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# Mitigating Spoofing Attacks through Received Signal Strength in Wireless Networks

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**ABSTRACT:** Spoofing Attack is one of the vulnerabilities in the networks in which the adversary assumes the identity of another node in the network and to establish a connection that will allow gaining access to the other hosts and their sensitive data. It will decrease the performance of the network and violate many security issues. With the open medium, distributed cooperation and constrained capabilities, the wireless nodes are more vulnerable to such type of attacks compared with wired networks. Even though the identity of a node can be verified through cryptographic mechanisms, the conventional security approaches are not always desirable because it requires key management and additional infrastructural overheads. The detection and localization of multiple attacks makes complex when the multiple number attackers spoofing attacks the mobile ad hoc networks. In which the RSS and SVM deals with the spoofing attacks, it determines the number of attackers in the wireless network and identify the location of the spoofing attackers. However it localizes the spoofing attackers but it does not consider the legitimate users. After the process of localizing the attackers in the wireless network, the attackers may mitigate from the network without degrading the legitimate users. Observation of the behavior of the neighborhood which is performed by the normal network nodes is one of the common methods for detecting attacks in wireless networks. Local monitoring which also deals with the process of neighborhood analysis in multi hop wireless networks. This can be implemented by UnMASK. In this paper, propose the UnMASK (Utilizing Neighbor Monitoring for Attack Mitigation) that mitigate the multiple spoofing attackers without give distortions to the legitimate users in the networks. UNMASK uses as a fundamental building block the ability of a node to oversee its neighboring nodes' communication. On top of UNMASK, build a secure routing protocol, LSR, that provides additional protection against malicious nodes by supporting multiple node-disjoint paths. From that can analyze the nodes and neighbor node relations by means of communication over them. The experiments those are undergone to produce the results of mitigation of multiple spoofing after the detection and localization process.

**KEY WORDS:** Wireless network security, neighbor monitoring, secure routing, control attack, data attacks.

## I. INTRODUCTION

As more wireless and sensor networks are deployed, they will increasingly become tempting targets for malicious attacks. Due to the openness of wireless and sensor networks, they are especially vulnerable to spoofing attacks where an attacker forges its identity to masquerade as another device, or even creates multiple illegitimate identities. Spoofing attacks are a serious threat as they represent a form of identity compromise and can facilitate a variety of traffic injection attacks, such as evil twin access point attacks. It is thus desirable to detect the presence of spoofing and eliminate them from the network.

Most existing approaches to address potential spoofing attacks employ cryptographic schemes [5], [6]. It introduced a secure and efficient key management (SEKM) framework. SEKM builds a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) by applying a secret sharing scheme and an underlying multicast server group. The traditional approach to address spoofing attacks is to



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apply cryptographic authentication. However, authentication requires additional infrastructural overhead and computational power associated with distributing, and maintaining cryptographic keys. Due to the limited power and resources available to the wireless devices and sensor nodes, it is not always possible to deploy authentication. In addition, key management often incurs significant human management costs on the network.

Due to the shared nature of the wireless medium, attackers can gather useful identity information during passive monitoring and further utilize the identity information to launch identity-based attacks, in particular, the two most harmful but easy to launch attacks: 1) spoofing attacks and 2) Sybil attacks. In identity-based spoofing attacks, an attacker can forge its identity to masquerade as another device or even create multiple illegitimate identities in the networks. For instance, in an IEEE 802.11 network, it is easy for an attacker to modify its Media Access Control (MAC) address of network interface card (NIC) to another device through vendor-supplied NIC drivers or open-source NIC drivers. In addition, by masquerading as an authorized wireless access point (AP) or an authorized client, an attacker can launch denial-of-service (DoS) attacks, bypass access control mechanisms, or falsely advertise services to wireless clients.

The works [3], [7], [14] using RSS to defend against spoofing attacks are most closely related to this system. Received Signal Strength is widely available in deployed wireless communication networks, and its values are closely correlated with location in physical space. In addition, RSS is a common physical property used by a widely diverse set of localization algorithms. In spite of its several-meter-level localization accuracy, using RSS is an attractive approach, because it can reuse the existing wireless infrastructure, and it is sufficient to meet the accuracy requirement of most applications. For example, during health care monitoring, a doctor may only need to know in which room the tracked patient resides. Although affected by random noise, environmental bias, and multipath effects, the RSS measured at a set of landmarks (i.e., reference points with known locations) is closely related to the transmitter's physical location and is governed by the distance to the landmarks. The RSS readings at different locations in physical space are distinctive.

This work, choose a group of algorithms employing RSS to perform the task of localizing multiple attackers and evaluate their performance in terms of localization accuracy. This approach can accurately localize multiple adversaries even when the attackers vary their transmission power levels to trick the system of their true locations.

## II. RELATED WORK

IEEE 802.11 has been designed with very limited key management capabilities, using up to 4 static, long term, keys, shared by all the stations on the LAN. This design makes it quite difficult to fully revoke access from previously-authorized hosts. A host is fully revoked when it can no longer eavesdrop and decrypt traffic generated by other hosts on the wireless LAN. WEP, a lightweight solution to the host-revocation problem. The key management in WEP is in the style of pay-TV systems: The Access Point periodically generates new keys, and these keys are transferred to the hosts at authentication time. The fact that the keys are only valid for one re-key period makes host revocation possible, and scalable: A revoked host will simply not receive the new keys. The traditional approach to prevent spoofing attacks is to use cryptographic-based authentication [5], [6], [10]. Recently, new approaches utilizing physical properties associated with wireless transmission to combat attacks in wireless networks have been proposed. Based on the fact that wireless channel response de-correlates quite rapidly in space, a channel-based authentication scheme was proposed

to discriminate between transmitters at different locations, and thus to detect spoofing attacks in wireless networks [11]. Brik et al. [12] focused on building fingerprints of 802.11b WLAN NICs by extracting radiometric signatures, such as frequency magnitude, phase errors, and I/Q origin offset, to defend against identity attacks. However, there is additional overhead associated with wireless channel response and radiometric signature extraction in wireless networks. Li and Trappe [4] introduced a security layer that used forge resistant relationships based on the packet traffic, including MAC sequence number and traffic pattern, to detect spoofing attacks.



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The works [3], [7], [14] using RSS to defend against spoofing attacks are most closely related to us. Faria and Cheriton [3] proposed the use of matching rules of signal prints for spoofing detection. Sheng et al. [7] modeled the RSS readings using a Gaussian mixture model. Sang and Arora [14] proposed to use the node's "spatial signature," including Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI) and Link Quality Indicator (LQI) to authenticate messages in wireless networks. However, none of these approaches are capable of determining the number of attackers when there are multiple adversaries collaborating to use the same identity to launch malicious attacks. Further, they do not have the ability to localize the positions of the adversaries after attack detection.

Several localization algorithms and evaluate their robustness to attacks where an adversary attenuates or amplifies the signal strength at one or more landmarks. They propose several performance metrics that quantify the estimator's precision and error, including Holder metrics, which quantify the variability in position space for a given variability in signal strength space. They then conduct a trace-driven evaluation of several point-based and area based algorithms, where they measured their performance as they applied attacks on real data from two different buildings. They found the median error degraded gracefully, with a linear response as a function of the attack strength. They also found that area-based algorithms experienced a decrease and a spatial-shift in the returned area under attack, implying that precision increases though bias is introduced for these schemes. The localization techniques, in spite of its several meter-level accuracy, using RSS [15], [16], [17], [18] is an attractive approach because it can reuse the existing wireless infrastructure and is highly correlated with physical locations.

Assuming the attacker and the victim are separated by a reasonable distance, RSS can be used to differentiate them to detect MAC spoofing, as recently proposed by several researchers. By analyzing the RSS pattern of typical 802.11 transmitters in a 3-floor building covered by 20 air monitors, they observed that the RSS readings followed a mixture of multiple Gaussian distributions. They discovered that this phenomenon was mainly due to antenna diversity, a widely-adopted technique to improve the stability and robustness of wireless connectivity. This observation renders existing approaches ineffective because they assume a single RSS source. On Gaussian mixture models, building RSS profiles for spoofing detection. Experiments on the same tested show that method is robust against antenna diversity and significantly outperforms existing approaches. At a 3% false positive rate, they detect 73.4%, 89.6% and 97.8% of attacks using the three proposed algorithms, based on local statistics of a single AM, combining local results from AMs, and global multi-AM detection, respectively.

### III. CLUSTER ANALYSIS

The theoretical support of using the RSS-based spatial correlation inherited from wireless nodes to perform spoofing attack detection. It also showed that the RSS readings from a wireless node may fluctuate and should cluster together. In particular, the RSS readings overtime from the same physical location will belong to the same cluster points in the n-dimensional signal space, while the RSS readings from different locations over time should form different clusters in signal space. Here illustrated this important observation in Fig. 1, which presents RSS reading vectors of three landmarks (i.e.,  $n = 3$ ) from two different physical locations. Under the spoofing attack, the victim and the attacker are using the same ID to transmit data packets, and the RSS readings of that ID is the mixture readings measured from each individual node (i.e., spoofing node or victim node).

Since under a spoofing attack, the RSS readings from the victim node and the spoofing attackers are mixed together, this observation suggests that may conduct cluster analysis on top of RSS-based spatial correlation to find out the distance in signal space and further detect the presence of spoofing attackers in physical space. This work, utilize the Partitioning Around Medoids Method to perform clustering analysis in RSS. The PAM Method [26] is a popular iterative descent clustering algorithm. Compared to the popular K-means method [9], the PAM method is more robust in the presence of noise and outliers.

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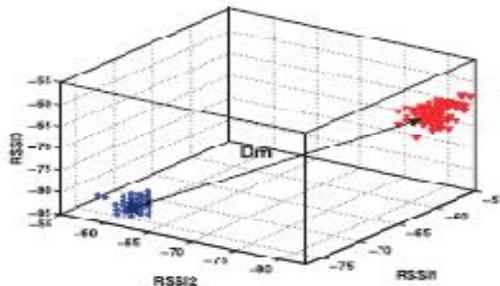


Fig.1. Illustration of RSS readings from two physical locations.

Thus, the PAM method is more suitable in determining clusters from RSS streams, which can be unreliable and fluctuating over time due to random noise and environmental bias. Then formulate spoofing detection as a statistical significance testing problem, where the null hypothesis is

$H_0$  : normal (no spoofing attack)

In significance testing, a test statistic  $T$  is used to evaluate whether observed data belong to the null-hypothesis or not. In this attack detection phase, partition the RSS vectors from the same node identity into two clusters (i.e.,  $K = 2$ ) no matter how many attackers are using this identity, since the objective in this phase is to detect the presence of attacks. Then choose the distance between two medoids  $D_m$  as the test statistic  $T$  in our significance testing for spoofing detection,  $D_m = \frac{1}{2} \|M_i - M_j\|$ , where  $M_i$  and  $M_j$  are the medoids of two clusters. Under normal conditions, the test statistic  $D_m$  should be small since there is basically only one cluster from a single physical location. However, under a spoofing attack, there is more than one node at different physical locations claiming the same node identity. As a result, more than one clusters will be formed in the signal space and  $D_m$  will be large as the medoids are derived from the different RSS clusters associated with different locations in physical space.

## IV. SUPPORT VECTOR MACHINES-BASED MECHANISM

Provided the training data collected during the offline training phase, it can further improve the performance of determining the number of spoofing attackers. In addition, given several statistic methods available to detect the number of attackers, such as System Evolution and SILENCE, can combine the characteristics of these methods to achieve a higher detection rate. Then this explores using Support Vector Machines to classify the number of the spoofing attackers. The advantage of using SVM is that it can combine the intermediate results (i.e., features) from different statistic methods to build a model based on training data to accurately predict the number of attackers. Particularly, SVM is a set of kernel-based learning methods for data classification, which involves a training phase and a testing phase. Each data instance in the training set consists of a target value (i.e., class label) and several attributes (i.e., features).

## V. UNMASK

Wireless networks enable a wide range of applications in both military and civilian domains. The deployment scenarios, the functionality requirements, and the limited capabilities of these networks reveal them to a wide-range of attacks against control traffic and data traffic (such as selective forwarding). This paper proposes a framework called UNMASK that mitigates such attacks by detecting, diagnosing, and isolating the malicious nodes. UNMASK uses as a fundamental building block the ability of a node to oversee its neighboring nodes' communication. On top of UNMASK, build a secure routing protocol, LSR, that provides additional protection against malicious nodes by supporting multiple node-disjoint paths. Then analyze the security guarantees of UNMASK and use ns-2 simulations to show its effectiveness



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against representative control and data attacks. The overhead analysis shows that UNMASK is a lightweight protocol appropriate for securing resource constrained sensor networks.



A distributed protocol, called UNMASK, for detection, diagnosis, and isolation of nodes launching control attacks, such as, wormhole, Sybil, rushing, spoofing, and replay attacks. UNMASK uses local monitoring to detect control and data traffic, and local response to diagnose and isolate the malicious nodes.

## VI. CONCLUSION

As wireless network threats are becoming more dangerous day by day, security in wireless is most essential. The design of UNMASK fundamentally relies on the ability of some guard nodes to overhear the behavior of neighboring nodes. Any technique that relies on this has the drawback that it can be bypassed by a powerful adversary that can accurately place malicious nodes capable of colluding with compromised nodes to create collision or delegates its identity to some other compromised node. Then analyze the security guarantees of UNMASK and show its ability to handle attacks through a representative set of these attacks.

And present a coverage analysis and find the probability of false alarm and missed detection. But it is less susceptible to this drawback than prior techniques since it increases the number of nodes that are performing verification. Note that incremental deployment of nodes is equivalent to a node moving to the new position and the situation can be handled similarly. As future work we are investigating secure neighbor discovery protocols appropriate for resource-constrained mobile networks.

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