, accumsan nec, suscipit a, ipsum. Morbi blandit ligula feugiat magna. Nunc eleifend consequat lorem. Sed lacinia nulla vitae enim. Pellentesque tincidunt purus vel magna. Integer non enim. Praesent euismod nunc eu purus. Donec bibendum quam in tellus. Nullam cursus pulvinar lectus. Donec et mi. Nam vulputate metus eu enim. Vestibulum pellentesque felis eu massa.

To do...

- ☐ 1 (p. i): bad word high acceptable here?
- ☐ 2 (p. 1): 5-10%, including motivation, general audience
- ☐ 3 (p. 1): mention IoT problems (Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) and botnets), to emphasis usefulness of connected but not online
- ☐ 4 (p. 3): 10-15%; thorough review of the state of the art; informed audience
- ☐ 5 (p. 3): general idea
- ☐ 6 (p. 5): describe number off messages, usage of threshold as trade-off between security and performance -¿ START
- ☐ 7 (p. 5): describe number off messages, usage of threshold as trade-off between security and performance -¿ END
- ☐ 8 (p. 7): Write about differential privacy?
- ☐ 9 (p. 7): why Shamir instead?
- ☐ 10 (p. 10): secure addition with verification (Cramer, Damgard, and Nielsen 2015); number of messages
- ☐ 11 (p. 14): brief, why not fitting, focus on web, badly documented, complex
- ☐ 12 (p. 14): maybe: mention FairplayMP, but also abandoned, issue from 2015 unanswered
- ☐ 13 (p. 14): SPDZ Software

- ☐ 14 (p. 14): SEPIA Java lib
- ☐ 15 (p. 14): MpcLib: no documentation
- ☐ 16 (p. 14): sharemind
- ☐ 17 (p. 14): Enigma for SMPC based cloud services; MIT
- ☐ 18 (p. 15): figure mesh vs MANET
- ☐ 19 (p. 16): mention Bluetooth 5
- ☐ 20 (p. 17): 15-20%; explains complete processing chain; explains what methods are used; for someone that wants to know what was done in detail
- ☐ 21 (p. 21): Reduction of active connections; compare number of additional rounds needed; discuss timeouts
- ☐ 22 (p. 22): detecting of non-termination; coordinator perspective and node perspective heartbeat: timeout timer run out, try to send heartbeat, otherwise abort and reset initial state
- ☐ 23 (p. 25): simplified version; let system handle storage; system needs to provide callback to run query over hashes; hash for each entry and db hash over all hashes; calculation done in lib; if db hash different from neighbor: compare entries anti chronologically
- ☐ 24 (p. 25): information: hash — time-stamp — number of participants — min v max v sum — value
- ☐ 25 (p. 25): Extend

- ☐ 26 (p. 25): FURPS: Functionality, Usability, Reliability, Performance, Supportability; how followed to be system independent
- ☐ 27 (p. 25): UML; module structure
- ☐ 28 (p. 25): state machine; state pattern; client server architecture; UML state diagrams for 1. joining network (get time; set clock delta), 2. finding computation partners, 3. running computation, 4. compare database
- ☐ 29 (p. 25): describe how it will change for a real MANET: simplification, reduction of states
- ☐ 30 (p. 25): describe what is handled internally and what is handled externally by the hosting system and why (external: providing time, providing secure seed, providing timeout timer, providing communication channel: send (id based), receive (id based), query neighbors;)
- ☐ 31 (p. 26): 15-20%; details on the implementation; for someone who wants to continue the work
- ☐ 32 (p. 26): UML class or component diagram
- ☐ 33 (p. 26): UML communication diagram
- ☐ 34 (p. 26): external system: extend on RFCOMM; widespread
- ☐ 35 (p. 26): describe how external system can provide better seeds for the public key system
- ☐ 36 (p. 26): describe how the library encrypts the messages; flag for message to signal encryption (first Byte of payload 0/1)

- ☐ 37 (p. 26): https://developer.android.com/reference/java/security/SecureRandom
- ☐ 38 (p. 26): describe the module for creating shares; describe generation of communication partner matrix; describe secure addition module; describe secure maximum module; describe secure minimum module
- ☐ 39 (p. 26): describe configuration.h: what can be configured, override of illegal configurations/sanity checks
- ☐ 40 (p. 26): describe library is used in raspberry and in xadow
- ☐ 41 (p. 26): describe how library is used with android Native Development Kit (NDK); describe Java wrapper
- ☐ 42 (p. 27): 5-15%; outcome; how was it tested; for supervisor
- ☐ 43 (p. 27): Unity (Unit test for C); JUnit; Android based multi-device tests
- ☐ 44 (p. 27): centralized client-server test application for android: trigger test runs, report results (measured execution time, correctness)
- ☐ 45 (p. 27): test on: xadow (IoT); RaspberryPi 3 (SBC); Android 4 (single core, low RAM), Android 5 (multi-core, 2 GB RAM)
- ☐ 46 (p. 27): n devices, n shares (highest security)
- ☐ 47 (p. 27): n devices, k (¿n/2) shares (adjustable security)
- ☐ 48 (p. 28): 5-15%; outcome for a design-reader

- ☐ 49 (p. 28): extend protocol: implement merging of results, to reduce probability of not finding computation partner; implement alternative protocols
- ☐ 50 (p. 28): implement optional verification for addition, if performance is good enough for real life application
- ☐ 51 (p. 29): 5-10%; outcome for an introduction-reader
- ☐ 52 (p. 29): outlook: bt 5.0, mesh network