

Research Article

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# Certificateless signature and auditing schemes secure against super type adversaries without random oracle

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## Abstract

Cryptographic algorithms are essential for securing data in modern internet applications. As the volume of data increases and security challenges evolve, the significance of these algorithms intensifies. Certificateless public key cryptography addresses the challenges of certificate management inherent in traditional public key cryptography and resolves the key escrow issue associated with identity-based public key cryptography. Notably, previous certificateless signature schemes secure in the random oracle model exhibit vulnerabilities when instantiated in the standard model. There are two types of adversaries in certificateless signature scheme. Type I and Type II adversaries are further categorized into three levels: Normal, Strong, and Super, with Super denoting the most powerful known adversaries. In this work, we present a new certificateless signature scheme designed against Super Type I and Type II adversaries in the standard model based on the computational Diffie-Hellman problem; additionally, the certificateless signature approach can be extended to develop secure cloud auditing schemes, which is for addressing data integrity and security in cloud environments.

**Keywords:** Certificateless cryptography, digital signature, super type adversary, standard model, cloud auditing



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**Table 1. Three types of Sign oracles**

Normal sign	Public key has not been replaced
Strong sign	If the public key is replaced, additional information must be provided
Super sign	No additional information is required, even if the public key is replaced

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Cryptographic algorithms are fundamental to modern Internet technology, which ensures data security during transmission, storage, and processing. As data volume surges and security challenges intensify, their importance grows. In 1976, Diffie and Hellman<sup>[1]</sup> introduced public key cryptography (PKC), effectively addressing the inherent issues of key management and non-repudiation in traditional symmetric systems, thereby expanding the application of cryptography in network security. Public key encryption and key agreement techniques provide effective key management, while digital signature meets non-repudiation needs. In 1984, Shamir<sup>[2]</sup> proposed identity-based cryptography (IBC), using public identity information as public keys to avoid the complexity of traditional public key infrastructure (PKI), though it raises key escrow problem; i.e., the user's private key is entirely generated by the key generation center (KGC) in IBC, which can impersonate any user without being detected. In 2003, Al-Riyami and Paterson<sup>[3]</sup> introduced certificateless PKC (CL-PKC), discarding the use of public key certificates, blending the benefits of traditional PKC and IBC, and enhancing usability and security. Subsequently, Huang *et al.*<sup>[4]</sup> established the first formal security model for certificateless signature and proposed a provably secure scheme under this model. In 2012, Huang *et al.*<sup>[5]</sup> further classified Type I and Type II adversaries in certificateless signature systems into three levels: Normal, Strong, and Super, with Super representing the strongest known adversaries. In the security model, the adversary's attack capabilities are characterized by three types of Sign oracles (which take a message as input and return the signature), each with different operating conditions, as shown in Table 1.

There are many provably secure certificateless signature schemes in the random oracle model (ROM), such as constructions<sup>[6-12]</sup>; in particular, the schemes<sup>[7,11,12]</sup> are secure against Super adversaries. The ROM is widely utilized in the security proofs of cryptographic schemes; however, in 1998, Canetti *et al.*<sup>[13]</sup> presented a scheme that is secure in the ROM but cannot be securely instantiated in the Standard Model (STM). This implies that proving a scheme secure in the ROM does not guarantee it is free from security flaws in practice, whereas proving security in the STM offers a more reliable assurance of the scheme's security. In 2007, the provably secure certificateless signature scheme in the STM was first introduced by Liu *et al.*<sup>[14]</sup>. Thereafter, the scheme was improved by Xiong *et al.*<sup>[15]</sup>. Xia *et al.*<sup>[16]</sup> further analyzed the scheme by Xiong *et al.*, demonstrating it is vulnerable to public key replacement attacks. Similarly, subsequent schemes<sup>[17-19]</sup> have been proven insecure against public key replacement attacks. Table 2 below summarizes recent certificateless signature schemes that claim security in the STM, with classifications in the model column—Normal, Strong, and Super—reflecting the adversary types as categorized in the work by Huang *et al.*<sup>[5]</sup>. "NaS" indicates that it is not as specified, meaning that no proof exists or the current scheme cannot resist security analysis as defined in the security model. As shown in Table 2, existing certificateless signature schemes that are secure in the STM can only withstand attacks from Strong adversaries. To overcome these limitations, we propose a new certificateless signature scheme against Super Type I and Super Type II adversaries in the STM, which is reduced to the hardness of computational Diffie–Hellman (CDH) problem. In addition, we extend our technique to enable its application in the certificateless cloud auditing (CLCA) scheme.

### 1.1. Technical Overview

In 2015, Hung *et al.*<sup>[20]</sup> shed light on achieving a certificateless signature scheme that is secure against Super adversaries in the STM. However, Yang *et al.*<sup>[21]</sup> pointed out a flaw in the proof provided by Huang *et al.* regarding the Type II adversary; i.e., the simulated signature provided by the simulator fails to pass verification of validity, preventing it from always correctly responding to adversary's signature queries.

**Table 2. Comparison of some certificateless signature schemes in the STM**

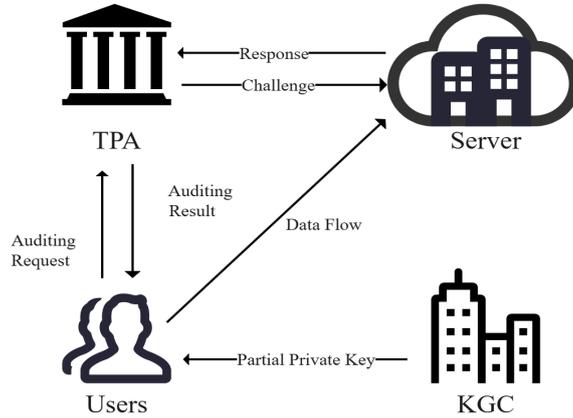
Scheme	Type I	Type II
Hung et al. [20]	Super	NaS [21]
Pang et al. [22]	Normal	Normal
Wang et al. [23]	Strong	Super
Shim [24]	NaS [25]	Strong
Tseng et al. [26]	Strong	Strong
Wu et al. [25]	Strong	Strong
Rastegari et al. [27]	Strong	Strong
Yang et al. [28]	Strong	Strong
Ours	Super	Super

The base idea of our construction is that to achieve security against Super adversaries, the challenger should be able to simulate signatures using only existing secret information and the user's public key during the simulation. This ensures that regardless of the adversary's attempts to replace the user's public key, the challenger can respond to signature queries. Since the secret information is known only to the challenger, the adversary cannot forge signatures merely by knowing the user's public key. We observed that in the security proof of the Waters signature scheme [29], the challenger can compute a valid signature using a series of secret information embedded in the public parameters, the public parameters, and the message. The hard problem embedded in the public parameters and the public parameters computed from the secret information exhibit a certain degree of independence. This insight inspired us to construct a certificateless signature scheme based on the structure of the Waters scheme.

On another note, Hu et al. [30] proposed in 2007 that a certificateless signature scheme could be constructed by a signature scheme and an identity-based signature (IBS) scheme. However, this generic construction has certain limitations and cannot be directly considered secure against Super adversaries without modification. Paterson's IBS scheme [31] is an extension of the Waters signature scheme; both are based on bilinear maps. In this scheme, the user's private key corresponds to the Waters signature of the user's identity. Similarly, this can be utilized as the partial private key for each user in the certificateless signature scheme. In the Waters signature scheme, a secret  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_q$  and a random  $g_2 \in \mathbb{G}$  are chosen to compute the private key  $g_2^\alpha$  and  $g_1 = g^\alpha$  and  $g_2$  are public parameters. Therefore, in our certificateless signature construction, we select  $x_{ID} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$  as the secret value for each user and  $g^{x_{ID}}$  as the user's public key, while each user shares  $g_3 \in \mathbb{G}$  as a system public parameter. In the certificateless signing process, we combine the signature on the message signed by the partial private key, which is analogous to the signing process in Paterson's IBS scheme, and signature on the message signed by the user's secret value mirroring the signing process in the Waters signature scheme. Since both signing processes occur in group  $\mathbb{G}$ , we can obtain the certificateless signature on the message by multiplying the two components in group  $\mathbb{G}$ .

## 1.2. Certificateless Cloud Auditing

Additionally, the certificateless signature construction technique employed in this paper can also be applied to the development of CLCA schemes. By using a similar approach, we can achieve a CLCA scheme that is against Super adversaries in the STM. As presented in Figure 1, cloud auditing is widely utilized in cloud storage services to address data security concerns. For instance, user data may be deleted or partially lost due to internal changes or cost considerations of cloud service providers. Moreover, the presence of attackers and malicious users exacerbates these risks. After uploading data to cloud servers, users often delete local copies, necessitating the mitigation of risks associated with traditional verification methods. In 2007, Ateniese et al. [32] proposed the provable data possession (POP), while Juels and Kaliski [33] independently introduced the proofs of retrievability (POR), both proven secure in the ROM. On the other hand, there are some cloud auditing schemes in the STM proposed. In 2016, Ma et al. [34] proposed a cloud auditing scheme based on the strong RSA assumption, and Zhang et al. [35] introduced an identity-based cloud auditing scheme that is also proven secure in the STM. However, existing secure CLCA schemes in the STM, such as those by Deng et al. [36] and Yang et al. [37], are only proved secure against Strong adversaries.



**Figure 1.** Key entities of a certificateless cloud auditing system

### 1.3. Organization

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In [Section 2](#), we first review some mathematical preliminaries including bilinear maps and hardness assumption. Then, we give the definition of certificateless signature and corresponding security model in [Section 3](#). Next, our concrete construction is presented in [Section 4](#), together with the security and efficiency analysis. In addition, we show an extension of our techniques for CLCA in [Section 5](#). Finally, the conclusion part comes in [Section 6](#).

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

In this section, we describe the definition of mathematical tools and mathematical assumptions.

**Definition 1(Bilinear Maps):**  $\mathbb{G}$  and  $\mathbb{G}_T$  are two cyclic groups of a prime order  $q$ . Let  $g$  be a generator of  $\mathbb{G}$ .  $e : \mathbb{G} \times \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_T$  is a bilinear map that satisfies the following properties.

- 1) Bilinearity:  $e(g^a, g^b) = e(g, g)^{ab}$  for  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_q$ .
- 2) Nondegeneracy:  $e(g, g) \neq 1_{\mathbb{G}_T}$ ,  $1_{\mathbb{G}_T}$  is the identity of  $\mathbb{G}_T$ .
- 3) Computability:  $e$  is efficiently computable.

**Definition 2(CDH Problem):** On inputs  $(\mathbb{G}, q, g, g^a, g^b)$ , where  $g, g^a, g^b \in \mathbb{G}$  and  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , compute  $g^{ab} \in \mathbb{G}$ . An adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  has advantage at least  $\epsilon$  in solving the CDH problem on  $\mathbb{G}$ , if

$$\Pr[\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{G}, q, g, g^a, g^b) = g^{ab}] \geq \epsilon.$$

We say that the  $(\epsilon, t)$ -CDH assumption holds in group  $\mathbb{G}$  if no polynomial-time algorithm can solve the CDH problem with non-negligible probability  $\epsilon$  in time  $t$ .

## 3. DEFINITION AND SECURITY MODEL

### 3.1. Definition of Certificateless Signature Schemes

According to [\[3\]](#), a certificateless signature scheme consists of the following seven algorithms: **Setup**, **PartialKeyExt**, **SetSecretValue**, **SetPrivateKey**, **SetPublicKey**, **Sign**, and **Verify**. The specific descriptions of the algorithms are as follows.

- **Setup** $(1^\lambda) \rightarrow (params, msk)$ : Given a security parameter  $1^\lambda$  as input, this algorithm outputs the master

secret key  $msk$  and public parameter  $params$ .

- **PartialKeyExt**( $params, msk, ID$ )  $\rightarrow psk_{ID}$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , master secret key  $msk$ , and a user's identity  $ID$  as input, this algorithm outputs partial private key  $psk_{ID}$ .
- **SetSecretValue**( $params, ID$ )  $\rightarrow x_{ID}$ : Given the public parameter  $params$  and a user's identity  $ID$  as input, this algorithm outputs the secret value  $x_{ID}$ .
- **SetPrivateKey**( $params, ID, psk_{ID}, x_{ID}$ )  $\rightarrow sk_{ID}$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , partial private key  $psk_{ID}$ , secret value  $x_{ID}$ , and a user's identity  $ID$  as input, this algorithm outputs user's private key  $sk_{ID}$ .
- **SetPublicKey**( $params, ID, x_{ID}$ )  $\rightarrow pk_{ID}$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , secret value  $x_{ID}$ , and a user's identity  $ID$  as input, this algorithm outputs user's public key  $pk_{ID}$ .
- **Sign**( $params, m, ID, sk_{ID}$ )  $\rightarrow \sigma$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , a message  $m$ , a user's identity  $ID$ , and the user's private key  $sk_{ID}$ , this algorithm outputs a signature  $\sigma$ .
- **Verify**( $params, m, \sigma, ID, pk_{ID}$ )  $\rightarrow 1/0$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , a message  $m$ , a signature  $\sigma$ , a user's identity  $ID$ , and the user's public key  $pk_{ID}$ , this algorithm outputs 0 or 1.

**Correctness** Signatures generated by the algorithm **Sign** can pass through the verification in **Verify**. That is,  $\text{Verify}(paaram, m, \text{Sign}(param, m, ID, sk_{ID}), ID, pk_{ID}) \rightarrow 1$ .

### 3.2. Security Models of Certificateless Signature

There are two types of adversaries in certificateless signature scheme. Type I adversary, denoted by  $\mathcal{A}_I$ , is equivalent to an attacker outside the system, who can replace the user's public key but does not know the master private key of the KGC. Type II adversary, denoted by  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ , is equivalent to the KGC, who knows the master private key but cannot replace the user's public key. In 2012, Huang *et al.* [5] further classified these two types of adversaries into three levels of attack capabilities, from low to high: Normal, Strong, and Super. The Normal adversary cannot obtain signatures on messages under the replaced public key. The Strong adversary can obtain signatures on messages under the replaced public key after providing the challenger with the corresponding secret value. The Super adversary can obtain signatures on messages under the replaced public key without the corresponding secret value.

Due to space limitations, we define Game 1 and Game 2, which simulate the interactions between the challenger and the Super adversary (The security models against Normal and Strong adversaries can be seen as special cases where the adversary is restricted more).

Game 1 (against Super  $\mathcal{A}_I$ )

- **Setup**: The Challenger  $C_I$  runs **Setup** with a security parameter  $1^\lambda$ , and then returns the public parameter  $params$ , while keeping the master secret key  $msk$ .
- **Query**: The adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$  can adaptively perform queries as follows.
  - **Create-User**: Upon receiving a Create-User query with the user's identity  $ID_j$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$ ,  $C_I$  checks the user record table  $U-list$ . If the user already exists, it returns  $\perp$ . Otherwise, it runs **PartialKeyExt**, **SetSecretValue**, and **SetPublicKey** with the relevant parameters.  $C_I$  stores the user's identity  $ID_j$ , partial private key  $psk_{ID_j}$ , user's secret value  $x_{ID_j}$ , and user's public key  $pk_{ID_j}$  in  $U-list$ , and returns  $pk_{ID_j}$ .
  - **Partial-Private-Key-Extract**: Upon receiving a Partial-Private-Key-Extract query with the user's identity  $ID_j$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$ ,  $C_I$  checks the user record table  $U-list$ . If this user has not been created, it first creates the user and then returns user's partial private key  $psk_{ID_j}$ .
  - **Secret-Value-Extract**: Upon receiving a Secret-Value-Extract query with the user's identity  $ID_j$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$ ,  $C_I$  checks the user record table  $U-list$ . If this user has not been created, it first creates the user and then returns user's secret value  $x_{ID_j}$ . Note that the output of Secret-Value-Extract is not associated with the replaced public key  $pk'_{ID_j}$ , i.e., it always output  $pk_{ID_j}$ .
  - **Public-Key-Replace**: Upon receiving a Public-Key-Replace query with the user's identity  $ID_j$  from

adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$ ,  $C_I$  checks the user record table  $U-list$ . If the user has not been created, it returns  $\perp$ ; otherwise, it updates the user's public key to  $pk'_{ID_j}$ , where  $pk'_{ID_j}$  is the new public key provided by  $\mathcal{A}_I$ .

- Super-Sign: Upon receiving a Super-Sign query with the user's identity  $ID_j$  and message  $m$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$ ,  $C_I$  returns the signature  $\sigma$  of the message  $m$  under the public key  $pk'_{ID_j}$ , where  $pk'_{ID_j}$  is the latest public key for this user in  $U-list$ .
- *Forgery*: The adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$  outputs signature  $\sigma^*$  of message  $m^*$  for user with identity  $ID_{j^*}$  and it wins the game if satisfying the following conditions.
  - 1) The adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$  has never made the Super-Sign query for the user's identity  $ID_{j^*}$  and the message  $m^*$ .
  - 2) The adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$  has never made the Partial-Private-Key-Extract query for the user with identity  $ID_{j^*}$ .
  - 3) Signature  $\sigma^*$  is valid signature of message  $m^*$  for user with identity  $ID_{j^*}$ .

#### Game 2 (against Super $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ )

- *Setup*: The Challenger  $C_{II}$  runs **Setup** with a security parameter  $1^\lambda$ , and then returns the public parameter  $params$  and master secret key  $msk$ .
- *Query*: The adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$  can adaptively perform queries as follows.
  - Create-User: Upon receiving a Create-User query with the user's identity  $ID_j$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ ,  $C_{II}$  checks the user record table  $U-list$ . If the user already exists, it returns  $\perp$ . Otherwise, it runs **PartialKeyExt**, **SetSecretValue**, and **SetPublicKey** with the relevant parameters.  $C_{II}$  stores the user's identity  $ID_j$ , partial private key  $psk_{ID_j}$ , user's secret value  $x_{ID_j}$ , and user's public key  $pk_{ID_j}$  in  $U-list$ , and returns  $pk_{ID_j}$ .
  - Secret-Value-Extract: Upon receiving a Secret-Value-Extract query with the user's identity  $ID_j$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ ,  $C_{II}$  checks the user record table  $U-list$ . If this user has not been created, it first creates the user and then returns user's secret value  $x_{ID_j}$ . Note that the output of Secret-Value-Extract is not associated with the replaced public key  $pk'_{ID_j}$ ; i.e., it always outputs  $pk_{ID_j}$ .
  - Public-Key-Replace: Upon receiving a Public-Key-Replace query with the user's identity  $ID_j$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ ,  $C_{II}$  checks the user record table  $U-list$ . If the user has not been created, it returns  $\perp$ ; otherwise, it updates the user's public key to  $pk'_{ID_j}$ , where  $pk'_{ID_j}$  is the new public key provided by  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ .
  - Super-Sign: Upon receiving a Super-Sign query with the user's identity  $ID_j$  and message  $m$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ ,  $C_{II}$  returns the signature  $\sigma$  of the message  $m$  under the public key  $pk'_{ID_j}$ , where  $pk'_{ID_j}$  is the latest public key for this user in  $U-list$ .
- *Forgery*: The adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$  outputs signature  $\sigma^*$  of message  $m^*$  for user with identity  $ID_{j^*}$  and it wins the game if satisfying the following conditions.
  - 1) The adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$  has never made the Super-Sign query for the user's identity  $ID_{j^*}$  and the message  $m^*$ .
  - 2) The adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$  has never made the Secret-Value-Extract query and Public-Key-Replace for the user with identity  $ID_{j^*}$ .
  - 3) Signature  $\sigma^*$  is valid signature of message  $m^*$  for user with identity  $ID_{j^*}$ .

## 4. CONSTRUCTION AND SECURITY PROOF

### 4.1. Construction

- **Setup**( $1^\lambda$ )  $\rightarrow$  ( $params, msk$ ): Given a security parameter  $1^\lambda$  as input, select a pairing  $e : \mathbb{G} \times \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_T$  where  $\mathbb{G}$  and  $\mathbb{G}_T$  are cyclic groups of prime order  $q$  and  $g$  is a generator of  $\mathbb{G}$ . Select  $\alpha \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$ ,  $g_2, g_3 \leftarrow \mathbb{G}$  and compute  $g_1 = g^\alpha$ . Let  $H_u : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{n_u}$ ,  $H_m : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{n_m}$ , and  $H'_m : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{n'_m}$

be three collision-resistant cryptographic hash functions for some  $n_u, n_m, n'_m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Select the following elements:

$$\begin{aligned} u', m'_1, m'_2 &\leftarrow \mathbb{G} \\ \tilde{u}_i &\leftarrow \mathbb{G}, i = 1, \dots, n_u \\ \tilde{m}_{1,i} &\leftarrow \mathbb{G}, i = 1, \dots, n_m \\ \tilde{m}_{2,i} &\leftarrow \mathbb{G}, i = 1, \dots, n'_m \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\tilde{U} = \{\tilde{u}_i\}$ ,  $\tilde{M}_1 = \{\tilde{m}_{1,i}\}$ , and  $\tilde{M}_2 = \{\tilde{m}_{2,i}\}$ . The public parameter is  $params = \{\mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_T, e, g, g_1, g_2, g_3, u', m'_1, m'_2, \tilde{U}, \tilde{M}_1, \tilde{M}_2, H_u, H_m, H'_m\}$  and the master secret key is  $msk = g_2^\alpha$ .

- **PartialKeyExt**( $params, msk, ID$ )  $\rightarrow psk_{ID}$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , master secret key  $msk$ , and a user's identity  $ID$  as input, compute  $u = H_u(ID)$ . Let  $u[i]$  denote  $i$ -th bit of  $u$ . Define  $\mathcal{U} \subset \{1, \dots, n_u\}$  to be set of indices  $i$  such that  $u[i] = 1$ . Select  $h_{ID} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$ . Compute

$$\begin{aligned} psk_{ID} &= (psk_{ID,1}, psk_{ID,2}) \\ &= \left( g_2^\alpha \left( u' \prod_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \tilde{u}_i \right)^{h_{ID}}, g^{h_{ID}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

and output  $psk_{ID}$  as the partial private key.

- **SetSecretValue**( $params, ID$ )  $\rightarrow x_{ID}$ : Given the public parameter  $params$  and a user's identity  $ID$  as input, select  $x_{ID} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$  and output  $x_{ID}$  as the secret value.
- **SetPrivateKey**( $params, ID, psk_{ID}, x_{ID}$ )  $\rightarrow sk_{ID}$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , partial private key  $psk_{ID}$ , secret value  $x_{ID}$ , and a user's identity  $ID$  as input, set  $sk_{ID} = (psk_{ID}, x_{ID})$  as the private key.
- **SetPublicKey**( $params, ID, x_{ID}$ )  $\rightarrow pk_{ID}$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , secret value  $x_{ID}$ , and a user's identity  $ID$  as input, compute  $pk_{ID} = g^{x_{ID}}$  and output  $pk_{ID}$  as the public key.
- **Sign**( $params, m, ID, sk_{ID}$ )  $\rightarrow \sigma$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , a message  $m$ , a user's identity  $ID$ , and the user's private key  $sk_{ID}$ , compute  $\mathbf{m}_1 = H_m(m)$  and  $\mathbf{m}_2 = H'_m(m)$ . Let  $\mathbf{m}_1[i]$  and  $\mathbf{m}_2[i]$  denote the  $i$ -th bit of  $\mathbf{m}_1$  and  $\mathbf{m}_2$ .  $\mathcal{M}_1 \subset \{1, \dots, n_m\}$  and  $\mathcal{M}_2 \subset \{1, \dots, n'_m\}$  are sets of indices  $i$  such that  $\mathbf{m}_1[i] = 1$  and  $\mathbf{m}_2[i] = 1$ , respectively. Select  $h', h_m, r \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$ . Compute

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_1 &= psk_{ID,1} \cdot \left( u' \prod_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \tilde{u}_i \right)^{h'} \cdot \left( m'_1 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_1} \tilde{m}_{1,i} \right)^{h_m} \cdot g_3^{x_{ID}} \cdot \left( m'_2 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_2} \tilde{m}_{2,i} \right)^r \\ &= g_2^\alpha \left( u' \prod_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \tilde{u}_i \right)^{h_{ID}+h'} \cdot \left( m'_1 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_1} \tilde{m}_{1,i} \right)^{h_m} \cdot g_3^{x_{ID}} \cdot \left( m'_2 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_2} \tilde{m}_{2,i} \right)^r \\ \sigma_2 &= psk_{ID,2} \cdot g^{h'} = g^{h_{ID}+h'}, \sigma_3 = g^{h_m}, \sigma_4 = g^r \end{aligned}$$

and output  $\sigma = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4)$  as the signature.

- **Verify**( $params, m, \sigma, ID, pk_{ID}$ )  $\rightarrow 1/0$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , a message  $m$ , a signature  $\sigma$ , a user's identity  $ID$ , and the user's public key  $pk_{ID}$ , verify whether

$$e(\sigma_1, g) \stackrel{?}{=} e(g_1, g_2) e(g_3, pk_{ID}) e \left( u' \prod_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \tilde{u}_i, \sigma_2 \right) e \left( m'_1 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_1} \tilde{m}_{1,i}, \sigma_3 \right) e \left( m'_2 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_2} \tilde{m}_{2,i}, \sigma_4 \right)$$

holds or not. Output 1 if the equality holds; otherwise output 0.

## Correctness Analysis

$$\begin{aligned}
e(\sigma_1, g) &= e\left(g_2^\alpha \left(u' \prod_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \tilde{u}_i\right)^{h_{ID}+h'} \left(m'_1 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_1} \tilde{m}_{1,i}\right)^{h_m} g_3^{x_{ID}} \left(m'_2 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_2} \tilde{m}_{2,i}\right)^r, g\right) \\
&= e(g_2^\alpha, g) e\left(\left(u' \prod_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \tilde{u}_i\right)^{h_{ID}+h'}, g\right) e\left(\left(m'_1 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_1} \tilde{m}_{1,i}\right)^{h_m}, g\right) e(g_3^{x_{ID}}, g) e\left(\left(m'_2 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_2} \tilde{m}_{2,i}\right)^r, g\right) \\
&= e(g_2, g^\alpha) e\left(\left(u' \prod_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \tilde{u}_i\right), g^{h_{ID}+h'}\right) e\left(\left(m'_1 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_1} \tilde{m}_{1,i}\right), g^{h_m}\right) e(g_3, g^{x_{ID}}) e\left(\left(m'_2 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_2} \tilde{m}_{2,i}\right), g^r\right) \\
&= e(g_1, g_2) e(g_3, pk_{ID}) e\left(u' \prod_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \tilde{u}_i, \sigma_2\right) e\left(m'_1 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_1} \tilde{m}_{1,i}, \sigma_3\right) e\left(m'_2 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_2} \tilde{m}_{2,i}, \sigma_4\right)
\end{aligned}$$

## 4.2. Security Proof

**Theorem 1** Assume the  $(\epsilon, t)$ -CDH assumption holds for  $\mathbb{G}$ . Then, the proposed construction is  $(q_c, q_{psk}, q_{sv}, q_{pkr}, q_\sigma, \epsilon', t')$ -secure against the Super  $\mathcal{A}_I$ , such that  $\epsilon \geq \frac{\epsilon'}{16(q_{psk}+q_\sigma)q_\sigma(n_u+1)(n_m+1)}$  and  $t \approx t' + \mathcal{O}((q_{psk}n_u + q_\sigma(n_u+n_m+n'_m))t_m + (q_c+q_{psk}+q_\sigma)t_e)$ , where  $t_m$  and  $t_e$  are the time for a multiplication and an exponentiation in  $\mathbb{G}$ , and  $q_c, q_{psk}, q_{sv}, q_{pkr}, q_\sigma$  are the numbers of the queries to Create-User, Partial-Private-Key-Extract, Secret-Value-Extract, Public-Key-Replace, Super-Sign, respectively.

**Proof** We construct a simulator  $\mathcal{B}_I$  that simulates the challenger interacting with the Super  $\mathcal{A}_I$ .  $\mathcal{B}_I$  receives a CDH problem instance  $\langle \mathbb{G}, q, g, g^a, g^b \rangle$ . Its goal is to compute  $g^{ab} \in \mathbb{G}$ . The detailed description is as follows.

- *Setup*: Let  $l_u = 2(q_{psk} + q_\sigma)$  and  $l_m = 2q_\sigma$ . Assume that  $l_u(n_u + 1) < q$  and  $l_m(n_m + 1) < q$ . Select two integers  $\gamma_u \leftarrow_{\$} [0, n_u]$  and  $\gamma_m \leftarrow_{\$} [0, n_m]$ , also select the following integers:

$$\begin{aligned}
x' &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_{l_u}; & y' &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_{l_m} \\
\xi', \delta' &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q; & c', c_1, \dots, c_{n'_m}, d &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q \\
\bar{X} = (\bar{x}_i)_{i=1,2,\dots,n_u}, & \bar{x}_i &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_{l_u}; & \bar{\Xi} = (\bar{\xi}_i)_{i=1,2,\dots,n_u}, & \bar{\xi}_i &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_{l_u} \\
\bar{Y} = (\bar{y}_i)_{i=1,2,\dots,n_m}, & \bar{y}_i &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_{l_m}; & \bar{\Delta} = (\bar{\delta}_i)_{i=1,2,\dots,n_m}, & \bar{\delta}_i &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_{l_m}
\end{aligned}$$

Define the following functions for binary string  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_1$  and  $\mathbf{m}_2$ , where  $\mathbf{u} = H_u(ID)$  for user's identity  $ID$  and  $\mathbf{m}_1 = H_m(m)$  and  $\mathbf{m}_2 = H'_m(m)$  for a message  $m$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
F(\mathbf{u}) &= x' + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \bar{x}_i - l_u \gamma_u; & J(\mathbf{u}) &= \xi' + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \bar{\xi}_i \\
G(\mathbf{m}_1) &= y' + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{M}} \bar{y}_i - l_m \gamma_m; & P(\mathbf{m}_1) &= \delta' + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{M}} \bar{\delta}_i \\
C(\mathbf{m}_2) &= c' + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{M}'} c_i
\end{aligned}$$

Then, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
g_1 &= g^a; & g_2 &= g^b; & g_3 &= g^d \\
u' &= g_2^{x' - l_u \gamma_u} g^{\xi'}; & \tilde{u}_i &= g_2^{\bar{x}_i} g^{\bar{\xi}_i}, i \in [1, n_u]; & \tilde{U} &= \{\tilde{u}_i\} \\
m'_1 &= g_2^{y' - l_m \gamma_m} g^{\delta'}; & \tilde{m}_{1,i} &= g_2^{\bar{y}_i} g^{\bar{\delta}_i}, i \in [1, n_m]; & \tilde{M}_1 &= \{\tilde{m}_{1,i}\} \\
m'_2 &= g^{c'}, & \tilde{m}_{2,i} &= g^{c_i}, i \in [1, n'_m]; & \tilde{M}_2 &= \{\tilde{m}_{2,i}\}
\end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{B}_I$  returns the public parameters  $PP = \{\mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_T, e, g, g_1, g_2, g_3, u', m'_1, m'_2, \tilde{U}, \tilde{M}_1, \tilde{M}_2, H_u, H_m, H'_m\}$  to  $\mathcal{A}_I$ , while the master key is  $msk = g^{ab}$ . And the following equations hold:

$$\begin{aligned} u' \prod_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \tilde{u}_i &= g_2^{F(u)} g^{J(u)} \\ m'_1 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_1} \tilde{m}_{1,i} &= g_2^{G(m_1)} g^{P(m_1)} \\ m'_2 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_2} \tilde{m}_{2,i} &= g^{C(m_2)} \end{aligned}$$

- *Query:* The adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$  can adaptively perform queries as follows.
  - *Create-User:* Upon receiving a Create-User query with the user’s identity  $ID_j$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_I$  checks the user record table *U-list*. If the user already exists, it returns  $\perp$ . Otherwise, it selects user’s secret value  $x_{ID_j} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$  and computes user’s public key  $pk_{ID_j} = g^{x_{ID_j}}$ . Then  $\mathcal{B}_I$  inserts  $(ID_j, \_, x_{ID_j}, pk_{ID_j})$  to *U-list* and returns user’s public key  $pk_{ID_j}$ . Note that *U-list* is initially empty and stores the corresponding information as  $(ID_j, psk_{ID_j}, x_{ID_j}, pk_{ID_j})$ .
  - *Partial-Private-Key-Extract:* Upon receiving a Partial-Private-Key-Extract query with the user’s identity  $ID_j$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_I$  checks the user record table *U-list*. If this user has not been created, it first creates the user. Then if there is no information of the partial private key,  $\mathcal{B}_I$  returns the partial private key  $psk_{ID_j}$  to  $\mathcal{A}_I$ . Otherwise, it computes  $u_j = H_u(ID_j)$  and works as follows.
    - 1)  $F(u_j) \neq 0 \pmod q$ : Select  $h'_{ID_j} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$  and compute

$$\begin{aligned} psk_{ID_j} &= (psk_{ID_j,1}, psk_{ID_j,2}) \\ &= \left( g^{ab} \left( g_2^{F(u_j)} g^{J(u_j)} \right)^{h'_{ID_j} - \frac{a}{F(u_j)}}, g^{h'_{ID_j} - \frac{a}{F(u_j)}} \right) \\ &= \left( g_1^{-\frac{J(u_j)}{F(u_j)}} \left( g_2^{F(u_j)} g^{J(u_j)} \right)^{h'_{ID_j}}, g_1^{-\frac{1}{F(u_j)}} g^{h'_{ID_j}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{B}_I$  stores the partial private key  $psk_{ID_j}$  to this user’s entry in *U-list* and returns it to  $\mathcal{A}_I$ .

- 2)  $F(u_j) = 0 \pmod q$ :  $\mathcal{B}_I$  returns  $\perp$ .
- *Secret-Value-Extract:* Upon receiving a Secret-Value-Extract query with the user’s identity  $ID_j$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_I$  checks the user record table *U-list*. If this user has not been created, it first creates the user and then returns user’s secret value  $x_{ID_j}$ .
  - *Public-Key-Replace:* Upon receiving a Public-Key-Replace query with the user’s identity  $ID_j$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_I$  checks the user record table *U-list*. If the user has not been created, it returns  $\perp$ ; otherwise, it updates the user’s public key to  $pk'_{ID_j}$ , where  $pk'_{ID_j}$  is the new public key provided by  $\mathcal{A}_I$ .
  - *Super-Sign:* Upon receiving a Super-Sign query with the user’s identity  $ID_j$  and message  $m$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_I$  checks the user record table *U-list*. If the user has not been created or lacks information of the private key,  $\mathcal{B}_I$  executes Create-User and Partial-Private-Key-Extract accordingly. Then it computes  $m_1 = H_m(m)$  and  $m_2 = H'_m(m)$  and works as follows.
    - 1)  $F(u_j) \neq 0 \pmod q$ : Select  $h', h_m, r \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$  and compute

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sigma_1 &= g^{ab} \left( g_2^{F(u_j)} g^{J(u_j)} \right)^{h'_{ID_j} - \frac{a}{F(u_j)}} \left( g_2^{F(u_j)} g^{J(u_j)} \right)^{h'} \left( g_2^{G(m_1)} g^{P(m_1)} \right)^{h_m} g^{dx'_{ID_j}} \left( g^{C(m_2)} \right)^r \\
 &= g_1^{-\frac{J(u_j)}{F(u_j)}} \left( g_2^{F(u_j)} g^{J(u_j)} \right)^{h'_{ID_j} + h'} \left( g_2^{G(m_1)} g^{P(m_1)} \right)^{h_m} (pk'_j)^d \left( g^{C(m_2)} \right)^r \\
 &= psk_{j,1} \left( g_2^{F(u_j)} g^{J(u_j)} \right)^{h'} \left( g_2^{G(m_1)} g^{P(m_1)} \right)^{h_m} (pk'_j)^d \left( g^{C(m_2)} \right)^r \\
 \sigma_2 &= g^{h'_{ID_j} + h' - \frac{a}{F(u_j)}} \\
 &= psk_{j,2} g^{h'} \\
 \sigma_3 &= g^{h_m} \\
 \sigma_4 &= g^r
 \end{aligned}$$

2)  $F(u_j) = 0 \pmod q$ : If  $G(m_1) \neq 0 \pmod q$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_I$  selects  $H', h'_m, r \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$ . Let  $h_{id_j} + h' = H'$  and compute

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sigma_1 &= g^{ab} \left( g^{J(u_j)} \right)^{h_{id_j}} \left( g^{J(u_j)} \right)^{h'} \left( g_2^{G(m_1)} g^{P(m_1)} \right)^{h'_m - \frac{a}{G(m_1)}} g^{dx'_{id_j}} \left( g^{C(m_2)} \right)^r \\
 &= g_1^{-\frac{P(m_1)}{G(m_1)}} \left( g^{J(u_j)} \right)^{H'} \left( g_2^{G(m_1)} g^{P(m_1)} \right)^{h'_m} (pk'_j)^d \left( g^{C(m_2)} \right)^r \\
 \sigma_2 &= g^{H'} \\
 \sigma_3 &= g^{h'_m - \frac{a}{G(m_1)}} \\
 &= g_1^{-\frac{1}{G(m_1)}} g^{h'_m} \\
 \sigma_4 &= g^r
 \end{aligned}$$

Otherwise,  $\mathcal{B}_I$  returns  $\perp$ .

If  $\mathcal{B}_I$  does not abort, it returns  $\sigma_{ID_j, m} = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4)$  to  $\mathcal{A}_I$ . Note that  $\mathcal{B}_I$  needs no additional information other than the user's current public key  $pk'_{ID_j}$  to generate the signature with Super-Sign.

• *Forgery*: The adversary  $\mathcal{A}_I$  outputs signature  $\sigma^*$  of message  $m^*$  for user with identity  $ID_j^*$ .  $\mathcal{B}_I$  compute  $u^* = H_u(ID_j^*)$  and  $m_1^* = H_m(m^*)$  and checks following conditions.

- 1)  $F(u^*) = 0 \pmod q$ .
- 2)  $G(m_1^*) = 0 \pmod q$ .
- 3) Signature  $\sigma^*$  is valid signature of message  $m^*$  for user with identity  $ID_j^*$ .

If any of the above conditions are not met,  $\mathcal{B}_I$  returns  $\perp$ . Otherwise, it computes  $g^{ab}$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\sigma_1^*}{(\sigma_2^*)^{J(u^*)} (\sigma_3^*)^{P(m_1^*)} (pk_{j'}^*)^d (\sigma_4^*)^{C(m_2^*)}} &= \frac{g^{ab} \left( g^{J(u^*)} \right)^{h_{ID_j^*} + h'} \left( g^{P(m_1^*)} \right)^{h'_{m^*}} g^{dx'_{ID_j}} \left( g^{C(m_2^*)} \right)^r}{\left( g^{h_{ID_j^*} + h'} \right)^{J(u^*)} \left( g^{h'_{m^*}} \right)^{P(m_1^*)} \left( g^{x'_{ID_j^*}} \right)^d \left( g^r \right)^{C(m_2^*)}} \\
 &= g^{ab}
 \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\mathcal{B}_I$  outputs  $g^{ab}$  as a solution of the CDH problem.

**Probability analysis** To make analysis simple, we need following conclusions. Form  $l_u(n_u + 1) < q, \gamma_u \in [0, n_u]$  and  $x', \bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_{n_u} \in \mathbb{Z}_{l_u}$ , these conditions imply  $F(u) = x' + \sum_{i \in U} \bar{x}_i - l_u \gamma_u \in (-q, q)$ , where  $u = H_u(ID)$ . Then we have the proposition that if  $F(u) = 0 \pmod q$  then  $F(u) = 0 \pmod l_u$  and its contrapositive that  $F(u) \neq 0 \pmod l_u$  then  $F(u) \neq 0 \pmod q$ . Similarly, the corresponding conclusion holds for  $G(m_1)$ , where  $m_1 = H_m(m)$ .

Let  $u_1, \dots, u_{q_{ID}}$  be the output of the hash function  $H_u$  appearing in either Partial-Private-Key-Extract queries

or in Super-Sign queries not involving  $ID_j^*$ , and let  $\mathbf{m}_{1,1}, \dots, \mathbf{m}_{1,q_M}$  be the output of the hash function  $H_m$  in Super-Sign queries not involving  $m^*$ . We have  $q_{ID} \leq q_{psk} + q_\sigma$  and  $q_M \leq q_\sigma$ . Then we define the following events  $A_i, A^*, B_j, B^*$  and  $E$ .

$$\begin{aligned} A_i &: F(\mathbf{u}_i) \neq 0 \pmod{l_u}, i = 1, \dots, q_{ID} \\ A^* &: F(\mathbf{u}^*) = 0 \pmod{q} \\ B_j &: G(\mathbf{m}_{1,j}) \neq 0 \pmod{l_m}, j = 1, \dots, q_M \\ B^* &: F(\mathbf{m}_1^*) = 0 \pmod{q} \\ E &: \text{Signature } \sigma^* \text{ is valid signature of message } m^* \text{ for user with identity } ID_j^* \end{aligned}$$

According to the simulation, the probability of  $\mathcal{B}_I$  not aborting is

$$\Pr[\overline{\text{abort}}] \geq \Pr\left[\left(\bigwedge_{i=1}^{q_{ID}} A_i \wedge A^*\right) \wedge \left(\bigwedge_{j=1}^{q_M} B_{ij} \wedge B^*\right) \wedge E\right]$$

In the simulation, since all variates are chosen randomly, with above conclusions, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[A^*] &= \Pr[F(\mathbf{u}^*) = 0 \pmod{q}] \\ &= \Pr[F(\mathbf{u}^*) = 0 \pmod{q} \wedge F(\mathbf{u}^*) = 0 \pmod{l_u}] \\ &= \Pr[F(\mathbf{u}^*) = 0 \pmod{q} \mid F(\mathbf{u}^*) = 0 \pmod{l_u}] \Pr[F(\mathbf{u}^*) = 0 \pmod{l_u}] \\ &= \frac{1}{n_u + 1} \frac{1}{l_u} \end{aligned}$$

Also, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr\left[\bigwedge_{i=1}^{q_{ID}} A_i \mid A^*\right] &= 1 - \Pr\left[\bigvee_{i=1}^{q_{ID}} \overline{A}_i \mid A^*\right] \\ &\geq 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{q_{ID}} \Pr[\overline{A}_i \mid A^*] \end{aligned}$$

We can get the probability  $\Pr[\overline{A}_i \mid A^*] = \frac{1}{l_u}$ , since the events  $F(\mathbf{u}_{i_1}) = 0 \pmod{l_u}$  and  $F(\mathbf{u}_{i_2}) = 0 \pmod{l_u}$  are independent, where  $i_1 \neq i_2$ , and the events  $A_i$  and  $A^*$  are independent for any  $i$ . Hence, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr\left[\bigwedge_{i=1}^{q_{ID}} A_i \wedge A^*\right] &= \Pr\left[\bigwedge_{i=1}^{q_{ID}} A_i \mid A^*\right] \Pr[A^*] \\ &\geq \left(1 - \frac{q_{ID}}{l_u}\right) \frac{1}{n_u + 1} \frac{1}{l_u} \\ &\geq \left(1 - \frac{q_{psk} + q_\sigma}{l_u}\right) \frac{1}{n_u + 1} \frac{1}{l_u} \\ &= \frac{1}{4(q_{psk} + q_\sigma)(n_u + 1)} \end{aligned}$$

Using a similar analysis technique, we can have  $\Pr \left[ \bigwedge_{j=1}^{q_M} B_j \wedge B^* \right] = \frac{1}{4q_\sigma(n_m+1)}$ . Building on the above results, we can get the probability of  $\mathcal{B}_I$  not aborting

$$\Pr \left[ \left( \bigwedge_{i=1}^{q_{ID}} A_i \wedge A^* \right) \wedge \left( \bigwedge_{j=1}^{q_M} B_{ij} \wedge B^* \right) \right] \geq \frac{1}{16(q_{psk} + q_\sigma)q_\sigma(n_u + 1)(n_m + 1)}$$

If  $\mathcal{A}_I$  will forge a valid signature with the probability  $\epsilon'$  and time  $t'$ , simulator  $\mathcal{B}_I$  can solve CDH problem with the probability  $\epsilon \geq \frac{\epsilon'}{16(q_{psk}+q_\sigma)q_\sigma(n_u+1)(n_m+1)}$ . The time complexity of simulation is primarily determined by the exponentiations and multiplications in the queries. A Create-User query involves one exponentiation, a Partial-Private-Key-Extract query involves  $O(n_u)$  multiplications and  $O(1)$  exponentiations, and a Super-Sign query involves  $O(n_u + n_m + n'_m)$  multiplications and  $O(1)$  exponentiations. Thus the time complexity of solving CDH problem is  $t \approx t' + O((q_{psk}n_u + q_\sigma(n_u + n_m + n'_m))t_m + (q_c + q_{psk} + q_\sigma)t_e)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2** Assume the  $(\epsilon, t)$ -CDH assumption holds for  $\mathbb{G}$ . Then, the proposed construction is  $(q_c, q_{sv}, q_{pkr}, q_\sigma, \epsilon', t')$ -secure against the Super  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ , such that  $\epsilon \geq \frac{\epsilon'}{4q_\sigma(n'_m+1)}$  and  $t \approx t' + O(q_\sigma(n_u + n_m + n'_m)t_m + (q_c + q_\sigma)t_e)$ , where  $t_m$  and  $t_e$  are the time for a multiplication and an exponentiation in  $\mathbb{G}$ , and  $q_c, q_{sv}, q_{pkr}, q_\sigma$  are the numbers of queries to Create-User, Secret-Value-Extract, Public-Key-Replace, Super-Sign, respectively.

**Proof** We construct a simulator  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  that simulates the challenger interacting with the Super  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ .  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  receives a CDH problem instance  $\langle \mathbb{G}, q, g, g^a, g^b \rangle$ . Its goal is to compute  $g^{ab} \in \mathbb{G}$ . The detailed description is as follows.

- *Setup:* Let  $l'_m = 2q_\sigma$ . Assume that  $l'_m(n'_m + 1) < q$ . Select two integers  $\gamma'_m \leftarrow_{\$} [0, n'_m]$ , also select the following integers:

$$\begin{aligned} z' &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_{l'_m}; & \theta' &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q \\ c'_1, c_{1,1}, \dots, c_{1,n_u} &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q \\ c'_2, c_{2,1}, \dots, c_{2,n_m} &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q \\ d_1, d_2 &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q \\ \bar{Z} = (\bar{z}_i)_{i=1,2,\dots,n'_m}, \bar{z}_i &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_{l'_m}; & \bar{\Theta} = (\bar{\theta}_i)_{i=1,2,\dots,n'_m}, \bar{\theta}_i &\leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_{l'_m} \end{aligned}$$

Define the following functions for binary string  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_1$  and  $\mathbf{m}_2$ , where  $\mathbf{u} = H_u(ID)$  for user's identity  $ID$  and  $\mathbf{m}_1 = H_m(m)$  and  $\mathbf{m}_2 = H'_m(m)$  for a message  $m$ :

$$\begin{aligned} R(\mathbf{m}_2) &= z' + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{M}'} \bar{z}_i - l'_m \gamma'_m; & Q(\mathbf{m}_2) &= \theta' + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{M}'} \bar{\theta}_i \\ C_1(\mathbf{u}) &= c'_1 + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{U}} c_{1,i} \\ C_2(\mathbf{m}_1) &= c'_2 + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{M}} c_{2,i} \end{aligned}$$

Then, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} g_1 &= g^{d_1}; & g_2 &= g^{d_2}; & g_3 &= g^b \\ m'_2 &= g_3^{z' - l'_m \gamma'_m \theta'}; & \tilde{m}_{2,i} &= g_3^{\bar{z}_i} g^{\bar{\theta}_i}, & i \in [1, n'_m]; & \tilde{M}_2 &= \{\tilde{m}_{2,i}\} \\ u' &= g^{c'_1}; & \tilde{u}_i &= g^{c_{1,i}}, & i \in [1, n_u]; & \tilde{U} &= \{\tilde{u}_i\} \\ m'_1 &= g^{c'_2}, & \tilde{m}_{1,i} &= g^{c_{2,i}}, & i \in [1, n_m]; & \tilde{M}_1 &= \{\tilde{m}_{1,i}\} \end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{B}_{II}$  returns the public parameters  $PP = \{\mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_T, e, g, g_1, g_2, g_3, u', m'_1, m'_2, \tilde{U}, \tilde{M}_1, \tilde{M}_2, H_u, H_m, H'_m\}$  to  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ , while the master key is  $msk = g^{d_1 d_2}$ . And the following equations hold:

$$\begin{aligned} m'_2 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_2} \tilde{m}_{2,i} &= g_3^{R(m_2)} g^{Q(m_2)} \\ u' \prod_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \tilde{u}_i &= g^{C_1(u)} \\ m'_1 \prod_{i \in \mathcal{M}_1} \tilde{m}_{1,i} &= g^{C_2(m_1)} \end{aligned}$$

- **Query:** The adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$  can adaptively perform queries as follows.
  - **Create-User:** Upon receiving a Create-User query with the user's identity  $ID_j$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  checks the user record table  $U-list$ . If the user already exists, it returns  $\perp$ . Otherwise, it selects user's secret value  $x_{ID_j} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$  and computes user's public key  $pk_{ID_j} = g^{x_{ID_j}}$ . Then  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  inserts  $(ID_j, \_, x_{ID_j}, pk_{ID_j})$  to  $U-list$  and returns user's public key  $pk_{ID_j}$ . Among all Create-User queries,  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  randomly picks one and let its entry be  $(ID_{j'}, \_, \_, g^a)$ . Note that  $U-list$  is initially empty and stores the corresponding information as  $(ID_j, psk_{ID_j}, x_{ID_j}, pk_{ID_j})$ .
  - **Secret-Value-Extract:** Upon receiving a Secret-Value-Extract query with the user's identity  $ID_j$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  checks the user record table  $U-list$ . If this user has not been created, it first creates the user and works as follows.
    - 1)  $j \neq j'$ :  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  returns  $x_{id_j}$ .
    - 2)  $j = j'$ :  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  returns  $\perp$ .
  - **Public-Key-Replace:** Upon receiving a Public-Key-Replace query with the user's identity  $ID_j$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  checks the user record table  $U-list$ . If the user has not been created, it returns  $\perp$ ; otherwise, it works as follows.
    - 1)  $j \neq j'$ :  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  updates the user's public key to  $pk'_{ID_j}$ , where  $pk'_{ID_j}$  is the new public key provided by  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ .
    - 2)  $j = j'$ :  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  returns  $\perp$ .
  - **Super-Sign:** Upon receiving a Super-Sign query with the user's identity  $ID_j$  and message  $m$  from adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  checks the user record table  $U-list$ . If the user has not been created, it first creates the user. Then it computes  $u = H_u(ID)$ ,  $m_1 = H_m(m)$ ,  $m_2 = H'_m(m)$  and works as follows.
    - 1)  $R(m_2) \neq 0 \pmod q$ : Select  $h', h_m, r' \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$  and compute

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_1 &= g^{d_1 d_2} \left( g^{C_1(u_j)} \right)^{h_{ID_j}} \left( g^{C_1(u_j)} \right)^{h'} \left( g^{C_2(m_1)} \right)^{h_m} g^{ab} \left( g_3^{R(m_2)} g^{Q(m_2)} \right)^{r' - \frac{x_{ID_j}}{R(m_2)}} \\ &= psk_{j,1} \left( g^{C_1(u_j)} \right)^{h'} \left( g^{C_2(m_1)} \right)^{h_m} \left( pk_{ID_j} \right)^{-\frac{Q(m_2)}{R(m_2)}} \left( g_3^{R(m_2)} g^{Q(m_2)} \right)^{r'} \\ \sigma_2 &= g^{h_{ID_j} + h'} \\ &= psk_{j,2} g^{h'} \\ \sigma_3 &= g^{h_m} \\ \sigma_4 &= g^{r' - \frac{x_{ID_j}}{R(m_2)}} \\ &= \left( pk_{ID_j} \right)^{-\frac{1}{R(m_2)}} g^{r'} \end{aligned}$$

- 2)  $R(m_2) = 0 \pmod q$ :  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  returns  $\perp$ .

If  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  does not abort, it returns  $\sigma_{ID_j, m} = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4)$  to  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$ . Note that  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  needs no additional information other than the user's current public key  $pk'_{ID_j}$  to generate the signature with Super-Sign.

- **Forgery:** The adversary  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$  outputs signature  $\sigma^*$  of message  $m^*$  for user with identity  $ID_j^*$ .  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  computes  $u^* = H_u(ID_j^*)$ ,  $m_1^* = H_m(m^*)$ ,  $m_2^* = H'_m(m^*)$  and checks following conditions.

- 1)  $j = j'$
- 2)  $R(\mathbf{m}_2^*) = 0 \pmod q$ .
- 3) Signature  $\sigma^*$  is valid signature of message  $m^*$  for user with identity  $ID_j^*$ .

If any of the above conditions are not met,  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  returns  $\perp$ . Otherwise, it computes  $g^{ab}$  as follows:

$$\frac{\sigma_1^*}{g^{d_1 d_2} (\sigma_2^*)^{C_1(\mathbf{u}_{j^*})} (\sigma_3^*)^{C_2(\mathbf{m}_1^*)} (\sigma_4^*)^{Q(\mathbf{m}_2^*)}} = \frac{g^{d_1 d_2} \left(g^{C_1(\mathbf{u}_{j^*})}\right)^{h_{ID_j^*} + h'} \left(g^{C_2(\mathbf{m}_1^*)}\right)^{h'_{m^*}} g^{ab} \left(g^{Q(\mathbf{m}_2^*)}\right)^r}{g^{d_1 d_2} \left(g^{h_{ID_j^*} + h'}\right)^{C_1(\mathbf{u}_{j^*})} \left(g^{h'_{m^*}}\right)^{C_2(\mathbf{m}_1^*)} (g^r)^{Q(\mathbf{m}_2^*)}} = g^{ab}$$

Then  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  outputs  $g^{ab}$  as a solution of the CDH problem.

**Probability analysis** Its probability analysis is similar to analysis for Theorem 1. Let  $\mathbf{m}_{2,1}, \dots, \mathbf{m}_{2,q_{M'}}$  be the output of the hash function  $H'_m$  in Super-Sign queries not involving  $m^*$ . We have  $q_{M'} \leq q_\sigma$ . Then we define the following events  $C_k, C^*, D$  and  $E$ .

- $C_k : R(\mathbf{m}_{2,j}) \neq 0 \pmod{l'_m}, k = 1, \dots, q_{M'}$
- $C^* : F(\mathbf{m}_2^*) = 0 \pmod q$
- $D : j = j'$
- $E : \text{Signature } \sigma^* \text{ is valid signature of message } m^* \text{ for user with identity } ID_j^*$

According to the simulation, the probability of  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  not aborting is

$$\Pr \left[ \overline{\text{abort}} \right] \geq \Pr \left[ \left( \bigwedge_{k=1}^{q_{M'}} C_k \wedge C^* \right) \wedge D \wedge E \right] \geq \frac{\epsilon'}{4q_\sigma q_c (n'_m + 1)}$$

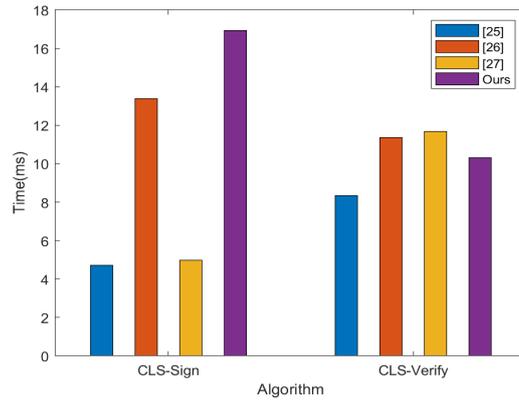
If  $\mathcal{A}_{II}$  will forge a valid signature with the probability  $\epsilon'$  and time  $t'$ , simulator  $\mathcal{B}_{II}$  can solve CDH problem with the probability  $\epsilon \geq \frac{\epsilon'}{4q_\sigma q_c (n'_m + 1)}$ . The time complexity of simulation is primarily determined by the exponentiations and multiplications in the queries. A Create-User query involves one exponentiation and a Super-Sign query involves  $O(n_u + n_m + n'_m)$  multiplications and  $O(1)$  exponentiations. Thus the time complexity of solving CDH problem is  $t \approx t' + O(q_\sigma(n_u + n_m + n'_m)t_m + (q_c + q_\sigma)t_e)$ . □

### 4.3. Efficiency Analysis

In this section, the proposed scheme is compared with some existing certificateless signature schemes in terms of efficiency. For efficiency comparison, we use the PBC library and select the Type A curve, conducting experiments on an Ubuntu22 virtual machine with the 12th Gen Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-12700H 2.70GHz processor and 16GB RAM. Then, the experiment results show that, every pairing operation ( $P$ ) needs 1.58022ms, every multiplication ( $Mul_{\mathbb{G}}$ ) in  $\mathbb{G}$  needs 0.01114ms, every multiplication ( $Mul_{\mathbb{G}_T}$ ) in  $\mathbb{G}_T$  needs 0.00181ms, every exponentiation ( $E_{\mathbb{G}}$ ) in  $\mathbb{G}$  needs 0.00061ms, and every inversion ( $Inv$ ) in  $\mathbb{Z}_{q^*}$  needs 0.00281ms. The variables  $n_u, n_m, n'_m$  and  $n_p$  represent the output lengths of the hash functions, while  $|x|_{\mathbb{G}}$  denotes the binary length of  $x$  elements in  $\mathbb{G}$ . We present our results in Table 3 and Figure 2.

**Table 3. The comparison of efficiency and signature length**

Scheme	Signing cost	Verification cost	Signature length
Wu et al. [25]	$1nv + 3E_G + (n_m + 1)Mul_G$	$5P + Mul_{G_T} + (n_u + n_m)Mul_G$	$2 G $
Tseng et al. [26]	$6E_G + (n_m + 2)Mul_G$	$7P + 3Mul_{G_T} + E_G + (n_m + n_p + n_u + 1)Mul_G$	$5 G $
Rastegari et al. [27]	$2E_G + (n_m + 1)Mul_G$	$7P + 3Mul_{G_T} + (n_u + n_p + n_m)Mul_G$	$4 G $
Ours	$6E_G + (n_u + n_m + n'_m + 5)Mul_G$	$6P + 4Mul_{G_T} + (n_u + n_m + n'_m)Mul_G$	$4 G $



**Figure 2.** Sign and Verify time of the four schemes

### 5. EXPANSION: CERTIFICATELESS CLOUD AUDITING SCHEME

We can easily take advantage of the structure of the certificateless signature scheme to construct a CLCA scheme against Super adversaries in STM. In general, the CLCA scheme can be specified by nine algorithms: **Setup**, **PartialKeyExt**, **SetSecretValue**, **SetPrivateKey**, **SetPublicKey**, **TagGen**, **Challenge**, **Respond** and **Verify**. The first five algorithms are similar to those in the certificateless signature; **TagGen**, **Challenge**, **Respond** and **Verify** are as follows:

- **TagGen**( $params, M, sk_{ID}$ )  $\rightarrow \{t_i\}_{i=1,\dots,n}$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , a file  $M$ , and the user's private key  $sk_{ID}$ . Splits  $M$  into  $n$  blocks. For each block  $m_i$ , the tag is  $t_i$ . This algorithm outputs tags  $\{t_i\}_{i=1,\dots,n}$  for the file.
- **Challenge**( $params, I$ )  $\rightarrow chal$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , a set  $I \in [1, n]$ . This algorithm outputs the challenge  $chal$
- **Respond**( $params, chal, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{T}$ )  $\rightarrow res$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , a challenge  $chal$ , a set of messages  $\mathcal{M}$ , and a set of tags  $\mathcal{T}$ . This algorithm outputs the response  $res$ .
- **Verify**( $params, chal, res$ )  $\rightarrow 1/0$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , a challenge  $chal$ , and a response  $res$ . This algorithm outputs 0 or 1.

Now we can outline our CLCA scheme: **Setup**, **PartialKeyExt**, **SetSecretValue**, **SetPrivateKey** and **SetPublicKey**: Identical to our certificateless signature scheme.

- **TagGen**( $params, M, sk_{ID}$ )  $\rightarrow \{t_i\}_{i=1,\dots,n}$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , a file  $M$ , and the user's private key  $sk_{ID}$ . Splits  $M$  into  $n$  blocks. For each block  $m_i$ , we can compute

$$t_{i,1} = g_2^\alpha \left( u' \prod_{k \in \mathcal{U}} \tilde{u}_k \right)^{h_{ID} + h'} \left( v'_1 \prod_{k \in \mathcal{V}_1} \tilde{v}_{1,k} \right)^{h_v} g_3^{x_{ID} m_i} \left( v'_2 \prod_{k \in \mathcal{V}_2} \tilde{v}_{2,k} \right)^r$$

$$t_{i,2} = psk_{ID,2} \cdot g^{h'} = g^{h_{ID} + h'}, t_{i,3} = g^{h_v}, t_{i,4} = g^r$$

and output  $t_i = (t_{i,1}, t_{i,2}, t_{i,3}, t_{i,4})$  as the tag. Note that we handle the index  $i$  in the same manner as the message  $m$  in the signature scheme.

- **Challenge**( $params, I$ )  $\rightarrow chal$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , a set  $I \in [1, n]$ . Select  $s_i \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$  for  $i \in I$  and output  $chal = \{(i, s_i) | i \in I\}$ .
- **Respond**( $params, chal, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{T}$ )  $\rightarrow res$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , a challenge  $chal$ , a set of messages  $\mathcal{M}$ , and a set of tags  $\mathcal{T}$ . Compute

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_1 &= \prod_{i \in I} t_{i,1}^{s_i} \\ \omega_2 &= \prod_{i \in I} t_{i,2}^{s_i} \\ \mu &= \sum_{i \in I} s_i m_i\end{aligned}$$

and output  $res = (\omega_1, \omega_2, \{t_{i,3}^{s_i}\}_{i \in I}, \{t_{i,4}^{s_i}\}_{i \in I}, \mu)$ .

- **Verify**( $params, chal, res$ )  $\rightarrow 1/0$ : Given the public parameter  $params$ , a challenge  $chal$ , and a response  $res$ , verify whether

$$e(\omega_1, g) \stackrel{?}{=} e(g_1, g_2)^{\sum_{i \in I} s_i} e(g_3, pk_{ID})^\mu e\left(u' \prod_{k \in \mathcal{U}} \tilde{u}_i, \omega_2\right) \prod_{i \in I} e\left(v'_1 \prod_{k \in \mathcal{V}_{1,i}} \tilde{v}_{1,k}, t_{i,3}^{s_i}\right) e\left(v'_2 \prod_{k \in \mathcal{V}_{2,i}} \tilde{v}_{2,k}, t_{i,4}^{s_i}\right)$$

holds or not. Output 1 if the equality holds; otherwise output 0.

## 6. DISCUSSION

This study introduces a novel certificateless signature scheme and demonstrates its security against Super adversaries in the STM. While previous research has proposed certificateless signature schemes in the STM, no scheme has been proven secure against Super adversaries in the STM. Additionally, we extend the structure of the proposed certificateless signature scheme to develop a CLCA scheme, which is also provably secure against Super adversaries in the STM. As far as we are aware, no existing schemes offer a similar level of security.

Based on our experimental results, although the efficiency of our scheme has not yet reached that of the most advanced schemes, the overhead is still within an acceptable range. Future work will focus on improving efficiency while maintaining the same level of security, such as by incorporating blockchain technology<sup>[38]</sup> to reduce computational and storage overhead. Furthermore, the scheme can be deployed as a component in systems such as Verifiable Query Layer (VQL)<sup>[39]</sup>, enhancing system functionality and security, which presents a promising direction for further research.

## 7. CONCLUSION

To the best of our knowledge, no certificateless signature scheme has been proposed in the literature that is secure against Super adversaries without random oracles. In this paper, we introduce a certificateless signature scheme against Super adversaries based on the CDH problem. We then employ a similar technique to present a CLCA scheme with the same level of security. Our primary approach combines Water's signature scheme<sup>[29]</sup> with Paterson's IBS scheme<sup>[31]</sup>, which is akin to the methodology used by Huang et al<sup>[20]</sup>.

## DECLARATIONS

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### Authors' contributions

Made substantial contributions to the design and proof of the proposed scheme: S. Yao; Provided administrative support and supervision: G. Wu; Performed a substantial review of the proposed scheme, along with editorial work and proofreading: X. Liu.

### Availability of data and materials

The data supporting the findings of this study are available within this Article and its Supplementary Material. Further data are available from the corresponding authors upon request.

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### Conflicts of interest

All authors declared that there are no conflicts of interest.

### Ethical approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

### Consent for publication

Not applicable.

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