

## Schnorr Blind Signature Based on Elliptic Curves

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**Abstract:** The blind signature with untraceability is widely used in on-line voting and electronic cash applications. The elliptic curve cryptosystems, based on elliptic curve logarithm over a finite field, have some advantages than other systems. In this paper, we design a new blind signature scheme on elliptic curves that inherits from Schnorr blind scheme. And we will compare proposed schemes to them which based on discrete logarithms with storage requirements and performance.

**Key words:** Schnorr Blind Signature, Elliptic Curve Cryptosystem and Unlinkability

### Introduction

With the growing importance of the mobile transaction, the blind signature scheme (Chaum, 1983; Chaum, 1988 and Okamoto, 1992) has become a very active research area. The blind signature, Schnorr blind signature scheme (Okamoto, 1992 and Schnorr, 1989) as examples with untraceability is widely used in on-line voting and electronic cash (Chaum, 1983 and Chaum, 1988) applications. When submitting an on-line vote, we would like to vote an anonymously such that no one knows whom we are voting to. Similarly, when you make a purchase, the vender gets the electronic cash from him to give legitimately without knowing him you. It requires the low computation or small memory space like the mobile devices or the smart cards in both clients and servers of mobile environments. Due to the constraint of devices, the low computation and the less memory crypto-scheme are urgently needed. To match this point, an elliptic curve cryptosystem (ECC as short) (ANSI, 1997; Bellare and Rogaway, 1993; IEEE, 1997; ElGamal, 1985; Koblitz, 1994; Koblitz, 1983; Menezes, 1993 and Miller, 1985) plays an import role in our paper.

Schnorr blind signature (Schnorr, 1989) scheme based on the intractable of the discrete logarithm problem. It is secure in the random oracle model. The blinded scheme first introduced by Okamoto (Okamoto, 1992). We proposed a new blind signature scheme that inherits Schnorr blind signature scheme on ECC such that the properties of randomness, unlinkability and unforgability are still preserved. The performance and the storage space requirement of the modified one are much improved than the old one.

We first review the elliptic curves and Schnorr blind signature. A new blind signature scheme is proposed. The security and performance analyses of the proposed scheme. We give a remarkable conclusion.

**Preliminaries:** Due to our scheme inherits Schnorr blind

scheme and based on ECC, we give brief of the elliptic curves (Koblitz, 1994; Koblitz, 1983 and Menezes, 1993) and Schnorr blind scheme proposed by Okamoto (Okamoto, 1992 and Schnorr, 1989).

**Brief of Elliptic Curves:** Elliptic curves can provide versions of public-key cryptosystems that are faster and use the small length of keys, while providing an equivalent level of security. We give a quick introduction to the theory of elliptic curves (Koblitz, 1994 and Koblitz, 1983). For simplicity, we shall set a limit of elliptic curves over  $Z_p$ , where  $p$  is a prime number. An elliptic curve  $E$  over  $Z_p$ , denoted  $E(Z_p)$ , is the set of points  $(x, y)$ , satisfying the equation  $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$  where  $4a^3 + 27b^2 \neq 0 \pmod{p}$ , together with a special point, called the point at infinity.

The group operation for an elliptic curve  $E(Z_p)$  is called addition. In the contrast, the group operation for a traditional discrete logarithm in the group  $Zp^*$  is called multiplication. Table 1 shows the correspondence between notation for two groups  $Zp^*$  and  $E(Z_p)$  (ANSI, 1997).

**Review of Schnorr Blind Signature:** Schnorr blind signature scheme was first introduced in (Okamoto, 1992). The protocol requires three rounds of interaction between signer and recipient shown in Fig. 1. The recipient wants to have message  $m$  blindly signed by the signer. The protocol is described as follows. Assume that the signer's private key is  $-x$  and his public key is  $y$  where  $p$  is a great prime number,  $q$  is a prime factor of  $p-1$  and  $g$  is an element.

Step 1. The signer selects a random number  $r$  and sends  $gr$  to the recipient.

Step 2. The recipient selects random numbers  $s$  and computes. Finally he sends back  $H(m) + sy$  with. Where  $H(*)$  is a hash function.

Table 1: Correspondence between  $Z_p^*$  and  $E(Z_p)$ 

Discrete Logarithm Problem	Given $g \in Z_p^*$ and $h = g^a \pmod p$ , find $a$	Given $P \in E(Z_p)$ and $Q = aP$ , find $a$
Group	$Z_p^*$	$E(Z_p)$
Group elements	Integer $\{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$	Point $(x, y)$ on $E$ plus
Group operation	Multiplication modulo $p$	Addition of points
Notation	Elements: $g, h$ Inverse: $g^{-1}$ Exponentiation: $g^a$ Addition: $P+Q$ Subtraction: $P-Q$	Multiplication: Division: $g/h$ Elements: $P, Q$ Negative: $-P$ Multiple: $aP$

Step 3. The signer creates a signature  $s = k + ex \pmod q$  on the message  $m$  and sends it back to the recipient.

In the verification, the recipient checks whether the equation  $g^s y^e = r \pmod p$  is valid. If it is valid, the recipient accepts signature as  $S^1 = S + \alpha \pmod q$ , otherwise rejects it. The blind signature is an unknown signature of the unknown message  $m$ .

**Proposed Schnorr Blind Signature on ECCs:** Assume that there is an ECC  $E(F_p)$  and the parameters  $p, q$  is a primer factor of  $p-1$ . In Fig. 2, the protocol between signer and recipient is described as follows.

**Initialization Scheme:** A signer selects two points  $(P_1, P_2) \in E(F_p)$  with order  $q$  and two random numbers  $(d_1, d_2) \in Z_q$  to be the secret keys. The signer computes the two points and

$$Q_1 = -d_1 P_1 \text{ and } Q_2 = d_2 P_2 \quad (1)$$

Where  $(Q_1, Q_2) \in E(F_p)$ .

**Signature Scheme:** There are three rounds in the signature scheme. The signer signs an unknown message  $m$  blindly. Let the point

$$Q = (x_Q, y_Q) = Q_1 + Q_2. \quad (2)$$

Step 1 The signer chooses two numbers  $(r_1, r_2) \in Z_q^*$  securely and computes  $U = r_1 P_1 + r_2 P_2$  and sends  $U$  to the recipient. (3)

Step 2. On receiving  $U$ , the recipient selects two random numbers and computes

$$R^1 = (r^1, y_k) = U + \alpha(P_1 + P_2) + \gamma Q \text{ and } e^1 = (m, r^1) \quad (4)$$

Then, the recipient sends following to the signer.

$$e = e^1 + \gamma \quad (5)$$

Step 3. Consequently, the signer sends following to the recipient.

$$y_1 = r_1 + ed_1 \pmod q \text{ and } y_2 = r_2 + ed_2 \pmod q \quad (6)$$

The blind signature on the unknown message  $m$  is

$$\text{Where } y_1^1 = y_1 + \alpha \pmod q \text{ and } y_2^1 = y_2 + \alpha \pmod q. \quad (7)$$

**Verification Scheme:** On receiving the signature,  $(r^1, y_1, y_2^1)$  the recipient validates it by checking  $e^1 = H(m, x_y)$

$$\text{where } (x_w, y_w) = y_1^1 p_1 + y_2^1 p_2 + e^1 Q \quad (8)$$

In the following, we show the proposed scheme works correctly.

**Theorem 1. (Correctness):** If the tuple  $(r_1, y_1^1, y_2^1)$  is a proposed blind signature on ECCs of the message  $m$ , it will pass the verification.

**Proof:** From Eq(4) and Eq(8), we have

$$(r^1, y_R^1) = R^1 = U + \alpha(P_1 + P_2) + \gamma Q \text{ and } (x_w, y_w) = (y_1^1 p_1 + y_2^1 p_2 + e^1 Q).$$

We claims that  $r^1 = x_w$  as the followings:

$$(x_w, y_w) = y_1^1 p_1 + y_2^1 p_2 + e^1 Q$$

From Eq(7)(8)(9), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &= (y_1 + \alpha) p_1 + (y_2 + \alpha) p_2 + e^1 Q \\ &= (r_1 + ed_1 + \alpha) p_1 + (r_2 + ed_2 + \alpha) p_2 + e^1 Q \\ &= (r_1 + e^1 d_1 - \gamma d_1 + \alpha) p_1 + (r_2 + e^1 d_2 - \gamma d_2 + \alpha) p_2 + e^1 Q \\ &= r_1 p_1 + e^1 d_1 p_1 - \gamma d_1 p_1 + \alpha p_1 + r_2 p_2 + e^1 d_2 p_2 - \gamma d_2 p_2 + \alpha p_2 + e^1 Q \end{aligned}$$

Replace  $Q$  and  $U$  by Eq(1)(2)(3)

$$= (r_1 p_1 + r_2 p_2) + \alpha(P_1 + P_2) - \gamma(-d_1 P_1 - d_2 P_2) - e^1(-d_1 P_1 - d_2 P_2) + e^1$$

Q

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= U + \alpha(P_1 + P_2) + \gamma Q - e^1 Q + e^1 Q \\
 &= U + \alpha(P_1 + P_2) + \gamma Q \\
 &= (r, Y_R)
 \end{aligned}$$

The above equation can get  $r^1 = x_v$  and the recipient validates the signature by  $e^1 = H(m, X_v)$ . The signature  $(r^1, \gamma_1^1, \gamma_2^1)$  on the message  $m$  is valid. Q.E.D.

**Security Analysis:** Some security of the proposed blind signature on ECCs. We will show the properties of randomness, unlinkability and unforgeability as follows. In the proposed scheme, attackers are infeasible to sign a valid signature  $(r^1, \gamma_1^1, \gamma_2^1)$  on behalf of the original signer. The signer chooses random numbers  $(r_1, r_2)$  and sends  $U = r_1P_1 + r_2P_2$  to the user. To get the random numbers  $(r_1, r_2)$  from  $U$  is computationally infeasible. Moreover,  $e^1$  is a hash function and  $\gamma$  is a random number. To remove random  $(r_1, r_2)$  from signature  $(r^1, \gamma_1^1, \gamma_2^1)$  is infeasible, so the signature has randomness property.

The unlinkability property is the signer cannot find the corresponding signature from the record that he ever signed. For each signature  $i$  process the signer may record referred a set  $(U_i, e_i, \gamma_{1i}, \gamma_{2i})$  during the instance of the protocol. The signer cannot specify the corresponding signature  $(r_i, \gamma_{1i}, \gamma_{2i})$ .

On the  $i$ -th process, the signer have  $(\gamma_1 = \gamma_{1i} \alpha_i, \gamma_2 = \gamma_{2i} \alpha_i)$  and  $e_i$  and they are blinded by  $\alpha_i$  and  $\gamma_i$  respectively. Therefore, the signer cannot specify the

corresponding signature  $(r_i, \gamma_{1i}, \gamma_{2i})$  from every .

The attackers may try to derive some forgery signature

message  $\tilde{m}$ . All of the attackers fail on the proposed scheme. First, the attackers given will signature can set a signature  $(r^1, \gamma_1^1, \gamma_2^1)$ , because it is untraceable to get  $(d1, d2)$  and computationally infeasible to get  $(r1, r2)$  from  $U = r_1P_1 + r_2P_2$ . Secondly, given a valid signature  $(r^1, \gamma_1^1, \gamma_2^1)$  on message  $m$ , it is unable to get another message  $\tilde{m}$  with getting pass the verification of signature  $(r^1, \gamma_1^1, \gamma_2^1)$  since it is hard to find  $e^1$  from hash function  $H$  with

**Implementation and Performance:** In the practical views, an ECC whose order is a 160-bit prime offers approximately the same level of security as discrete logarithm system with a 1024-bit prime with 160-bit exponential. The following comparisons on storage requirement and performance are based those parameters.

**Storage Requirement:** In Table 2, we give a rough comparison of the storage requirements in bits for the proposed blind signature on ECCs and Schnorr blind signature on discrete logarithm cryptosystems. The storage space of system parameters is  $(1024 * 3) = 3072$  bits for parameters  $p, q$  and  $g$  in discrete logarithm cryptosystems, but only  $(160 * 5) = 800$  bits for parameters  $a, b, p$  and  $q$  in ECCs. The key pair take  $(1024 + 160) = 1184$  bits in discrete logarithm cryptosystems and only

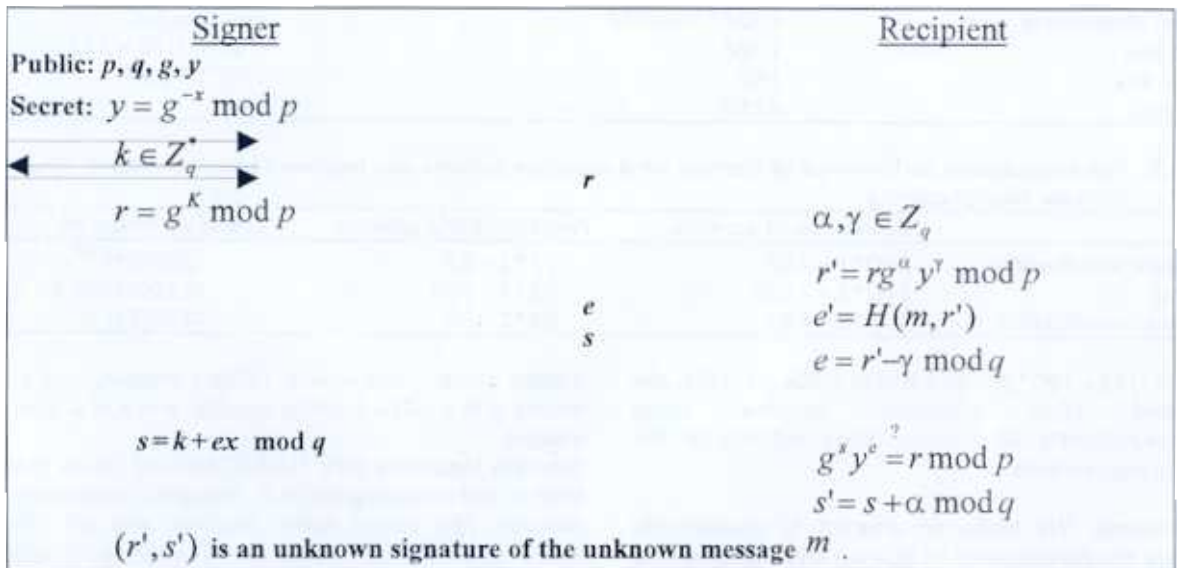


Fig. 1: Schnorr Blind Scheme

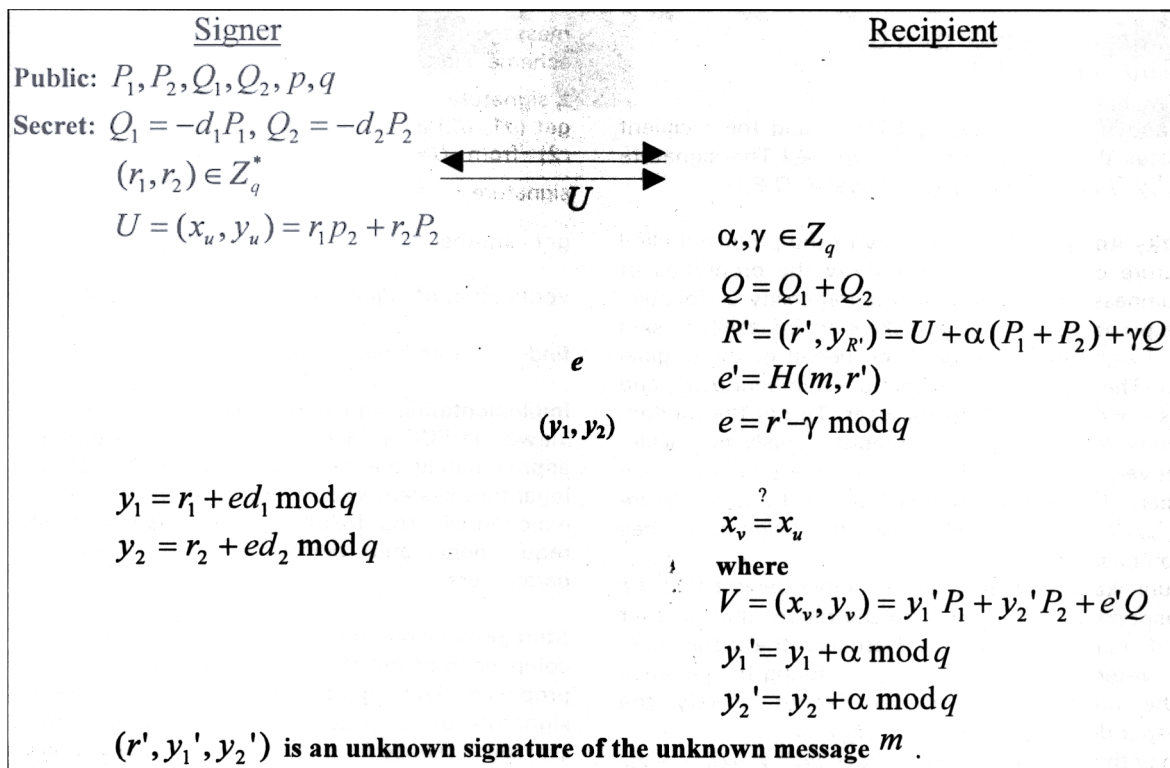


Fig. 2: Proposed Blind Scheme

Table 2: The storage requirements of Schnorr blind scheme and proposed blind scheme in bits

	Schnorr blind scheme	Proposed blind scheme
System Parameters	$1024 \cdot 3 = 3072$	$160 \cdot 5 = 800$
Public key	1024	$(160 + 1) \cdot 2 = 322$
Private key	160	$160 \cdot 2 = 320$
Total bits	4256	1442

Table 3: The comparative performance of Schnorr blind signature scheme and proposed blind scheme in 1024-bit modular multiplications

	Schnorr blind scheme	Proposed blind scheme	Speed up ration of
Signature initialization	$240 \cdot 1 = 240$	$29 \cdot 2 = 58$	$(240/28) \approx 4$
Signing	$240 \cdot 5 = 1200$	$29 \cdot 7 = 203$	$(1200/203) \approx 6$
Signature verification	$249 \cdot 2 = 498$	$29 \cdot 2 = 58$	$(480/58) \approx 8$

$((160 + 1) \cdot 2 + 160 \cdot 2) = 642$  bits in ECCs. Totally, the proposed blind signature scheme takes  $(1442/4256)34\%$  of Schnorr blind scheme in the storage requirement.

**Performance:** We make an attempt to qualitatively compare the performance of Schnorr blind scheme and the proposed blind scheme. These results are presented in Table 3. Those figures should be in making these comparisons under assuming that (1)  $kP$  where  $E$  is an

elliptic curve, and  $k$  is a 160-bit integer; and (2) , where  $p$  is a 1024-bit prime number and  $k$  is a 160-bit integer.

Discrete logarithm take  $(1024/160)^2$  41 times longer than a field multiplication in  $Z_p$ . Roughly, computing  $kP$  requires 160 elliptic curve doubling and 80 elliptic curve addition and elliptic curve doubling or elliptic curve doubling requires 5 field multiplications. On average, computing  $kP$  requires the equivalent of 1200 field multiplications or  $1200/4129$  1024-bit modular

multiplications. On the other hand, computing  $g^k \bmod p$  requires 240 1024-bit modular multiplications.

We compare Schnorr blind scheme with the proposed scheme and yield a speed up ration of  $((240 \cdot 1)/(29 \cdot 2))^4$  in Initialization scheme,  $((240 \cdot 5)/(29 \cdot 7))^6$  in Signature scheme and  $((240 \cdot 2)/(29 \cdot 2))^8$  in Verification scheme.

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