Formal Analysis of Secure Neighbor Discovery in Wireless Networks

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Abstract—We develop a formal framework for the analysis of security protocols in wireless networks. The framework captures characteristics necessary to reason about neighbor discovery protocols, such as the neighbor relation, device location, and message propagation time. We use this framework to establish general results about the possibility of neighbor discovery. In particular, we show that time-based protocols cannot in general provide secure neighbor discovery. Given this insight, we also use the framework to prove the security of four concrete neighbor discovery protocols, including two novel time-and-location based protocols. We mechanize the model and some proofs in the theorem prover Isabelle.

Index Terms—neighbor discovery, relay attack, formal verification, distance bounding

1 Introduction

Wireless communications are flexible: a device with a wireless interface can start communicating with another device, an access point, or a base station, almost instantly, without setting up a cable connection. As a consequence, wireless connections are frequently established, making discovering devices available for direct communication an indispensable element of wireless networks. However, due to the open nature of wireless communication, neighbor discovery (ND) is easy to abuse: An adversary can convince a device into falsely believing that another device is its neighbor. The adversary can then use these false neighbor links to disrupt the applications and services that use ND as a building block.

The canonical example of such an attack comes from routing in wireless ad hoc networks, such as sensor networks, or multi-hop smart phone networks [1]. An adversary can abuse ND by mounting a relay attack (also known as a wormhole attack [15], [21]): Equipped with two devices connected by a fast out-of-band link, the adversary relays (without modification) any message overheard by one device to the other side of the wormhole (Fig. 1). This can create shortcuts across the network the routing protocols are attracted to, with a significant portion of the traffic routed through the wormhole. The adversary can then eavesdrop, modify, or simply suddenly start dropping messages, causing a denial-of-service.

Securing ND is clearly of utter importance. It has therefore attracted considerable attention from the research community and a number of secure ND protocols have been proposed. However, in the vast majority of cases, such protocols have been only argued secure in an informal manner. History provides many examples of flaws in security protocols that can be overlooked by such arguments. It is hence only natural to strive for the strong security guarantees offered by formal methods.

This is the main goal of this paper: formal analysis of secure neighbor discovery.

To this end, we develop a formal framework modeling wireless communications. Our framework captures wireless communication aspects necessary to reason about ND protocols, notably the neighbor relation, the device location, and the message propagation time. Such aspects were abstracted away by “traditional” formal approaches designed for verification of security protocol in Internet-like environments.

Our framework allows us to obtain two types of results. First, under what assumptions a given class of protocols can or cannot provide secure ND? In
particular, we prove that a general class of time-based protocols cannot provide ND if the adversary can relay messages with a delay below a threshold determined by the desired communication range of the ND protocol. Second, which concrete protocols can be proven secure? With our framework, we prove the security of four such protocols, two time-based ones and two in a different general class of time-and-location-based protocols. Such proofs greatly increase the confidence in the protocols and they serve as secure ND possibility results for the respective classes of protocols. Finally, we mechanize our framework and a number of protocol security proofs in the theorem prover Isabelle [19]. This provides an additional level of assurance.

Paper Outline. In Sec. 2 we define the framework and the ND specification. In Sec. 3 we sketch the time-based protocol impossibility. In Sec. 4, we define the protocols a refined ND specification, and present the security analysis results. We also give an overview of the Isabelle/HOL mechanization. We discuss the assumptions and compare the protocols in Sec. 5. In Sec. 6 we discuss the related work and open problems, before concluding in Sec. 7.

2 System Model

The basic wireless network entities, nodes, are processes running on computational platforms equipped with transceivers communicating over a wireless channel. We assume that nodes have synchronized clocks (although not all protocols we consider in this paper make use of this assumption) and are static (not mobile). Nodes either follow the implemented system functionality, in which case we denote them as correct or honest, or they are under the control of an adversary, in which case we denote them as adversarial nodes. Adversarial nodes can behave in an arbitrary fashion, also acting as correct nodes or lying dormant for any period of time.

To capture the inherent characteristics of ND in wireless networks, we model communication at the physical layer rather than at higher layers (data link, network, or application). For simplicity, correct nodes are assumed to use a single wireless channel, but we do not require them to have equal transmission power and receiver sensitivity. Adversarial nodes can communicate across the wireless channel used by correct nodes, but they can also communicate across a dedicated adversarial channel imperceptible to correct nodes.

Our system model comprises: (i) a setting S that describes the type (correct or adversarial) of nodes, their location and the state of the wireless channel; (ii) a protocol model P that determines the behavior of correct nodes; (iii) an adversary model A that establishes the capabilities of adversarial nodes.

We assume that looking at the system at any point in time reveals one or more phenomena. We are interested in those relevant to the wireless communication and the system at hand and thus to our analysis. We denote these phenomena, associated with nodes, as events (Def. 3). Then, we model the system evolution over time using the notion of trace, i.e., a set of events (Def. 4), in particular feasible traces that satisfy constraints specified by S (correspondence between wireless sending and receiving of messages), P (correct nodes follow the protocol), and A (adversarial nodes behave according to their capabilities). The constraints are defined by logical formulas we call rules.

The model presented in the rest of this section is used in Sec. 3 for the impossibility result. To reason about the security of concrete protocols, we extend the model in Sec. 4. In Sec. 5.1 we explain and justify all simplifying modeling assumptions, made to keep the model tractable.

2.1 System Parameters

The technologies used by correct and adversarial nodes determine our model parameters:

- \( v \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \), the signal propagation speed, defining how fast messages propagate across the wireless channel, determined by the communication technology,
- \( v_{\text{adv}} \geq v \), the information propagation speed over the adversarial channel; as \( v_{\text{adv}} \geq v \) this is also the maximum speed at which information can propagate,
- \( \Delta_{\text{relay}} \in \mathbb{R} \), the minimum relaying delay introduced by a node when relaying a message; this delay is due to processing exclusively, it does not include propagation time or any other delay.
- \( M \), the message space; we keep the message space unspecified for the impossibility result in Sec. 3; we provide a concrete message space when we talk about specific protocols in Sec. 4.
- \(|-| : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{>0} \), the message duration function.

Further, \( V \) denotes the set of unique node identifiers, which for simplicity we will consider equivalent with the nodes themselves.\(^1\)

2.2 Settings

A setting describes the type and location of nodes, and how the state of the wireless channel changes over time.

Definition 1. A setting \( S \) is a tuple \( \langle V, \text{loc}, \text{type}, \text{link}, \text{nlos} \rangle \), where:

- \( V \subset \mathbb{V} \) is a finite set of nodes. An ordered pair \((A, B) \in V^2\) is called a link.
- \( \text{loc} : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \) is the node location function. As we assume nodes are not mobile, this function does not depend on time. We define \( \text{dist} : V^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \) as \( \text{dist}(A, B) = d(\text{loc}(A), \text{loc}(B)) \), where \( d \) is the Euclidean distance in \( \mathbb{R}^3 \). We require the \( \text{loc} \) function to be injective, so that no two nodes share the same location. Thus, \( \text{dist}(A, B) > 0 \) for \( A \neq B \).

\(^1\) Although this implies that every node is assigned a single identifier, it does not prevent an adversarial node from using (in the messages in sends) any identifier.
∀A ∈ V, t ∈ R≥0, m ∈ M. Receive(A; t; m) ∈ Θ =⇒ ∃B ∈ V. link(B → A, [t, t + |m|])
∧ (Bcast(B; t − (dist(A, B) + nlos(A, B))v⁻¹; m) ∈ Θ)
∧ link(B → A, [t, t + |m|]) =⇒ Receive(A; t; m) ∈ Θ
s2 ∀A ∈ V, B ∈ V, t ∈ R≥0, m ∈ M. Bcast(B; t − (dist(A, B) + nlos(A, B))v⁻¹; m) ∈ Θ
∧ link(B → A, [t, t + |m|]) =⇒ Receive(A; t; m) ∈ Θ
s3 ∀A ∈ V, t ∈ R≥0, m ∈ M. (Receive(A; t; m) ∈ Θ ∨ Bcast(A; t; m) ∈ Θ =⇒ A ∈ V)
p1 ∀A ∈ Vcor, t ∈ R≥0, m ∈ M. Bcast(A; t; m) ∈ Θ =⇒ Bcast(m) ∈ P(θ)|A,t)
p2 ∀A ∈ Vcor, t, t' ∈ R≥0, B, C ∈ V. Neighbor(A; t; B, C, t') ∈ θ =⇒ Neighbor(B, C, t') ∈ P(θ)|A,t)
p3 ∀A ∈ Vcor. ∀t ∈ E. θ ∈ P(θ)|A,t)
where E = R>0 \ start(θ|A ∩ I)
and I = \{Bcast(t; m) | m ∈ M, t ∈ R≥0\} ∪ \{Neighbor(t; B, C, t') | B, C ∈ V, t, t' ∈ R≥0\}
A1 ∀A ∈ Vadv, t ∈ R≥0, m ∈ M. Bcast(A; t; m) ∈ Θ =⇒ ∃B ∈ Vadv, δ ≥ Δrelay + dist(B, A)v⁻¹. Receive(B; t − δ; m) ∈ Θ

Fig. 2. Setting-feasibility rules, protocol-feasibility rules for protocol model P and adversary-feasibility rule for adversary model AΔrelay.

- **type** : V → \{correct, adversarial\} is the type function; it defines which nodes are correct and which are adversarial. This function does not depend on time, as we assume that the adversary does not corrupt new nodes during the system execution. We denote Vcor = type⁻¹({correct}) and Vadv = type⁻¹({adversarial}).

- **link** : V² × R≥0 → \{up, down\} is the link state function. Accordingly, we say that at a given time t ≥ 0, a link (A, B) ∈ V² is up (denoted link(A → B, t)) or down (denoted link(A ↔ B, t)).

We use abbreviations
\text{link}(A → B, t) = \text{def} \ link(B → A, t) \land \ link(B ↔ A, t) \land \ link(A ↔ B, t).

We extend the “link(A → B, t)” notation from single time points to sets as follows:
\text{link}(A → B, T) = \text{def} \ ∀t ∈ T. \ link(A → B, t). We establish the convention link(A → A, R≥0).

- **nlos** : V² → R≥0 is the non-line-of-sight delay (NLOS) function. If two nodes A and B can communicate over a line of sight, then nlos(A, B) = 0. Otherwise, nlos(A, B) specifies the additional distance that the signal has to propagate compared to line-of-sight propagation dist(A, B). We assume this function is symmetric, because of reciprocity of wireless links.

We denote the set of all settings by S.

We model the ability to communicate directly, without the intervention or ‘assistance’ of relays, by a link being up, thus the following definition:

**Definition 2.** Node A is a neighbor of node B in setting S at time t, if \text{link}(A → B, t). If \text{link}(A ↔ B, t), nodes A and B are neighbors at time t.

For simplicity in presentation, we use “\text{link}(A → B, t)” to denote the neighbor relation and the link relation.

### 2.3 Events and Traces

Events relate to the wireless communication and the ND protocol operation. Each event is primarily associated with (essentially, takes place at) a node we call the active node.

**Definition 3.** An event is one of the following terms:

- Receive(A; t; m)
- Bcast(A; t; m)
- NDstart(A; t)
- Neighbor(A; t; B, C, t’)

where A ∈ V is the active node, t ∈ R≥0 is the event start time, denoted by start(.), and m ∈ M is the transmitted/received message, n ∈ Nonces is a nonce, B, C ∈ V are nodes, and t’ ∈ R≥0 is a time instant.

The first two events are related to communication on the physical layer: Receive represents message reception, and Bcast represents message transmission.

**Neighbor** can be thought of as an internal outcome of a ND protocol (possibly reported to some higher layer): Node A declares that B is a neighbor of C at time t’. Having t’ a single point in time is for simplicity only, and we could easily generalize to arbitrary sets.

**Fresh** is used to declare that nonce n is (freshly) generated by A at time t or, in other words, that it was not sent before t. With NDstart, node A declares that an instance of a ND protocol has been initialized: either with a specific node B or with all neighbors.

We use the notion of trace to model an execution of the system.

**Definition 4.** A trace θ is a set of events.

We denote the set of all traces by Θ. Given a setting S, a protocol P and an adversary A, we denote the set of traces feasible with respect to S by ΘS, the set of those feasible with respect to S and P by ΘS,P, and with respect to S, P and A by ΘS,P,A.

### 2.4 Setting-Feasible Traces

The feasibility of a trace θ with respect to a setting S = (V, loc, type, link, nlos) ensures a causal and strict time relation between send and receive events; it is formally defined by rules s1 – s3 (Fig. 2). Rule s1 ensures that every message that is received was previously sent.
Definition 6. A *local trace* is a set of local events. Given a node identifier $A \in \mathbb{V}$, time $t \geq 0$ and trace $\theta \in \Theta$, we calculate the *local trace of node $A$ at time $t$ in trace $\theta$*, denoted $\theta|_{A,t}$, as shown in Fig. 3. We call $\theta|_{A,\infty}$ a *complete local trace of $A$ in $\theta$* and denote it shortly $\theta|_A$.

We identify two variants of the local view notion: a *T-local view*, as the basis for defining the class of time-based protocols, and a *TL-local view*, used to define the class of time- and location-based protocols.

\[
\theta|_{A,t} = \{ \text{Bcast}(t_1; m) \mid t_1 < t \land \text{Bcast}(A; t_1; m) \in \theta \} \cup \\
\{ \text{Receive}(t_1; m) \mid t_1 + |m| < t \land \text{Receive}(A; t_1; m) \in \theta \} \cup \\
\{ \text{Neighbor}(t_1; B, C, t') \mid t_1 < t \land \text{Neighbor}(A; t_1; B, C, t') \in \theta \}
\]

Fig. 3. Local trace (Def. 6).

Fig. 4. Basic ND properties.

Dually, rule s2 ensures that a transmitted message is received by all nodes enabled to do so by the link relation. In other words, communication is causal (a receive is always preceded by a send), and reliable as long as the link is up. Unreliability, expected and common in wireless communications, is modeled by the state of the link being down. Furthermore, these rules introduce a strict time relation between events, reflecting the propagation delay from A to B, across the channel, with speed $v$: $(\text{dist}(A, B) + \text{nlos}(A, B))v^{-1}$. Rule s3 is a technical one: It ensures that no communication events are performed by nodes not present in setting $S$.

2.5 Protocol-Feasible Traces

Intuitively, a trace is feasible with respect to protocol $P$ if correct nodes behave according to a particular protocol $P$. To formalize this, we first define the notion of a local view.

A trace is essentially a *local view* of the system execution. To describe what a node observes during a system execution, we use the notion of local view, primarily comprising a *local trace* composed of *local events*. We define these next. For simplicity, we ignore the NDstart and Fresh events, as they are of no consequence for the impossibility result.

Definition 5. A *local event* is one of the terms:

- Bcast($t; m$)
- Receive($t; m$)
- Neighbor($t; B, C, t'$)

where $B, C \in \mathbb{V}, m \in \mathbb{M}, t, t' \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$. For a local event $e$, $\text{start}(e)$ is defined as in Def. 3.

Definition 6. A *local trace* is a set of local events. Given a node identifier $A \in \mathbb{V}$, time $t \geq 0$ and trace $\theta \in \Theta$, we calculate the *local trace of node $A$ at time $t$ in trace $\theta$*, denoted $\theta|_{A,t}$ as shown in Fig. 3. We call $\theta|_{A,\infty}$ a *complete local trace of $A$ in $\theta$* and denote it shortly $\theta|_A$.

We identify two variants of the local view notion: a *T-local view*, as the basis for defining the class of time-based protocols, and a *TL-local view*, used to define the class of time- and location-based protocols.

Definition 7. Given a trace $\theta$, a *T-local view of node $A$ at time $t$ in $\theta$* is a tuple $\langle A, t, \theta|_{A,t} \rangle$; we denote it $\theta||_{A,t}$.

Definition 8. Given a trace $\theta$ and a setting $S$, a *TL-local view of node $A$ at time $t$ in $\theta$* is a tuple $\langle A, t, \text{loc}(A), \theta|_{A,t} \rangle$; we denote it $\theta||_{S,A,t}$, or $\theta|_{A,t}$ as the setting $S$ is clear from the context.

Note that $S$ is part of Def. 8 as the location of node $A$ is defined only within a specific setting. With the notion of the local view in hand, we can proceed with the definition of a protocol model. This definition captures the property of protocols essential to our investigation: the fact that protocol behavior depends exclusively on the local view of the node executing the protocol.

Definition 9. A *T(TL)-protocol model $P$* is a function which given a T(TL)-local view $\theta||_{A,t}$, determines a finite, non-empty set of *actions*; an *action* is one of the terms: $\epsilon$, Bcast($m$) or Neighbor($B, C, t'$), where $m \in \mathbb{M}, B, C \in \mathbb{V}, t' \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$.

The interpretation of Bcast and Neighbor actions is natural. The $\epsilon$ action means that the node does not execute an event, with the exception of possible Receive event(s). Note that modeling the protocol output (i.e., the protocol model co-domain) as a family of sets of actions allows for non-deterministic protocols.

The feasibility of a trace $\theta$ with respect to a protocol model $P$ ensures that all correct nodes follow the protocol; it is formally defined by rules r1 – r3 (Fig. 2). Rules r1 and r2 ensure that the Bcast and Neighbor actions taken by a node are allowed by the protocol. Rule r3, with $E_A$ the set of all time instances in $\theta$ when no event other than Receive happens at node $A$, ensures that the protocol allows for a node perform no action.

Note that our definition of a protocol model only requires that the behavior of the protocol is determined by the local view. This is much broader than a possible alternative approach, in which a protocol is modeled by a Turing machine. But as our definition is an over-approximation, the impossibility result remains valid for more realistic protocol models.
2.6 Adversary-Feasible Traces

For the purpose of the impossibility result, we consider first a relatively limited adversary, that is only capable of relaying messages. Note that a weak adversary model strengthens the impossibility result. We denote this model as $A_{\Delta_{\text{relay}}}$, with the $\Delta_{\text{relay}} > 0$ parameter the minimum relaying delay introduced by an adversarial node; this delay is due to processing exclusively, and it does not include propagation or transmission time.

Formally, the feasibility of trace $\theta$ with respect to $A_{\Delta_{\text{relay}}}$ is defined by rule A1 in Fig. 2: Every message sent by an adversarial node is necessarily a replay of a message $m$ that either this or another adversarial node received. In addition, the delay between receiving $m$ and re-sending it, or more precisely the difference between the start times of the corresponding events, needs to be at least $\Delta_{\text{relay}}$, plus the propagation delay across the adversary channel (in case another adversarial node received the relayed message). This condition reflects the structure of the adversarial channel: Any two adversarial nodes can establish direct communication.

2.7 ND Specification

We consider two types of properties that ND protocols should satisfy. The first one pertains to correctness, expressed through property ND1 (Fig. 4): If two correct nodes are declared neighbors at some time, then they must indeed be neighbors at that time. More precisely, there are two cases: (i) Node $A$ can declare that $B$ is its neighbor (i.e., $A$ can receive messages from $B$) or (ii) $A$ can declare that it is a neighbor of $C$ (i.e., $C$ can receive messages from $A$). In the latter case, property ND1 requires link $(C, A)$ to be up at not exactly time $t'$, but rather $(\text{dist}(A, C) + \text{nlos}(A, C))v^{-1}$ (propagation delay) after $t'$. As our model mandates that the link state is determined at the receiving end (node), if $A$ declares that it is a neighbor of $C$ at time $t'$, a message sent by $A$ at $t$ would be indeed received by $C$. In other words, $A$ is not forced to estimate the propagation delay to make a correct neighbor statement.

The second type of property pertains to availability, expressed through property ND2 (Fig. 4), tailored to T-protocols. An additional notion needs to be introduced to formulate satisfiable availability properties: neighbor discovery (ND) range, $R \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. Typically, $R$ is equal to the nominal communication range for a given wireless medium and transceiver technology. However, we use $R$ more freely as the communication range for which ND inferences are drawn. In other words, nodes at a communication range larger than $R$ will not be required to declare each other neighbors.

Property ND2 requires that for every distance $d$ in the desired ND range $R$, there should be at least some setting in which the protocol is able to conclude that a node is a neighbor (in some, not all executions);

this setting should contain exactly two nodes, both correct and at distance $d$, being neighbors. The “two-nodes setting” requirement clarifies why we call this two-party ND. The ND2 property is the least that can be required from a usable two-party ND protocol: Indeed, a protocol not satisfying this property would be unable to conclude, for some distance(s) in the ND range, that nodes are neighbors. This makes the impossibility result in Sec. 3 more meaningful: impossibility with respect to a weak property implies impossibility for any stronger property.

3 Impossibility for T-protocols

We show in this section that no time-based protocol can solve the two-party neighbor discovery problem as specified by properties ND1 and ND2 in Fig. 4. We base the proof on the fact that it is impossible for a correct node to distinguish between different settings based on a T-local view. This is captured by Lemma 1 below.

Our impossibility result, Theorem 1 below, stems from showing two settings that are indistinguishable by a two-party ND protocol: Indeed, a protocol not satisfying this property would be unable to conclude, for some distance(s) in the ND range, that nodes are neighbors. This makes the impossibility result in Sec. 5 more meaningful: impossibility with respect to a weak property implies impossibility for any stronger property.

We emphasize that the non-restricted form of the message space $M$ encompasses all possible messages including, for example, time-stamps and any type of cryptography, thus contributing to the generality of the impossibility result.

Lemma 1. Let $\mathcal{P}$ be a T-protocol model, $S$ and $S'$ be settings such that $V_{\text{cor}} = V'_{\text{cor}}$, and $\theta \in \Theta_S, \theta'$ be traces such that local traces $\theta |_A = \theta' |_A$ for all $A \in V_{\text{cor}}$. Then $\theta'$ is feasible with respect to T-protocol model $\mathcal{P}$.

Proof: We need to prove that $\rho 1, \rho 2$, and $\rho 3$ (Fig. 2) hold for $\theta'$.

2. The requirement that $B$ and $C$ be correct is explained in Sec. 5.

3. By “communication range” we understand the actual distance plus NLOS effects.
p1 Take any event \( \text{Bcast}(A; t; m) \in \theta' \). Based on Def. 6, we have that \( \text{Bcast}(t; m) \in \theta'|_A = \theta|_A \). Using Def. 6 again, we get that \( \text{Bcast}(A; t; m) \in \theta \).

p2 The proof is almost identical as for p1.

p3 As \( \theta \) satisfies p3, we have \( \forall t \in E_A, \ v \in \mathcal{P}(\theta|_{A,t}) \).

Since \( \theta'|_A = \theta|_A \), we have \( E'_A = E_A \) and \( \mathcal{P}(\theta'|_{A,t}) = \mathcal{P}(\theta|_{A,t}) \), which proves that \( \theta' \) satisfies p3.

\[ \square \]

Theorem 1. If \( \Delta_{\text{relay}} \leq \frac{R}{v} \) then there exists no T-protocol model which satisfies \( \mathcal{ND}1 \) and \( \mathcal{ND}2 \) (Fig. 4) for the adversary model \( A_{\Delta_{\text{relay}}} \).

Proof: To prove that under the assumptions of the theorem no T-protocol model can satisfy both \( \mathcal{ND}1 \) and \( \mathcal{ND}2 \), we show that any T-protocol model that satisfies \( \mathcal{ND}2 \) cannot satisfy \( \mathcal{ND}1 \).

Take any T-protocol model \( \mathcal{P} \) satisfying \( \mathcal{ND}2 \). Pick some distance \( d \geq v\Delta_{\text{relay}} \) in the ND range \( (d < R) \). Property \( \mathcal{ND}2 \) guarantees the existence of a setting such as the one shown in Fig. 5(a) (we denote it \( S^n \)) and the existence of a trace \( \theta \in \Theta_{S^n}, \mathcal{P}, A_{\Delta_{\text{relay}}} \) such that \( \text{Neighbor}(A; t; B, t') \in \theta \). As \( \theta \) is feasible with respect to setting \( S^n \), this trace has to be of the form shown in Fig. 6.

In setting \( S^b \), shown in Fig. 5(b), we have \( \text{link}(B \leftrightarrow A, R_{\geq 0}) \). Consider the trace \( \theta' \) (Fig. 6), which is link-essentially the same as \( \theta \), but for nodes \( C \) and \( D \) relaying all the communication between nodes \( A \) and \( B \). It is simple to check that this trace is feasible with respect to setting \( S^b \). It is also feasible with respect to T-protocol model \( \mathcal{P} \): This follows from Lemma 1, as \( \theta|_{A,t} = \theta'|_{A,t} \) and \( \theta|_{B,t} = \theta'|_{B,t} \). Finally, \( \theta' \) is feasible with respect to the adversary model \( A_{\Delta_{\text{relay}}} \), because \( \delta_{2} - \delta_{1} = \delta_{4} - \delta_{3} \geq \Delta_{\text{relay}} + \text{dist}(C, D) v^{-1} \text{adv} \). Therefore \( \theta' \) belongs to \( \Theta_{S^b}, \mathcal{P}, A_{\Delta_{\text{relay}}} \) and together with \( S^b \) forms the counterexample that we were looking for: \( A \) concludes \( B \) is a neighbor whereas it is not. Thus, T-protocol model \( \mathcal{P} \) does not satisfy \( \mathcal{ND}1 \). As \( \mathcal{P} \) was chosen arbitrarily, this concludes the proof.

\[ \square \]

4 ND Protocols

We consider here four types of ND protocols, with one representative protocol per type. We distinguish between (i) beacon-based protocols (B-protocols), represented by \( \mathcal{P}^B/T \) and \( \mathcal{P}^B/TL \), which require the transmission of one message by one of the protocol participants and synchronized clocks, and (ii) challenge-response protocols (CR-protocols), represented by \( \mathcal{P}^{CR}/T \) and \( \mathcal{P}^{CR}/TL \), which require a transmission of messages by both participants but no synchronized clocks. Within and across these categories, we distinguish protocols according to their capability to perform time measurements (T-protocols) or time measurements and location awareness (TL-protocols).

Fundamentally, beyond authentication mechanisms, all the ND protocols we consider measure the signal time-of-flight (ToF) between two nodes: B-protocols, with tightly synchronized clocks, are able to estimate ToF by transmitting a single beacon message, whereas CR-protocols require two messages, a challenge and a response, for the same purpose. T-protocols accept neighbor relations as valid if the ToF distance is below a threshold, whereas TL-protocols require this distance to be equal to the geographical distance calculated based on nodes locations.

4.1 Message Space

We define next the message space \( M \) (unlike the unspecified one for the impossibility result). Any of the following is a message:

- an identifier \( A \in \mathcal{V} \),
- a timestamp \( t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \),
- a location \( l \in \mathbb{R}^{3} \),
- a nonce \( n \in \text{Nonces} \).

Moreover, two messages \( m_{1}, m_{2} \) can be concatenated to form a message \( (m_{1}, m_{2}) \). Furthermore, an asymmetric authenticator \( \text{auth}_{A}(m) \) and a symmetric authenticator \( \text{auth}_{AB}(m) \) where \( A, B \in \mathcal{V} \) and \( m \in M \), are also messages. Symmetric authenticators we assume that \( \text{auth}_{AB}(m) = \text{auth}_{BA}(m) \). Essentially, messages are terms, with the subterm relation is denoted by \( \sqsubseteq \).

Every message \( m \) has a duration \( |m| \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \), which determines the transmission delay (not including the propagation delay), reflecting the bit-rate of the underlying communication technology. We assume that message duration is preserved by concatenation, but not by an authenticator. For \( m = (m_{1}, m_{2}, \ldots, m_{k}) \), the duration is \( |m| = |m_{1}| + |m_{2}| + \ldots + |m_{k}| \) and the position of \( m_{i} \) in \( m \) is \( \text{pos}(m_{i}, m) = |m_{1}| + \ldots + |m_{i-1}| \), with \( \text{pos}(m_{1}, m) = 0 \); in the case of multiple occurrences of \( m' \sqsubseteq m \), \( \text{pos}(m', m) \) gives the position of the first occurrence. When we use the duration function for any concatenated message, we omit the brackets: \( (m_{1}, m_{2}, \ldots, m_{k}) \). Finally, we assume that the duration of identifiers, timestamps, locations, nonces and authenticators in \( M \) is upper-bounded by some constant.

Notation: Assuming that \( m_{1} \sqsubseteq m_{2} \), we use:

\[ \text{Bcast}(A; t; m_{1} \sqsubseteq m_{2}) \]


to denote the event:

\[ \text{Bcast}(A; t - \text{pos}(m_{1} \sqsubseteq m_{2}); m_{2}) \]

Likewise for Receive.

4. Examples of asymmetric authenticators, digital signatures; of symmetric authenticators, message authentication codes (MACs).
\( \theta = \{ \text{Bcast}(A; t_i; m_i) \mid i \in I_A \} \cup \{ \text{Receive}(B; t_i + \Delta; m_i) \mid i \in I_A \} \cup \\
\{ \text{Bcast}(B; t_i; m_i) \mid i \in I_B \} \cup \{ \text{Receive}(A; t_i + \Delta; m_i) \mid i \in I_B \} \cup \\
\{ \text{Neighbor}(A; t_i; A, B, t'_{i}) \mid i \in J_A \} \cup \{ \text{Neighbor}(A; t_i; B, A, t'_{i}) \mid i \in J_A \} \cup \\
\{ \text{Neighbor}(B; t_i; A, B, t'_{i}) \mid i \in J_B \} \cup \{ \text{Neighbor}(B; t_i; B, A, t'_{i}) \mid i \in J_B \} \}

\( \theta' = \{ \text{Bcast}(A; t_i; m_i) \mid i \in I_A \} \cup \{ \text{Receive}(C; t_i + \Delta; m_i) \mid i \in I_A \} \cup \\
\{ \text{Bcast}(D; t_i + \Delta; m_i) \mid i \in I_A \} \cup \{ \text{Receive}(D; t_i + \Delta; m_i) \mid i \in I_B \} \cup \\
\{ \text{Bcast}(C; t_i + \Delta; m_i) \mid i \in I_B \} \cup \{ \text{Receive}(A; t_i + \Delta; B, m_i) \mid i \in I_B \} \cup \\
\{ \text{Neighbor}(A; t_i; A, B, t'_{i}) \mid i \in J_A \} \cup \{ \text{Neighbor}(A; t_i; B, A, t'_{i}) \mid i \in J_B \} \cup \\
\{ \text{Neighbor}(B; t_i; A, B, t'_{i}) \mid i \in J_B \} \cup \{ \text{Neighbor}(B; t_i; B, A, t'_{i}) \mid i \in J_B \} \}

Fig. 6. Traces used in the proof of Theorem 1; \( \Delta = \text{dist}^a(A, B)\nu^{-1} \), \( t_i, t'_{i} \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \) and \( I_A, I_B, J_A, J_B \) are pairwise disjoint index sets with \( J^A_B \neq \emptyset \) (all the other index sets can be empty); \( \delta_1 = \text{dist}^B(A, C)\nu^{-1} \), \( \delta_2 = \Delta - \text{dist}^b(D, B)\nu^{-1} \), \( \delta_3 = \text{dist}^b(B, D)\nu^{-1} \), \( \delta_4 = \Delta - \text{dist}^b(C, A)\nu^{-1} \)

Fig. 7. Adversary- and common protocol-feasibility rules.

**ND2B/T**

\[ \forall S \in S, \theta \in \Theta_{S, p, A}. \forall A, B \in \mathbb{V}_S, t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}. \quad \text{NDstart}(A; t) \in \theta \land \text{link}(A \rightarrow B; [t, t + T_p]) \land \text{dist}(A, B) + \text{nlos}(A, B) \leq R \implies \exists t'' \in [t, t + T_p]. \quad \text{Neighbor}(B; t'; A, B, t''') \in \theta \]

**ND2B/TL**

\[ \forall S \in S, \theta \in \Theta_{S, p, A}. \forall A, B \in \mathbb{V}_S, t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}. \quad \text{NDstart}(A; t) \in \theta \land \text{link}(A \rightarrow B; [t, t + T_p]) \land \text{nlos}(A, B) = 0 \implies \exists t'' \in [t, t + T_p]. \quad \text{Neighbor}(B; t'; A, B, t''') \in \theta \]

**ND2CR/T**

\[ \forall S \in S, \theta \in \Theta_{S, p, A}. \forall A, B \in \mathbb{V}_S, t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}. \quad \text{NDstart}(A; t) \in \theta \land \text{link}(A \leftrightarrow B; [t, t + T_p]) \land \text{dist}(A, B) + \text{nlos}(A, B) \leq R \implies \exists t_{1}, t_{2} \in [t, \infty), t'_{1}, t''_{1} \in [t, t + T_p]. \quad \text{Neighbor}(A; t_{1}, A, B, t'_{1}) \in \theta \land \text{Neighbor}(A; t_{2}, B, A, t''_{1}) \in \theta \]

**ND2CR/TL**

\[ \forall S \in S, \theta \in \Theta_{S, p, A}. \forall A, B \in \mathbb{V}_S, t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}. \quad \text{NDstart}(A; t) \in \theta \land \text{link}(A \leftrightarrow B; [t, t + T_p]) \land \text{nlos}(A, B) = 0 \implies \exists t_{1}, t_{2} \in [t, \infty), t'_{1}, t''_{1} \in [t, t + T_p]. \quad \text{Neighbor}(A; t_{1}, A, B, t'_{1}) \in \theta \land \text{Neighbor}(A; t_{2}, B, A, t''_{1}) \in \theta \]

Fig. 8. ND availability properties.

### 4.2 Protocol-Feasible Traces

In Sec. 2.5 we have defined feasibility rules for arbitrary protocols. However, for reasoning about specific protocols, it is more convenient to define protocols with rules, rather than specifying a protocol model function and applying the general rules in Fig. 2.

The rules that specify this type of feasibility are protocol-dependent and are defined in Sec. 4.5. However, there is one general rule that dictates the behavior of correct nodes with respect to nonces. Rule \( r1 \) (Fig. 7) guarantees that if a nonce \( n \) is freshly generated at time \( t \) then (i) the node that generated \( n \) will not broadcast it before \( t \), and (ii) any other correct node who broadcasts a message containing nonce \( n \) must have received it (possibly in a different message) at least \( \Delta_{\text{relay}} \) before broadcasting; this time difference is measured with respect to the positions of the nonce in the respective messages.

### 4.3 Adversary-Feasible Traces

To reason about the security of specific protocols, we consider an adversary model, \( A^P_{\Delta_{\text{relay}}} \), stronger than
that defined in Sec. 2.6. Intuitively, adversarial nodes are allowed to send arbitrary messages, except for messages which would violate properties of authenticators or freshness; these have to be relayed with the relaying delay at least $\Delta_{\text{relay}}$.

A trace $\theta$ is feasible with respect to $A_{\theta,\text{relay}}$ if rules $A1 - A3$ (Fig. 7) are satisfied. Rules $A2$ and $A3$ deal with authenticators: An adversarial node is allowed to send a message containing arbitrary authenticators, as long as these authenticators can be generated by itself or another adversarial node. This implies that adversarial nodes can share cryptographic keys or any material used for authentication. Furthermore, rules $A2$ and $A3$ reflect that the adversary cannot forge authenticated messages: Any message sent by an adversarial node that contains a correct node authenticator must be relayed. In other words, some (possibly the same) adversarial node must have received a message containing this authenticator earlier, at least $\Delta_{\text{relay}}$ plus the propagation delay between the two nodes over the adversarial channel. This condition reflects the structure of the adversarial channel: Any two adversarial nodes can establish direct communication. Rule $A1$ is similar to $A2$, but it is responsible for freshness: An adversary sending a message with a nonce generated by a correct node can only be relaying the message (nonce). In this sense rule $A1$ is an adversarial equivalent of rule $P1$.

### 4.4 ND Specification

To reason about the security of specific protocols, we use the correctness property $\text{ND}1$ as introduced in Fig. 4, but we provide stronger protocol-type specific availability properties. Informally, we require that if nodes are neighbors for a long enough protocol-specific time $T_P$, the protocol must declare them neighbors.

Fig. 8 displays $\text{ND}2$ properties for all types of protocols we consider. These properties differ in four aspects, one depending on whether the protocol is $T$ or $TL$, whereas the other three aspects depending on the protocol is beacon or challenge-response. The first aspect is the $\text{NDstart}$ event: For CR-protocols, a particular neighbor $B$ with which ND is started is specified, whereas no such specification is necessary for B-protocols. Second, it may be required that link $(A, B)$ be up only in one direction (B-protocols) or both directions (CR-protocols). Third, for T-protocols, an upper-bound on propagation distance in enforced $(\text{dist}(A, B) + \text{nlos}(A, B) \leq R)$, whereas for TL-protocols line-of-sight propagation is required $(\text{nlos}(A, B) = 0)$. Forth, different forms of neighbor declaration are possible. The node making the declaration might be the same as (CR-protocols) or different (B-protocols) from the one initiating the ND protocol. Moreover the declaration might be uni-directional (B-protocols) or bi-directional (CR-protocols).

### 4.5 Protocol Definitions

The protocols are formally defined by rules as the ones in Fig. 10. To make the presentation more approachable, we first present the protocols informally in the form of pseudo-code, and then we describe how the rules model the behavior of the protocol. The pseudo-code is divided into blocks, each starting with a triggering event (on clause). Upon a triggering event, the block body is executed, i.e., other events take place.

We start with a simple B/T-protocol we denote $P^{B/T}$, which is essentially the temporal packet leash protocol proposed by Hu, Perrig and Johnson in [15]. The pseudo-code is shown in Fig. 9. The rules defining the protocol are presented in Fig. 10. Block 1-2 describes the behavior after the ND protocol is started at node $A$ (e.g., by a higher layer protocol); $P1$ and $P2$ are the two rules that correspond to this block. Block 3-5 describes the behavior of a node after it receives a beacon message, and it is modeled by rules $P3$ and $P4$. Rule $P1$ is straightforward: if ensures that if the triggering event of block 1-2, $\text{NDstart}(A; t_1)$, occurs in the trace, the event in the body of the block also occurs. In the same fashion, rule $P3$ is defined for block 3-5, with an additional condition coming from the if clause.

These two rules are already sufficient to prove the $\text{ND}2$ property, but they only define half of aspects of the protocol functionality. Indeed, nothing prevents a node running this protocol from making arbitrary neighbor declarations. Rule $P4$ addresses this, stating that if a node makes a neighbor declaration, this has to be done according to block 3-5, i.e., the node had to receive a “fresh enough” beacon message. Only one aspect remains: Correct nodes are still allowed to broadcast arbitrary messages, including bogus beacon messages. This is addressed by rule $P2$. To motivate the definition of $P2$, let us consider an alternative rule would still be coherent with the pseudo-code: If a correct node broadcasts a message at time $t_1$, this message is $(A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1))$. We can prove that such a protocol satisfies the ND specification. However, this would be a weak result, precisely because that rule states that correct nodes cannot send any other messages than beacons. If the ND protocol were used along with or by any other protocol, obviously using other forms of messages, the result would no longer apply. To circumvent this undesired composability restriction, rule $P2$ only requires that if a correct node broadcasts at $t_1$ a message $m$ of a particular form, i.e., containing $\text{auth}_B(t)$ as a subterm, then $m = (A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1))$. Hence, rule $P2$ gives a much less restrictive condition on protocols that can be securely composed with $P^{B/T}$: basically, it mandates that any
\( \forall A \in V_{\text{cor}}, t_1 \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \). \text{NDstart}(A; t_1) \in \theta \implies \text{Bcast}(A; t_1; \langle A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1) \rangle) \in \theta \\
\text{NDstart}(A; t_1) \in \theta \wedge \text{auth}_B(t) \subseteq m \wedge \text{Bcast}(A; t_1; m) \in \theta \\
\implies \langle m, \text{auth}_A(t_1) \rangle \\
\forall B \in V_{\text{cor}}, A \in V_{\text{cor}}, t_1, t_2 \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \). \text{Receive}(B; t_2; \langle A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1) \rangle) \in \theta \wedge t_2 - t_1 \leq \text{Rv}^{-1} \\
\implies \text{Neighbor}(B; t_2 + |A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1)|; A, B, t_2) \in \theta \\
\forall B \in V_{\text{cor}}, A \in V_{\text{cor}}, t_1, t_2 \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \). \text{Receive}(B; t_2; \langle A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1) \rangle) \in \theta \wedge t_2 - t_1 \leq \text{Rv}^{-1} \\
\wedge t = t_2 + |A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1)| \\
Fig. 10. Rules defining protocol \( \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{B}/\mathcal{T}} \).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correctness</th>
<th>Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T-protocols</td>
<td>CR-based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-based</td>
<td>\Delta_{\text{relay}} &gt; \frac{B}{\mathcal{R}}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR-based</td>
<td>\Delta_{\text{relay}} &gt; \frac{2B}{\mathcal{R}}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TL-protocols</td>
<td>B-based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-based</td>
<td>\Delta_{\text{relay}} &gt; 0, v = v_{\text{adv}}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR-based</td>
<td>\Delta_{\text{relay}} &gt; 0, v = v_{\text{adv}}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 1 Summary of assumptions for different ND protocol classes in Theorem 2.

other protocol does not use authenticated timestamps of this form.\(^5\) Rule \( \rho_4 \), in terms of composability, implies that the node cannot run any other ND protocol (i.e., a protocol making neighbor declarations), but we do not see this as a real restriction.

Next, we describe \( \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{CR}/\mathcal{TL}} \), a CR/TL-protocol (pseudo-code Fig. 11, rules Fig. 12). This protocol has a practical design twist: As authentication of a message can be a time-consuming process, in this protocol we remove it from the time-critical ToF estimation phase. Otherwise, if the response needs too much time to be calculated, the clock of the challenging node can drift beyond an acceptable accuracy level. A protocol parameter \( \Delta \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \) determines exactly how long after the challenge reception a node replies.

We assume that a node keeps track of all the events it observes, and it can always refer to this ‘history,’ as in 10-12. There is no explicit block responsible for receiving the \( \langle n_2 \rangle \) response sent by \( B \) in 06; node \( A \) does not take any action other than recording the event occurrence, for later reference in line 11.

Considering again that “triggering event implies block body events,” rule \( \rho_1 \) is defined for block 01-03, \( \rho_2 \) for block 04-08, and \( \rho_4 \) for block 09-15. We do not define rules that restrict the occurrence of \text{Fresh} events (in lines 02 and 05) or the form of broadcasted messages (in lines 03 and 06), so that there is no obstacle for composability. For line 08, rule \( \rho_3 \) is defined: If a node broadcasts a message \( m \) containing an authenticator of the form \( \text{auth}_B(n_1, n_2, l) \), then \( m \) is precisely the message defined in line 08, and all the other events from block 04-08 occur. Finally, rule \( \rho_5 \) is defined based on block 09-15. There is only one rule, despite two \text{Neighbor} events in lines 14 and 15, because both events match the universally quantified \text{Neighbor} event in \( \rho_5 \); The rule uses a disjunction, as there are (small) timing differences in the node behavior depending on which of these two events is considered.

The pseudo-code for protocols \( \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{B}/\mathcal{TL}} \) and \( \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{CR}/\mathcal{T}} \) is shown in Fig. 13 and Fig. 15. The rules defining these protocols are shown in Fig. 14 and Fig. 16. We note, however, that opposite to the other protocols, \( \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{B}/\mathcal{TL}} \) relies on symmetric authenticators. The purpose of this is to demonstrate that the protocols can be modified to work with symmetric cryptography. There is no specific reason why we chose \( \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{B}/\mathcal{TL}} \) for this demonstration.

4.6 Results and Isabelle/HOL Mechanization

We prove that the protocols presented in Sec. 4.5 provide secure ND, which is summarized by the following theorem:

**Theorem 2.** The protocols \( \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{B}/\mathcal{T}}, \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{CR}/\mathcal{TL}}, \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{CR}/\mathcal{T}} \) and \( \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{B}/\mathcal{TL}} \) satisfy \( \text{nb}1 \) and \( \text{nb}2 \) (the appropriate variant, Fig. 8) for the adversary model \( \mathcal{A}_{\text{relay}}^P \) under the assumptions summarized in Tab. 4.6.

We comment further on these results in Sec. 5.2. We

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5. If this would pose a problem, the protocol can be modified, e.g., by authenticating a timestamp concatenated with some constant rather than just a timestamp.
5.1 Abstractions and Simplifications

Mobility and NLOS Delay. We assume nodes are static and non-line-of-sight (NLOS) delay is constant over time. This simplifies the model significantly; otherwise, propagation delay would vary during the transmission of a message. This is a reasonable assumption, because mobility and NLOS delay changes are very minor at the ND protocol execution time scale. For example, during 100µs, nodes moving at 100kmph traverse 2.7mm, which is below the accuracy of most RF ranging systems. However, in general, mobility can have security implications. To see why, consider the P^CR/TL protocol. If nodes move during the protocol execution, it is important when they estimate their location. At the very least, A should estimate its location once when it sends the challenge, and again when it receives the re-
Inaccuracies. We assume correct nodes have accurate time and location information. However, in reality, inaccuracies are inevitable. Regarding time, clocks may be coarse-grained and they can drift. Furthermore, there is always some error in estimating the message reception time (time-of-arrival) over a noisy channel. Regarding location, infrastructure (e.g., the Global Positioning System (GPS), or base stations) providing location information may be temporarily unavailable, and the location provided also includes some measurement error. Some of the inaccuracies can be decreased: For example, the error in message time-of-arrival can be decreased by averaging over many messages or introducing long physical-communication-layer preambles. But some inaccuracy in time and location is unavoidable.

Inaccuracies do not diminish the impossibility result: Rather, they make it stronger. Indeed, we prove the impossibility result holds even in an idealized environment, in which nodes have access to information more accurate than in reality. In contrast, as secure ND protocols rely on distance estimates, their effectiveness can be negatively affected by such inaccuracies. For T-protocols, and even more so for TL-protocols, inaccuracies hinder availability: they can lead to ToF estimates seemingly above the threshold for T-

response; whereas the responding node B should estimate its location when it sends the response. But even this might be insufficient under high mobility: If A measures its location at the beginning of the message, while B measures the ToF at the end of the message, there may be space for a stealthy relay attack. Introducing mobility and a dynamically changing NLOS delay in our model is a possible direction for future work.

Medium Access Control, Jamming, Directional Antennas. For simplicity, we do not introduce any MAC restrictions into the model. Hence, a node is able to simultaneously receive any finite number of messages, even though in reality it is limited (to one message, or more for CDMA-like technologies). We could introduce additional rules that model radio interference, e.g., set links down if two (or more, depending on the node transceiver capabilities) simultaneous transmissions take place. However, this would not affect any of our results. Notably, the availability properties require links to be up, but they are agnostic as to why links are up or down. Similarly, jamming would not affect our results either: we capture jamming with links being down, thus availability implies, among other things, no jamming. An adversary using directional antennas can also be modeled by links being down.
protocols, and make the two distance estimates diverge for TL-protocols. The only way to cope with these is to introduce some tolerance margins for measurements. Nonetheless, this affects correctness: The higher the tolerance margin, the more space is left for fast relay attacks. This manifests the unsurprising tension between correctness and availability. Introducing inaccuracies explicitly into the framework is a possible direction for future work.

**Physical Layer Attacks.** The messages considered in our framework, albeit at the physical layer, are composed of “atomic” components, such as nonces and identifiers, typically assumed in formal security frameworks. In [6], Clulow et al. pointed out a number of physical layer attacks, working at the symbol (or bit) level, that can decrease the perceived message reception time. With external adversaries, as per our ND specification, these attacks [6] can result in a (perceivably) negative \( \Delta_{\text{relay}} \). This can be expressed in our model. Furthermore, the external malicious interference attack introduced in [25] can be modeled with minor extensions, e.g., making the \( nlos \) function depend on time and allow negative values. Hence, our framework (notably the “atomicity” assumptions) is not limited with respect to those attacks. But it is so for physical-communication-layer attacks introduced by internal adversaries, as discussed in Sec. 6.

**Fingerprinting.** The framework proposed in this paper does not capture the capabilities of wireless receivers to perform device fingerprinting, i.e., to identify a transmitter based on the characteristics of the signal it transmits [28]. This potential receiver capability has implications, notably for the impossibility result. If the model were to include some form of fingerprinting, then the indistinguishability of local views would not hold, and the impossibility result would be lifted. It is not clear how such capabilities could be introduced into a formal framework, especially because these techniques are relatively recent, and we have only limited understanding of the hardness of fingerprint spoofing [8]. Integrating these into a formal framework is a possible direction of future work.

### 5.2 ND Protocol Comparison

**T-protocols versus TL-protocols.** On one hand, TL-protocols provide stronger security than T-protocols in term of correctness (Tab. 4.6). First, they do not need the notion of ND range, \( R \), that T-protocols do. More important, they are secure as long as \( \Delta_{\text{relay}} > 0 \). In contrast, T-protocols require that \( \Delta_{\text{relay}} \geq Rv^{-1} \). On the other hand, TL-protocols suffer in terms of availability: (i) they require location-aware nodes with secure and precise location information, a far-from-trivial requirement, and (ii) they do not work for links with substantial NLOS delay. In addition, TL-protocols require \( v = v_{\text{adv}} \) for correctness, which limits them to speed-of-light channels such as RF.

In light of these shortcomings, notably (i), T-protocols can be a viable solution to provide communication ND, depending on the environment, the communication technology, and the sophistication of the adversary. First, T-protocols provide a good approximation of communication ND in environments without obstacles, although these are not very common in reality. Second, if the ND range \( R \) is low, than the adversary needs to be able to relay with a small \( \Delta_{\text{relay}} \). For example, if we consider relatively short-range IEEE 802.11 radios, with \( R \) in the order of 100 meters, \( \Delta_{\text{relay}} \approx 100mc^{-1} \approx 333ns \). This is significantly below the \( 15-20\mu s \) achievable by the relay constructed by Hancke in [12]. Simple store-and-forward relays are also thwarted easily. In contrast, for WiMAX, with a range up to 50km, the lower-bound on \( \Delta_{\text{relay}} \) is around \( 166\mu s \) leaving much more space for attacks. In fact, as \( R \to \infty \), T-protocols become useless for securing ND.

In [10], Francellon et al. construct an analog relay with \( \Delta_{\text{relay}} \approx 20ns \). A ND range \( R \) secure against such a relay is only a few meters. Furthermore, for many wireless technologies, 20ns falls below the accuracy of the message time-of-arrival estimation. This implies that for practical purposes this relay could be assumed to achieve \( \Delta_{\text{relay}} \approx 0 \), which would defeat not only T-protocols but nearly TL-protocols too. Furthermore, physical-communication-layer attacks [6] that construct a relay with a (seemingly) negative \( \Delta_{\text{relay}} \), would also defeat both classes of protocols.

Hence, it might appear that for a sophisticated enough adversary, communication ND is impossible not only for T-protocols, but also for TL-protocols. However, there is a significant difference between these two “impossibility results.” For TL-protocols, the difficulty stems from the inaccuracy of time- and location-measurements. These can be decreased by, e.g., increasing the signal-to-noise ratio through making the message preambles (on which the time-of-arrival is estimated) longer. Furthermore, physical-communication-layer attacks can be mitigated with appropriate countermeasures [13], [26]. In contrast, the T-protocol impossibility is fundamental, and holds even in an idealized model with no inaccuracies and no physical layer attacks.

**B-protocols versus CR-protocols.** B-protocols require (secure) clock synchronization, which limits their applicability, but they are more efficient. B-protocols involve fewer messages per protocol session; a group of \( n \) fully connected nodes only needs \( O(n) \) protocol sessions versus \( O(n^2) \) necessary for CR-protocols. Furthermore, B-protocols have less stringent availability requirements: links need be up for shorter periods than those needed by CR-protocols. Finally, in terms of correct (secure) operation, CR/T-protocols require \( \Delta_{\text{relay}} \), the minimum relaying delay, to be twice as large as that required by B/T-protocols (for the same \( R \)).

**Symmetric Authenticators.** Contrary to other protocols, the \( P^B/T \) protocol uses a symmetric authen-
ticator. For this reason, this protocol might seem at the first glance susceptible to a reflection attack: an adversarial node could receive a beacon message from node $A$ and relay it back to $A$. The $P^8/Tl$ protocol is actually secure. Furthermore, we could modify all the other protocols by simply replacing asymmetric authenticators with symmetric ones, and they would still be secure under the same assumptions as their asymmetric counterparts. However, if we would remove the time and location information from the symmetric versions of the protocols, in an attempt to use them as regular authentication protocols, they would be all be vulnerable to the reflection attack. This demonstrates and interesting interplay between authentication and time/location features of ND protocols.

5.3 Beyond ND

In this paper, we focus on formal analysis of ND. However, our framework can be easily used to reason about other protocols, e.g., for time synchronization or distance bounding (DB). The latter, allowing one device to estimate a secure upper-bound on its distance to another device, have attracted considerable attention from the research community, especially their formal verification (see Sec. 6). However, there is a crucial reason why we refrain from reasoning about DB protocols. In ND protocols, traditionally, it is assumed that both participating nodes are honest. Under this assumption, our model is an adequate representation of the wireless communication reality. In contrast, DB protocols assume that they can be executed with an adversarial node. If this is the case, an internal adversary is able to mount probabilistic bit-level attacks [6] that cannot be captured by our model and, in fact, by the majority of formal models developed for DB. There requires a new type of model that is probabilistic and models messages at the bit-level.

6 Related Work

A number of ND protocols can be found in the literature, but such schemes require the assistance of infrastructure or other nodes, and are hence not as generally applicable as the two-party ND we investigate in this paper. Among two-party ND, there are time-based approaches, notably the temporal packet-leashes [15], and the TrueLink challenge-response protocol [9]; location-based approaches such as the geographical packet-leashes [15]; an approach based on using directional antennas [14], which provides relatively weak security guarantees in its basic two-part form; and a scheme based on device fingerprinting [28]. For a more comprehensive overview of ND schemes we refer the reader to [20].

Impossibility Results. In [5] the problem of secure clock synchronization under relay attacks turns out to be closely related to communication ND. Compared to our model, the model in [5] includes clock skews and an adversary model with the distinction of half-duplex, full-duplex and double full-duplex transceivers, rather than the relaying delay. The authors obtain impossibility and possibility results for the considered transceiver types, which are complementary to the results obtained here. In contrast to our work, the authors abstract away the cryptographic aspect of the protocols – hence their framework cannot be directly use to prove the correctness of concrete protocols in the same way as our framework. This work is further extended in [29] to protocols for network-wide clock synchronization and topology discovery, but again cryptographic aspects are abstracting away.

Formal Verification of Protocols. A number of formal frameworks designed for verification of time-(and-location)-based protocols have been proposed. Contrary to our work, they tend to focus on distance bounding (DB) rather than communication ND. DB protocols allow a node to establish a secure upper-bound on the distance to another node. The two most prominent protocols of this type are the (original DB) Brands-Chaum [3] and the Hancke-Kuhn [11] protocols. The first work where DB has been treated formally is [17] by Meadows et al. The authors extend existing formal approaches [4], [23] tailored to “classical” security protocols, and augments it with a notion of distance based on time-stamps. It is not clear how communication neighborhood would be defined in this framework, nor how to model a protocol that uses location information.

In [30], Schaller et al propose a framework based on the inductive active approach of Paulson [22]. The framework is formalized in the theorem prover Isabelle using Higher Order Logic. The authors use their framework to verify two DB protocols, as well as a delayed key disclosure protocol. They extend this approach in [2], proposing an elegant way of dealing with message spaces based on equational term theories. This, in particular, allows them to model the exclusive or (XOR) operation used in the Brands-Chaum protocols.

In [16], the authors extend the stand space model with timing information. The approach is automatized using the constrained solving techniques proposed in [18] for bounded-process analysis. The authors analyze 4 distance bounding protocols, including a simplified version of the Brands-Chaum protocol, and a protocols proposed in [17]. They replace the XOR operation with symmetric encryption, and remove the commitment used in this protocol. The authors report that the constraint solver can efficiently find attacks in flawed versions of the protocols.

The authors of [32] extend the strand space formalism [31] with notions of message propagation time and device location to be able to reason about the security of simple DB and related protocols. No mechanization of the security proofs is provided.

Interestingly, in none of the above frameworks is it possible to prove the correctness of the (non-simplified)
Brands-Chaum protocol or the Hancke-Kuhn protocol [11]. One reason for this is the ability to model necessary “cryptographic” primitives: the combination of the XOR operation with the commitment in the Brands-Chaum protocol and the look-up operation in the Hancke-Kuhn protocol. More important, none of these frameworks models messages on the bit-level, and hence they miss the attack mentioned in Sec. 5.3. We believe these types of attacks should be possible to capture in any framework to prove the security of ND or DB protocols against internal adversaries. This would require a shift from non-deterministic, message-based models to a probabilistic bit-based models.

One formal approach takes this leap: the framework of Pavlovic and Meadows introduced in [24]. It includes probabilistic derivation based on the notion of guards, it models messages on the bit level, and it incorporates the Hancke-Kuhn look-up operation. In fact, [24] provides the first formal analysis of the Hancke-Kuhn protocol. However, the analysis and the paper has some limitations. The most important is that it is limited to two specific guessing attack scenarios (one distance fraud and one mafia fraud): nothing is mentioned about the terrorist fraud, to which the Hancke-Kuhn protocol is vulnerable. Such approaches, iterating over a list of high-level attack scenarios, offer limited security, because they ignore possibly undiscovered attack scenarios. An example of this limitation is the recently discovered distance hijacking attack scenario [7], which is different from the traditional distance fraud, mafia fraud, and terrorist fraud. In contrast, the strength of most formal approaches lies in considering a much broader scope of adversarial actions, and only restricting the adversary from violating causality, physical time and location constraints, and the security of cryptographic primitives. In [16], such an approach allowed the authors to detect a distance hijacking attack.

Compared to our framework, all the above-mentioned formal approaches focus on verification of concrete protocols. In some cases (e.g., [17], [30]) the authors move beyond the security of concrete protocols and show that all protocols of a particular form provide DB. However, there are no formal proofs of impossibility. Furthermore, our framework has another advantage (stemming from its impossibility-driven design). For example, in [30], the set of all “feasible traces” is the minimum set of traces in which correct nodes follow the protocol. This, strictly speaking, means that the protocol is proven correct under the assumption that nodes do not execute any other protocol. In our approach, we consider the maximum set of traces in which correct nodes do not violate the protocol. Although this makes the protocol specification slightly more involved, it allows us to formalize a protocol in a way that can lead to stronger results, e.g., we prove that a protocol \( P^B/T \) can be safely composed with any other protocol that does not use messages of a particular form.

7 Conclusions

We propose a formal framework for reasoning about the security of time-and-location-based protocols in wireless networks. The framework models aspects of wireless communications (neighbor relation, device locations, message propagation time). It is applicable to protocols such as distance bounding, time synchronization, and most notably neighbor discovery, which is the focus of this work.

We use the proposed framework to obtain two types of results. First, we show that the general class of time-based protocols can provide ND if and only if the adversary can only relay messages with a delay above a certain threshold (related to the desired communication range). We also show that time-and-location based protocols offer superior security, as they can provide ND as soon as adversarial relaying delay is strictly positive. However, these protocols only work for speed-of-light channels and if there is no non-line-of-sight propagation delay. Second, we use the framework to prove the security of concrete ND protocols, including two novel time-and-location based protocols. We mechanize the model and proofs in the theorem prover Isabelle, for a high level of guarantee on the security of these protocols.

We argue that the proposed framework is adequate for reasoning about ND (and related protocols) under the assumption that both participating nodes are honest. However, if one of the nodes is allowed to be adversarial – a common assumption for distance bounding protocols – then this opens a whole new range of probabilistic bit-level attacks, as well as attacks on the physical-communication-layer. This mandates, in our opinion, a shift from (non-)deterministic message-oriented models to probabilistic models that explicitly consider bits or even symbols at the physical-communication-layer. We believe this to be an interesting direction for future work.

References

Appendix A

Proofs

We prove that protocols defined in Sec. 4.5 satisfy the ND1 property and the appropriate ND2 properties. First, we present three simple lemmas which facilitate subsequent proofs. Lemma 2 deals with freshness and is an extension of rules s2 and r1, whereas Lemma 3 and Lemma 4 deal with authenticators, extending a2 and a3, respectively. We start with the proof of Lemma 3, because the proof of Lemma 2 follows a similar patter, but is slightly more involved. The proof of Lemma 4 is virtually identical to the proof of Lemma 3, and thus omitted.

Lemmas

Lemma 2. Rule l1 (Fig. 17) holds for every trace $\theta$ feasible with respect to the adversary model $A_{\text{relay}}^P$ ($\Delta_{\text{relay}} > 0$), some setting $S$ and rule r1.

Lemma 3. Rule l2 (Fig. 17) holds for every trace $\theta$ feasible with respect to the adversary model $A_{\text{relay}}^P$ ($\Delta_{\text{relay}} > 0$) and some setting $S$.

Lemma 4. Rule l3 (Fig. 17) holds for every trace $\theta$ feasible with respect to the adversary model $A_{\text{relay}}^P$ ($\Delta_{\text{relay}} > 0$) and some setting $S$.

Proof: (Lemma 3)
The 1st disjunct of l2, $(B \in V_{\text{adv}})$, follows immediately from a2, so we assume that $B \in V_{\text{cor}}$ and focus on the 2nd disjunct. We prove it by contradiction. Fix $m = \text{auth}_B(m_0)$. Our goal is to show that by assuming:

(1) $m \sqsubset m_1$ and
(2) $\text{Bcast}(C; t; m \sqsubset m_2) \notin \theta$,
for any correct $C$, $t \leq t - \Delta_{\text{relay}} - \text{dist}(C, A)\nu_{\text{adv}}^{-1}$, and $m_2$ st. $m \sqsubseteq m_2$, and
(3) $\text{Bcast}(A; t; m \sqsubset m_1) \in \theta$

we can derive a contradiction. To achieve this, we show, by induction, that for every $N$:

(3)$_N \text{Bcast}(A_N; t_N; m \sqsubset m_N) \in \theta$ where $A_N \in V_{\text{adv}}, t_N \leq t - N\Delta_{\text{relay}} - \text{dist}(A_N, A)\nu_{\text{adv}}^{-1}$ and $m \sqsubseteq m_N$

The base case (3)$_0$ follows directly from (3). In the inductive step, we show that (3)$_{N+1}$ follows from (3)$_N$. Apply a2 to (3)$_N$ and obtain:

(4) $\text{Receive}(D; t_N - \delta; m \sqsubseteq m') \in \theta$,
where $D \in V_{\text{adv}}, m \sqsubseteq m'$ and $\delta \geq \Delta_{\text{relay}} + \text{dist}(D, A_N)\nu_{\text{adv}}^{-1}$.

Next, apply s1 to obtain:

(5) $\text{Bcast}(E; t_N - \delta - (\text{dist}(E, D) - \text{nlos}(E, D))\nu_{\text{adv}}^{-1}; a'; m \sqsubseteq m') \in \theta$

We can rule out $E \in V_{\text{cor}}$ based on (2) because:

$t_N - \delta - (\text{dist}(E, D) + \text{nlos}(E, D))\nu_{\text{adv}}^{-1} \leq t - \Delta_{\text{relay}} - \text{dist}(E, A)\nu_{\text{adv}}^{-1}$

This inequality follows from $\nu_{\text{adv}} \geq \nu$, the inductive assumption $t_N \leq t - N\Delta_{\text{relay}} - \text{dist}(A_N, A)\nu_{\text{adv}}^{-1}$ an the condition on $\delta$ in (4). Hence we have $E \in V_{\text{adv}}$.

Obviously, we can define $A_{N+1} = D, m_{N+1} = m'$ and $t_{N+1}$ as:

$t_{N+1} = t_N - \delta - (\text{dist}(E, D) - \text{nlos}(E, D))\nu_{\text{adv}}^{-1} \leq t - (N + 1)\Delta_{\text{relay}}$

which gives us (3)$_{N+1}$, completing the inductive proof.

The final contradiction follows swiftly: Given $\Delta_{\text{relay}} > 0$, for large enough $N$, the time $t_N$ is negative. This is in contradiction with event start times being non-negative.

Proof: (Lemma 2)
The proof is similar to the proof of Lemma 3. We show that we can derive a contradiction by assuming:

(1) $\text{Fresh}(A; t_1; n) \in \theta$, where $A \in V_{\text{cor}}$, and
We can define $S$ as $B$ and observe a contradiction with $F_C$. The last step is to show the inequality follows from the triangle inequality for $\text{dist}$.

This completes the proof of the inductive step in case (a). Now consider case:

(a) $C \in V_{\text{cor}}$

Given (1), $\text{r1}$ implies:

(3) Receive($C; \tau_N - \delta_1; n \subseteq m'$) $\in \theta$, for some $\delta_1 \geq \Delta_{\text{relay}}$ and $m'$

Apply s1 to obtain:

(4) Bcast($D; \tau_N - \delta_2; n \subseteq m'$) $\in \theta$, for $\delta_2 = \delta_1 + (\text{dist}(D, C_N) + nlos(D, C_N))v^{-1}$ and:

(c) $D \in V_{\text{cor}}$ or

(d) $D \in V_{\text{adv}}$

We can define $C_{N+1} = D$, $m_{N+1} = m'$, and $\tau_{N+1}$ as:

$$\tau_{N+1} = \tau_N - \delta_2 - \tau_N - \Delta_{\text{relay}} - (\text{dist}(C_{N+1}, C_N) + nlos(C_{N+1}, C_N))v^{-1} < t_1 + \text{dist}(A, B)v^{-1} - \Delta_{\text{relay}} - \text{dist}(B, C_{N+1})v^{-1}$$

The inequality follows from the triangle inequality for $\text{dist}$ and non-negativeness of $nlos$. The last step is to show $C_{N+1} \neq A$. In case (d) this is trivial, as $A \notin V_{\text{adv}}$. In case (c) assume that $C_{N+1} = A$ and observe a contradiction with $\text{r1}$ because:

$$\tau_{N+1} < t_1 + \text{dist}(A, B)v^{-1} - \Delta_{\text{relay}} - \text{dist}(B, C_{N+1})v^{-1} < t_1$$

This completes the proof of the inductive step in case (a). Now consider case:

(b) $C \in V_{\text{adv}}$

Given (1), $\text{A1}$ implies:

(5) Receive($E; \tau_N - \delta_3; n \subseteq m''$) $\in \theta$,

for some $E \in V_{\text{adv}}, \delta_3 \geq \Delta_{\text{relay}} + \text{dist}(E, C_N)v^{-1}$ and $m''$.

Apply s1 and s3 to obtain:

(6) Bcast($F; \tau_N - \delta_4; n \subseteq m''$) $\in \theta$, for $\delta_4 = \delta_3 + (\text{dist}(F, E) + nlos(F, E))v^{-1}$ and:

(e) $F \in V_{\text{cor}}$ or

(f) $F \in V_{\text{adv}}$

We can define $C_{N+1} = F$, $m_{N+1} = m''$, and $\tau_{N+1}$ as:

$$\tau_{N+1} = \tau_N - \delta_4 - \tau_N - t_1 + \text{dist}(A, B)v^{-1} - \Delta_{\text{relay}} - \text{dist}(B, C_{N+1})v^{-1}$$

The inequality follows from the triangle inequality for $\text{dist}$ and non-negativeness of $nlos$. The last step is to show $C_{N+1} \neq A$. In case (f) this is trivial, as $A \notin V_{\text{adv}}$. In case (e) we get a contradiction with $\text{r1}$ if we assume that $C_{N+1} = A$. This completes the proof of the inductive step.

The final contradiction follows as in Lemma 3: Given $\Delta_{\text{relay}} > 0$, for large enough $N$, the time $t_N$ is negative. This is in contradiction with event start times being non-negative.

\begin{proof}

\textbf{Protocol $\mathcal{P}^B/T$}

\textbf{Theorem 3.} Protocol $\mathcal{P}^B/T$ satisfies $\text{ND1}$ and $\text{ND2}^B/T$ under the following assumptions:

(A) $\Delta_{\text{relay}} \geq \mathbf{Rv}^{-1}$

(B) $T_{\text{p8}/T} = \sup\{|A, t, \text{auth}_{A}(t)| A \in V, t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}\} + \mathbf{Rv}^{-1}$

\textbf{Proof:} \textbf{Property nd1} \ (Fig. 4)

Consider a setting $S$ and a trace $\theta \in \Theta_{S, \text{p6}/T, A}$ such that:

(1) Neighbor($B; t; A, C, t_2$) $\in \theta$ for some $A, B, C \in V_{\text{cor}}$

As $B$ is correct, apply p4 to get:

(2) $C = B$ and

(3) Receive($B; t_2; (A, t_1, \text{auth}_{A}(t_1))$) $\in \theta$, where $t = t_2 + |A, t_1, \text{auth}_{A}(t_1)|$ and

(4) $t_2 \leq t_1 + \mathbf{Rv}^{-1}$

We need to show:

(*) $\text{link}(A \rightarrow B, t_2)$

Apply s1 to obtain:

(5) $\text{link}(D \rightarrow B, [t_2, t_2 + |A, t_1, \text{auth}_{A}(t_1)]])$ and
(6) $\text{Bcast}(D; t_2 - \delta_1; (A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1))) \in \theta$ for $\delta_1 = (\text{dist}(D, B) + \text{nlos}(D, B)) v^{-1}$ and
   (a) $D \in V_{\text{cor}}$ or
   (b) $D \in V_{\text{adv}}$.

Consider case (a). From $\circ 2$ we get $D = A$. Thus, given (5), we have shown ($\ast$).

Consider case (b). Let $\tau = \text{pos} (\text{auth}_A(t_1)) \subseteq (A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1))$. Apply $\circ 2$ to obtain:

(7) $\text{Bcast}(E; t_2 + \tau - \delta_1 - \delta_2; \text{auth}_A(t_1) \subseteq m) \in \theta$,
   where $\delta_2 > \Delta_{\text{delay}}$ and $m \in \mathbb{M}$ is st. $\text{auth}_A(t_1) \subseteq m$

$s_3$ gives $E \in V_{\text{cor}}$. Then, apply $\circ 2$ to get:

(8) $E = A$ and
(9) $m = (A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1))$ and
(10) $t_1 = t_2 - \delta_1 - \delta_2 < t_2 - \Delta_{\text{delay}} \leq t_2 - Rv^{-1}$, given (A)

From (10) derive $t_2 > t_1 + Rv^{-1}$. This is a contradiction with (4), thus (b) cannot be true. Consequently, (a) is
   the only valid option, and $\text{ND}1$ is satisfied.

Property $\text{ND}2^{B/\ell}$ (Fig. 8)
Consider a setting $S$, where:

(1) $A, B \in V_{\text{cor}}$ and
(2) $\text{dist}(A, B) + \text{nlos}(A, B) \leq R$ and
(3) $\text{link}(A \leftrightarrow B, [t_1, t_1 + T_{\text{p8/\ell}}])$

Next, take any trace $\theta \in \Theta_{S,\text{p8/\ell},A}$ such that:

(4) $\text{NDstart}(A; t_1) \in \theta$

We need to show:

($\ast$) Neighbor($B; t'; (A, B, t'')$) for some $t' \geq t_1$ and $t'' \in [t_1, t_1 + T_{\text{p8/\ell}}]$

Start by applying $\circ 1$ to obtain:

(5) $\text{Bcast}(A; t_1; (A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1))) \in \theta$

Given (2), (3) and (B), $s_2$ implies:

(6) Receive($B; t_2; (A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1))$), where $t_2 = t_1 + (\text{dist}(A, B) + \text{nlos}(A, B)) v^{-1}$

Given (2) we obtain $t_2 - t_1 \leq Rv^{-1}$. Then $\circ 3$ implies:

(7) Neighbor($B; t_2 + |A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1); (A, B, t_2)$

As $t' = t_2 + |A, t_1, \text{auth}_A(t_1)| \geq t_1$ and $t'' = t_2 \in [t_1, t_1 + T_{\text{p8/\ell}}]$ we have shown ($\ast$). \hfill $\square$

Protocol $\mathcal{P}_{\text{CR/TL}}$

Theorem 4. Protocol $\mathcal{P}_{\text{CR/TL}}$ satisfies $\text{ND}1$ and $\text{ND}2^{\text{CR/TL}}$ under the following assumptions:

(A) $\Delta_{\text{delay}} > 0$
(B) $v_{\text{adv}} = v$
(C) $T_{\text{pCR/TL}} = \infty$\footnote{We set $T_{\text{pCR/TL}} = \infty$ for simplicity: Otherwise, we would need to assume a maximum distance between $A$ and $B$ to have an upper-bound on the protocol execution time.}

Proof: Property $\text{ND}1$ (Fig. 4)
Consider a setting $S$ and a trace $\theta \in \Theta_{S,\text{pCR/TL},A}$ such that:

(1) Neighbor($A; t; B, C, t_0$) $\in \theta$, where $A, B, C \in V_{\text{cor}}$, and $t, t_0 \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$.

Applying $\circ 5$ gives two cases:

(I) $C = A$: according to $\text{ND}1$, we need to prove link($B \rightarrow A, t_0$)

(II) $B = A$: according to $\text{ND}1$, we need to prove link($A \rightarrow C, (t_0 + (\text{dist}(A, C) + \text{nlos}(A, C)) v^{-1})$)

We will consider both cases simultaneously. In both cases, if we rename $C$ to $B$, $\circ 5$ gives, for some $n_1, n_2 \in \text{Nonces}, t_1, t_2, t_3 \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}, l \in \mathbb{R}^3$:

(2) $\text{Bcast}(A; t_1; (B, n_1)) \in \theta$ and
(3) Fresh($A; t_1 + |B; n_1$) $\in \theta$ and
(4) Receive($A; t_2; (a_2)$) $\in \theta$ and
(5) Receive($A; t_3; (l, \text{auth}_B(n_1, n_2, l)) \in \theta$ and
(6) $v(t_2 - t_1 - \Delta) = 2d(\text{loc}(A), l)$

Further, in case (I):

(7/I) $t_2 = t_0$
whereas in case (II):

(7/II) \( t_1 = t_0 \)

Given (5), we apply s1 to obtain:

(a) \( D \in V_{cor} \land Bcast(D; :: (l, auth_B(n_1, n_2, l))) \in \theta \) or
(b) \( D \in V_{adv} \land Bcast(D; :: (l, auth_B(n_1, n_2, l))) \in \theta \)

("\cdot" means that we are not concerned with the value.) Assuming (b), apply t2 to obtain \( Bcast(E; :: m) \) for some \( E \in V_{cor} \) and \( m.st. auth_B(n_1, n_2, l) \subseteq m \). Then \( p3 \) gives for some \( t_4 \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq} 0 \):

(8) \( Bcast(B; :: (l, auth_B(n_1, n_2, l))) \in \theta \) and
(9) \( l = loc(B) \) and
(10) \( Receive(B; t_4 - \Delta; \langle B, n_1 \rangle) \in \theta \) and
(11) \( Bcast(B; t_4; \langle n_2 \rangle) \in \theta \) and
(12) \( Fresh(B; t_4; n_2) \in \theta \)

The same is obtained under (a) via \( p3 \). Apply s1 to (4) to get for some \( F \in V \):

(13) \( \text{link}(F \rightarrow A, [t_2, t_2 + |n_2|]) \land \text{Bcast}(F; t''; \langle n_2 \rangle) \in \theta \)

where \( t'' = t_2 - (\text{dist}(F, A) + nlos(F, A))v^{-1} \). We have two cases: (c) \( F = B \) and (d) \( F \neq B \). For case (c), given (12), \( \rho1 \) implies:

(c) \( F = B \land t_4 \leq t_2 - (\text{dist}(A, B) + nlos(A, B))v^{-1} \)

In case (d), under (12), \( \rho1 \) implies \( t_4 + \text{dist}(F, A)v^{-1} + \Delta_{\text{relay}} \leq t'' \leq t_2 - \text{dist}(F, A)v^{-1} \). Using (B) and the triangle inequality we derive:

(d) \( F \neq B \land t_4 \leq t_2 - \text{dist}(A, B)v^{-1} - \Delta_{\text{relay}} \)

Given (10), apply \( s1 \) to get for some \( G \in V \):

(14) \( \text{link}(G \rightarrow B, [t_4 - \Delta, t_4 \leq \Delta + |B, n_1|]) \land \text{Bcast}(G; t'''; \langle B, n_1 \rangle) \in \theta, \)

where \( t''' = t_4 - \Delta - (\text{dist}(G, B) + nlos(G, B))v^{-1} \).

Again, there are two cases: (e) \( G = A \) and (f) \( G \neq A \). In case (e), given (3), \( \rho1 \) implies:

(e) \( G = A \land t_4 \geq t_1 + (\text{dist}(A, B) + nlos(A, B))v^{-1} + \Delta \)

In case (f), given (3), \( \rho1 \) implies \( t_1 + |B| + \text{dist}(A, G)v^{-1} + \Delta_{\text{relay}} \leq t''' + |B| = t_4 - \Delta - (\text{dist}(G, B) + nlos(G, B))v^{-1} + |B| \).

After simple transformations using the triangle inequality, (B), and omitting the non-negative \( nlos \):

(f) \( G \neq A \land t_4 \geq t_1 + \text{dist}(A, B)v^{-1} + \Delta + \Delta_{\text{relay}} \)

Given (6) and (9) obtain:

(15) \( t_2 - t_1 - \Delta = 2\text{dist}(A, B)v^{-1} \)

There are now four possible cases to consider: (c)+(e), (c)+(f), (d)+(e) and (d)+(f).

Consider case (c)+(e):

(16) \( t_1 + (\text{dist}(A, B) + nlos(A, B))v^{-1} + \Delta \leq t_4 \leq t_2 - (\text{dist}(A, B) + nlos(A, B))v^{-1} \)

Given (15), both inequalities in (16) need to be equalities and \( nlos(A, B) = 0 \). As \( F = B \), (13) implies \( \text{link}(B \rightarrow A, t_2) \), which is what we needed to prove in case (I) given (7/II). Furthermore, \( G = A \) and (14) implies \( \text{link}(A \rightarrow B, (t_4 - \Delta)) \). In case (e), given (15) and (16), \( t_4 - \Delta = t_1 + (\text{dist}(A, B) + nlos(A, B))v^{-1} \), which given (7/II) means that property \( \text{ND1} \) is also satisfied in case (II). Finally, given (A), it is easy to see that the remaining three cases are in contradiction with (15), which concludes the proof of \( \text{ND1} \).

**Property \( \text{ND2}^{CR/TL} \)** (Fig. 8)

Consider a setting \( S \) and a trace \( \theta \in \Theta_{S, pcr/TL, A} \).

Given (C), we assume that:

(1) \( \text{NDStart}(A; t_1; B) \in \theta \)
(2) \( \text{link}(A \leftrightarrow B, [t_1, \infty)) \)
(3) \( \text{nlos}(A, B) = 0 \)

We need to prove:

\( \ast \) \( \text{Neighbor}(A; t_1'; A, B, t') \in \theta \land \text{Neighbor}(A; t_2'; B, A, t'') \in \theta \) for some \( t_1', t_2' \in [t_1, \infty), t', t'' \in [t_1, t_1 + T_{pcr/TL}]. \)

First apply \( \rho1 \) to obtain:

(4) \( \text{Fresh}(A; t_1 + |B|; n_1) \in \theta \) and
(5) \( \text{Bcast}(A; t_1; (B, n_1)) \in \theta \)

Next, given (2) and (3), \( \rho2 \) implies:

(6) \( \text{Receive}(B; t_2; (B, n_1)) \in \theta \), where \( t_2 = t_1 + \text{dist}(A, B)v^{-1} \)

Apply \( \rho2 \) to get:
(7) \text{Bcast}(B; t_2 + \Delta; \langle n_2 \rangle) \in \theta \text{ and }
(8) \text{Bcast}(B; t_2 + \tau; \langle \text{loc}(B), \text{auth}_B(n_1, n_2, \text{loc}(B)) \rangle) \in \theta, \text{ where } \tau > 0.

Given (2) and (3), s2 implies:
(9) \text{Receive}(A; t_4; \langle n_2 \rangle) \in \theta, \text{ where } t_4 = t_2 + \Delta + \text{dist}(A, B) v^{-1} = t_1 + \Delta + 2 \text{dist}(A, B) v^{-1}

(10) \text{Receive}(A; t_5; \langle \text{loc}(B), \text{auth}_B(n_1, n_2, \text{loc}(B)) \rangle) \in \theta

Given (10), (4), (5), (9), and \(v(t_4 - t_1 - \Delta) = 2 \text{dist}(A, B)\) we conclude the proof by \(\Box\).

**Protocol \(\mathcal{P}^{B/TL}\)**

**Theorem 5.** Protocol \(\mathcal{P}^{B/TL}\) satisfies no1 and no2\(^{B/TL}\) under the following assumptions:
(A) \(\Delta_{\text{relay}} > 0\)
(B) \(v_{\text{adv}} = v\)
(C) \(T_{\text{ps/TL}} = \infty\)\(^7\)

**Proof: Property no1** (Fig. 4)
Consider a setting \(\mathcal{S}\) and a trace \(\theta \in \Theta_{\mathcal{S},\mathcal{P}^{B/TL},A}\) such that:
(1) \(\text{Neighbor}(B; t; A, C, t_2) \in \theta\) for some \(A, B, C \in V_{\text{cor}}\)
As \(B\) is correct, apply p4 to get:
(2) \(C = B\) and
(3) \(\text{Receive}(B; t_2; \langle A, t_1, l, \text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, l) \rangle) \in \theta, \text{ where } t = t_2 + |A, t_1, l, \text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, l)|\) and
(4) \(t_2 - t_1 = d(\text{loc}(B), l)v^{-1}\)

We need to show:
(*) \(\text{link}(A \rightarrow B, t_2)\)

Given (3), apply s1 to obtain:
(5) \(\text{link}(D \rightarrow B, [t_2, t_2 + |A, t_1, l, \text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, l)|])\) and
(6) \(\text{Bcast}(D; t_2 - \delta_1; \langle A, t_1, l, \text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, l) \rangle) \in \theta, \text{ for } \delta_1 = (\text{dist}(D, B) + nlos(D, B))v^{-1}\) and
(a) \(D \in V_{\text{cor}}\) or
(b) \(D \in V_{\text{adv}}\)

Consider case (a). From \(\Box\) \(D = A\). Thus, given (5), we have shown (*).

Consider case (b). Let \(\tau = \text{pos}(\text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, l) \subseteq \langle A, t_1, l, \text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, l) \rangle)\). Apply t3, to obtain:
(7) \(\text{Bcast}(E; t_2 + \tau - \delta_1 - \delta_2; \text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, l) \subseteq m) \in \theta, \text{ where } \delta_2 \geq \Delta_{\text{relay}} + \text{dist}(E, D) v^{-1}\) and \(m \in M\) is st. \(\text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, l) \subseteq m\)

s3 gives \(E \in V_{\text{cor}}\). Then, apply p2 to get one of the two cases:
(c) \(E = A \wedge m = \langle A, t_1, \text{loc}(A), \text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, \text{loc}(A)) \rangle \wedge t_1 = t_2 - \delta_1 - \delta_2\) or
(d) \(E = B \wedge m = \langle B, t_1, \text{loc}(B), \text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, \text{loc}(B)) \rangle \wedge t_1 = t_2 - \delta_1 - \delta_2\)

First consider (c). Using the triangle inequality, (B) and (A), we derive \(t_1 = t_2 - \delta_1 - \delta_2 \leq t_2 - (\text{dist}(D, B) + nlos(D, B))v^{-1} - \Delta_{\text{relay}} < t_2 - \text{dist}(A, B)v^{-1}\). As \(l = \text{loc}(A)\), this is a contradiction with (4), thus (c) cannot be true.

Consider case (d). In this case \(l = \text{loc}(B)\), and (4) implies \(t_1 = t_2\). This is in contradiction with \(t_1 = t_2 - \delta_1 - \delta_2 \leq t_2 - \Delta_{\text{relay}} < t_2\). Hence (d) cannot be true, and thus (b) cannot be true. Consequently, (a) is the only valid option, and no1 is satisfied.

**Property no2\(^{B/TL}\)** (Fig. 8)

Consider a setting \(\mathcal{S}\), where:
(1) \(A, B \in V_{\text{cor}}\) and
(2) \(nlos(A, B) = 0\) and
(3) \(\text{link}(A \leftrightarrow B, [t_1, \infty])\)

Next, take any trace \(\theta \in \Theta_{\mathcal{S},\mathcal{P}^{B/TL},A}\) such that:
(4) \(\text{NDstart}(A; t_1; B) \in \theta\)

We need to show:
(*) \(\text{Neighbor}(B; t'; A, B, t'')\) for some \(t' \geq t_1\) and \(t'' \geq t_1\)

Start by applying p1 to obtain:
(5) \(\text{Bcast}(A; t_1; \langle A, t_1, \text{loc}(A), \text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, \text{loc}(A)) \rangle) \in \theta\)

Given (3), s2 implies:

7. We assume \(T_{\mathcal{P}^{B/TL}} = \infty\) for simplicity: otherwise, we would need to assume a maximum distance between \(A\) and \(B\) to have an upper-bound on the protocol execution time.
(6) \(\text{Receive}(B; t_2; (A, t_1, \text{loc}(A), \text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, \text{loc}(A))))\), where \(t_2 = t_1 + (\text{dist}(A, B) + nlos(A, B))v^{-1}\)

Given (2) we obtain \(t_2 - t_1 = \text{dist}(A, B)v^{-1}\). Then p3 implies:

(7) \(\text{Neighbor}(B; t_2; |A, t_1, \text{loc}(A), \text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, \text{loc}(A))|; A, B, t_2)\)

Obviously, \(t' = t_2 + |A, t_1, \text{loc}(A), \text{auth}_{AB}(t_1, \text{loc}(A))| \geq t_1\) and \(t'' = t_2 \geq t_1\), and we have shown (*).

\(\Box\)

**Protocol \(\mathcal{P}^{CR/T}\)**

**Theorem 6.** Protocol \(\mathcal{P}^{CR/T}\) satisfies \(\text{nd1}\) and \(\text{nd2}^{CR/T}\) under the following assumptions:

(A) \(\Delta_{\text{relay}} > 2Rv^{-1}\)

(B) \(T_{\text{pcr/t}} = \sup\{|B, n| + |\text{auth}_{B}(n)|, B \in V, t \in R_{\geq 0}, n \in \text{Nonces}\} + 2Rv^{-1}\)

**Proof:** Property \textbf{nd1} (Fig. 4)

Consider a setting \(S\) and a trace \(\theta \in \Theta_{S, \mathcal{P}^{CR/T}, A}\) such that:

(1) \(\text{Neighbor}(A; t; B, C, t_0) \in \theta\), where \(A, B, C \in V_{\text{cor}}\), and \(t, t_0 \in R_{\geq 0}\).

Applying p6 gives two cases:

(1I) \(C = A\): according to \textbf{nd1}, we need to prove \(\text{link}(B \rightarrow A, t_0)\)

(1II) \(B = A\): according to \textbf{nd1}, we need to prove \(\text{link}(A \rightarrow C, (t_0 + (\text{dist}(A, C) + nlos(A, C))v^{-1}))\)

We will consider both cases simultaneously. In both cases, if we rename \(C\) to \(B\), p6 gives, for some \(n_1 \in \text{Nonces}\), \(t_1, t_2 \in R_{\geq 0}\):

(2) \(\text{Bcast}(A; t_1; (B, n_1)) \in \theta\) and

(3) \(\text{Fresh}(A; t_1 + |B|; n_1) \in \theta\) and

(4) \(\text{Receive}(A; t_2; (\text{auth}_{B}(n_1))) \in \theta\) and

(5) \(t_2 - t_1 - \Delta \leq 2Rv^{-1}\)

Further, in case (1I):

(6I) \(t_2 = t_0\)

whereas in case (1II):

(6II) \(t_1 = t_0\)

Given (4), we apply s1 to obtain for some \(D \in V:\)

(7) \(\text{link}(D \rightarrow A, [t_2, t_2 + |\text{auth}_{B}(n_1)|])\) and for \(t_3 = t_2 - (\text{dist}(A, D) + nlos(A, D))v^{-1}\):

(a) \(D \in V_{\text{cor}} \land \text{Bcast}(D; t_3; (\text{auth}_{B}(n_1))) \in \theta\) or

(b) \(D \in V_{\text{adv}} \land \text{Bcast}(D; t_3; (\text{auth}_{B}(n_1))) \in \theta\)

First consider (a). Apply f1 to get:

(8/a) \(B = D \land \text{Bcast}(B; t_3; \text{auth}_{B}(n_1)) \in \theta\) and

(9/a) \(\text{Receive}(B; t_3 - \Delta; (A, B, n_1)) \in \theta\)

Given (9/a), apply s1 to obtain for some \(F \in V\), \(t' = t_3 - \Delta\), and \(t'' = t' - (\text{dist}(F, B) + nlos(F, B))v^{-1}\):

(10/a) \(\text{link}(F \rightarrow B, [t', t' + |B|, n_1]) \land \text{Bcast}(F; t''; (B, n_1)) \in \theta\)

Two cases arise: (c) \(F = A\) and (d) \(F \neq A\). Given (3), in case (c) apply f1, and in case (d) apply t1 to obtain:

(c/a) \(F = A \land t'' \geq t_1\) or

(d/a) \(F \neq A \land t'' \geq t_1 + \Delta_{\text{relay}} + \text{dist}(F, A)v^{-1}\)

Consider case (c/a). As \(F = A\), given \(A \in V_{\text{cor}}\) and \(s_3\), (10/a) states that

\(\text{Bcast}(A; t''; (A, B, n_1)) \in \theta\). Apply p2 to get:

(11/ac) \(\text{Fresh}(A; t'' + |B|; n_1) \in \theta\)

Given (11/ac) and (2), f1 implies \(t'' \leq t_1\), which under (c/a) gives \(t'' = t_1\). Thus, \(t_1 = t_2 - 2(\text{dist}(A, B) + nlos(A, B))v^{-1} - \Delta\). Given \(B = D\), (7) implies \(\text{link}(B \rightarrow A, t_2)\), which proves (I) given (6I). Further, \(F = A\) and (10/a) give \(\text{link}(A \rightarrow B, t_1 + (\text{dist}(A, B) + nlos(A, B))v^{-1})\), which given (6/II) proves (II). All that remains to show is that cases (d/a) and (b) are not possible.

Consider case (d/a). It is straightforward to derive \(t_2 - t_1 - \Delta \geq \Delta_{\text{relay}}\). Thus, given (A), \(t_2 - t_1 - \Delta > 2Rv^{-1}\), which is in contradiction with (5). Hence (d/a) is not possible.

Next, consider (b). Apply \(s_3\) to get \(D \in V_{\text{adv}}\) and then t2 followed by p4 to obtain:

(8/b) \(\text{Bcast}(B; t_3 - \delta_1; \text{auth}_{B}(n_1)) \in \theta\), where \(\delta_1 \geq \Delta_{\text{relay}} + \text{dist}(D, E)v^{-1}\) and

(9/b) \(\text{Receive}(B; t_3 - \delta_1 - \Delta; (A, B, n_1)) \in \theta\)

The only difference between (9/a) and (9/b) is a different timestamp, which in case (b) is \(t' = t_3 - \delta_1 - \Delta\). We can thus repeat a nearly identical reasoning, deriving (10/b), (c/b) and (d/b). However, as the timestamp \(t'\) in case (b) “includes” \(\Delta_{\text{relay}}\), we can easily show that (c/b) and (d/b) are in contradiction with (5). This concludes the proof of \textbf{nd1}.
Property ND2_{CR/T} (Fig. 8)
Consider a setting \( S \) and a trace \( \theta \in \Theta_{S, \text{CR/T}, A} \). Given (C), we assume that:

1. \( \text{NDstart}(A; t_1; B) \in \theta \)
2. \( \text{link}(A \leftrightarrow B; [t_1, t_1 + T_{\text{CR/T}}]) \)
3. \( \text{dist}(A, B) + nlos(A, B) \leq R \)

We need to prove:

\( \star \) Neighbor\( (A; t'_1; A, B, t') \in \theta \land \text{Neighbor}(A; t'_2; B, A, t'') \in \theta \)

for some \( t'_1, t'_2 \in [t_1, \infty), t', t'' \in [t_1, t_1 + T_{\text{CR/T}}] \).

First apply \( \rho_1 \) to obtain:

4. \( \text{Fresh}(A; t_1 + |B|; n_1) \in \theta \) and
5. \( \text{Bcast}(A; t_1; (B, n_1)) \in \theta \)

Next, given (2) and (3), \( s_2 \) implies:

6. \( \text{Receive}(B; t_2; (B, n_1)) \in \theta \), where \( t_2 = t_1 + (\text{dist}(A, B) + nlos(A, B))v^{-1} \)

Apply \( \rho_3 \) to get:

7. \( \text{Bcast}(B; t_2 + \Delta; \langle \text{auth}_B(n_1) \rangle) \in \theta \) and

Given (2), \( s_2 \) implies:

8. \( \text{Receive}(A; t_3; \langle \text{auth}_B(n_1) \rangle) \in \theta \), where \( t_3 = t_2 + \Delta + (\text{dist}(A, B) + nlos(A, B))v^{-1} = t_1 + \Delta + 2(\text{dist}(A, B) + nlos(A, B))v^{-1} \)

Given (4), (5), (8), (3), and \( t_3 - t_1 - \Delta \leq 2Rv^{-1} \) conclude the proof by \( \rho_5 \). \( \square \)