

# A Novel Strong Designated Verifier Signature Scheme without Random Oracles

Maryam Rajabzadeh Asaar<sup>1</sup>, Mahmoud Salmasizadeh<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Electrical Engineering, <sup>2</sup> Electronics Research Institute (Center), Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran.  
 asaar@ee.sharif.ir, salmasi@sharif.edu

**Abstract.** In this study, a novel pairing based strong designated verifier signature scheme based on non-interactive zero knowledge proofs is proposed. The security of the proposal is presented by sequences of games without random oracles; furthermore, this scheme has a security proof for the property of privacy of the signer's identity in comparison with the scheme proposed by Zhang et al. in 2007. In addition, this proposal compared to the scheme presented by Huang et al. in 2011 supports non-delegatability. The non-delegatability of our proposal is achieved since we do not use the common secret key shared between the signer and the designated verifier in our construction. Furthermore, if a signer delegates her signing capability which is derived from her secret key on a specific message to a third party, then, the third party cannot generate a valid designated verifier signature due to the relaxed special soundness of the non-interactive zero knowledge proof. To the best of our knowledge, this construction is the first attempt to generate a designated verifier signature scheme with non-delegatability in the standard model, while satisfying of non-delegatability property is loose.

**Keywords :** strong designated verifier signature, registered public key model, random oracle model.

## 1 Introduction

Jakobsson et al. [13] introduced the notion of designated verifier proofs (DVP) in 1996. These proofs allow a signer (Alice) to designate a verifier (Bob) and prove the validity of a statement only to Bob; while Bob cannot use this transcript to convince anyone else. This motivates non-transferability and is generally achieved by proving either the validity of the statement or the knowledge of Bob's secret key. Consequently, Bob can always generate the same transcript. A designated verifier signature (DVS) is the non-interactive version of the DVP. A DVS is publicly verifiable and a valid DVS is generated by Alice or Bob. The DVS is applied in various cryptographic schemes such as voting [13], undeniable signature [5, 7, 9], deniable authentication [25] where it is required that only designated entities can be convinced of several statements. It is desirable that a third party except Alice and Bob cannot tell whose signature is sent to Bob. A DVS with this property is called a strong designated verifier signature (SDVS)[13]. The strength of a SDVS as privacy of a signer's identity (PSI) is formalized by Laguillamie and Vergnand in 2004 [16]. A valid designated verifier signature for Bob on behalf of Alice is generated if and only if the secret key of either Alice or Bob is known. This property means non-delegatability for signing and is introduced by Lipmaa et al. [18] in 2005.

### 1.1 Related Work

Several variants for DVS such as ring signatures [19, 20], universal designated verifier signatures (UDVS) [8, 9, 14, 21, 24, 27], multi-designated verifier signatures [13, 15], and identity-based designated verifier signatures (IBDVS)[4, 10, 11, 23], and (SDVS)[4, 10] are proposed. Several DVS schemes [16, 17, 21, 22] are shown to be delegatable since the notion of non-delegatability [18] is introduced, while there are a few non-delegatable DVS schemes [11, 18, 28] in the random oracle model [2]. Since 2007, two SDVS schemes in the standard model are proposed in [12] and [28], respectively. To present a non-delegatable SDVS scheme without random oracles is an open problem as aforementioned in [12].

### 1.2 Contribution

In this paper, a novel strong designated verifier scheme without random oracles is proposed. We use the paradigm which is slightly analogous to the Bellare and Goldwasser’s paradigm [1]; this paradigm combines the ordinary signature proposed by Waters [26] and non-interactive zero knowledge (NIZK) proof without random oracles [6]. Our proof of non-delegatability evidently is not a proof of knowledge, the proof with standard special soundness, of the secret key of the signer or the designated verifier. The non-delegatability of our proposal is achieved since we do not use the common secret key shared between the signer and the designated verifier in our construction. Furthermore, if a signer delegates her signing capability which is derived from her secret key on a specific message to a third party, then, the third party cannot generate a valid designated verifier signature due to the relaxed special soundness of the NIZK proof. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first attempt to generate a designated verifier signature scheme with non-delegatability in the standard model, while satisfying of non-delegatability property is due to the relaxed special soundness of the NIZK proof instead of standard special soundness of these proofs [6]. Moreover, we prove the security of the proposal, i.e. unforgeability and privacy of the signer’s identity using sequences of games without random oracles. This scheme has a security proof for the property of privacy of the signer’s identity in comparison with the scheme proposed by Zhang et al. in 2007 [28], and this proposal compared to the scheme presented by Huang et al. in 2011 [12] supports non-delegatability as well.

### 1.3 Outline of the paper

The rest of this manuscript is organized as follows. Section 2 presents a number of preliminaries, bilinear pairings and complexity assumptions, as the signature foundation. The model of SDVS including outline of the SDVS scheme and its security properties are described in section 3. The proposed scheme and its formal security proofs are presented in section 4. Section 5 presents the conclusion. Appendices are given in sections 6 and 7.

## 2 Preliminaries

In this section, we review several fundamental backgrounds employed in this research, including bilinear pairings and complexity assumptions.

## 2.1 Bilinear pairings

Let  $G$  and  $G_T$  be two cyclic multiplicative groups of prime order  $p$ ; furthermore, let  $g$  be a generator of  $G$ . The map  $e : G \times G \rightarrow G_T$  is said to be an admissible bilinear pairing if the following conditions hold true.

1.  $e$  is bilinear, i.e.  $e(g^a, g^b) = e(g, g)^{ab}$  for all  $a$  and  $b \in \mathbb{Z}_p$
2.  $e$  is non-degenerate, i.e.  $e(g, g) \neq 1_{G_T}$
3.  $e$  is efficiently computable.

We refer readers to [3] for more details on the construction of bilinear pairings.

## 2.2 Definitions and complexity assumptions

**Definition 1** (Problem generator  $\tilde{g}_{dl} = (G_{dl}, g_{dl})$ ).  $G_{dl}$  outputs an instance  $t = (p, \gamma, h = \gamma^x)$ , where  $p$  is prime,  $p$  is  $k$ -bit long, and  $\gamma$  is an element of  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  and  $h = \gamma^x \bmod p$ . In this case, the solution is  $g_{dl}(t) = x$ .

An algorithm  $A$  is said to completely break  $\tilde{g}_{dl}$  if it is able to solve any instance  $t$  with non-negligible probability [6].

**Definition 2** (Problem generator  $\tilde{H}_{Paillier} = (H_{Paillier}, h_{Paillier})$ ).  $H_{Paillier}(k')$  outputs an instance  $(n, c)$ , where  $n$  is  $k'$ -bit RSA modules along with  $c = (1 + n)^{\alpha r^n} \bmod n^2$  (i.e.  $c$  is a paillier encryption of  $\alpha$ ), where  $\alpha$  is chosen at random in some given interval. The solution is  $h_{Paillier}(n, c) = \alpha$ .

An algorithm  $A$  is said to completely break  $\tilde{H}_{Paillier}$  if it is able to solve any instance  $(n, c)$  with non-negligible probability [6].

**Assumption 1**.  $\tilde{H}_{Paillier}$  is 2-harder than  $\tilde{g}_{dl}$ . This assumption is presented in [6]; furthermore, the reasonability of this assumption is discussed in [6].

**Assumption 2** (Decisional Diffie-Hellman (DDH) assumption). Given  $(g, g^a, g^b, Z \in \mathbb{Z}_p)$  for some unknown  $a, b \in_R \mathbb{Z}_p$ , there is no probabilistic polynomial-time algorithm  $A$  that can decide if  $Z = g^{ab}$  or  $Z$  is a random element from  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  with non-negligible probability  $\epsilon_{ddh}$ .

**Assumption 3** (Semantic security, security for indistinguishable chosen plaintext attack (IND-CPA Security) of  $\tilde{H}_{Paillier} = (H_{Paillier}, h_{Paillier})$ ). A cryptosystem with a security parameter  $k'$  is semantically secure if there is no probabilistic polynomial time algorithm  $A$  on inputs  $(\alpha_0, \alpha_1)$  and  $c^* = E_{pk_{1V}}(\alpha_b)$ , where  $b \in_R \{0, 1\}$  can output the correct plaintext inside  $c^*$  with non-negligible probability  $\epsilon_{ind}$  (a negligible quantity in  $k'$  for all sufficiently large  $k'$ ).

## 3 Model of strong designated verifier signature schemes

In this section, we review the outline and security properties of the strong designated verifier signature schemes.

### 3.1 Outline of designated verifier signature schemes

There are two participants in a designated verifier signature scheme, the signer  $S$  and the designated verifier  $V$ . A designated verifier signature scheme consists of five algorithms as follows.

- Setup: Given a security parameter  $k$ , this algorithm outputs the system parameters.
- Key generation: It takes the security parameter  $k$  as its input and outputs the secret-public key  $(sk_i, pk_i)$  for  $i \in \{S, V\}$ .
- Signing: This algorithm (signing oracle  $O_s$ ) takes the signer’s secret key  $sk_S$ , the designated verifier’s public key  $pk_V$ , and a message  $M$  as its inputs to generate a signature  $\theta$ .
- Verification: This algorithm (verification oracle  $O_v$ ) takes the designated verifier’s secret key  $sk_V$ , the signer’s public key  $pk_S$ , the message  $M$ , and the signature  $\theta$  as its inputs and returns 1 if the signature is valid, otherwise returns 0 indicating the signature is invalid.
- Transcript simulation: This algorithm (simulation oracle  $O_{sim}$ ) takes the designated verifier’s secret key  $sk_V$ , the signer’s public key  $pk_S$ , and a message  $M$  as its inputs to output an identically distributed transcript  $\theta'$  which is indistinguishable from the one generated by the signer.

### 3.2 Security properties of designated verifier signature schemes

A SDVS scheme ought to be unforgeable, non-transferable, and satisfy the privacy of the signer’s identity. An SDVS is said to be non-delegatable if it satisfies non-delegatability. Informal definitions of these properties are expressed as follows.

1. Correctness: A properly formed SDVS must be accepted by the verifying algorithm. Formally, the correctness of the SDVS requires that for any  $(pk_S, sk_S)$ ,  $(pk_V, sk_V)$  and any message  $M \in \{0, 1\}^*$ , we have  $pr[ver(sk_V, pk_S, pk_V, M, \theta = sign(sk_S, pk_S, pk_V, M)) = 1] = 1$ .
2. Unforgeability: It requires that no one other than the signer  $S$  and the designated verifier  $V$  can produce a valid designated verifier signature. The formal definition of unforgeability [13] is expressed in Definition 3, Appendix A.
3. Non-transferability: This property means that it should be infeasible for any PPT distinguisher to tell whether  $\sigma$  on a message  $M$  was generated by the signer  $S$  or simulated by the designated verifier  $V$ . The formal definition of non-transferability [13] is expressed in Definition 4, Appendix A.
4. Privacy of the Signer’s Identity (PSI): A SDVS has the property of PSI if no one can tell signatures generated by the signer  $S_0$  for a  $V$  is different from signatures generated by the signer  $S_1$  for the  $V$  in case of not knowing the secret key of the  $V$ . The formal definition of this property [16] is given in Definition 5, Appendix A.

5. Non-delegatability: It requires that if one generates a valid designated verifier signature on a message, it must "know" the secret key of either  $S$  or  $V$ . Therefore, a signature is a proof of knowledge of secret key of either  $S$  or  $V$ . The formal definition of non-delegatability [18] is presented in Definition 6, Appendix A.

## 4 Our designated verifier signature scheme

In this section, we describe our designated verifier signature scheme. There are two participants in the system the signer  $S$  and the designated verifier  $V$ . In the following, all the messages to be signed will be represented as bit strings of length  $y$ . Our scheme consists of five algorithms as follows.

1. Setup: The system parameters are as follows. Let  $(G, G_T)$  be bilinear groups where  $|G| = |G_T| = p$  for some prime  $p$  with  $k$ -bit length; further, let  $g$  be the generator of  $G$ .  $e$  denotes an admissible pairing  $e : G \times G \rightarrow G_T$ . Pick  $m' \in G$ , and a vector  $\mathbf{m} = (m_i)$  of length  $y$ , whose entries are random elements from  $G$ . The public parameters are  $(G, G_T, e, m', \mathbf{m})$ .
2. Key generation: The signer  $S$  picks randomly  $x_{1S}$  and  $x_{2S} \in Z_p^*$ , then, the signer  $S$  computes her public key  $pk_S = (pk_{1S}, pk_{2S}) = (g^{x_{1S}}, g^{x_{2S}})$ , where the signer secret key is  $g^{x_{1S}x_{2S}}$ . Furthermore, it is assumed that every designated verifier has a secret-public key pair  $(sk_{1V}, pk_{1V}) = ((p', q'), n) \leftarrow_R H_{Paillier}(k')$ , where  $n = p'q'$  is a  $k'$ -bit RSA modulus with two large primes  $p'$  and  $q'$  for the paillier's cryptosystem with the condition  $k' > l_z(k) + 1$ , where  $l_z(k)$  is the bit length of the plaintext inside the paillier's cryptosystem.

Moreover, the designated verifier  $V$  chooses another secret key  $sk_{2V} = \alpha$  with  $l_\alpha(k)$ -bit length and sets the corresponding public key to the encryption of the message  $\alpha$  under the public key  $pk_{1V}$  i.e.,  $pk_{2V} = c = E_{pk_{1V}}(\alpha) = (1+n)^{\alpha r^n} \bmod n^2$ , where  $r$  is uniformly selected in  $Z_n^*$ .  $D_{sk_{1V}}(E_{pk_{1V}}(\alpha)) = \alpha$  is the decryption of  $E_{pk_{1V}}(\alpha)$  and the output is  $\alpha$ . The public keys of the designated verifier are  $(pk_{1V}, pk_{2V}) = (n, c)$  and corresponding secret keys are  $(sk_{1V}, sk_{2V}) = ((p', q'), \alpha)$ .

Before we explain the details of the proposal, the overview of the proposal is presented: a signature of a user on a message  $M$  is  $\theta = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2) = (g^{x_{1S}x_{2S}}(M^\beta), g^\beta)$ , where  $g^{x_{1S}x_{2S}}$  is the secret key of the signer. The signature  $\theta$  of the signer with the public key  $(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S})$  is verified as  $e(\sigma_1, g) = e(\sigma_2, g)e(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S})$ . To convert the signature to a designated verifier signature, we do not include  $\sigma_2$  in the signature; however instead, we set  $\sigma_2$  to be a NIZK proof showing that  $\sigma_1$  is binding to either the signer or the designated verifier. The non-delegatability of our proposal is achieved since we do not use the common secret key shared between the signer and the designated verifier in our construction. However, if a signer delegates her signing capability which is derived from her secret key on a specific message to a third party, then, the third party cannot generate a valid designated verifier signature due to the relaxed special soundness of the NIZK proof.

3. Signing. Let  $M$  be an  $y$ -bit message to be signed by the signer  $S$  and  $M_i$  denotes the  $i$ -bit of  $M$ , and  $\bar{M} \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, y\}$  be the set of all  $i$  for which  $M_i = 1$ , the designated

verifier signature is generated as follows. First, the signer  $S$  picks random values  $\beta$  and  $r \in_R Z_p^*$ , then, the designated verifier signature  $\theta = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2 = (a_1, z_1 = E_{pk_{1V}}(z_1)))$  on  $M$  is constructed as expressed in Eq.(1).

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_1 &= g^{x_1 s x_2 s} (m' \prod_{i \in \widetilde{M}} m_i)^\beta \\ a_1 &= e((m' \prod_{i \in \widetilde{M}} m_i), g)^r \\ z_1 &= E_{pk_{1V}}(z_1) = E_{pk_{1V}}(r) pk_{2V}^\beta\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

4. Verifying. To check whether  $\theta$  is a valid designated verifier signature on the message  $M$ , the designated verifier  $V$  uses his secret key  $sk_{1V}$  to decrypt  $z_1$ ; then, he checks whether Eq.(2) holds.

$$e((m' \prod_{i \in \widetilde{M}} m_i), g)^{z_1} = a_1 \left( \frac{e(\sigma_1, g)}{e(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S})} \right)^\alpha\tag{2}$$

If the equality holds, the designated verifier  $V$  accepts the signature  $\theta$ ; otherwise, the designated verifier  $V$  rejects it.

5. Simulation of a transcript. The designated verifier  $V$  can use his secret key  $\alpha$  to simulate a signature which is indistinguishable from the one generated by the signer  $S$  on an arbitrary message  $M$ . He picks random values  $\sigma_1$  and  $z_1 \in_R Z_p^*$ , then, the designated verifier signature  $\theta = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2 = (a_1, z_1 = E_{pk_{1V}}(z_1)))$  on  $M$  is constructed as expressed in Eq. (3).

$$\begin{aligned}z_1 &= E_{pk_{1V}}(z_1) \\ a_1 &= \frac{e(m' \prod_{i \in \widetilde{M}} m_i, g)^{z_1}}{\left( \frac{e(\sigma_1, g)}{e(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S})} \right)^\alpha}\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

#### 4.1 Analysis of the scheme

In this section, we will primarily show the correctness of the proposed scheme. Subsequently, we prove that the proposal is secure without random oracles.

**Correctness.** The correctness of the scheme is clear by inspection.

$D_{sk_{1V}}(z_1)$  equals the correct value  $z_1 = r + \beta\alpha$  since  $k' > l_{z_1}(k)$  which ensures that  $z_1 < n$ . Moreover, we have

$$\begin{aligned}& e((m' \prod_{i \in \widetilde{M}} m_i), g)^{z_1} \\ &= e((m' \prod_{i \in \widetilde{M}} m_i), g)^{r + \beta\alpha} \\ &= e((m' \prod_{i \in \widetilde{M}} m_i), g)^r e((m' \prod_{i \in \widetilde{M}} m_i), g)^{\beta\alpha} \\ &= a_1 \left( e((m' \prod_{i \in \widetilde{M}} m_i), g) \right)^\beta \\ &= a_1 \left( \frac{e(\sigma_1, g)}{e(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S})} \right)^\alpha\end{aligned}\tag{4}$$

As we shall see later (Theorem 2), the scheme is perfectly non-transferable. Hence, making query to  $O_{sim}$  is equivalent to making query to signing oracle  $O_s$  in the games of unforgeability and privacy of the signer's identity.

**Theorem 1.** If there exists an adversary  $A$  who can  $(t, q_s, q_{sim}, q_v, \epsilon)$  forge the designated verifier signature scheme, then there exists another algorithm  $A_1$  that can use  $A$  to break the DDH assumption with probability  $\epsilon_{ddh}$  in time  $t_1 \simeq t$  and an algorithm  $A_2$  that breaks the semantic security of the public-key cryptosystem  $H_{Paillier}$  with probability  $\epsilon_{ind}$  in time  $t_2 \simeq t$ , where  $\epsilon < \epsilon_{ddh} + \epsilon_{ind} + (q_s + q_{sim} + q_v) \frac{1}{p}$ .

Proof. The theorem is proved by a series of games; it is supposed that  $A$  is an adversary which can violate the unforgeability of the scheme. Let  $G_i$  be the  $i$ -th game, and  $X_i$  be the event that  $A$  outputs a successful forgery in game  $G_i$ .

- $G_0$ : This is the original game. The challenger  $C$  selects  $\alpha, a$  and  $b \in_R Z_p^*$ ; furthermore,  $C$  chooses two large numbers  $p'$  and  $q'$  such that  $n = p'q'$ , then, it sets  $(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S}, pk_{1V}, pk_{2V}) = (g^a, g^b, n, c)$ .  $(sk_{1V}, pk_{1V})$  is given to the verification oracle  $O_v$ .  $A_1$  invokes  $A$  on inputs  $(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S}, pk_{1V}, pk_{2V}) = (g^a, g^b, n, c)$ . The secret key employed to generate a designated verifier signature is  $K_s = g^{ab}$ , while the secret key employed to simulate a designated verifier signature is  $K_{sim} = \alpha$ . For each signature query  $M$ ,  $C$  generates the corresponding answer with  $K_s$  instead of  $g^{x_{1S}x_{2S}}$  as aforementioned in Eq.(1). For each simulation query  $M$ ,  $C$  simulates the corresponding answer as aforementioned in Eq.(3). For each verification query  $(M, \theta)$ ,  $C$  responds with the appropriate bit indicating the validity of the signature, 1 if the signature is valid, 0 otherwise. It should be noted that  $O_v$  verifies the signature  $(M, \theta)$  as aforementioned in Eq.(2) and outputs the correct bit. The adversary  $A$  finally outputs a successful forgery  $(M^*, \theta^*)$  with probability  $pr[X_0] = \epsilon$ , which  $M^*$  is new and  $\theta^*$  satisfies the Eq.(2).
- $G_1$ : This game is different from the game  $G_0$  in which the secret key,  $K_s$  used to generate a designated verifier signature is chosen at random from  $Z_p$ , i.e.  $K_s = K \in_R Z_p$ . Moreover, the validity of the adversary's forgery is checked w.r.t. the random key,  $K$ . If successful probabilities of the adversaries in games  $G_0$  and  $G_1$  differs non-negligibly, it leads to an algorithm  $A_1$  which breaks the DDH assumption with probability  $\epsilon_{ddh}$  in time  $t_1 \simeq t$ . Consequently, we have  $|pr[X_1] - pr[X_0]| \leq \epsilon_{ddh}$ .

To prove the above equation, it is assumed that a random instance of the DDH problem, i.e.  $g, g^a, g^b$ , and  $K \in_R Z_p$  is given;  $A_1$ ' goal is to decide whether  $K = g^{ab}$  or  $K$  is a random element of  $Z_p$ .  $A_1$  sets  $(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S}, pk_{1V}, pk_{2V}) = (g^a, g^b, n, c)$  and invokes  $A$  on these inputs.  $A_1$  computes Eq. (1) to answer a signing or (simulation) query, while  $g^{x_{1S}x_{2S}}$  is replaced with  $K$ ;  $A_1$  responses to a verification query  $(M, \theta)$  with the appropriate bit which  $O_v$  outputs w.r.t.  $K$ . Note that  $O_v$  computes Eq.(2), while  $e(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S})$  is substituted with  $e(g, K)$ . Finally,  $A$  outputs a successful forgery  $(M^*, \theta^*)$ ;  $A_1$  checks whether  $(M^*, \theta^*)$  is a valid signature w.r.t.  $K$  with the help of  $O_v$ . If  $K = g^{ab}$ ,  $A_1$  outputs 1 which  $O_v$  outputs; otherwise, it outputs 0 if  $K$  is randomly chosen from  $Z_p$ . Let  $j$  be a bit output by  $A_1$ ; therefore, we have  $pr[j = 1|K = g^{ab}] - pr[j = 1|K \in_R Z_p]$ .

If  $K = g^{ab}$ , the game simulated by  $A_1$  is game  $G_0$ ; then, success probability of  $A$  is  $pr[X_0]$ . If  $K$  is a random element of  $Z_p$ , the game simulated by  $A_1$  is game  $G_1$ ; hence, the success probability of  $A$  is  $pr[X_1]$ . Therefore, we have  $pr[j = 1|K = g^{ab}] - pr[j = 1|K \in_R Z_p] =$

$|pr[X_1] - pr[X_0]|$ ; as a result, we have  $|pr[X_1] - pr[X_0]| \leq \epsilon_{ddh}$  by the DDH assumption.

- $G_2$ : This game is different from the game  $G_1$  in which the secret key of the designated verifier inside  $c$ ,  $\alpha'$ , is chosen at random by  $A_2$ . Besides, the validity of the forgery is checked w.r.t. the random keys  $K$  and  $\alpha'$ .  $A_2$  invokes  $A$  on inputs  $(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S}, pk_{1V}, pk_{2V}) = (g^a, g^b, n, c)$ . If success probabilities of the adversaries in games  $G_2$  and  $G_1$  differ non-negligibly, it leads to an algorithm for breaking semantic security of  $H_{Paillier}$ . As a result, we have  $|pr[X_2] - pr[X_1]| \leq \epsilon_{ind}$ .

To prove the above equation, it is assumed a random instance of the ciphertext created by the cryptosystem  $H_{Paillier}$ , i.e.  $c^*$  is given;  $A_2$ 's goal is to decide if the plaintext inside  $c^*$  is  $\alpha$  or  $\alpha'$ .  $A_2$  sets  $(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S}, pk_{1V}, pk_{2V}) = (g^a, g^b, n, c^*)$  and invokes  $A$  on these inputs. To answer a signing or a simulation query,  $A_2$  picks random values  $\sigma$  and  $z_1 \in_R Z_p^*$  and generates  $(M, \theta)$  as computed in Eq.(3).  $A_2$  responses to a verification query  $(M, \theta)$  with the help of  $O_v$  w.r.t.  $\alpha'$  and  $K$ . Finally,  $A$  outputs a successful forgery  $(M^*, \theta^*)$ ;  $A_2$  checks whether  $(M^*, \theta^*)$  is a valid signature w.r.t.  $K$  and  $\alpha'$  with the help of  $O_v$ . If  $O_v$  outputs 1 meaning  $D_{sk_{1V}}(c^*) = \alpha'$ ; otherwise,  $D_{sk_{1V}}(c^*) = \alpha$ . Therefore, we have  $pr[\alpha' \leftarrow A_2(c^*)] - pr[\alpha \leftarrow A_2(c^*)]$ .

If  $\alpha' = D_{sk_{1V}}(c^*)$ , the game simulated by  $A_2$  is game  $G_2$ ; then, success probability of  $A$  is  $pr[X_2]$ . If  $\alpha = D_{sk_{1V}}(c^*)$ , the game simulated by  $A_2$  is game  $G_1$ ; hence, the success probability of  $A$  is  $pr[X_1]$ . Therefore, we have  $pr[\alpha' \leftarrow A_2(c^*)] - pr[\alpha \leftarrow A_2(c^*)] = |pr[X_2] - pr[X_1]|$ . As a result, we have  $|pr[X_2] - pr[X_1]| \leq \epsilon_{ind}$  by the semantic security assumption.

In game  $G_2$ , the signatures on a message  $M$  is chosen at random from  $Z_p^*$  after issuing  $q_s + q_{sim} + q_v$  queries because of knowing  $\alpha'$ . As a result, the probability of a valid forgery output by  $A$  in game  $G_2$  is upper bounded by  $pr[X_2] \leq (\frac{1}{p} - q_s - q_{sim} - q_v)^{-1} < (q_s + q_{sim} + q_v) \frac{1}{p}$ .

Hence, we have  $\epsilon = pr[X_0] \leq |pr[X_0] - pr[X_1]| + |pr[X_1] - pr[X_2]| + pr[X_2] \leq \epsilon_{ddh} + \epsilon_{ind} + (q_s + q_{sim} + q_v) \frac{1}{p}$ .

**Theorem 2.** The proposal is non-transferable.

Proof. To prove non-transferability of the scheme, we show that the signature simulated by the designated verifier  $V$  is indistinguishable from that generated by the signer  $S$ . As a result, we have to show that the two following distributions are identical.

$$\theta = \begin{cases} \beta \in_R Z_p^* \\ r \in_R Z_p^* \\ a_1 = e((m' \prod_{i \in \tilde{M}} m_i), g)^r \\ z_1 = E_{pk_{1V}}(z_1) = E_{pk_{1V}}(r)pk_{2V}^\beta \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

and

$$\theta' = \begin{cases} z'_1 \in_R Z_p^* \\ \sigma'_1 \in_R Z_p^* \\ z'_1 = E_{pk_{1V}}(z'_1) \\ a'_1 = \frac{e(m' \prod_{i \in \tilde{M}} m_i, g)^{z'_1}}{(\frac{e(\sigma'_1, g)}{e(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S})})^\alpha} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

Let  $\bar{\theta}$  be a valid signature which is randomly chosen from the set of all valid signer's signatures intended to the verifier  $V$ . Subsequently, we have distributions of probabilities as follows:

$$Pr_\theta = Pr[\theta = \bar{\theta}] = \frac{1}{(p-1)^2}, \quad (7)$$

and

$$Pr_{\theta'} = Pr[\theta' = \bar{\theta}] = \frac{1}{(p-1)^2} \quad (8)$$

The analysis means both distributions of probability are the same. Hence, our proposal satisfies perfect non-transferability.

**Theorem 3.** If there exists an adversary  $D$  that can  $(t, q_s, q_v, \epsilon)$  break the PSI of the scheme, then there exists another algorithm  $A_1$  who can use  $D$  to break DDH assumption with probability  $\epsilon_{ddh}$  in time  $t_1 \simeq t$  and there is an algorithm  $A_2$  who can use  $D$  to break the semantic security of the public-key cryptosystem  $H_{Paillier}$  with probability  $\epsilon_{ind}$  in time  $t_2 \simeq t$ , where  $\epsilon \leq 2\epsilon_{ddh} + 2\epsilon_{ind} + \frac{1}{2}$ .

Proof. The security proof is given in Appendix B due to the lack of space.

We first informally discuss the property of non-delegatability, then, theorem 4 is given for non-delegatability. If a signer would like to delegate her signing capability to a third party, she could give  $(\sigma_1, a_1)$  to the third party. However, the third party could not generate a valid designated verifier signature since the third party does not have  $\beta$ , having  $\beta$  is equivalent to having the secret key of the signer, or  $\alpha$ , the secret key designated verifier.

Someone may claim that the signature is delegatable with the help of the designated verifier such that the designated verifier gives  $(\frac{e(\sigma_1, g)}{e(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S})})^\alpha$  and  $\sigma_1 \in_R Z_p^*$  to a third party. The third party computes the valid designated verifier signature  $\theta = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2 = (a_1, z_1 = E_{pk_{1V}}(z_1)))$  on an arbitrary message  $M$ , where  $z_1 \in_R Z_p^*$  and  $a_1 = \frac{e(m' \prod_{i \in \tilde{M}} m_i, g)^{z_1}}{(\frac{e(\sigma_1, g)}{e(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S})})^\alpha}$ . However, the designated verifier can distinguish who generates the signature due to the existence of the  $\sigma_1$  which he delegated before as soon as he receives the designated verifier signature.

Satisfying of non-delegatability property is loose (we use relaxed special soundness property) since it evidently is not a proof of knowledge (to have a proof of knowledge, we need standard special soundness property) of the secret key of the signer or the designated verifier. To prove

the proposed scheme is non-delegatable, we show that if there is a forger for the designated verifier signature, we can construct another algorithm that outputs the second secret key of the designated verifier in time  $O(T(k) + \text{poly}(k))$  with the help of an algorithm that completely breaks  $\tilde{g}_{dl} = (G_{dl}, g_{dl})$  in  $T(k)$ , where  $\text{poly}()$  is a polynomial. If  $T(k)$  is polynomial in  $k$ , then  $O(T(k) + \text{poly}(k)) = \text{poly}(k)$ . Similarly, if  $T(k)$  is superpolynomial, then  $O(T(k) + \text{poly}(k))$  is superpolynomial in  $k$ .

**Theorem 4.** If there exists a probabilistic polynomial-time forger  $F$  that can generate valid signatures, then, the assumption 1 that  $\tilde{H}_{Paillier}$  is 2-harder than  $\tilde{g}_{dl} = (G_{dl}, g_{dl})$  is contradicted.

Proof. It is supposed that there is a probabilistic polynomial-time forger  $F$  for the designated verifier signature scheme. We construct another algorithm  $B$  breaking  $\tilde{H}_{Paillier}$  on instances  $(pk_{1V}, pk_{2V})$  of size  $k' \geq 2k$  using  $F$  and any algorithm  $A_1$  that completely breaks  $\tilde{g}_{dl} = (G_{dl}, g_{dl})$  in running time  $t_1 = T(k)$ , where  $\gamma = e((m' \prod_{i \in \tilde{M}} m_i), g)$ .

$B$  invokes  $F$  on  $(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S}, pk_{1V}, pk_{2V})$  to obtain a valid signature  $\theta = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2 = (a_1, z_1 = E_{pk_{1V}}(z_1)))$  on  $M$ ; then,  $B$  will run  $A_1$  on  $a_1 = e((m' \prod_{i \in \tilde{M}} m_i), g)^r$  to obtain  $r$  and will run  $A_1$  on  $\frac{e(\sigma_1, g)}{e(pk_{1S}, pk_{2S})} = e((m' \prod_{i \in \tilde{M}} m_i), g)^\beta$  to attain  $\beta$ . On the other hand, the ciphertext  $z_1 = E_{pk_{1V}}(r + \beta\alpha)$  is specified as a pair of integers  $(u, w)$  such that  $z_1 = E_{pk_{1V}}(u)pk_{2V}^w \pmod{n^2}$ . Finally,  $B$  outputs the secret key of the designated verifier  $sk_{2V} = \alpha = \frac{r-u}{w-\beta}$  inside  $pk_{2V} = c$  with non-negligible probability in time  $O(T(k) + \text{poly}(k))$ , where  $\text{poly}(k)$  is the required time to forge a valid signature. Hence, the conclusion contradicts the assumption that  $\tilde{H}_{Paillier}$  is 2-harder than  $\tilde{g}_{dl} = (G_{dl}, g_{dl})$ .

## 5 conclusion

We propose a novel pairing based strong designated verifier signature scheme based on non-interactive zero knowledge proofs. The security of the proposal is presented by sequences of games without random oracles; furthermore, this scheme has a security proof for the property of privacy of the signer's identity in comparison with the scheme proposed by Zhang et al. in 2007. In addition, this proposal compared to the scheme presented by Huang et al. in 2011 supports non-delegatability. To the best of our knowledge, this construction is the first attempt to generate a designated verifier signature scheme with non-delegatability in the standard model, while satisfying non-delegatability property is loose.

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## 6 Appendix A

### 6.1 Formal definitions of Security properties of designated verifier signature schemes

A SDVS scheme ought to be unforgeable, non-transferable, and satisfy the privacy of the signer's identity. An SDVS is said to be non-delegatable if it satisfies non-delegatability. Formal definitions of these properties are expressed as follows.

1. Unforgeability: To have a formal definition for unforgeability, the following game between the simulator  $C$  and a probabilistic polynomial time (PPT) adversary  $A$  is considered to be played.
  - (a)  $C$  prepares the key pairs  $(pk_S, sk_S)$  for  $S$  and  $(pk_V, sk_V)$  for  $V$ , and gives  $(pk_S, pk_V)$  to  $A$ .
  - (b)  $A$  issues queries to the following oracles.
    - $O_s$ : This oracle generates a signature  $\sigma$  on a given message  $M$  using  $sk_S$  such that this signature is valid w.r.t.  $pk_S$  and  $pk_V$ , then returns it to  $A$ .
    - $O_{sim}$ : This oracle generates a simulated signature  $\sigma'$  on a given message  $M$  using  $sk_V$  such that this simulated signature is valid w.r.t.  $pk_S$  and  $pk_V$ , then returns it to  $A$ .
    - $O_v$ : This oracle takes a query of the form  $(M, \sigma)$  as an input and returns a bit  $b$  which is 1 if  $\sigma$  is a valid signature on  $M$  w.r.t.  $pk_S$  and  $pk_V$ ; otherwise, returns 0.

- (c)  $A$  outputs a forgery  $(M^*, \sigma^*)$  and wins the game if the two following conditions hold
- $Ver(sk_V, pk_S, pk_V, M^*, \sigma^*) = 1$
  - It did not query  $O_s$  and  $O_{sim}$  on input  $M^*$ .

The formal definition of unforgeability [13] is expressed in Definition 3.

**Definition 3** (Unforgeability). An SDVS scheme is  $(t, q_s, q_{sim}, q_v, \epsilon)$ -unforgeable if no adversary  $A$  which runs in time at most  $t$ ; issues at most  $q_s$  queries to  $O_s$ ; issues at most  $q_{sim}$  queries to  $O_{sim}$ ; and issues at most  $q_v$  queries to  $O_v$  can win the above game with probability at least  $\epsilon$ .

**Definition 4** (Non-transferability). An SDVS is non-transferable if there exists a PPT simulation algorithm  $Sim$  on  $sk_V, pk_S, pk_V$ , and a message  $M$  outputs a simulated signature which is indistinguishable from the real signatures generated by the signer on the same message. For any PPT distinguisher  $A$ , any  $(pk_S, sk_S)$ ,  $(pk_V, sk_V)$ , and any message  $M \in \{0, 1\}^*$ , Eq. (1) holds.

$$\left| \Pr \left[ \begin{array}{l} \sigma_0 \leftarrow Sign(sk_S, pk_S, pk_V, m), \\ \sigma_1 \leftarrow Sim(sk_V, pk_S, pk_V, m), \\ b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}, \\ b' \leftarrow A(pk_S, sk_S, pk_V, sk_V, \sigma_b) \\ : b' = b \end{array} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \right| < \epsilon(k) \quad (9)$$

Where  $\epsilon(k)$  is a negligible function in the security parameter  $k$ , and the probability is taken over the randomness used in  $Sign$  and  $Sim$ , and the random coins consumed by  $A$ . If the probability is equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$ , the SDVS scheme is perfectly non-transferable or source hiding [13].

2. Privacy of the Signer's Identity (PSI): To have a formal definition for PSI, the following game between the simulator  $C$  and the distinguisher  $D$  is considered.
  - (a)  $C$  generates key pairs  $(pk_{S_0}, sk_{S_0})$  for signer  $S_0$ ,  $(pk_{S_1}, sk_{S_1})$  for signer  $S_1$ , and  $(pk_V, sk_V)$  for designated verifier  $V$ , and invokes  $D$  on input  $pk_{S_0}, pk_{S_1}$ , and  $pk_V$ .
  - (b)  $C$  issues queries  $(M, d)$  to the  $O_s$  and  $O_v$  which  $d \in \{0, 1\}$  indicating which signer responds to that query.
  - (c)  $C$  tosses a coin  $d \in \{0, 1\}$  for the message  $M^*$  submitted by  $D$ , then computes the challenge signature  $\sigma^* \leftarrow Sign(sk_{S_d}, pk_{S_d}, pk_V, M^*)$  and returns  $\sigma^*$  to  $D$ .
  - (d)  $D$  outputs a bit  $d'$  and wins the game if the two following conditions hold.
    - $d' = d$
    - It did not query  $O_v$  on input  $(d, M^*, \sigma^*)$  for any  $d \in \{0, 1\}$

The formal definition of this property [16] is given in Definition 5.

**Definition 5** (Privacy of the Signer’s Identity). An SDVS scheme is  $(t, q_s, q_v, \epsilon)$ -PSI-secure if no adversary  $A$  which runs in time at most  $t$ ; issues at most  $q_s$  queries to  $O_s$ ; and  $q_v$  queries to  $O_v$ , can win the aforementioned game with probability that deviated from  $\frac{1}{2}$  by more than  $\epsilon$ .

**Definition 6** (Non-delegatability). It is assumed that  $\kappa \in [0, 1]$  be the knowledge error and  $F$  be a forger algorithm. Let  $F_M$  be  $F$  with  $M$  as its input, and oracle calls to  $F_M$  be counted as one step. An SDVS scheme is non-delegatable with knowledge error  $\kappa$  if there exists a positive polynomial  $\text{poly}()$  and a probabilistic oracle machine  $B$  which produces either the secret key of the signer or the secret key of the designated verifier with probability  $\frac{\epsilon - \kappa}{\text{poly}(k)}$ , where  $\epsilon > \kappa$  in expected polynomial time with the help of the forger  $F$  that forges a valid signature on message  $M$  with probability  $\epsilon$ .

## 7 Appendix B

Proof of theorem 3. It is assumed that  $D$  be a distinguisher against privacy of the signers’ identity. Let  $G_i$  be  $i$ -th game and  $X_i$  be the event that  $D$  outputs the correct bit, correct signer’s identity, in game  $G_i$ .

- $G_0$ : This is the original game. The challenger  $C$  selects  $\alpha, a_0, b_0, a_1,$  and  $b_1 \in_R Z_p^*$ ; furthermore,  $C$  chooses two large numbers  $p'$  and  $q'$  such that  $n = p'q'$ , then, it sets  $(pk_{1S_0}, pk_{2S_0}, pk_{1S_1}, pk_{2S_1}, pk_{1V}, pk_{2V}) = (g^{a_0}, g^{b_0}, g^{a_1}, g^{b_1}, n, c)$ .  $A_1$  invokes  $D$  on these inputs. The secret keys employed to generate a designated verifier signature are  $K_{S_0} = g^{a_0b_0}$  or  $K_{S_1} = g^{a_1b_1}$ , where  $K_{S_d}$  is the secret key of signer  $S_d$ . For each signature query  $(M, d)$ , where  $d \in_R \{0, 1\}$  presenting the index of the signer,  $C$  simulates the corresponding answer as aforementioned in Eq.(1), while  $C$  uses  $K_{S_d}$  on behalf of  $g^{x_{1S}x_{2S}}$ . For each verification query  $(M, \theta, d)$ ,  $C$  responses with the appropriate bit which  $O_v$  outputs such that  $O_v$  verifies the signature  $(M, \theta, d)$  as aforementioned in Eq.(2) w.r.t.  $K_{S_d}$ . The adversary  $D$  finally asks for a designated verifier signature on a challenge message  $M^*$ ; the challenger  $C$  randomly selects one of the two secret keys  $K_{S_d}$ , where  $d \in_R \{0, 1\}$  to generate the signature of the challenge message,  $(M^*, \theta^*)$ . Then,  $D$  returns a bit  $d'$  as the signer’s identity of the signature. The success probability of  $D$  in distinguishing signer’s identity of the designated verifier by definition is  $\text{pr}[X_0] = \epsilon$ .
- $G_1$ : This game is different from the game  $G_0$  in which the secret key of the signer  $S_0$ ,  $K_{S_0} = K_0$  used to generate a designated verifier signature is chosen at random from  $Z_p$ , i.e.  $K_0 \in_R Z_p$ . Moreover, the validity of the adversary’s verification queries are checked w.r.t. the random key,  $K_0$  in case of  $d = 0$ . If successful probabilities of the adversaries in distinguishing the identity of the signer in games  $G_0$  and  $G_1$  differ non-negligibly, it leads to an algorithm  $A_1$  which breaks the DDH assumption with probability  $\epsilon_{ddh}$  in time  $t_1 \simeq t$ . As a consequence, we have  $|\text{pr}[X_1] - \text{pr}[X_0]| \leq \epsilon_{ddh}$ .

To prove the above equation, we construct another algorithm  $A_1$  to break DDH assumption. It is assumed a random instance of the DDH problem, i.e.  $g, g^{a_0}, g^{b_0}$ , and  $K_0 \in_R Z_p$  is given;

$A_1$ 's goal is to decide whether  $K_0 = g^{a_0 b_0}$  or  $K_0$  is a random element of  $Z_p$ .  $A_1$  chooses  $b_1 \in_R Z_p$  and invokes  $D$  on inputs  $(pk_{S_0}, pk_{S_1}, pk_{1V}, pk_{2V}) = ((g^{a_0}, g^{b_0}), (g^{a_1}, g^{b_1}), n, c)$ .  $A_1$  sets  $K_{S_0} = K_0$  and  $K_{S_1} = (g^{a_1})^{b_1}$ . When  $D$  makes a signing query  $(M, d)$ , which  $d$  indicates the index of the signer;  $A_1$  uses  $K_{S_d}$  to generate the signature for  $V$  as presented in Eq. (1) such that  $g^{x_1 s x_2 s}$  is replaced with  $K_{S_d}$ . When  $D$  makes a verification query  $(M, \theta, d)$ ,  $A_1$  returns the corresponding bit presenting the validity or invalidity of the signature using verification oracle  $O_v$  w.r.t.  $K_{S_0} = K_0$  and  $K_{S_1} = (g^{a_1})^{b_1}$ . When  $D$  submits its challenge message  $M^*$ ,  $A_1$  randomly chooses one of the two secret keys and computes  $\theta^*$  as presented in Eq.(2). The successive queries issued by  $D$  are handled as aforementioned. Finally,  $D$  outputs a bit  $d'$ . Then,  $A_1$  outputs 1 if  $d' = d$ , meaning  $K_0 = g^{a_0 b_0}$  and output 0 meaning  $K_0$  is randomly chosen from  $Z_p$ . Let  $j$  be a bit output by  $A_1$ ; therefore, we have  $pr[j = 1 | K_0 = g^{a_0 b_0}] - pr[j = 1 | K_0 \in_R Z_p]$ .

If  $K_0 = g^{a_0 b_0}$ , the game simulated by  $A_1$  is game  $G_0$ ; then, success probability of  $D$  is  $pr[X_0]$ . If  $K_0$  is a random element of  $Z_p$ , the game simulated by  $A_1$  is game  $G_1$ ; hence, the success probability of  $D$  is  $pr[X_1]$ . Therefore, we have  $pr[j = 1 | K_0 = g^{a_0 b_0}] - pr[j = 1 | K_0 \in_R Z_p] = |pr[X_1] - pr[X_0]|$  and by the DDH assumption we conclude that  $|pr[X_1] - pr[X_0]| \leq \epsilon_{adh}$ .

- $G_2$ : This game differs from the game  $G_1$  in which the secret key,  $K_{S_1}$  is chosen at random from  $Z_p$ , i.e.  $K_1 \in_R Z_p$ . Moreover, the validity of the adversary's forgery is checked w.r.t. the random key,  $K_1$ . Similar to the game  $G_1$ , we have  $|pr[X_2] - pr[X_1]| \leq \epsilon_{adh}$ .
- $G_3$ : This game is different from the game  $G_2$  in which the secret key of the designated verifier inside  $c$ ,  $\alpha'$ , is chosen at random by  $A_2$ . Besides, the validity of the verification queries is checked w.r.t. the random keys  $(K_0, K_1)$  and  $\alpha'$ .  $A_2$  invokes  $D$  on inputs  $(pk_{S_0}, pk_{S_1}, pk_{1V}, pk_{2V}) = (g^{a_0}, g^{b_0}, g^{a_1}, g^{b_1}, n, c)$ . If success probabilities of the adversaries in game  $G_3$  and  $G_2$  differ non-negligibly, it leads to an algorithm for breaking semantic security of  $H_{Paillier}$ . As a result, we have  $|pr[X_3] - pr[X_2]| \leq \epsilon_{ind}$ .

To prove the above equation, it is assumed a random instance of the ciphertext created by the cryptosystem  $H_{Paillier}$ , i.e.  $c^*$  is given;  $A_2$ 's goal is to decide if the plaintext inside  $c^*$  is  $\alpha$  or  $\alpha'$ .  $A_2$  sets  $(pk_{S_0}, pk_{S_1}, pk_{1V}, pk_{2V}) = ((g^{a_0}, g^{b_0}), (g^{a_1}, g^{b_1}), n, c)$  and invokes  $D$  on these inputs. To answer a signing query  $(M, d)$ ,  $A_2$  chooses  $\sigma$  and  $z_1 \in_R Z_p^*$  and computes Eq.(3).  $A_2$  responses to a verification query  $(M, \theta, d)$  with the help of  $O_v$ , while verification is performed w.r.t.  $(K_0, K_1)$  and  $\alpha'$ . When  $D$  submits a challenge message  $M^*$ ,  $A_2$  chooses  $\sigma$  and  $z_1 \in_R Z_p^*$  and computes Eq.(3) and returns  $(M^*, \theta^*)$  to  $D$ . Finally,  $D$  outputs a bit  $d'$ . If  $d' = d$  means that  $\alpha' = D_{sk_{1V}}(c^*)$ ; otherwise,  $\alpha' = D_{sk_{1V}}(c^*)$ . Therefore, we have  $pr[\alpha' \leftarrow A_2(c^*)] - pr[\alpha \leftarrow A_2(c^*)]$ .

If  $\alpha' = D_{sk_{1V}}(c^*)$ , the game simulated by  $A_2$  is game  $G_3$ ; then, success probability of  $D$  is  $pr[X_3]$ . If  $\alpha = D_{sk_{1V}}(c^*)$ , the game simulated by  $A_2$  is game  $G_2$ ; hence, the success probability of  $D$  is  $pr[X_2]$ . We have  $pr[\alpha' \leftarrow A_2(c^* = c)] - pr[\alpha \leftarrow A_2(c^* = c)] = |pr[X_3] - pr[X_2]|$ . As a result, we have  $|pr[X_3] - pr[X_2]| \leq \epsilon_{ind}$  by assumption 3.

In game  $G_3$ , the signatures including challenge signature on a message  $M^*$  is chosen at random from  $Z_p^*$  because of knowing  $\alpha'$ . As a result, the success probability of the adversary in distinguishing the index of the signer is  $pr[X_3] = \frac{1}{2}$ . As a consequence, we have  $\epsilon = pr[X_0] \leq |pr[X_0] - pr[X_1]| + |pr[X_1] - pr[X_2]| + |pr[X_2] - pr[X_3]| + pr[X_3] \leq 2\epsilon_{ddh} + \epsilon_{ind} + \frac{1}{2}$ .