

# Application of Proxy Signature Scheme Based on Blockchain in Multi Cloud Storage

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**ABSTRACT.** *As one of the most suitable online storage methods, cloud storage service is widely used by users with its convenient and efficient features. However, the existing cloud storage has some serious problems, mainly because it is difficult to manage the security and privacy of its database, and data storage cannot meet the security requirements of users. To increase security, blockchain technology is applied to data storage and data connectivity, which is reflected in the blockchain-based data storage model among multiple cloud providers. However, due to the limited storage space of blockchain transactions and the current speed of processing blockchain storage transactions, this model still has shortcomings. To resolve these issues, this paper proposes a proxy aggregation signature scheme to improve signature verification efficiency while compressing disk space and reducing communication bandwidth. The experimental results show that safe and efficient data storage can be achieved with this scheme.*

**Keywords:** Blockchain; Cloud storage; Proxy signature

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**1. Introduction.** With the rise of the Internet of Things [1], more and more information-aware devices are connected to the Internet, connecting people, devices, and things [2]. According to IDC data, there will be 41.6 billion IoT devices or “things” in 2025 that generate 79.4 ZB of data [3]. However, in the face of massive data, traditional information systems need more processing units and storage devices to maintain and manage them, which requires a higher cost. Fortunately, cloud storage has played a revolutionary role in data storage [4]. With this storage model, users do not maintain servers, storage, and network devices locally, but simply outsource storage management to cloud server providers (CSPs) [5], who are typically responsible for maintaining physical security and availability of data, such as using encryption schemes to ensure that data is confidential and not leaked, while reducing storage costs and achieving greater economic benefits for data owners [6]. However, when data is outsourced to cloud storage [7], there are still serious security problems, which may not only leak users’ privacy [8], but also lead to users’ property loss and threaten their life security. Overall, the current cloud storage solution has the following security issues.

1) Whether the cloud server maintains data integrity: users only know that the data is stored in the “cloud”, but do not know where and how it is stored. This “secret” will naturally lead to decreased acceptance of safety. While the CSP promises good privacy, being subject to some force majeure, such as earthquakes, floods, and power outages, can lead to data loss.

2) CSP is not entirely trustworthy: to save on storage resources, CSP can remove data rarely retrieved without notifying the data owner (user). Data can be manipulated, but CSP is not aware of the risks of violating users’ privacy, and may lead to the loss of users’ property, and even threaten the personal safety of users. For example, a cloud storage provider called LinkUp (MediaMaSi) lost 45% of its storage customer data due to a system administrator error, eventually causing [9] to shut down.

In view of the above threats, this paper builds a blockchain-based multi-cloud data storage solution and aggregated digital signatures to solve security problems:

Blockchain in Multiple CSPs: Create a blockchain replica of user data for each CSP that can be tamper-proof.

Proxy Aggregated Signature (PAS) Scheme: This scheme can compress blockchain storage space and reduce communication bandwidth.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Based on literature research, Section 2 introduces basic knowledge of cloud storage and blockchain. Section 3 introduces the system model. Section 4 introduces the definition of proxy signatures. Section 5 describes the signature scheme of proxy aggregation. Section 6 analyses the plan. Section 7 evaluates the signature length and time required of PAS scheme.

**2. Related Work.** The Byzantine problem is a significant issue in distributed systems. It involves achieving reliable information exchange and decision-making in an untrusted environment. Research on the Byzantine problem holds essential significance in constructing secure and dependable distributed systems, as well as in fields such as blockchain technology, where it can ensure data consistency and security in environments with partial trust. Driscoll *et al.* [10] discussed typical failure properties from a practitioner’s perspective and proposed solutions addressing the Byzantine problem.

Efanov and Roschin [11] believe that blockchain is a distributed database containing transaction records that are shared among participating members. Each transaction requires consensus confirmation from the majority of members, preventing fraudulent transactions from being collectively confirmed. Once a record is created and accepted by the

blockchain, it cannot be changed or disappear, ensuring the security and trustworthiness of the data.

Rashid and Chaturvedi [12] introduced how cloud computing can provide reliable and cost-effective services in various applications, exploring various cloud computing services, applications, and characteristics. They also discussed cloud computing service models and their advantages. Cloud storage is essentially a cloud computing system [13] where users can store and share data on the Internet, and can be used for simple data storage such as enterprise databases and local hard drives. In cloud storage, data is stored in third parties, not dedicated servers used in traditional network data storage. A user is looking at a virtual server when storing data, but such a place does not exist in reality. Its advantages are unlimited storage space, secure, simple, efficient file access and low cost of use. Cloud storage is based on a virtualized infrastructure and consists of four layers, as shown in Figure 1.

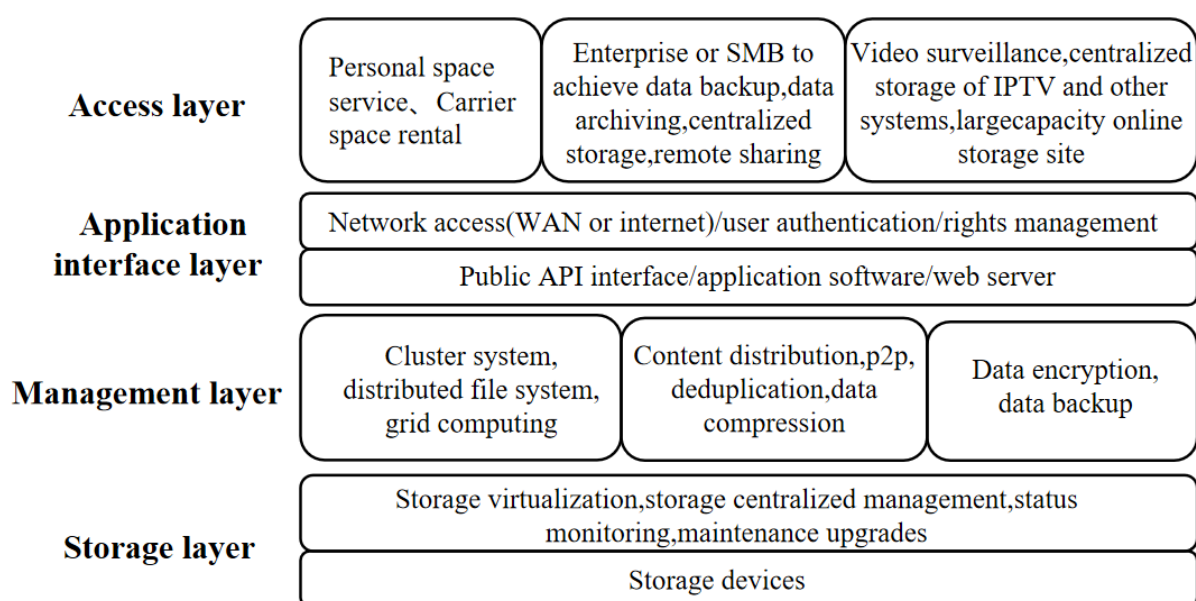


FIGURE 1. Structure of cloud storage

1) The storage layer is the fundamental part of cloud storage that consists of a large number of storage devices and is managed and maintained by a unified storage device management system.

2) The management layer is the core part of cloud storage used to realize collaboration between storage devices.

3) The application interface layer is the most flexible part of cloud storage, and various interfaces can provide a range of services.

4) The last is the level of access through which users can access and enjoy cloud services. As stated above, cloud storage refers to services that integrate devices and servers, not devices. Cloud storage services are available, but there is no security mechanism for data transfer and storage of cloud storage. Shahid *et al.* [14] specifically focus on data security issues in a multi-cloud environment and propose a distributed storage solution. To counter related key attacks, pollution attacks, known ciphertext attacks, and known plaintext attacks, the approach divides data into two categories: regular data and sensitive data, with sensitive data further divided into two parts. Each part undergoes encryption and distribution across multiple clouds, while regular data is uploaded in encrypted form

to a single cloud. During the decryption stage, sensitive data is merged from multiple clouds, which involves relatively intricate operations. Alouffi *et al.* [15] conducted a review of cloud computing security-related research published between 2010 and 2020 in reputable digital libraries. They expounded upon seven major security threats that cloud computing services face. Their research findings indicated that data tampering and leakage were among the extensively discussed topics. The paper identified blockchain as a collaborative technology to mitigate security concerns.

Due to the interconnectivity of distributed networks [16] and the importance of cloud, Namasudra and Deka [17] believe that blockchain technology is the best way to provide security for cloud storage. Wu *et al.* [18] propose an enhanced protocol for identity verification in a distributed cloud computing architecture. Blockchain technology [19] can be the best security solution in the cloud environment because it allows quick communication and significantly reduces the required processing resources. In other words, it is not possible to modify or delete the transaction information by using the security inherent in blockchain technology. Ismail *et al.* [20] believe that distributed data book can support anomaly invariance and data security even if shared across all nodes in the cloud. Because the encryption chain algorithm is adopted in the blockchain block, the privacy of the data is more liable to be protected. Because of these characteristics, blockchains are the most likely candidates for providing cloud data security. Zhang *et al.* [21] present a blockchain-based multi-cloud storage data auditing scheme to protect data integrity and accurately arbitrate service disputes. Xiong *et al.* [22] propose an ECDSA based verification scheme that can achieve efficient large-scale batch verification. To ensure lower storage, computation and communication costs, we have designed the following scheme.

### 3. System Model.

**3.1. Blockchain-Based Multiple CSPs.** Our storage model is shown in Figure 2. Unlike the traditional cloud storage model, we build a multi-cloud storage provider environment to replace a single cloud storage provider.

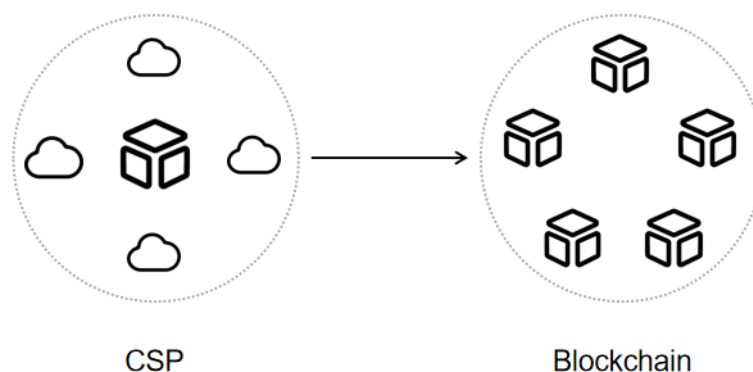


FIGURE 2. Storage model

The data blockchain is built on the basis of several cloud service providers. Each provider, in turn, consists of multiple cloud storage servers that can store unlimited amounts of data. In addition, each provider has a copy of the blockchain. The data is stored in the blockchain and the storage confirmation is executed by the storage transaction. Each client sends data to the cloud server. After receiving the data, the cloud server writes the signed data to the blockchain according to the PAS scheme.

### 3.2. Blockchain Storage.

3.2.1. *Advantages of Blockchain Storage.* First, blockchain storage stores data [23] on tens of millions of nodes worldwide with high reliability, rather than using multi-copy mode, but using more advanced redundant encoding modes [24]. This effectively avoids the negative effects of single point of failure. Distributed data storage as the main direction of future storage technology development can improve system reliability, availability and access efficiency and is easy to expand [25].

Second, the costs are relatively low. The basic reason for the low cost of blockchain storage is that blockchain technology effectively solves the problem of removing data duplication. In addition, the construction cost of each storage node is also very low. The edge node architecture used in the blockchain has lower hardware requirements and much lower costs than setting up a central data storage center [26].

Third, the storage form and consensus mechanism of the blockchain ensure that the manipulated data of a single or even multiple nodes does not affect the databases of other nodes and the manipulated data can be synchronized with the correct data. As long as an attacker does not control more than 50% nodes or has 50% computing power, he cannot really manipulate the blockchain [27]. Attackers are unlikely to crack this system.

3.2.2. *Disadvantages of Blockchain Storage.* High Storage Cost: Due to the need for each node on the blockchain to store all blockchain data, and to store historical data, information cannot be deleted, the storage requirement of each node on the blockchain will continue to increase, resulting in increased storage device costs and high storage resource consumption [28].

Slow Processing Speed: Blockchain transactions require all nodes in the chain to participate, and nodes also need to be encrypted and transmitted over the network, which can make the transaction speed quite slow. Slow processing results in low parallelism, which will limit the scale and user experience of the blockchain.

3.2.3. *Our Solution.* This article proposes a PAS system. This schema can combine the signatures of all users into one signature, improving the efficiency of signature verification. In addition, it can compress storage space and reduce communication bandwidth. The length and transmission efficiency of signatures have always been a concern. This article uses a short signature scheme that can effectively reduce network traffic and avoid network congestion. The user's output signature can be integrated into the digital signature via a central gateway or cloud server and stored in the blockchain in a multi-cloud server environment, as shown in Figure 3. The administrator of each data block generates proxy signatures with corresponding keys for each data block, and then aggregates all proxy signatures to obtain the final signed proxy aggregation signature. The cloud server performs proxy signatures and sends the final signature to the blockchain. Administrators only need to use their own private key authentication to view data.

## 4. Preparatory Knowledge.

4.1. **Definition of Proxy Signature.** The proxy signature is defined as follows:

1) Creation of system parameters: Key Generation Center (*KGC*), input security parameter  $k$ , and output system public parameter params.

2) Key pair generation: *KGC* input user  $ID$  and system public parameter params, output user private key  $S_{ID}$  and public key  $Q_{ID}$ .

3) Proxy authorization: Input the system public parameters params, the key pair of the original signer and the authorization file  $w$ , and output the proxy authorization certificate  $W$ . Among them:  $w$  contains the identity information of the original signer and the proxy

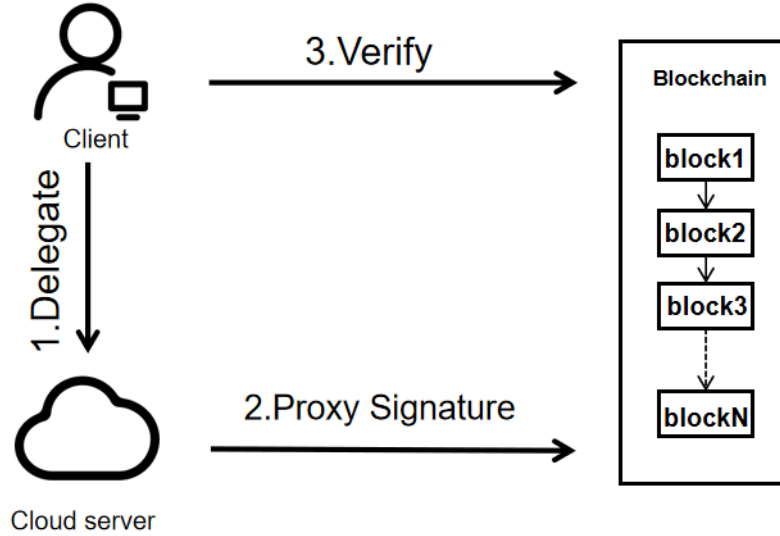


FIGURE 3. Signature scheme

signer, the description of the authorization relationship, the scope and duration of the messages allowed to be signed, etc.

4) Proxy authorization verification: Input system public parameters params, original signer  $U_0$  identity  $ID_0$  and proxy authorization certificate  $W$ . The verifier verifies whether  $W$  is a valid proxy authorization certificate.

5) Proxy key generation: Proxy signer  $U_i$  enters system public parameters params, proxy authorization certificate  $W$ , and outputs  $X$  as the proxy signature private key.

6) Proxy signature: Input system public parameters params, proxy authorization document  $w$ , proxy signature private key  $X$  and message  $m$  to be signed, output signature message  $\sigma$ .

7) Proxy signature verification: Enter the system public identity parameter params, original signer  $U_0$  identity  $ID_0$ , proxy signer  $U_i$  identity  $ID_i$ , authorization certificate  $W$  and signature information  $\sigma$ , return “1” means verification passed, return “0” means verification failed.

**4.2. Security Assumptions.** The hard problems of this article are as follows:

**Definition 4.1.** *the  $k - CAA$  problem.*  $G_1$  is a cyclic additive group of order a safe large prime  $q$ . For an integer  $k$  and  $x \in Z_q^*$ , given  $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k\} \in Z_q^*$ .  $P, xP \in G_1$  and  $\{P/(x + e_1), P/(x + e_2), \dots, P/(x + e_k)\}$ , compute  $(e, P/(x + e))$ , where  $e \in Z_q^*$ ,  $e \notin \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k\}$ .

**Definition 4.2.** *Elliptic curve Diffie – Hellman problem (CDH).* Given an elliptic curve group  $G$ , generate element  $P$  and two points  $a, b \in Z_q^*$ . Compute  $abP$  using the known  $aP$  and  $bP$ .

**Definition 4.3.** *Bilinear pairing:* in the system,  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are groups of order  $q$  with generators  $P$  and  $Q$ , respectively.  $G_r$  is also a group of order  $q$ . The constructed signature uses the bilinear mapping  $e: G_1 \times G_2 \rightarrow G_r$ , with the following properties:

-**Bilinear:**  $\forall a, b \in Z_q^*$ ,  $e(aP, bQ) = e(P, Q)ab = e(abP, Q) = e(P, abQ)$ .

-**Non-degenerate:**  $e(P, Q) \neq 1$ .

-**Computability:**  $e(P, Q)$  is computable.

$e$ : If  $G_1 \neq G_2$ ,  $G_1 \times G_2 \rightarrow G_r$  is an asymmetric bilinear pair; otherwise symmetric.

**4.3. Adversary Model.** On behalf of the original signer, the proxy signer can create a valid proxy signature for the designated verifier, but a proxy signature cannot be generated by the original signer and other third parties, except for the designated verifier. This situation occurs because the outsider does not know either the proxy private key or the private key of the designated verifier. Before discussing the strong unforgeability of our proxy signature scheme in the random oracle model, we first addressed the following types of adversaries that could exist in the system:

1) Type 1: Attacker  $A_1$  knows both the public key of the original signer and the public key of the proxy signer.

2) Type 2: Attacker  $A_2$  knows not only the public key of the original signer and the public key of the proxy signer, but also the private key of the original signer, but not the private key of the proxy signer.

3) Type 3: Attacker  $A_3$  not only knows the public key of the original signer and the public key of the proxy signer, but also knows the private key of the proxy signer, but not the private key of the original signer.

From the description of the capabilities possessed by the above three types of attackers, it is clear that when the proxy signature scheme is existentially unforgeable for attacker  $A_2$  and attacker  $A_3$ , then it is also unforgeable for attacker  $A_1$ . Therefore, in this paper, only attacker  $A_2$  of type 2 and attacker  $A_3$  of type 3 are considered in the subsequent security models and security proofs.

## 5. Signature Scheme Construction.

**5.1. Basic Construction.** The proxy aggregation signature scheme is as follows:

1) System Parameters Generation.

When the security parameter  $\lambda$  is given, the system key generation center  $KGC$  first selects a secure bilinear mapping  $e: G_1 \times G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ , and  $G_1$  is an additive group with order secure prime  $q$  and generating element  $p$ , and  $G_2$  is a multiplicative group with the same order secure prime  $q$ . Then it selects two collision-resistant secure hash functions  $H_1: \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow G_1$ ,  $H_2: \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow Z_q^*$ . Finally, expose the system parameters  $\text{params} = \{q, G_1, G_2, e, p, H_1, H_2\}$ . Select the system master key  $s$ .

2) Key Pair Generation.

Taking the system public parameter  $\text{params}$  as input,  $KGC$  then randomly picks  $S_0 \in Z_q^*$  and computes  $Q_0 = S_0p$  and outputs  $(Q_0, S_0)$  as the key pair of its original signer  $U_0$ .  $KGC$  randomly selects  $S_i \in Z_q^*$ , compute  $Q_i = S_i p$  and output  $(Q_i, S_i)$  as the key pair of the proxy signer  $U_i$ .

3) Delegate Authorization.

The original signer  $U_0$  takes as input the system disclosure parameter  $\text{params}$  and first randomly selects  $r \in Z_q^*$ , compute  $R = rp$ , and  $R$  is used as the identifier of the proxy signer  $U_i$ , which can be used to revoke the authorization and broadcast the public. Then calculate  $h_0 = H_1(ID_0, w, R)$ , where  $w$  is the authorization file containing an explicit description of the authorization relationship, the identity information of the original signer  $U_0$  and the proxy signer  $U_i$ , the scope and duration of the messages allowed to be signed, etc. Finally,  $d = (S_0 + r)h_0$  is calculated and  $(R, d)$  is output as the authorization permission of the original signer to the proxy signer.

4) Proxy Authorization Verification.

The proxy signer  $U_i$  receives the authorization permission and enters the system public parameter  $\text{params}$ , verifies that  $e(d, p) = e(h_0, Q_0 + R)$  holds, and accepts the authorization permission if the equation holds.

5) Proxy Key Generation.

The proxy signer  $U_i$ , according to the system public parameter params, calculates  $X_i = d + S_i h_0$ , and outputs  $X_i$  as the proxy signature key.

#### 6) Proxy Signature.

The proxy signer  $U_i$  does the following for a given message  $m_i \in \{0, 1\}^*$ : (1) Compute  $h_i = H_2(ID_0, ID_i, m_i, R)$ ; (2) Calculate  $\sigma_i = X_i / (h_i + S_i)$ ; Then  $\sigma_i$  is the signature of the proxy signer  $U_i$  on the message  $m_i$ .

#### 7) Signature Verification.

For a given message/signature pair  $(m_i, \sigma_i)$ , verification is performed by the following steps:

- (1) Compute  $h_0 = H_1(ID_0, w, R)$ ;
- (2) Compute  $h_i = H_2(ID_0, ID_i, m_i, R)$ ;
- (3) Verify whether the equation  $e(\sigma_i, h_i p + Q_i) = e(h_0, Q_0 + Q_i + R)$  holds, if the equation holds, the signature verification passes; if the equation does not hold, the signature verification fails.

**5.2. Aggregation.** The first five algorithms are the same as in Section 5.1.

#### Aggregate Signature

The proxy signer performs the following operations for a given message  $m_i \in \{0, 1\}^*$ , ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ):

- (1) Compute  $h_i = H_2(ID_0, ID_i, m_i, R)$ ;
- (2) Calculate  $\sigma_i = X_i / (h_i + S_i)$ ,  $\sigma_{agg} = \sum_i^n \sigma_i$ ; and then  $\sigma_{agg}$  is the proxy aggregation signature.

#### Aggregate Verification

For message/signature pairs  $(m_i, \sigma_{agg})$ , ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ), verification is performed by the following steps:

- (1) Compute  $h_0 = H_1(ID_0, w, R)$ ;
- (2) Compute  $h_i = H_2(ID_0, ID_i, m_i, R)$ ;
- (3) Verify that the equation  $e(\sigma_{agg}, \sum_i^n (h_i p + Q_i)) = e(nh_0, \sum_i^n (Q_0 + Q_i + R))$  holds, if the equation holds, then the signature verification passes; if the equation does not hold, then the signature verification fails.

The detailed procedure of the above stages is shown in Figure 4.

## 6. Scheme Analysis.

**6.1. Correctness Analysis.** The correctness of the authorization license is analyzed as follows:

$$e(d, p) = e((S_0 + r)h_0, p) = e(h_0, (S_0 + r)p) = e(h_0, Q_0 + R)$$

The analysis of the correctness of the single signature verification equation is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} e(\sigma_i, h_i p + Q_i) &= e(X_i / (h_i + S_i), p(h_i + S_i)) = e(X_i, p) \\ &= e(d + S_i h_0, p) = e((S_0 + r)h_0 + S_i h_0, p) \\ &= e((S_0 + r + S_i)h_0, p) e(h_0, Q_0 + Q_i + R) \end{aligned}$$

The analysis of the correctness of the aggregated signature verification equation is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} e(\sigma_{agg}, \sum_i^n (h_i p + Q_i)) &= e(\sum_i^n X_i / (h_i + S_i), p(h_i + S_i)) = e(\sum_i^n X_i, np) \\ &= e(\sum_i^n (d + S_i h_0), np) = e(\sum_i^n ((S_0 + r)h_0 + S_i h_0), np) \\ &= e(\sum_i^n ((S_0 + r + S_i)h_0), np) e(nh_0, \sum_i^n (Q_0 + Q_i + R)) \end{aligned}$$



		Proxy Aggregation Signature			
		KGC	$U_0$	$U_i$	Verifier
System Parameters Generation		Select $\lambda \in Z_q^*, G_1, G_2$ . Set $H_1: \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow G_1, H_2: \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow Z_q^*$ . Select $s \in Z_q^*$ . Publish $params = \{q, G_1, G_2, e, p, H_1, H_2\}$ .			
Key Pair Generation		Select $S_0 \in Z_q^*$ . Compute $Q_0 = S_0 p$ . Compute $Q_i = S_i p$ .	$(Q_0, S_0)$ $(Q_i, S_i)$		
Delegate Authorization			Select $r \in Z_q^*$ . Compute $R = rp$ . Set $w$ . Compute $h_0 = H_1(ID_0, w, R)$ . Compute $d = (S_0 + r)h_0$ .		
Authorization Verification				Verify $e(d, p) = e(h_0, Q_0 + R)$ .	
Proxy Signature				Calculate $X_i = d + S_i h_0$ .	
Proxy Key Generation				Calculate $h_i = H_2(ID_0, ID_i, m_i, R)$ . Calculate $\sigma_i = X_i / (h_i + S_i)$ .	$(m_i, \sigma_i)$
Signature Verification					Compute $h_0 = H_1(ID_0, w, R)$ . Compute $h_i = H_2(ID_0, ID_i, m_i, R)$ . Verify $e(\sigma_i, h_i p + Q_i) = e(h_0, Q_0 + Q_i + R)$ .
Aggregation	Aggregate Signature			Calculate $h_i = H_2(ID_0, ID_i, m_i, R)$ . Calculate $\sigma_i = X_i / (h_i + S_i)$ . Calculate $\sigma_{agg} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i$ .	$(m_i, \sigma_{agg})$
	Aggregate Verification				Compute $h_0 = H_1(ID_0, w, R)$ . Compute $h_i = H_2(ID_0, ID_i, m_i, R)$ . Verify $e(\sigma_{agg}, \sum_{i=1}^n (h_i p + Q_i)) = e(h_0, \sum_{i=1}^n (Q_0 + Q_i + R))$ .

FIGURE 4. Proxy aggregation signature

**6.2. Security Analysis. Theorem 1** For the second class of attackers, the scheme in this paper is existentially unforgeable under the stochastic prediction machine model and the k-CAA hard problem assumption. Assume that the adversary  $A_2$  after a finite number of interrogations breaks the paper’s scheme in polynomial time  $t$  by a non-negligible advantage  $\epsilon$ , noting  $q_{H_i}$  and  $t_{H_i}$  are respectively the adversary  $A_2$  interrogation  $H_i (i = 1, 2)$  the number of times and the time required for one interrogation of the prediction machine, and denote  $q_R$  and  $t_R$  are the number of authorization identifier interrogations and the time required for one interrogation, respectively, denoted as  $q_s$  and  $t_s$  are the number of proxy signature queries and the time required for one query, respectively, then there exists an algorithm  $C$  with probabilistic polynomial time  $t' < t + (q_R t_R + q_s t_s + 2q_{H_1} t_{H_1} + 2q_{H_2} t_{H_2})$  within a non-negligible advantage

$$\epsilon' \geq (1 - \frac{1}{2^\lambda}) \frac{q_{H_2} - k}{q_{H_2}} - (\frac{k}{q_{H_2}})^{q_s}$$

Solving the k-CAA hard problem.

**Proof.** Assume that the instance of the k-CAA hard problem challenged by  $C$  is given by  $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k\} \in Z_q^*, \{P/(x + e_1), P/(x + e_2), \dots, P/(x + e_k)\}$  and  $bP \in G_1$ , compute  $(e, P/(b + e))$ , where  $e \in Z_q^*, e \notin \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k\}$ . Let the security parameter be  $\lambda$ . Algorithm  $C$  first runs the system parameter building algorithm with the output  $params = \{\lambda, q, G_1, G_2, e, P, H_1, H_2\}$ . In the game  $C$  selects the original signer  $A$  identity as  $ID_A$ , the proxy signer  $B$  identity is  $ID_B$ , and randomly selects  $S_A \in Z_q^*$ , and computes  $Q_A = S_A P$  by combining  $(S_A, Q_A)$  as the key pair of its original signer  $A$  and set the public key of the proxy signer  $B, Q_B = bP$ . Send  $(S_A, Q_A), Q_B$  and  $params$  to  $A_2$ .  $C$  uniformly and randomly selects  $q_{H_2} - k$  numbers  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_{q_{H_2} - k} \in Z_q^*$ , define the set  $E = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k\}$ , the set  $F = \{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_{q_{H_2} - k}\}, E \cap F = \emptyset, \Omega = E \cup F$ . For the sake of narrative simplicity, assume that  $A_2$  will not make the same queries to the prediction machine, and that signature queries and forged signatures have been made at the time

of  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  interrogations, and all record lists are initialized to empty.  $C$  allows  $A_2$  to make the following adaptive queries.

1) Authorization Identifier Query.

$C$  maintains a record structure as an array  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, r, R)$  list  $L_R$ . When submits to  $C$  a list of records for which the original signer identity is  $ID_A$  and the identity of the proxy signer as  $ID_B$ .  $C$  checks the list  $L_R$  whether the corresponding value of the query already exists in the list  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, r, R)$ , and returns the corresponding value  $(w, R)$  to  $A_2$ ; otherwise  $C$  generates the authorization message  $w$ , randomly selects  $r \in Z_q^*$ , compute  $R = rP - Q_B$ ,  $C$  returns  $(w, R)$  to  $A_2$ , while returning  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, r, R)$  is recorded into the list  $L_R$ .

2)  $H_1$  Query.

$C$  maintains a record structure as an array  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, R, v, h_1)$  of list  $L_{H_1}$ . When  $A_2$  submits a list to  $C$  of  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, R)$  of  $H_1$  query,  $C$  checks the list  $L_{H_1}$  whether the corresponding value of the query already exists in  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, R, v, h_1)$ , and returns the corresponding value if it exists  $h_1$  to  $A_2$ ; otherwise  $C$  uniformly and randomly selects  $v \in Z_q^*$ , compute  $h_1 = vP$ , which will  $h_1$  return to  $A_2$  and also returns  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, R, v, h_1 = vP)$  is recorded into the list  $L_{H_1}$ .

3)  $H_2$  Query.

$C$  maintains a record structure as an array  $(ID_A, ID_B, m, R, h_2)$  of list  $L_{H_2}$ . When  $A_2$  submits a list of  $(ID_A, ID_B, m, R)$  of  $H_2$  query,  $C$  checks the list  $L_{H_2}$  whether the corresponding value of the query already exists  $(ID_A, ID_B, m, R, h_2)$  and if it exists, returns the corresponding  $h_2$  to  $A_2$ ; otherwise a uniformly random selection of  $h_2 \in \Omega$  returns the value given by  $A_2$ , also return  $(ID_A, ID_B, m, R, h_2)$  is recorded to the list  $L_{H_2}$ . Clearly here, the probability of  $h_2 \in E$  is  $\frac{k}{q_{H_2}}$ , and  $h_2 \in F$  has probability  $\frac{q_{H_2}-k}{q_{H_2}}$ .

4) Proxy Signature Query.

When  $A_2$  submits a report on  $(m, ID_A, ID_B, R)$  of a proxy signature query, then  $C$  gets the record from the list  $L_{H_1}$  of records  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, R, v, h_1)$ , and  $C$  gets the corresponding record  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, R, v, h_2)$  from the list  $L_{H_2}$ ,  $C$  gets the corresponding record from the list  $L_R$  to get the record  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, r, R)$ , and then:

① If  $h_2 \in E$ , that is, there exists  $e_j = h_2 \in E$ , compute  $\sigma = v(S_A + r)P/(b + e_j)$ , returning  $\sigma$  to  $A_2$ .

② If  $h_2 \in F$ , “ $\perp$ ” is returned and this event is noted as *Event1*, “ $\perp$ ” means empty. It is worth noting that if  $h_2 \in E$ , the constructed proxy signature is able to pass the verification equation, and its soundness is guaranteed by the following equation.

$$e(\sigma, h_2P + Q_B) = e(v(S_A + r)P/(b + e_j), e_jP + Q_B) = e(vP, Q_A + Q_B + R).$$

$R = rP - Q_B$  After polynomially bounded subadaptive interrogation, finally  $A_2$  stop interrogation and output a valid message proxy signature pair  $(m^*, \sigma^*)$ .  $C$  From the list  $L_{H_2}$  obtains the records  $(ID_A, ID_B, m^*, R^*, h_2^*)$ , and if  $h_2 \in E$ , then the forged signature is invalid and the event is noted as *Event2*; otherwise if  $h_2 \in F$ , get the record from the list  $L_R$  record from the list  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, r^*, R^*)$ , and from the list  $L_{H_1}$  get the record from the list  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, R^*, v^*, h_1^* = v^*P)$ . The following verification equation is available.

$$\begin{aligned} e(\sigma^*, h_2^*P + Q_B) &= e(h_1^*, Q_A + Q_B + R^*) \\ e(\sigma^*, h_2^*P + bP) &= e(v^*P, (S_A + r^*)P) \\ e((h_2^* + b)\sigma^*, P) &= e((S_A + r^*)v^*P, P) \\ ((h_2^* + b)\sigma^* &= (S_A + r^*)v^*P \\ P/(b + h_2^*) &= \sigma^*/((S_A + r^*)v^*) \end{aligned}$$

That is, the output  $\sigma^*/((S_A + r^*)v^*)$  as the answer to the difficult problem, and thus  $C$  solves the  $k - CAA$  problem instance.

The following is an analysis of the time and advantages required for  $C$  to successfully solve difficult problems.

1) For  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  the answers to the prophecy machine queries are uniformly and independently distributed between  $G_1$  and  $Z_q^*$ .

2) An instance where  $C$  solves the  $k - CAA$  hard problem only if both *Event1* and *Event2* do not occur. The probability that *Event1* does not occur all the time is  $(\frac{k}{q_{H_2}})^{q_s}$ , the probability that *Event2* does not occur is  $\frac{q_{H_2}-k}{q_{H_2}}$  then the probability that both *Event1* and *Event2* do not occur is obtained as:

$$Pr(Event1 \cap Event2) \geq \frac{q_{H_2}-k}{q_{H_2}} (\frac{k}{q_{H_2}})^{q_s}$$

When  $A_2$  no forgery is made  $H_2$  query and forging a valid signature its probability of occurrence is  $1/2^\lambda$ , so  $C$ 's advantage in the game is estimated to be satisfied.

$$\epsilon' \geq (1 - \frac{1}{2^\lambda}) \frac{q_{H_2}-k}{q_{H_2}} - (\frac{k}{q_{H_2}})^{q_s}$$

Running time is met.

$$t' < t + (q_R t_R + q_s t_s + 2q_{H_1} t_{H_1} + 2q_{H_2} t_{H_2})$$

Thus  $C$  successfully solves an instance of the  $k - CAA$  problem in polynomial time  $t'$  with a non-negligible advantage  $\epsilon'$ , which contradicts the difficulty of the  $k - CAA$  problem. So the scheme in this paper is existentially unfalsifiable against the second class of adversaries.

**Theorem 2** For the third class of attackers, the scheme in this paper is existentially unforgeable under the assumptions of the stochastic prediction machine model and the CDH hard problem. Assumes that the adversary  $A_3$  after a finite number of queries breaks the scheme of this paper in polynomial time  $t$  with a non-negligible advantage  $\epsilon$ , noting  $q_{H_i}$  and  $t_{H_i}$  are the adversary  $A_3$  queries, respectively  $H_i (i = 1, 2)$  the number of times and the time required for one interrogation of the prophecy machine, and denote  $q_R$  and  $t_R$  are the number of authorized identifier queries and the time required for one query, respectively, and denote  $q_s$  and  $t_s$  are the number of proxy signature queries and the time required for one query, respectively, and  $\delta \in (0, 1/2)$ , then there exists an algorithm  $C$  with probabilistic polynomial time  $t' < t + (q_R t_R + q_s t_s + 2q_{H_1} t_{H_1} + 2q_{H_2} t_{H_2})$  within a non-negligible advantage  $\epsilon' \geq \delta(1 - \delta)^{q_s}(1 - 1/2^\lambda)$  to solve the *CDH* hard problem.

**Proof.** Assume that the instance of the *CDH* hard problem for the  $C$  challenge is: Given  $ap \in G_1$  and  $bp \in G_1$ , compute  $abp$ , where  $a, b \in Z_q^*$ . Let the security parameter be  $\lambda$ . Algorithm  $C$  first runs the system parameter building algorithm with the output  $params = \{\lambda, q, G_1, G_2, e, p, H_1, H_2\}$ . In the game  $C$  selects the original signer  $A$  identity as  $ID_A$ , the proxy signer  $B$  identity is  $ID_B$ , randomly selects  $S_B \in Z_q^*$ , and computes  $Q_B = S_B p$ , which will be  $(Q_B, S_B)$  as the key pair of its proxy signer  $B$  and set the public key  $Q_A = ap$  of the original signer  $A$ . Send  $(Q_B, S_B), Q_A$  and  $params$  to  $A_3$ . For the sake of narrative simplicity, assume that  $A_3$  will not make the same queries to the propagator and that  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  queries have already been made when making signature queries and forging signatures, and that all record lists are initialized to empty.  $C$  allows  $A_3$  to make the following adaptive queries.

1) Authorization Identifier Query.

$C$  maintains a record structure as an array  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, c, r, R)$  list  $L_R$ . When  $A_3$  submits an authorization parameter query to  $C$  for an original signer identity of  $ID_A$  and a proxy signer identity of  $ID_B$ ,  $C$  checks the list  $L_R$  whether the corresponding value of the query already exists in the list  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, c, r, R)$ , the corresponding values  $(w,$

$R$ ) are returned to  $A_3$  if they exist; otherwise  $C$  generates the authorization message  $w$  and randomly selects  $r \in Z_q^*$ , set  $c = 1$  with  $\delta$  probability and compute  $R = rp$ , set  $c = 0$  with  $1 - \delta$  probability and compute  $R = rp - ap$ . Finally  $C$  returns  $(w, R)$  to  $A_3$ , and also returns  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, c, r, R)$  recorded into the list  $L_R$  in the list.

2)  $H_1$  Query.

$C$  maintains a record structure as an array  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, R, v, h_1)$  of lists of  $L_{H_1}$ . When  $A_3$  submits a record to  $C$  about  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, R)$  of  $H_1$  query,  $C$  checks the list  $L_{H_1}$  whether the corresponding value of the query  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, R, v, h_1)$ , and returns the corresponding value  $h_1$  to  $A_3$  if it exists; otherwise,  $C$  randomly selects  $v \in Z_q^*$ , compute  $h_1 = vbp$  and returns  $h_1$  to  $A_3$  while returning  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, R, v, h_1 = vbp)$  is recorded into the list  $L_{H_1}$ .

3)  $H_2$  Query.

$C$  maintains a record structure as an array  $(ID_A, ID_B, m, R, h_2)$  of list  $L_{H_2}$ . When  $A_3$  submits a record about  $(ID_A, ID_B, m, R)$  of the  $H_2$  query,  $C$  checks the list  $L_{H_2}$  whether there already exists a query corresponding to the value  $(ID_A, ID_B, m, R, h_2)$ , and if it exists, returns the corresponding  $h_2$  to  $A_3$ ; otherwise, uniformly selects randomly  $h_2 \in Z_q^*$  is returned to  $A_3$ , while  $(ID_A, ID_B, m, R, h_2)$  is recorded to the list  $L_{H_2}$ .

4) Proxy Signature Query.

When  $A_3$  is submitted on  $(m, ID_A, ID_B, R, X)$  for a proxy signature query, then  $C$  gets the corresponding record  $h_2$  from the list  $L_{H_2}$ ,  $C$  gets the corresponding record  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, c, r, R)$  from the list  $L_R$ . If  $c = 0$  then calculate  $\sigma = (S_B + r)vbp / (S_B + h_2)$ , return  $\sigma$  to  $A_3$ ; otherwise, return “ $\perp$ ” and note this event as *Event1*. The constructed proxy signature is able to pass the verification equation and its soundness is guaranteed by the following equation.

$$e(\sigma, h_2p + Q_B) = e((S_B vbp + r vbp) / (S_B + h_2), h_2p + Q_B) = e(vbp, Q_A + Q_B + R) \\ R = rp - Q_A$$

After polynomially bounded subadaptive interrogation, finally  $A_3$  stops interrogating and outputs a valid message proxy signature pair  $(m^*, \sigma^*)$ . From the list  $L_R$ , get the record  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, c^*, r^*, R^*)$ , if  $c = 0$ , the forgery is invalid and the event is noted as *Event2*.

If  $c = 1$ ,  $C$  gets the record  $((ID_A, ID_B, w, R^*, v^*, h_1^* = v^*bp)$  from the list  $L_{H_1}$ , get the record  $(ID_A, ID_B, w, m^*, R^*, h_2^*)$  from the list  $L_{H_2}$ , with the following verification equation.

$$e(\sigma^*, h_2^*p + Q_B) = e(h_1^*, Q_A + Q_B + R^*) \\ e(\sigma^*, h_2^*p + S_Bp) = e(v^*bp, (S_B + r^* + a)p) \\ e(\sigma^*, (h_2^*p + S_B)p) = e(v^*bp, (S_B + r^* + a)p) \\ e((h_2^*p + S_B)\sigma^*, p) = e((S_B + r^* + a)v^*bp, p)$$

So  $C$  can be calculated successfully.

$$abp = (h_2^*p + S_B)\sigma^* / v^* - S_Bbp - r^*bp$$

Output:

$$(h_2^*p + S_B)\sigma^* / v^* - S_Bbp - r^*bp$$

As an example answer to the *CDH* problem, thus  $C$  solves the *CDH* problem. The following is an analysis of the time and advantages required for  $C$  to successfully solve the difficult problem.

1) For  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  the answers to the prophecy machine queries are uniformly and independently distributed between  $G_1$  and  $Z_q^*$  respectively.

2)  $C$  solves an instance of the *CDH* problem only if neither *Event1* nor *Event2* occurs all the time during the simulation phase. The probability that *Event1* does not occur all

the time is  $(1 - \delta)^{q_s}$  and the probability that *Event2* does not occur is  $\delta$ . The probability that both *Event1* and *Event2* do not occur can be obtained as:

$$Pr(Event1 \cap Event2) \geq \delta(1 - \delta)^{q_s}$$

When  $A_3$  does not ask  $H_1$  and a valid signature is forged, this simulation is flawed with a probability of occurrence of  $1/2^\lambda$ , so the advantage of  $C$  in the game is satisfied.

$$\epsilon' \geq \delta(1 - \delta)^{q_s}(1 - 1/2^\lambda)$$

Running time is met.

$$t' < t + (q_R t_R + q_s t_s + 2q_{H_1} t_{H_1} + 2q_{H_2} t_{H_2})$$

Thus  $C$  successfully solves an instance of the *CDH* problem in polynomial time  $t'$  with a non-negligible advantage  $\epsilon'$ , which contradicts the difficulty of the *CDH* problem. So the scheme in this paper is existentially non-falsifiable for the third class of adversaries.

## 7. Solution Realization And Efficiency Analysis.

**7.1. Program Implementation.** This paper is based on JPBC (Java Pairing-Based Cryptography Library) in an operating system of Windows 10 flagship 64-bit, processor of Intel Core i5-6300HQ, motherboard of ASUS GL552VX, and memory of Kingston DDR4 2400MHz 8GB. The solution was implemented in an experimental benchmarking environment with the IntelliJ IDEA development platform.

**7.2. Computational Efficiency Analysis.** The computational efficiency and signature length of this schema were compared with several existing proxy signature schemes, these schemes are based on certificateless signature, identity-based signature, the results are presented in Table 1. Where:  $Sm$  denotes scalar multiplication operation,  $E$  denotes exponential operation,  $Pr$  denotes bilinear pair operation,  $H$  denotes hash operation,  $|G_1|$  denotes the length of the elements on the additive group  $G_1$ ,  $|Z_q^*|$  denotes the length of the elements on  $Z_q^*$ .

TABLE 1. Comparison of computational efficiency and signature lengths

Scheme	Signature Operation	Verify Operation	Signature Length
Reference [29]	2Sm+H+E	4Sm+3Pr+4H	$ Z_q^* $
Reference [30]	2Sm+2Pr+3H	2Sm+6Pr+2E+3H	$ G_1 + Z_q^* $
Reference [31]	2Pr+3E+3H	2Sm+6Pr+2E+3H	$2 G_1 + Z_q^* $
PAS	Sm+H	Sm+2Pr+2H	$ G_1 $

As can be seen from Table 1, in the signature generation process, the scheme in this paper performs one Sm operation and one H operation, and its computational efficiency is optimal compared with the scheme in the literature [29, 30, 31]. In the signature verification process, this scheme performs one Sm operation, two H operations and two Pr operations, and its computational efficiency is better than [29, 30, 31]. However, in terms of signature length, the signature length of the scheme in this paper is  $|G_1|$ , compared to other solutions, it is shorter.

**7.3. Operational Efficiency Analysis.** The implementation of this paper's scheme and several existing proxy signature schemes were carried out in the same experimental test benchmark environment, and the operational efficiency was compared after several runs, and the results are shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6.

From Figure 5 and Figure 6, we conducted five comparative experiments on signature time and verification time, respectively. The average total time consumed for the scheme

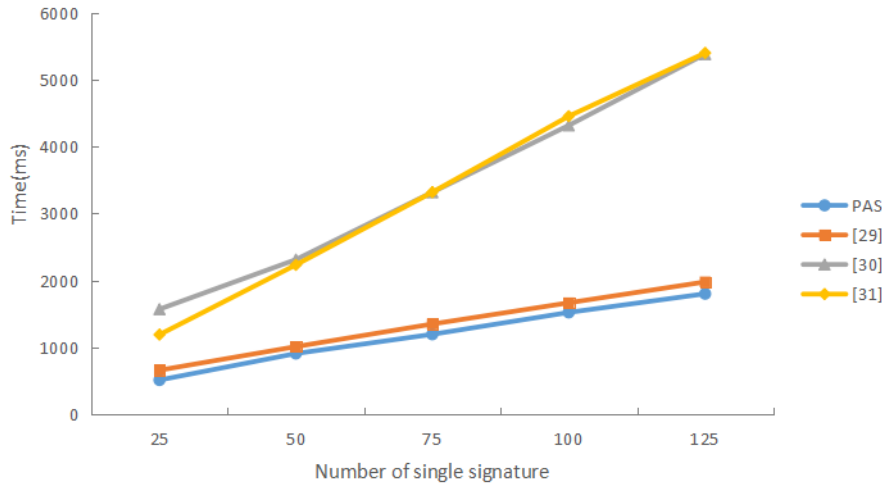


FIGURE 5. Time cost of signature algorithm

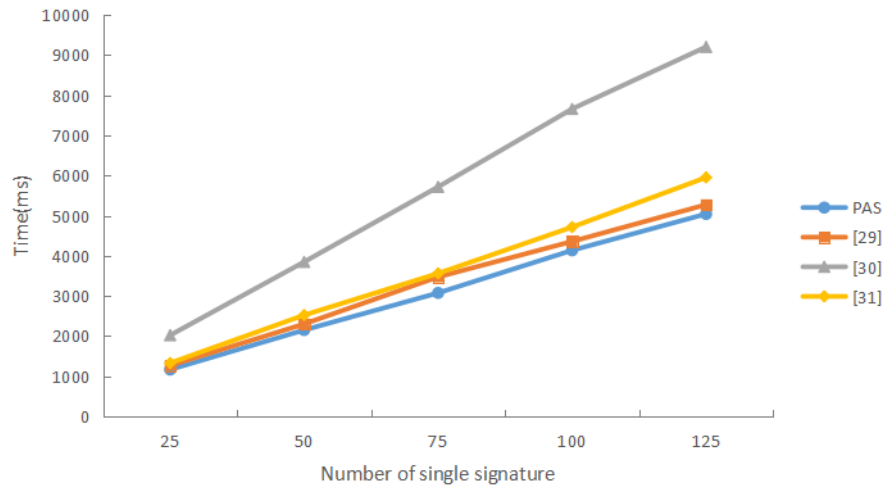


FIGURE 6. Time cost of verify algorithm

in this paper is reduced by about 13.0% compared with the scheme in [29], about 49.8% compared with the scheme in [30], and about 33.4% compared with the scheme in [31]. From the above analysis, it is clear that the scheme in this paper not only has short signature length and high theoretical calculation efficiency, but also outperforms the scheme in literature [29, 30, 31] in terms of actual operation efficiency.

**8. Conclusions.** In this paper, we propose a multi-cloud storage mechanism based on blockchain in which multi-cloud storage providers build data blockchain. We have developed a PAS solution to ensure that user data is only viewed by executives and compress blockchain storage space. We use blockchain technology to store data in the blockchain. The unchanging nature of blockchain in multi-cloud storage providers ensures data integrity, reliability, and availability.

If we compare the PAS scheme with the public signature scheme, we can see that our scheme performs better in resource saving. Comparing the Certificateless system with traditional ID-based systems, our system consumes less time and has better performance in the energy consumption of communication. We found that our scheme performs better

in compressing blockchain storage space compared to other signatures currently in use, saving more resources.

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