**Ambiguity Resistant Privacy-Preserving Auction (ARPAN)** 

 [dubiety](https://www.thesaurus.com/browse/dubiety)

**Best green**

**Red to be checked**

**Orange needs rewriting**

**Abstract**

Auctions have become very popular for trading a good, primarily when the actual value of that particular good is unknown in the market. With the internet era, auctions have become more fluent and easily conductible online; therefore, many online platforms have come into the picture. However, the primary concern with these platforms was that information such as bid values shared by the bidders with these platforms could be used to manipulate the results of the current or future auctions as well data privacy concerns are also coming into the picture. Privacy-preserving actions have been introduced to ensure that bidders’ privacy is preserved and that auction manipulation in any state should be avoided. However, the possibility of bidders’ collusion to make the auction result ambiguous has not been considered well in privacy-preserving auctions.

Since privacy-preserving auctions hide most of the information to preserve privacy and there may be ambiguity in the auction result, the verifiability of auction results is a significant concern. In this paper, an ambiguity-resistant privacy-preserving auction (ARPAN) is proposed. ARPAN is based on Secure Multi-Party Computation and Homomorphic Encryption, which enables us to perform an auction without disclosing the bid information of buyers to the auctioneer and ensures that bidders ‘collusion to change the auction result will be identified as well as the verifiability of the auction results will be ensured. Thus, ARPAN preserves the bidders’ privacy, removes ambiguity in the auction result, and makes the auction result publicly verifiable.

**Introduction**

Auctions have emerged as one of the most excellent tools to gather the actual value of any product. For this purpose, various auction methods have been proposed in the past [ reference, precise not book] [2]. Popular auction types, such as English and Dutch [Reference], are frequently used. Most auctions prefer open bidding, i.e., bid value is open to each participant of the auction, and everybody knows what value a specific bidder is willing to pay for the auctioned good. The drawback with such auctions is that the bidders’ data is easily accessible to everyone, ultimately leading to unfair auctions such as bid repudiation, false valuation, fake bidding, etc. [reference]. The second price auction [reference], where the highest bidder pays the second highest price, was proposed to solve many such issues, and the concept of sealed bidding was introduced. Due to the sealed bid, only the auctioneer can open and compare all the bids and then declare the winner. Sealed bidding removes the issue of price changes and the temptation to raise the price by limiting the openness of bid values to the auctioneer only. Still, the problem is that we must consider the auctioneer as a trusted entity and trust the auctioneer not to misuse bid information.

Modern internet-based auctions, i.e., e-auctions, platforms, [reference] are generally privately owned and led by the auctioneer itself, thus creating great opportunities to gain profit from using bidder’s data, for example, maliciously using it for upcoming auctions. The auctioneer can know the bid a particular user will pay for the auctioned good. Next time, the auctioneer may collude with the seller and introduce fake close bids to the winning bid to earn more profit in a second-price auction environment. The auctioneer may sell this data to third-party retailers, and they may use this information while selling the same good to the bidders[reference of data selling paper]. They may not sell goods lower than that bid price. An auctioneer providing its online platform to conduct an auction may change the bid to earn more profit in case of a second-price auction, which will be undetectable because the bids are sealed. In case the bids are not hampered by the auctioneer and a bidder wins the auction and pays the second price as a winning price, another threat that is formed is on the subsequent auction of the same good; the auctioneer sets the reserve price of the good as the last auction's winning price. All these issues occur because the bids are disclosed to the auctioneer at the end, so the goal should be to preserve the price of the bids even if the auction is concluded successfully. Another major threat in a privacy-preserving auction environment is to ensure anti-collusion, two or more bidders may collude with each other and try to change the auction results or may try to know the bid values of other honest bidders.

The major properties that we want from a privacy-preserving auction are listed below:

* Privacy: Privacy refers to preserving the bid values from the auctioneer and all other participants before and after the auction.
* Accountability: This means a malicious bidder can't disrupt the integrity of the auction results by submitting a deceitful bid value and can bypass the system's safety.
* Integrity: The Bidders can submit the bids within an allocated time frame, thus preventing the false submission after the time frame.
* Non-Repudiation: Bidders cannot deny the bid that they have submitted to the system; protocol should be able to map the bids to original bidders.
* Fairness: The bidder has the same power and authority as other bidders to check the authenticity of the results.
* Verifiability: Each bidder must be able to verify the auction results securely.
* Transparency: The bidders must guarantee the winning bid's origin, authenticity, and legitimacy.
* Anti-Collusion: Two or more bidders must not be able to collude with each other and try to disrupt the auction results or maliciously know the bid value of other bidders.

Numerous works have been proposed in this area [References] to fulfill the PPA. But don't fulfill all the above-mentioned properties. Works such as [6] [7] considered garbled circuits to implement PPA, but the high computational cost limits the implementation of these works in real life. Other works, such as [8] [9], considered secure multi-party computation (SMPC) to preserve the privacy of the losing bids. SMPC greatly reduces the computation cost compared to Garbled Circuits, but these works cannot satisfy the above-mentioned properties. Properties such as public verifiability and anti-collusion are lacking. Bidders’ collusion in PPAs may change the result, and the auctioneer will not be able to identify whether the obtained result is correct or altered because of bidders’ collusion. Therefore, even after getting a result following the correct auction procedure, the auctioneer cannot guarantee the right outcome, i.e., the obtained result is ambiguous. In PPA-based auctions, one tries to hide most of the information, and in such cases, public verifiability of the result is another significant concern. A case study consisting of various such threats against our proposed model and an experimental evaluation of the proposed scheme in a real-life scenario is presented in subsequent sections of the paper.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Related works have been concluded in section 2. Section 3 provides the background of tools used to fulfill our work. The work of the proposed scheme is shown in section 4. Section 5 consists of the experimental evaluation and mathematical proof of the algorithm's security. Section 6 concludes the work. Next, we present a case study of various threat models against the proposed PPA.

**The Literature Review needs to be rewritten.**

PPA has been significantly considered for the research, and various methods have been used to construct it. In [8], a multiple-round-based auction protocol was proposed with the concept of multiple (n) auctioneers, making the system safe with the threshold of (n-1). The bidding process is done on the k prices; therefore, the bidders generate bid vectors. These bid vectors are the input to SMPC. Then, the number of bidders at a particular price is revealed as the number of IDs in the sum. Suppose the highest price has only a single ID. In that case, only one bidder is interested, and If multiple IDs are present, then multiple bidders are interested at that price, and then another round of auction is done. In [10], an oblivious third party has been considered, and this party is responsible for deciding the winner; the bit comparison makes the bid comparison, and the values are secured with the phi hiding assumption. Authors in [11] use the masking of bids in random polynomials where a set of distributed servers ensures trust in the system. These distributed servers collaborate to remove the noise of the masking and declaring the winner. This scheme depends on the servers, and it is considered that the servers will not be compromised.

The work in [12] proposed a scheme that does not demand the auctioneer to fulfill the auction; the bidders and the seller conduct the auction where the seller plays the role of Auctioneer. Bidders submit the shares of their own generated bid vectors. The concept of slicing and mixing hides the losing bids, and the seller determines the winner with the help of addition and subtraction on these shares of bid vectors. Some other works, such as [13], gave a verifiable secret-sharing scheme with multiple servers and made the system safe with a threshold of 1/3. Authors in [14] use ElGamal encrypted bidder-generated bidding vectors and a set of distributed authorities with a jointly held key. The role of the auctioneer or auctioneer authorities is to compute integrals to recover information along with mix and match to find the valuation of the bid in comparison to a predetermined price. A holomorphic binary search is then used to determine the winner.

If everything is concluded correctly, privacy-preserving auctions are the most trustworthy form of an auction. Still, if some adversary tries to disrupt the auction results, then there should be a way to verify the genuineness of the auction publicly; to the best of our knowledge, it has not been considered in the past. Earlier works on PPA provided various methods to conduct the auction securely but did not consider the collusion cases in their adversarial model. The auction method that uses SMPC solely relies on the participant’s input, and the winner declaration is based on it. However, the participants are not always honest. They may try to disrupt the auction process with wrong input, done solely or by colluding with other participants. Our work addresses this situation by detecting such ambiguity before the declaration of the winner. Another issue is the lack of public verifiability of the results, and we have given a method to make the result publicly verifiable to all without disclosing any of the confidential data, thus preventing security issues.

**Preliminaries**

The section briefly introduces the tools considered in the proposed privacy-preserving auction scheme.

**3.1 RSA(Rivest–Shamir–Adleman) cryptosystems**

RSA [reference] is a type of asymmetric encryption that is based on the idea of the computational complexity of factorizing the product of large random prime numbers. it consists of two keys one public and the other private. The public key is used to encrypt the data and the private key is used to recover that data. One who holds the private key can decrypt any message encrypted with the private key of the same. Digital signature is a very famous example of application bass on such cryptosystems.

**3.1 Digital Signature**

A digital signature[reference] is a type of mathematical scheme where a recipient of the message can be sure that a particular message comes from a genuine source. For this purpose, a sender encrypts the message with the private key and the receiver can verify the legitimacy of the message by decrypting that message with the sender's public key. Let's say Ram sends a message to Shyam to know the genuineness of the message ram attaches a digital signature with the original message by encrypting the message with its private key and Shyam decrypts this encrypted text with Ram’s public key if the message and decrypted message are same than Shyam can be assured that message is authentic and comes from Shyam.

**3.1 Paillier Homomorphic Encryption**

It is a probabilistic asymmetric algorithm on public Key cryptography. The mathematical operation that can be performed over a ciphertext without decrypting it is the main advantage of Paillier homomorphic encryption [15]. Encryption is secure and based on a nth residue problem, making it difficult to compute the plaintexts. The main functions that are available in this scheme of cryptography are KeyGeneration(), Encryption(), and Decryption().

KeyGeneration(): This function creates two pairs of keys: a public key (pubKey) and a private key(priKey). To create a pair of keys, two large random prime numbers (p, q) are selected so that their greatest common divisor, i.e., gcd(n, (p-1)(q-1)), is one where n is pq. We find the lowest common multiple = lccat

m(p-1, q-1). Now we select a random number g such that it belongs to [2, n2] we do so to ensure that n divides the order of g by checking the expression,μ = (L(g l mod n2)-1) mod n where L is the function such that L(x) = (x-1)/n.

Encryption()/E(): For encryption of any text, we use the public key, which is(n, g). The plain text will be represented with m, which belongs to [0,n). We select a random number r that belongs in (0, n) to encrypt the plain text, and gcd (r, n) is 1. ciphertext c is computed as c = gmrn mod n2.

Decryption()/D(): For decryption, we use the private key, which is (l, μ). For the ciphertext c to be decrypted and computed the plaintext m, we do it with the help of the following expression m = L (cl mod n2) μ mod n.

The following equations, (1), (2), and (3), are the specific ways to perform algebraic operations over the ciphertext generated through this cryptosystem. The results are the same on decryption as if we have done these operations on the plain text directly.

D(E(m1)|pubKey E(m2)|pubKey mod n2)|priKey = (m1 + m2)mod n (1)

D(E(m1)|pubKey gm2mod n2)|priKey = (m1 + m2)mod n (2)

D((E(m)|pubKey)kmod n2)|priKey = (km)mod n (3)

When we multiply two ciphertexts and then decrypt them, the result is the sum of the two original plain texts shown in equation (1). The second part, i.e., equation (2), shows that if some number m2 is raised to the power of g and then multiplied to the ciphertext, then on decryption, the result is again the sum of the two numbers. The last equation, i.e., equation (3), shows that if some number k is raised as the power of the ciphertext, the result is the product of both plain texts.

**3.2 Secure Multi-Party Computation**

SMPC [reference] is an efficient way to know whose bid is the highest without disclosing the actual value of the bid. SMPC will help sort the ciphertexts of the bid values, and based on the result of sorting, the auctioneer will decide who is the winner.

**Secure Two-Party Comparison (STPC)**

In our proposed protocol, we have used a secure two-party comparison protocol to compare the bid values of two bidders. This protocol is performed between every bidder. Let's say bidder A and bidder b generate bid values b1 and b2. bidder A and B don’t want either the auctioneer or other bidders to know their bid value, and for this purpose, a mathematical formulation is performed, where both bidders generate a random value X collaboratively, and then it is padded to both b1 and b2, thus generating the expressions Xb1 and Xb2. Here, the auctioneer can easily compare both expressions, and no secret information is revealed to him or other bidders. The same mathematical formulation will be performed for each bidder, thus preserving the privacy of the bid and yet making it possible to compare the bid values.

The notions that we have used throughout the paper have been described in Table 1.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Symbol** | **Meaning** |
|  | Id of bidder |
|  | Bidder i |
|  | The random number of the bidder |
|  | The bid value of the bidder |
|  | The public key of the auctioneer |
|  | The private key of the auctioneer |
|  | Public key of bidder |
|  | The private key of bidder |
|  | Message is homomorphically encrypted with the public key of the auctioneer |
|  | Message is homomorphically encrypted with the public key of bidder |
|  | The decryption of the ciphertext by the public key of bidder |
|  | Message encrypted with RSA public key of bidder |
|  | The decryption of ciphertext with the RSA private key of bidder |

**4 The Proposed Privacy-Preserving Auction**

The section introduces the entities involved in the proposed auction and then discusses the proposed model by discussing various phases in the proposed auction scheme. The whole auction concludes in a phase-by-phase manner and each phase has its timeout before which each bidder has to ensure the completion of the phase on its side. Those unable to complete in the given time bound will be discarded from the auction.

**4.1 Entities involved in the proposed auction**

The privacy-preserving mechanism that we have proposed contains a total of four entities that are described below

* Auctioneer: The auctioneer is a single party that provides the platform for conducting the auction. The auctioneer is also an active participant and calculates the auction result based on the received ciphertexts through the bidding phases.
* Bidders: Bidders are the interested buyers of the seller’s product. In our setting, they are considered dishonest agents who may not follow the auction regulations and may try to collude with each other.
* Seller: The seller is the entity here to sell an item to interested buyers and is considered an honest agent. The seller’s interest is only in selling the product at the best price that the seller can get from the auction.
* Certifier: It is an entity that has been considered to generate the unique IDs for Auction and pallier homomorphic key-value pairs for all the parties involved in the auction. This entity is trustworthy to all the parties involved.

Makor concern of previous PPAs was the dependency on the central authority to avoid dependency on a central authority we have introduced the certifier and the data that is shared with the certifier is only the unique IDs of the participants to generate homomorphic key pairs. Here, the auctioneer can be any online auction platform service provider responsible for conducting the auction. We aim to achieve an auction where no sensitive information can be disclosed, thus preventing bid privacy for the auctioneer and externally interested parties, nor can bidders submit false data during SMPC to win the auction or disrupt the auction’s legitimacy thus making the auction collusion-proof. In our model, we consider both the bidders and the auctioneer dishonest. They are both interested in their benefit; bidders can try to submit false data and win the auction or to know the bid value submitted by other bidders, and the auctioneer wants to know the original value of the bids to earn benefit from this data in the future. The seller is considered an honest party only interested in selling the goods at the best price. The certifier is considered to make the scheme work, but the information shared with the certifier is kept to a minimum.

**4.2 High-level overview of the phases**

The protocol consists of a total of 5 phases, as depicted in Figure 1. Following is the high-level overview of the proposed protocol

1. Registration Phase: Each participant registers with the certifier and ensures their entry to the database. The certifier issues the public and private keys to each bidder and the auctioneer.
2. Bid Submission Phase: Bidders and auctioneers generate a large secret random number for themselves, which will be used to fulfill the STPC. Each bidder encrypts its bid value padded with its random number by the auctioneer's public key, together with the digital signature, and then forwards this data to each bidder by encrypting with their public keys. Each bidder multiplies his random number to the received information homomorphically and then forwards the same to the auctioneer for STPC
3. Bid Reshuffling Phase: The Auctioneer collects and creates a copy of all the received messages at its end and then multiplies its random number to each received message and propagates this message to the bidder to multiply their random number on this message.
4. Ambiguity Removal Phase: In this phase, ambiguity removal takes place; the auctioneer analyzes all collected data from the bid reshuffling phase to check if no collusion or wrong entry has been made through the bidders
5. Market Clearance This phase is for the declaration of the winner by comparing the bids generated via STPC and then submitted in the Bid submission phase later auctioneer makes the auction data public so that each participant can verify the auction results.

The in-depth discussion will of each phase will be made in the following subsections. In our approach, we present a secure two-party evaluation-based PPA where the possibility of bidders' collusion can easily be detected and a proper method to verify the auction results. Papers such as [references] have used the same approach as ours but lack anti-collusion and verifiability to discuss some paper that lacks some properties in comparison to our paper. The goal is to conduct an auction without disclosing any of the bid to the auctioneer, or the certifier.

**4.3 Phase 1: Registration Phase**

This phase is the preliminary phase, where an auctioneer submits the auction issue request to the certifier and submits the auction details to the issuer. Details can be time frames of the auctions, rules, protocols of the auction, date, and goods to be auctioned. The certifier issues a set of public and private keys of pallier homomorphic encryption and RSA encryption to the auctioneer and all the bidders willing to participate on the auction date. Here, the certifier works as the bulletin board, and no confidential information is shared with the certifier except a unique ID to generate the keys.

**4.4 Phase 2: Bid Submission Phase**

Bidders submit their bid as the sum of their own generated random number and their actual bid. Further, this data with digital signature is submitted to other bidders as represented in equation 4.

(4)

Here, the first part of equation 4 is the bid of bidder padded with its random number , and this information has double encryption, one with auctioneer public key and then further with bidder to whom this information is sent for STPC i.e., bidder public key . The Second part is the digital signature of on the sent information to maintain the authenticity of the sent information.

In the next step decrypts the information and adds its random number to the ciphertext homomorphically; together with this, bidder also adds its digital signature and submits this data to the auctioneer. The data submitted to the auctioneer by bidder that was gained to him from bidder is shown in equation 5.

(5)

The information from equation 5 is verified by the auctioneer with the help of digital signatures and then saved in the auctioneer’s database.

Algorithm 1 is the demonstration of the protocol that is followed during the bid submission phase.

**Algorithm 1**

1. For a set of bidders ,each bidder generates padded bids information at own end and shares with, each bidder .
2. Bidder decrypts and adds its random number to received at their node and then updates the information which is represented by

1. Auctioneer decrypts received and stores it to use in upcoming phases.

Bid submission prevents non-repudiation and privacy of the bids. Digital signature prevents any hampering to the data ensuring non-repudiation while the padding of random numbers ensures that no privacy of bids is leaked to the auctioneer when the bids get finally submitted to the auctioneer.

**4.5 Phase 3: Bid Reshuffling Phase**

As in the bid submission phase bids privacy is preserved and non-repudiation is prevented and the auctioneer can declare the winner based on secure two-party comparison protocol by using and papers such as [reference applied energy] have used the above same approach to declare the winner but this protocol doesn’t ensures anti-collusion if two bidders collude they can easily make the results of the auction incorrect or may gather the information of bid submitted by other bidders and that’s why phase 2 solely doesn’t guarantees that no such maliciousness has occurred in between, and neither provides any way to detect such maliciousness. Phase 3 proposed in this paper is to ensure the system safety from the above-described issue of bidder’s collusion and a method to verify the auction results. This protocol works on reshuffling the bid and taking the bidder's random number once again on their own generated message along with the random number of all other bidders without disclosing the message identity to them. The protocol works as depicted in algorithm 2.

**Algorithm 2**

1. Auctioneer updates all by adding its random number to it thus generating .

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1. Auctioneer forwards this along with the of all other bidders other than bidder k to bidder k
2. decrypts the first part of the information and add its random number homomorphically and then encrypts it with the next given public key.

1. Same is followed by each bidder and ion last the along with the sum of random numbers of all other bidders is received to the auctioneer as the last is of the auctioneer.
2. New gathered data by auctioneer after addition of all bidders’ random numbers is represented by
3. The auctioneer compares through the secure two-party comparison for each pair of bidders and decides who is the winner and keeps it secret with him till the market clearance phase.

This phase ensures that each bidder adds its random number to the padded bids submitted by each bidder and during this whole process the identity of submitted bid during the bid submission phase is not revealed which will be beneficial in upcoming the phase. If the identity of submitted bid is revealed than the bidders who have colluded in first phase will identity the message and again submit the same false data and we have to avoid it from being happening that is why we have maintained the anonymity of the submitted bid during this whole process.

**4.6 Phase 4: Ambiguity Removal Phase**

In this phase before the declaration of the winner auctioneer checks for anti-collusion due to the bidders. The auctioneer follows algorithm 3 to find the bidder's collusion that can took place in between. If the auctioneer finds any collusion than he rejects the auction and if no collusion happened than declares the winner, which is described in market clearance phase. Following is the description of algorithm 3.

**Algorithm 3**

1. Auctioneer collects all and checks the following equation for every iteration of
2. N

Where the value of

1. Auctioneer checks thevalue on the basis of following conditions

N

This phase removes any ambiguity happened in between the earlier phases this phase bounds the bidders to submit true input during the bid submission and bid reshuffling phase otherwise it gets detected in ambiguity removal phase using algorithm 3. Earlier works which used these approaches lacked detection of such ambiguity and if such ambiguity goes unnoticed than it is guaranteed that the auction results will not be correct. Two colluding bidders can easily take the auction offtrack of the auction rules. They can also extract bid values of other bidders. But by the use of the algorithm 3 the auctioneer can find any such ambiguity present in the collected bid data.

We have also provided the proof of above algorithm that it will work even if a single bidder will create ambiguity in between the bid submission. The proof has been presented in the case study section.

**4.7 Phase 5: Market Clearence Phase**

After the ambiguity removal phase auctioneer sorts all collected and finds the winning bidders. For declaration of the winning bidder the auctioneer encrypts the winning bidder’s with the winning bidders RSA public key and propagates it to the network. Each bidder tries to decrypts this message by the auctioneer and only the winner bidder can decrypt it thus knowing he is the winner and can communicate with the seller to further buy the auctioned good.

**5 Security Analysis and Evaluation**

Security of the proposed model ARPAN will be judged on the properties that are necessary for the auction and we will evolution of the proposed model is holding against such properties.

**5.1 Privacy**

In this subsection we provide the proof that privacy of the bids of bidders is safe from the auctioneer. As bids are padded by the random number of two bidders the original information of the bid by auctioneer is not possible without knowing the random numbers of the two bidders. Thus, we can claim that the bids are safe till two bidders don’t share their random numbers to the auctioneer.

**5.2 Accountability**

Accountability is holding because no bidder can submit fake deceitful bids and diverge the auction from real path. Algorithm 3 of ambiguity removal phase helps the auctioneer to exactly know whether or not any such deceitful fake bid has been submitted by any bidder in between.

**5.3 Integrity**

As the time slots have been allotted in each phase and each phase allows only those bidders who have registered for the auction thus the integrity of the auction is maintained.

**5.4 non-repudiation**

The bidders are not allowed to change the bids that they cast once, in bid submission phase they cast their bids by generating secure two-party comparison pairs, is some bidder tries to cast multiple bids in form of secure two arty comparison pairs than the auctioneer can easily know such maliciousness through the help of algorithm 3 for ambiguity detection phase.

**5.5 Verifiability**

Verifiability of the auction result that all major previous PPA were lacking and we have addresses it in our work. Algorithm can be followed by any of the interested authority and can verify the auction result thus guarantying that no malicious behaviors’ have been shown and has gone unnoticed. The winner of the auction is the highest bidder only.

**5.7 Fairness**

By watching the working of all phases, the proposed auction schemes can be seen as fairness assuring in each phase each bidders gets equal set of opportunities and in the end no biasness is shown in the declaring of the winner thus, we can say that fairness is greatly achieved in proposed privacy preserving auction.

**5.8 Transparency**

**5.9 Anti-collusion**

Phase by phase structure of our proposed scheme guarantees that no bidder-to-bidder collusion will go unnoticed and the proposed form of auction will hold the anticollision property.

**6 Threat Model**

This section will analyze the threat model and confidently identify possible threats that our proposed privacy-preserving scheme can effortlessly tackle, providing a foolproof solution.

**6.1 Malicious Bidder**

This threat occurs when a bidder is malicious and may get deviated by the auction rules. The maliciousness that it can show is by submitting fake random numbers either to change the auction results or may be intending to know other bidders bid value. But in both cases our model will identify such threats with the help of ambiguity removal phases and such maliciousness will be detected before the result declaration of the auction.

**6.2 Malicious Auctioneer**

Malicious auctioneer may want to know the bid values of the bidder for its own profit but as in our model we are using paillier homomorphic encryption and random padding to the bid value. And the problem of finding the addends of large number is computationally hard it is thus guaranteed the auctioneer cannot find the actual bid values of the bidders.

**6.3 Bidders collusion**

In the case of the bidder’s collusion two or more bidder try to collude to change the action results or may try to know other bidders bid vales but this can be easily detected with the help of algorithm 3 till the number of dishonest bidders is 2. And they cannot find the other bidders bid values because every time a bidder encounters the bid value of other bidders either it is encrypted with the auctioneer’s public key or is padded with the random number of multiple participants.

**6.3 Corrupt Certifier**

Another threat that can comes to picture in the PPA models is the dependency upon the central authority as is can result in as single point of failure but in our proposed model no confidential data is shared to the certifier is a unique ID of the interested participants is shared thus no bid values can be extracted by the auctioneer or central authority even if they both collude.

Result is collusion free

**7Conclusion**

**Case Study**

In this case study we are going to give proof of the algorithm 3 that it will be working even if a single bidder submits false entry or even if two bidders collude and try to change the results of auction.

Let us consider the case of 3 bidders where each bidder submits the encrypted bid to auctioneer and the bids that will be received to auctioneer after the bid submission phase are

In this section we are going to provide the proof for algorithm 3.

**Statement 1:** “*even if a single bidder violates the protocol than it will not go unnoticed”*.

Let us consider bidders and Let’s say where each bidder bids respectively.

In the bid submission phase for bidder the bid pairs that will be generated and submitted to auctioneer in respect to all other bidder for secure two party comparison will be Let’s suppose a bidder submits different random numbers for two shared messages for the purpose to create ambiguity in the auction results and let the different message be If the results of the auctions were only based on the bid submission phase than this ambiguity has gone unnoticed and had altered the auction results, but due to the bid reshuffling phase will again have to add random number to this message and after the completion of bid reshuffling phsae this packet will behaving the sum of random numbers of all bidders which will be . During the bid reshuffling phase, the auctioneer adds its random number to each packet hence can not identify the message in which he added the fake random number.

Now following the ambiguity removal protocol auctioneer will arrange the packets in following manner

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As the sum of all these rows must be same which is where the value of ,but as if bidder has submitted fake random value the last row will yield a different sum which is and this sum will be different from all other rows thus if a single row yields different result than it’s a red flag for auctioneer to discard the auctioneer.

**Statement 2: “***If two or more bidders try to collude and disrupt the auction results than also the ambiguity will not go unnoticed”*

This ambiguity detection algorithm can be applied to the data collected from bid submission phase and ambiguity can be detected for a single bidder case but the algorithm fails if more than one bidder are trying to collude to make the result ambiguous. Two or more bidders that are performing collusion can easily by pass the ambiguity detection by faking the random number in such differences so that the sum of rows comes exactly same. For example, let say the bidders are colluding and they have faked random number as shown in equation .

(6)

Now the auctioneer arranges the bids of bid submission phase in following manner.

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Now in this case the sum of each row will yield same sum and auctioneer will be convinced that auction results are not ambiguous but in reality, two bidders have cleverly colluded. Due to this weak point, we have proposed bid reshuffling phase and identity of the padded bids where the bidder have added fake random numbers will not be disclosed thus the arrangement of the bids by the auctioneer will be

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In this condition also same as statement one last row will yield a different sum thus collusion will be easily detected.

Such collusion can be detected till n-2 bidders as dishonest because till than anonymity will be maintained of the submitted bids but if n-1 bidders collude than in that case only a single bidder will be honest and other bidders can easily identify that this one is the honest bidder submitted value of the bid that they have got for their random number addition and in this case they submit their honest value but in all other cases they follow the equation 6 and they will bypass the ambiguity check. So, our proposed algorithm is full proof till n-2 bidders are dishonest.