# Joint Energy and Security Optimization in Underwater Wireless Communication Networks

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Abstract-Underwater wireless communication networks (UWCNs) can support a wide range of applications in the underwater domain including: mining and drilling, coastline monitoring, border surveillance and submarine/mine detection. Some of these applications are sensitive in nature (e.g., military) and demand stringent security requirements for data communications. In order to prevent malicious attacks (e.g., jamming) in these UWCNs, robust security countermeasures must be implemented. Additionally, sensitive data communications must be protected. However, computationally expensive security protocols, such as encryption, can severely shorten UWCN lifetime, where batterypowered nodes already suffer from scarce energy supplies. In this work, we exploit content caching as a countermeasure for jamming and utilize selective encryption of sensitive data to simultaneously maximize network security and node residual energy in UWCNs. Our work formulates the joint security and residual energy maximization challenge as an optimization problem in which results indicate that the proposed technique can guarantee secure communications without sacrificing network lifespan.

*Index Terms*—Content caching, encryption, green communications, optimization, security, trust model, underwater wireless communication networks.

### I. Introduction

R ADIO-based wireless communication networks are vulnerable to various security threats due to the inherent broadcast nature of wireless channels and the heterogeneity of network nodes. In these networks, resource-constrained characteristics, such as limited computational capacity and scarcity of energy supply, accentuate this problem [1]. The security issue is even more pronounced in underwater wireless communication networks (UWCNs) because they suffer from harsher communication environments and additional challenges, such as node mobility/drift, which aggravate the vulnerability of these networks. However, UWCNs are becoming increasingly popular because they have important applications within military, scientific, and industrial [2] domains. For instance, within defence, UWCNs can support diver-to-diver and diverto-surface platform communications, border monitoring and control, underwater surveillance and reconnaissance, as well as submarine communications. In research, UWCNs facilitate studies of water properties (e.g., temperature, pH, salinity,

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pressure and oxygen), aquatic lifeforms, marine ecology, underwater bathymetry, volcanoes and tsunami dynamics. Furthermore, UWCNs are extensively used by commercial and industrial enterprises to explore oil and gas reservoirs, extract natural resources, monitor underwater pipelines, and cultivate fish [3].

Due to these promising applications of UWCNs across multiple disciplines, it is vital that UWCNs maintain a high standard of security to protect communications. To this end, several works in the literature have addressed the security aspect of UWCNs in an attempt to identify security threats and propose countermeasures to mitigate/thwart them. The authors in [4] have identified key differences between terrestrial sensor networks and UWCNs, focusing on the security aspects of the latter. They have described various attack types including jammming, wormhole, sinkhole, spoofing, flooding and sybil attack along with countermeasures such as authentication and time synchronization for secure underwater communications. The work in [5] has provided a layer-by-layer description of secure communication protocols, and has discussed open research issues in the relevant domain. Authors in [6] have proposed various approaches, such as node cooperation, contextaware and software-defined networking, as well as adaptive trust and reputation models to improve existing frameworks and to envision novel security protocols in UWCNs. The work in [7] reviews existing works on underwater security challenges and feasible security techniques. A comprehensive survey on UWCN security has been provided in [1] which has discussed in detail the fundamentals of network security, network threats from physical to transport layer and countermeasures to relevant threats in UWCNs.

Besides these surveys, a flurry of studies have addressed specific security issues in UWCNs. For instance, a synergestic trust model based on support vector machines (SVM) has been proposed in [8]. Further, an energy-balanced trust cloud migration scheme (ETCM) has been proposed in [9]. Using blockchain technology, a decentralized authentication mechanism has been proposed in [10]. A secure energy-efficient cooperative routing protocol has been proposed in [11]. An optimization framework has been developed to analyze the effects of multi-path routing, packet duplication, encryption and data fragmentation on UWCN lifetime in [12]. As a countermeasure for eavesdropping attacks, the work in [13] has proposed a strategy to optimize the power required to maximize the secrecy sum rate of a full-duplex relay-assisted non-orthogonal multiple access UWCN.

Many works have also attempted to address jamming in

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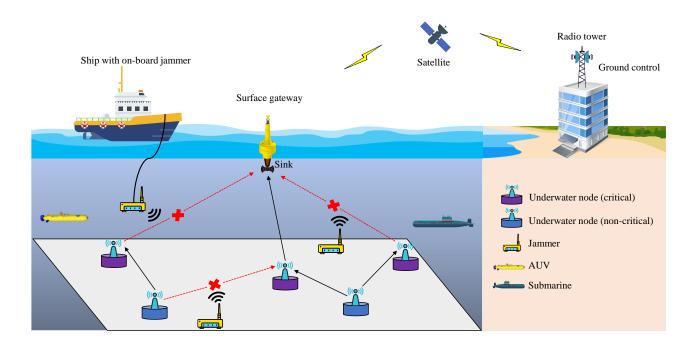


Fig. 1. Underwater wireless communication network with jammed communications.

UWCNs. The work in [14] has utilized game theory to conduct an analysis of jamming attacks in UWCNs, where sensors and jammers are allowed to play jamming games. In this way, each sensor can select its transmit power when an interfering signal is present, and optimize its signal-to-interference and noise ratio (SINR) and transmission costs. A deep Q-networks (DQN)-based anti-jamming mechanism that controls transmit power and leverages transducer mobility has been proposed in [15]. This technique can reduce bit error rate (BER) and improve SINR against reactive jamming as compared to other Q-learning based techniques. A similar approach has been undertaken in [16], where a deep reinforcement learning (RL)based jamming countermeasure that optimizes relay node mobility and power allocation without knowledge of channel and jamming model has been proposed. Similar to [15], this technique saves power, reduces BER and improves utility of relay nodes against the established benchmark. More recently, a game-theoretic approach, with the jammer and the sensor node set as players in a multistage game has been proposed in [17], where each derive optimal strategies for their respective purposes (i.e., jamming and transmitting data, respectively).

To the best of our knowledge, although these relevant works in the literature offer jamming mitigation techniques, none have investigated the effect of caching as a countermeasure for jamming. Moreover, no work has investigated the optimization of total network trust and residual energy in an effort to maximize network security and lifetime, and study its effects on salient network parameters such as power consumption, trust metrics and traffic serviced. Additionally, no work has also addressed selective encryption of sensitive data to simul-

taneously improve secrecy of communication and save energy in UWCNs.

Our work, therefore, is the first major study investigating the optimization of network security from a trust and residual power perspective by leveraging the technique of content caching and selectively encrypting data. The main contributions of this work are summarized as follows:

- We develop an optimization model that jointly maximizes UWCN trust and total residual energy. This optimization model exploits: a) a content caching mechanism during jamming attacks, and b) selective encryption of sensitive data traversing the network.
- We solve the optimization problem and conduct a performance evaluation across two scenarios: Scenario I), jamming attacks on UWCN with three levels of jamming low, medium and high; and Scenario II), transmission of two types of data non-sensitive and sensitive.
- We compare and contrast the performance of our proposed solution against existing solution and investigate the effects of both on network metrics such as power consumption, trust and traffic delivery. Our results indicate that the proposed solution outperforms the existing solution by offering lower power consumption, higher trust and better traffic delivery, with an overall better yield of the objective function that maximizes network trust and residual energy.

# II. PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

A 3-dimensional (3-D) UWCN architecture is presented in Figure 1. This UWCN consists of several underwater nodes

that are classified into critical and non-critical nodes. Critical nodes are those whose battery depletion affects the availability of the entire UWCN. In contrast, non-critical nodes are those whose battery depletion does not compromise the availability of the UWCN [18]. The network also includes jamming nodes that can be submerged from vessels or can be placed on seabeds in the vicinity of network nodes.

The nature of jamming can be random or periodic. According to [19], random jamming is when jamming signals are sent for random periods and then switched off for the rest of the time. Periodic jamming is a subset of random jamming where jamming occurs with specific duty cycles. Often, jammers can periodically transmit jamming signals with a specific duty cycle (i.e., periodic jamming) to match and interrupt the regular periodic messaging schedule of underwater nodes.

As noted in [17], a network jammer has a twofold objective - the first is to disrupt network communications and the second is to reduce network lifetime by forcing multiple retransmissions from network nodes.

Given the scenario in Figure 1, one key research question can be formulated as "How can UWC network security be improved, and, at the same time, network energy consumption be reduced in the presence of jamming attacks, while ensuring the integrity of sensitive data transmissions"?

To answer this question, we formulate the network security challenge as an optimization problem that utilizes content-caching as a technique to mitigate the effects of jamming. Moreover, the proposed optimization problem decides which content should be encrypted based on the sensitivity of data and the security status of a link. To evaluate the efficacy of our solution, we introduce periodic jamming in the network during data transmission and observe the effects of jamming on salient network parameters such as energy consumption, traffic received and overall network security in terms of node trust and link trust. We also transmit sensitive data through both secure and unsecure links, and observe its effects on the aforementioned parameters.

It is important to note that the focus of this work is to mitigate the effects of jamming. It is not a preventative measure but a reactive one. The solution is designed to work against any type of jamming and therefore jamming prediction is not required.

The proposed content-caching technique stores data until the jamming attack is over. In this way, our proposed technique is expected to reduce the number of retransmissions, hence saving energy and simultaneously improving the probability of successful data transmission.

In addition to caching to mitigate jamming, the special treatment of sensitive data transmission (e.g., mission-critical data transmission for underwater surveillance) by our proposed strategy is expected to ensure that data is transmitted in a secure way and at a lower energy expense, simultaneously.

Sensitive data transmission (e.g., defence applications) must be encrypted to protect data from eavesdropping or man-inthe-middle attacks. Non-sensitive data transmissions (e.g., for scientific exploration projects), however, need not be classified. The sensitivity of data transmission can be predetermined depending on the application domain. Although some applications are delay-sensitive, others are delay-tolerant (e.g., collection of environmental data). Our proposed strategy also ensures that the end-to-end latency is properly managed for delay-sensitive applications.

#### III. SYSTEM MODEL

In this section, we introduce our underwater channel model (Subsection III-A), underwater energy model (Subsection III-B), underwater trust model (Subsection III-C), underwater network model (Subsection III-D) and the proposed mixed integer programming (MIP) model (Subsection III-E).

## A. Underwater Channel Model

We consider a UWCN where nodes are equipped with heterogeneous multi-modal communication capabilities. Nodes are equipped with both acoustic and optical modems. Communication modes can switch between acoustic and optical forms depending on channel conditions and traffic demands.

At first, we develop the acoustic channel model. The acoustic signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) at the receiver is given by the ratio of received acoustic power  $P_{ac}^r$  to the acoustic ambient noise power spectral density (PSD)  $(NL)_{ac,total}$  and the noise bandwidth of the acoustic receiver  $(B_{ac})$  as [20]

$$\xi_{ac} = P_{ac}^r / \left( L_{ac} \cdot (NL)_{ac,total} \cdot B_{ac} \right). \tag{1}$$

The acoustic path loss in (1)  $L_{ac}$  is given by [21]

$$L_{ac} = l^{\kappa} \cdot \alpha(f)^{l \cdot 10^{-3}} \cdot A_0, \tag{2}$$

where  $l^{\kappa}$  denotes the spreading loss over a distance l (m); the path loss exponent  $\kappa$  can take a value of 1 for cylindrical, 2 for spherical, and 1.5 for 'practical' spreading;  $A_0$  denotes a unit normalization factor incorporating fixed losses [22].

 $\alpha(f)$  in (2) denotes the absorption coefficient (dB/km) that can be expressed empirically using the Francois and Garrison [23], [24] model that encapsulates oceanographic factors within the frequency range  $100~{\rm Hz} < f < 1~{\rm MHz}$ , and is given by

$$\alpha(f) = \frac{A_1 P_1 f_1 f^2}{f^2 + f_1^2} + \frac{A_2 P_2 f_2 f^2}{f^2 + f_2^2} + A_3 P_3 f^2 \tag{3}$$

where the first term describes the ionic relaxation effects caused by the presence of boric acid  $(H_3BO_3)$  molecules, the second term describes the effects due to the magnesium sulfate  $(MgSO_4)$  salt concentration, and the third term describes the viscous absorption component due to pure water.

In the first term of equation (3),  $A_1$  is the boric acid component,  $P_1$  is the depth pressure resulting from  $A_1$ ,  $f_1$  is the relaxation frequency for the boric acid component in seawater and are given respectively as

$$A_1 = \frac{8.68}{c} \times 10^{(0.78pH - 5)} \tag{4}$$

$$P_1 = 1 \tag{5}$$

$$f_1 = 2.8\sqrt{\frac{S}{35}} \times 10^{(4-1245/(273+T))}$$
 (6)

where c is the underwater sound speed (m/s), pH is the water pH, S is salinity (parts per thousand (PPT)), and T is temperature ( ${}^{\circ}$ C).

In the second term,  $A_2$  is the magnesium sulfate component,  $P_2$  is the depth pressure resulting from  $A_2$ , and  $f_2$  is the relaxation frequency for the magnesium sulfate component in seawater. They can be expressed respectively as

$$A_2 = 21.44 \left(\frac{S}{c}\right) \times (1 + 0.025T) \tag{7}$$

$$P_2 = 1 - 1.37 \times 10^{-4} z + 6.2 \times 10^{-9} z^2 \tag{8}$$

$$f_2 = \frac{8.17 \times 10^{(8-1990/(273+T))}}{1 + 0.0018(S - 35)} \tag{9}$$

where z is the water depth.

Lastly, in the third term,  $A_3$  is the pure water viscosity component (dB km  $^{-1}$  kHz $^2$ ), and  $P_3$  is the depth pressure resulting from  $A_3$ , and they are given by

$$A_{3} = \begin{cases} 4.937 \times 10^{-4} - 2.59 \times 10^{-5}T \\ + 9.11 \times 10^{-7}T^{2} - 1.5 \times 10^{-8}T^{3}, \\ \text{for } T \leq 20^{\circ}\text{C}, \end{cases}$$
(10a)  
$$3.964 \times 10^{-4} - 1.146 \times 10^{-5}T \\ + 1.45 \times 10^{-7}T^{2} - 6.65 \times 10^{-10}T^{3}, \\ \text{for } T > 20^{\circ}\text{C}.$$
(10b)

$$P_3 = 1 - 3.83 \times 10^{-5} z + 4.9 \times 10^{-10} z^2 \tag{11}$$

In the channel model, the overall PSD of the ambient noise  $(NL)_{ac,total}$  is given by [20], [25]–[27]

$$(NL)_{ac,total} = \overbrace{10^{(17-30\log f)/10}}^{(NL)_t} + \overbrace{10^{(40+20(s-0.5)+26\log f - 60\log(f+0.03))/10}}^{(NL)_w} + \overbrace{10^{(50+7.5\sqrt{w}+20\log f - 40\log(f+0.4))/10}}^{(NL)_{th}} + \overbrace{10^{(-15+20\log f)/10}}^{(NL)_{th}}.$$
(12)

where noise component  $(NL)_t$  is noise due to oceanic wave turbulence;  $(NL)_s$  is noise due to shipping/vessel activities on water;  $(NL)_w$  is noise generated by waves; and  $(NL)_{th}$  is noise due to thermal agitation caused by oceanic pressure fluctuations.  $s \in [0,1]$  in  $(NL)_s$  is the shipping activity factor, where 0 and 1 indicate low and high shipping activity, respectively. w in  $(NL)_w$  is the wind speed in m/s.

Another common noise source in underwater environments is impulsive noise due to human activities (e.g., pile driving in harbour) and natural sources (e.g., seismic activities). Impulsive noise depends on the deployment environment, is usually sparse, can be suppressed through receiver design [28], and mainly encountered in port areas [29]. Although impulsive noise can be detrimental, our proposed solution can still be functional in its presence as it can be treated as undesired

signal such as jamming.

For a given traffic load C (Mbps) and acoustic link bandwidth  $B_{ac}$  (kHz), an acoustic link must meet the threshold SNR

$$\xi_{ac}^{TH} = 2^{C/B_{ac}} - 1, \tag{13}$$

The received signal power  $P_{ac}^r$  is given by the transmit acoustic power and the acoustic path loss  $L_{ac}$  as

$$P_{ac}^{r} = P_{ac}^{t} \cdot L_{ac}^{-1}. \tag{14}$$

Then, equating (1) and (13), substituting (14) in (1), and re-arranging (1), the acoustic transmit power is formulated as

$$P_{ac}^{t} = \xi_{ac}^{TH} \cdot L_{ac} \cdot (NL)_{ac,total} \cdot B_{ac}. \tag{15}$$

Similar to acoustic power, optical transmit power can be derived and expressed as a function of target/threshold optical SNR  $\xi_{op}^{TH}$ , underwater optical channel loss  $L_{op}$ , underwater optical noise  $\Delta_{op,total}$ , and the photodetector responsivity of the optical receiver  $\rho$  as

$$P_{op}^{t} = \left(\sqrt{\xi_{op}^{TH}} \cdot \Delta_{op,total}\right) / \left(L_{op} \cdot \rho\right). \tag{16}$$

Here, the optical channel attenuation  $L_{op}$  is given as [30]

$$L_{op} = \chi^2 \cdot \left( \left( A_r \cdot n_t \cdot n_r \cdot \cos\theta \right) / (2\pi \cdot l^2 (1 - \cos\theta_0)) \right)$$
$$\cdot \exp(-c(\lambda) \cdot l), \tag{17}$$

where  $\chi^2$  is the optical fading amplitude for weak turbulence in water,  $A_r$  denotes the aperture of the optical receiver;  $n_t$  and  $n_r$  represent transmitter and receiver efficiencies, respectively; the angle of inclination from the transmitter to the receiver is denoted by  $\theta$ ; and the divergence angle of the transmitter beam is given by  $\theta_0$ .

The term  $\exp(-c(\lambda) \cdot l)$  is the optical propagation loss factor, where  $c(\lambda)$  is the underwater optical beam extinction coefficient (i.e., a function of optical wavelength  $\lambda$ ), which indicates the amount of absorption and scattering in the optical beam [31], [32].

The total optical noise is modelled as additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) with zero mean and variance [30], which can be expressed as

$$\Delta_{op,total}^{2} = \overbrace{(4k_B \cdot T_e \cdot F \cdot B)/R_L}^{\delta_{TH}^{2}} + \overbrace{2q \cdot I_{DC} \cdot B}^{\delta_{DC}^{2}} + \overbrace{2q \cdot \rho \cdot P_i \cdot B}^{\delta_{SS}^{2}} + \overbrace{2q \cdot \rho \cdot P_{BG} \cdot B}^{\delta_{BG}}, \quad (18)$$

where  $\delta^2_{TH}$  is thermal/Johnson noise,  $\delta^2_{DC}$  is dark current noise,  $\delta^2_{SS}$  is quantum/signal shot noise and  $\delta^2_{BG}$  is background noise

Moreover in Equation (18),  $k_B$  denotes the Boltzmann constant,  $T_e$  represents the equivalent temperature, F denotes the system noise figure, B is the electronic bandwidth and  $R_L$  is the receiver load resistance. Further, q is the charge of an electron,  $I_{DC}$  is the reverse leakage current of a photo-diode,  $\rho$  is the receiver photodiode's responsivity and  $P_i$  is the optical power from the light-of-interest received by the receiver.

Additionally,  $P_{BG}$  represents underwater background noise

TABLE I PARAMETERS USED IN ANALYSIS.

Symbol	Parameter	Value	Symbol	Parameter	Value
l	Transmission distance	1-100 m	$A_r$	Optical receiver aperture	$0.01  \mathrm{m}^2$
$\kappa$	Acoustic path loss exponent	1.5	$n_r$	Optical receiver efficiency	0.9
s	Shipping activity factor	0.5	$n_t$	Optical transmitter efficiency	0.9
w	Speed of wind	10 m/s	θ	Angle of inclination between transmitter & receiver	10°
$B_{ac}$	Acoustic receiver narrow bandwidth	5 kHz	$k_B$	Boltzmann constant	$1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K}$
$\theta_0$	Angle of divergence for optical beam	10°	F	System noise figure	4
$T_e$	Equivalent temperature	290 K	$R_L$	Load resistance	100 Ω
B	Electronic noise bandwidth	5 MHz	$I_{DC}$	Dark current in photo-diode	$1.23 \times 10^{-9} \text{ A}$
q	Charge of an electron	$1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$	FOV	Optical field-of-view at receiver	10°
$\rho$	Photo-diode responsivity	386 $\mu$ A/W	$T_F$	Optical filter transmissivity	0.95
$\mu$	Bandwidth of optical filter at receiver	30 nm	v	Velocity of light underwater	$2.25\times10^8\text{m/s}$
h	Planck's constant	$6.62 \times 10^{-34} \text{ m}^2 \text{ kg/s}$	$\tau_0$	Atmospheric transmission	0.37
$\alpha$	Radiant absorption factor	0.5			

power, which is comprised of  $P_{solar}$  and  $P_{blackbody}$  and can be written as [33]

$$P_{BG} = \underbrace{L_{solar} \cdot \pi (FOV)^{2} \cdot A_{r} \cdot \mu \cdot T_{F}}_{P_{blackbody}} + \underbrace{2hv^{2}\alpha \cdot T_{A} \cdot (P_{solar}/L_{solar})}_{1/\left(\lambda^{5} \cdot \left[\exp\left(\frac{hv}{\lambda k_{B}T_{e}}\right) - 1\right]\right)}, \quad (19)$$

where  $L_{solar}$  represents solar radiance, FOV is the field of view of the optical receiver,  $\mu$  represents the optical receiver's filter bandwidth,  $T_F$  denotes the optical transmissivity, h is the Planck constant, v represents the underwater speed of light,  $\alpha$  denotes the radiant absorption factor and  $T_A$  is the transmission in water  $(T_A = \exp{(-\tau_0)})$ , where  $\tau_0$  is the atmospheric transmission).

Table I summarizes all parameter settings and presents the list of symbols and notations used in this paper.

# B. Underwater Energy Model

The total power consumption of a multi-modal UWC node can be given as

$$P_{cons} = P_{ac}^{t} + P_{op}^{t} + P_{ac}^{r} + P_{op}^{r} + P_{proc} + P_{idle},$$
 (20)

where  $P^t_{ac}$  and  $P^t_{op}$  are acoustic and optical transmit powers, respectively;  $P^r_{ac}$  and  $P^r_{op}$  are acoustic and optical receive powers, respectively; and  $P_{proc}$  and  $P_{idle}$  are power consumption due to signal processing and maintaining node idle states, respectively. For the acoustic component, power consumption configurations of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) acoustic micromodem [34] was used. For the optical component, power consumption specifications of LUMA 100 [35] was used. The power consumption figures for each are presented in Table II.

(20) can be simplified as

$$P_{cons} = P_{tx} + P_{rx} + P_{proc} + P_{idle}, \tag{21}$$

where  $P_{tx}$  and  $P_{rx}$  denote transmit and receive power, respectively.

Given a transmission lasts for t seconds, the total node energy consumption is written as

$$E_{node} = (P_t + P_r + P_{proc} + P_{idle}) \times t, \tag{22}$$

TABLE II POWER CONSUMPTION SPECIFICATIONS.

Modem	Transmit (W)	Receive (W)	Process (W)	Idle (W)
WHOI Micromodem (Standard)	60	0.79	0.5	0.790
LUMA 100	5	2.00	0.2	0.003

In our study, we consider two different types of transmissions - encrypted and non-encrypted - leading to two different types of link energy consumption. This is given by

$$E_{link} = \begin{cases} E_{link,e}, & \text{if encryption is required, and} \\ E_{link,ne}, & \text{if no encryption is required.} \end{cases}$$
 (23)

The total energy consumption, which is expressed in subsection III-E, is the summation of node energy consumption and link energy consumption.

#### C. Underwater Trust Model

Node trust  $\mathcal{N}$  is a function of node honesty (NH) and node competence (NC), and is given by [5]

$$\mathcal{N} = \begin{cases} 0.5 + (NH - 0.5) \times NC, & \text{if } NH \ge 0.5, \\ NH \times NC, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
 (24)

Link trust  $\mathcal{L}$  is dependent on link quality (LQ) and link capacity (LC), and is given by [5]

$$\mathcal{L} = \begin{cases} 0.5 + (LQ - 0.5) \times LC, & \text{if } LQ \le 0.5, \\ LQ \times LC, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
 (25)

The total trust, which is expressed in Subsection III-E, is the summation of node trust and link trust. The calculation of the parameters NH, NC and LQ is beyond the scope of this work, and their parametric values have been generated as random numbers between 0 and 1.

## D. Underwater Network Model

A UWCN comprised of several sensor nodes and one sink node is illustrated in Figure 1. There are a total of |U| = |V| + 1 nodes in the UWCN where there are |U| ( $v = 1, 2, \cdots, |V|$ ) sensor nodes with one sink node. |U| indicates the cardinality of the set U containing all nodes, whereas |V| indicates the cardinality of the set V containing all sensor nodes. The subset of critical nodes (i.e., nodes whose failure can disrupt the entire network) is given by  $C \subseteq V$ , and that of non-critical nodes (i.e., any node that is not critical) is given by  $D \subseteq V$ , respectively.

All the sets considered to formulate the network model are given as follows:

- E: set of links.
- U: set of all nodes.
- V: set of sensor nodes (subset of U).
- J: set of jammed nodes (subset of U).
- K: set of network flows.
- C: set of critical nodes (subset of V).
- D: set of non-critical nodes (subset of V).

A directed, weighted graph G = (V, E), consisting of V vertices and E edges/links, is used in the formulation of the optimization problem. In this model, i represents source nodes and j represents destination nodes. In the graph, each link  $(i,j) \in E$  has a capacity limit of  $u_{ij} \geq 0$ . Additionally, traffic demand  $k \in K$  sends traffic of the volume  $b^k$  from the source node(s) s(k) to the destination node(s) d(k). Traversal of traffic occurs through transshipment node(s) t(k) if relay nodes are used.

The set  $r = \{1, \dots, N_r\}$  is an index set of the set of links E, which is utilized to identify possible routes for each  $i^{th}$  node to the sink/surface gateway. Each route r is determined by the optimization model. Therefore, the set of routes r is not predefined, but determined by solving the optimization model.

There are 19 nodes in the network deployed at different depths within an underwater area of 1000 m by 1000 m. These nodes are arranged in ring, star and tree topologies, similar to the work in [36].

The traffic model used in this work was based on a number of Internet of Underwater Things (IoUT) applications, as described in various studies in the literature [37]–[40]. The traffic types include constant bit rate (CBR), variable bit rate (VBR) and best effort (BE) traffic, evaluated at hourly intervals to capture underwater traffic fluctuations. The scope of our study includes both low- and high-data-rate traffic demands in underwater environments. Among low-data-rate applications are scientific measurements of temperature, pH and salinity using underwater sensors. As for the high data rate applications, real-time, high-resolution image and/or video transfer by AUVs were considered.

## E. MIP Model

The decision variables to formulate the MIP model are as follows:

- 1)  $x_{i,j}^{k,r}$ : A positive continuous decision variable that models the  $k^{th}$  traffic flow over the link (i,j) on the  $r^{th}$  route.
- 2)  $a_i^k$ : A binary decision variable taking 1 if  $k^{th}$  traffic flows through node i, and 0 otherwise.
- 3)  $\zeta_{i,j}^{k,r}$ : A binary decision variable taking 1 if  $k^{th}$  traffic flowing over the link (i,j) is encrypted, and 0 otherwise.

Node trust for the  $i^{th}$  node is given by

$$NT_i = \mathcal{N}_i \times a_i^k, \tag{26}$$

Link trust for the  $i^{th}$  link is given by

$$LT_i = \mathcal{L}_i \times x_{i,j}^{k,r},\tag{27}$$

Node energy for the  $i^{th}$  node is calculated by

$$E_{i,node} = E_{node} \times a_i^k, \tag{28}$$

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Link energy for the  $i^{th}$  link is given by

Link energy for the 
$$i^{ss}$$
 link is given by 
$$E_{i,link} = (E_{link,e} \times x_{i,j}^{k,r} \times \zeta_{i,j}^{k,r}) + (E_{link,ne} \times x_{i,j}^{k,r} \times (1 - \zeta_{i,j}^{k,r}))$$
(29)

Total energy consumption for the  $i^{th}$  node and link is calculated by

$$E_{i.total} = E_{i.node} + E_{i.link}. (30)$$

Normalized residual energy is then derived by

$$E_{i,res} = \left(E_{i,batt} - E_{i,total}\right) / E_{i,batt},\tag{31}$$

where,  $E_{i,batt}$  is the initial battery energy of the i-th node. Then, the summation of total trust and normalized residual energy of nodes is given by

$$v = \sum_{i}^{V} \left( NT_i + LT_i + E_{i,res} \right). \tag{32}$$

The proposed MIP model maximizes v and thereby maximizes the total trust and residual energy of nodes in the network.

The optimization problem is then given by

$$\max v,$$
 (33)

subject to:

$$a_i^k \times M \ge x_{i,j}^{k,r}, \qquad \forall (i,j) \in \mathbf{E}, \forall k \in \mathbf{K}, r \in \{1, \cdots, N_r\}$$

$$a_j^k \times M \ge x_{i,j}^{k,r}, \qquad \forall (i,j) \in \mathbf{E}, \forall k \in \mathbf{K}, r \in \{1, \cdots, N_r\}$$
(35)

$$\zeta_{i,j}^{k,r} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } m = 0 \land n = 1 \text{ and} \\ 0, & \text{o.w.}, \end{cases}$$

$$\forall i \in V, \forall k \in K, r \in \{1, \cdots, N_r\}$$

$$0 \le x_{i,j}^{k,r} \le u_{i,j}, \quad \forall k \in \mathbf{K}, \quad \forall (i,j) \in \mathbf{E}, r \in \{1, \dots, N_r\}$$
(37)

$$\sum_{\substack{(i,j)\in E\\(i,j)\notin J}} x_{i,j}^{k,r} - \sum_{\substack{(j,i)\in E\\(i,j)\notin J}} x_{j,i}^{k,r} = \begin{cases} b^{k,r}, & \text{if } i=s(r) \text{ and} \\ & E_{i,res} \geq E_{i,th}, \\ -b^{k,r}, & \text{if } i=d(r) \text{ and} \\ & E_{i,res} \geq E_{i,th}, \\ 0, & \text{if } i=t(r) \text{ or} \\ & E_{i,res} \leq E_{i,th}, \\ & \forall i \in \pmb{C} \subseteq \pmb{V}, \end{cases}$$

$$\forall k \in \pmb{K}, r \in \{1, \cdots, N_r\}$$

$$(38)$$

$$\sum_{(i,j)\in E} x_{i,j}^{k,r} - \sum_{(j,i)\in E} x_{j,i}^{k,r} = \begin{cases} b^{k,r}, & \text{if } i = s(r), \\ -b^{k,r}, & \text{if } i = d(r), \\ 0, & \text{if } i = t(r). \end{cases}$$

$$\forall i \in \mathbf{D} \subseteq \mathbf{V}, \forall k \in \mathbf{K}, r \in \{1, \dots, N_r\}$$
(39)

$$l^{k,r} \times \zeta_{i,i}^{k,r} \le l_{th}, \quad \forall (i,j) \in \mathbf{E}$$
 (40)

$$x_{i,j}^{k,r} \ge 0, \qquad \forall i \in \mathbf{V}, \forall k \in \mathbf{K}, r \in \{1, \dots, N_r\}$$
 (41)  
$$\zeta_{i,j}^{k,r} \in \{0,1\}, \qquad \forall i \in \mathbf{V}, \forall k \in \mathbf{K}$$
 (42)

$$\zeta_{i,j}^{k,r} \in \{0,1\}, \quad \forall i \in V, \forall k \in K$$
 (42)

Constraints (34) and (35) ensure that the source node i and the sink node j are active when there is a network flow in the link i, j. This is guaranteed by the big-M parameter where M is a very large number. Constraint (36) switches binary decision variable  $\zeta_{i,j}^{k,r}$  to 1 if sensitive data (i.e., n=1) need to be transmitted through an unsecured (e.g., compromised) link (i.e., m = 0). Constraint (37) ensures that the rate of flow does not exceed the maximum link capacity  $u_{i,j}$ . Constraint (38) enforces flow conservation at all critical nodes and ensures flow only occurs through non-jammed links when the residual energy of critical nodes are greater than the residual energy threshold  $E_{i,th}$ . Accordingly, a critical node will not participate in data transfer when its battery is low and while jamming is present, thus minimizing outage risks. Noncritical nodes, however, are still subject to the classical flow conservation constraint given by (39). Constraint (40) ensures that for mission-critical/sensitive data, the latency for the kth flow in route r is less than or equal to a latency threshold. The bounds of the decision variables are specified by constraints (41) and (42).

Since this optimization problem is a mixed integer program (MIP), it is considered NP-hard [41]. To solve the MIP and find its exact optimal solution, IBM CPLEX Optimization Studio [42] was used in this work.

# IV. ANALYSIS

In this section, we discuss the simulation settings and performance evaluation of our proposed solution against existing solutions.

In the context of this performance evaluation, existing solutions are those which do not cache traffic and do not re-route traffic when jamming occurs. Furthermore, existing solutions do not distinguish between sensitive and non-sensitive data and treat all data transmissions with same level of accessibility. Our proposed solution, however, performs content caching and finds the best route to transmit data during jamming. In addition, it employs a data encryption strategy based on the sensitivity of data. This performance comparison can therefore provide a thorough understanding of how our proposed solution performs against existing solutions.

Table I shows the parameter settings required by our proposed solution. We implemented the solution using a network topology containing 19 nodes deployed at different depths within a 1000 m by 1000 m underwater area. Similar to the work in [36], nodes were arranged in ring, star, or tree configurations. To calculate the parametric values required by our solution, we used Matlab R2019b running on an Intel Xeon E3-1240 3.5GHz 16GB RAM PC. The solution to the optimization problem can be achieved under 60 seconds by using a PC with the aforementioned specifications. Therefore, simulation can be run in real time and does not require extensive execution power.

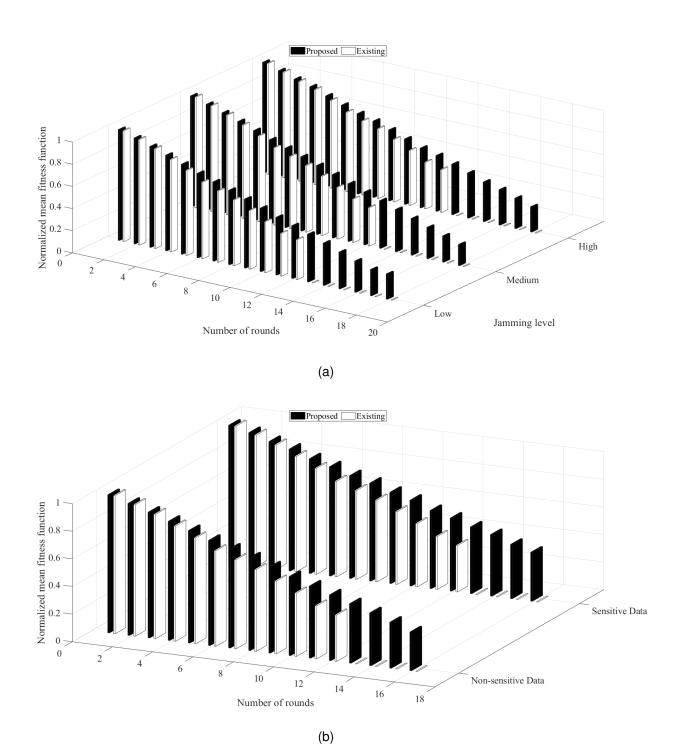


Fig. 2. The objective function during two different cases. (2a) jamming scenarios, (2b) sensitive/non-sensitive data transmission scenarios.

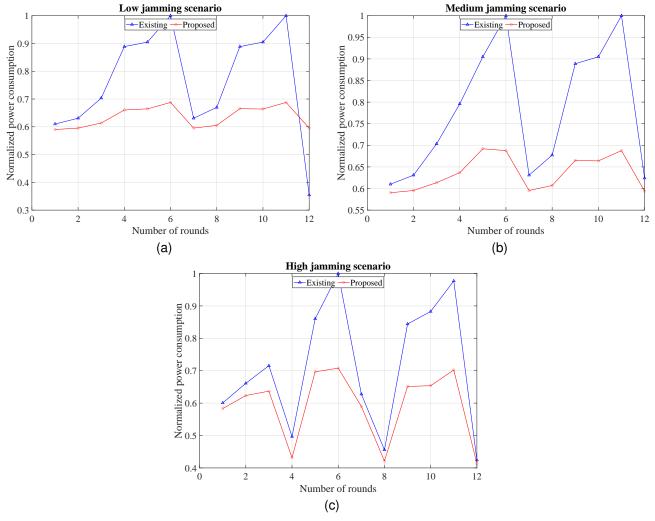


Fig. 3. Normalized power consumption for low, medium, and high jamming scenarios.

For analysis, two types of scenarios were considered:

- Scenario I (jamming): We consider three sub-scenarios under this scenario, namely low, medium and high jamming scenarios. As the name suggests, a lower number of jamming nodes and less frequent jamming has been considered as the low jamming scenario. The same follows for the other two sub-scenarios.
  - We used periodic jamming for simplicity. However, our solution is not limited to tackling one type of jamming only. Rather, our solution is functional against any type of jamming (e.g., random jamming) as caching occurs regardless of the nature of jamming. For prolonged jamming scenarios, our proposed model will continue to cache data. In these scenarios, the storage capacity of the nodes could be increased for caching data for longer periods.

The effects of varying jamming levels (i.e., low, medium and high) are observed on salient network parameters such as power consumption, trust and traffic received, as delivered by both our proposed technique and existing technique. Our proposed technique simultaneously caches content and routes traffic through appropriate

- links in the presence of jamming. For this scenario, the existing solution used for performance comparison does not cache traffic and does not re-route traffic flow during jamming.
- 2) Scenario II (sensitive data transmission): In this scenario, the optimization model decides whether the content of data transmission requires encryption based on the sensitivity of the data. If data being transmitted is sensitive, our proposed model performs encryption before transmission. If the data being transmitted is not sensitive, our proposed model does not perform any encryption on data. For this scenario, the existing solution used for performance comparison does not distinguish sensitive data from non-sensitive data and encrypts all data transmission by default.

Figure 2 shows how the objective function (i.e., (33)) that maximizes total trust and residual power of nodes varies over time in simulation. Figure 2a shows the variation in the objective function over time for Scenario I (i.e., three different jamming scenarios), whereas Figure 2b illustrates the same for Scenario II (i.e., sensitive data transmission).

From Figure 2a, it can be observed that the objective

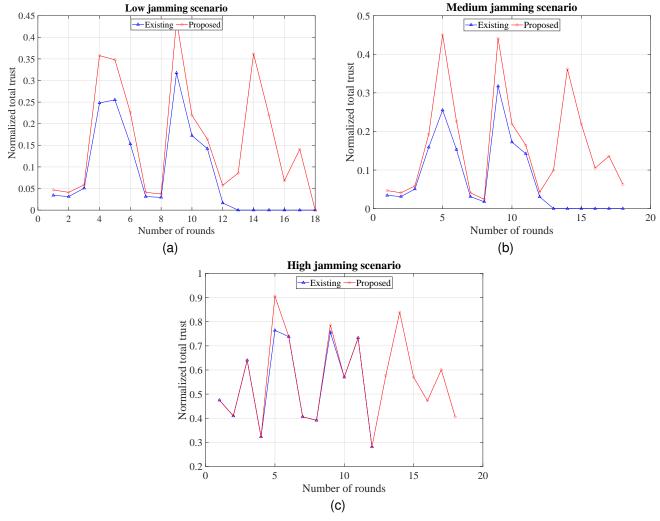


Fig. 4. Normalized trust metric for low, medium, and high jamming scenarios.

function goes to zero for the existing solution a few rounds earlier than that for the proposed solution in all three cases of jamming. This indicates that for the existing solution, the nodes do not have sufficient power to support data transmission. Accordingly, the network lifetime finishes at 12 rounds. In contrast, our proposed solution can offer better network lifetime, where rounds of transmission can continue for upto 18 rounds in all 3 cases of jamming. Additionally, our proposed solution also yields higher value for the objective function for every round of transmission during the heavy/high jamming scenario, as compared to medium or low jamming scenarios. This suggests that our proposed technique can better manage total network trust and residual power during highly jammed scenarios.

A similar trend can be observed in Figure 2b, where our proposed technique outperforms the existing technique in terms of objective function. For both non-sensitive and sensitive data transmissions, the existing technique stops data transmission a few rounds earlier than the proposed technique due to insufficient power. During sensitive data transmission, it can be observed that the difference in the objective function between proposed and existing solutions is larger, especially during the

later rounds. This indicates that the proposed solution performs better in maximizing trust and residual power when sensitive data is being transmitted.

In order to better understand the solution, we have compared individual parameters, namely power consumption, trust metric, and traffic serviced for the two scenarios considered.

For Scenario I, we examine the effect of three levels of jamming on power consumption for both proposed and existing solutions. Figures 3a, 3b, and 3c depict normalized mean power consumption in the network over time for low, medium and high levels of jamming, respectively. It can be seen from Figure 3 that although power consumption slightly increases as more jamming is introduced in the network, it is still lower than the existing technique. It can also be observed that power consumption increases very quickly during jamming scenarios (e.g., indicated by sharp spikes). However, this is only true for the existing technique. Our proposed approach does not experience a massive increase in power consumption in the presence of jamming.

Figure 4 illustrates how the trust component (normalized) of the objective function varies across time in the presence of three jamming levels. It can be clearly observed from the figure

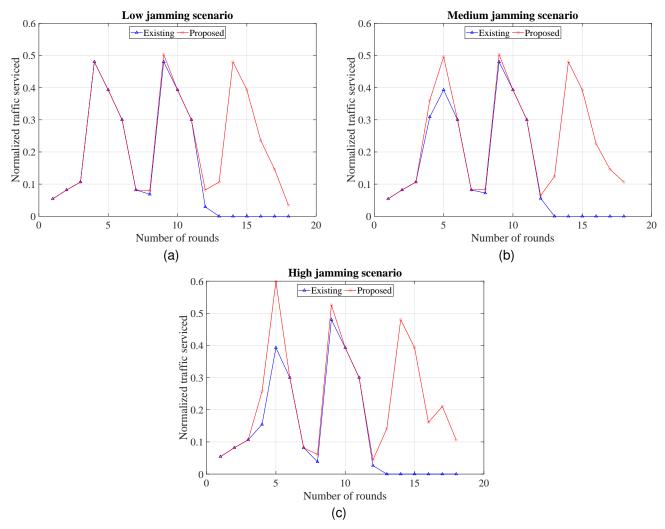


Fig. 5. Normalized traffic serviced for low, medium, and high jamming scenarios.

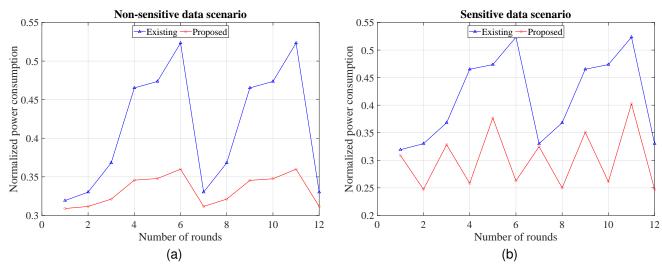


Fig. 6. Normalized power consumption for non-sensitive and sensitive data transmission scenarios.

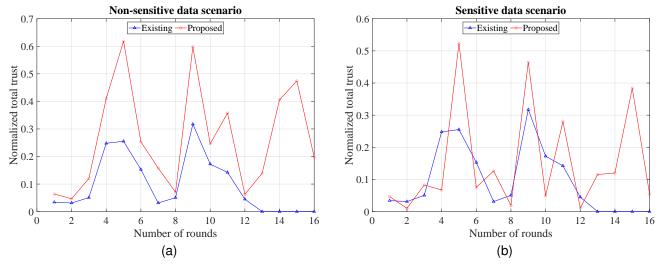


Fig. 7. Normalized trust metric for non-sensitive and sensitive data transmission scenarios.

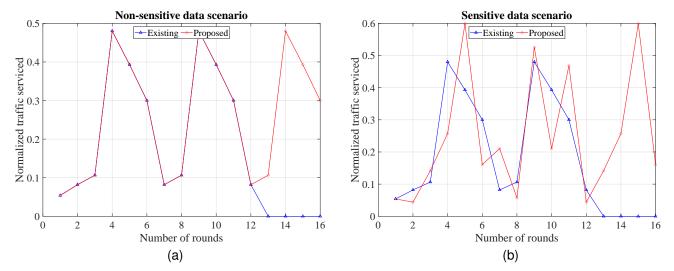


Fig. 8. Normalized traffic serviced for non-sensitive and sensitive data transmission scenarios.

that the proposed solution consistently yields a better trust metric as compared to the existing technique. From Figure 4c, it can be inferred that during high levels of jamming, our proposed technique yields higher normalized trust values (maximum 0.52) as compared to those during medium and low jamming levels, indicating that the proposed technique performs best when the communication environment is harsh.

Figure 5 compares the performance of existing and proposed techniques in terms of how well network traffic is serviced by both in the presence of jamming. It can be observed that our proposed solution outperforms the existing solution when heavy jamming occurs (as seen in Figure 5c) by servicing higher amount of traffic. This is because our proposed solution uses the caching mechanism to store data until the jamming attack is over. It should be noted here that since our proposed technique operates for longer (even after 12 rounds) compared to the existing approach, it can guarantee the delivery of traffic, although sometimes it may be delayed due to extensive jamming.

As mentioned above, we have also investigated the effects

of sensitive data transmission on network parameters such as power consumption, trust and traffic serviced (i.e., Scenario II). The results of this investigation are presented in Figures 6-8.

Figure 6 shows the normalized power consumption for two cases: Figure 6a shows the non-sensitive data scenario and Figure 6b illustrates the sensitive data scenario. For both scenarios, power consumption is higher for the existing solution as compared to our proposed solution. Figure 7 illustrates the trust metrics for both non-sensitive and sensitive data transmission scenarios and compares the performance of the two solutions. For both scenarios, the area under the curve is greater for our proposed solution as compared to the existing solution. Although there are only a few rounds during the sensitive data scenario that our proposed solution yields a lower trust, the overall trust metric provided is higher because our solution offers a longer network lifetime.

Figure 8 substantiates the total amount of traffic serviced while transmitting non-sensitive/sensitive data. It can be observed from Figure 8a that the traffic serviced is almost

identical for both solutions until round 12, after which network lifetime ends for the existing solution. However, Figure 8b shows that the proposed solution can offer significant improvements in successful traffic delivery when sensitive data is being transmitted. This is because the proposed solution has cachenabled nodes that can regulate data transmission through secure paths when sensitive data need to be transmitted.

## V. CONCLUSION

UWCNs are becoming increasingly popular in multiple domains including science, commerce, and the military. However, its widespread adoption also gives way to a number of security challenges. One such prominent security issue is that of jamming, which causes network nodes that are already difficult to recharge/replace to deplete their energy prematurely, resulting in network failure. The other security challenge is to protect the integrity of data transmission through resourceintensive encryption while maintaining a strict energy budget. This work has proposed a solution that addresses both security challenges by leveraging the mechanism of content caching and selectively encrypting sensitive data transmissions. Results indicate that our proposed solution can improve overall network power consumption, trust and traffic delivery in the presence of jamming as compared to existing solution. Moreover, our proposed solution yields better results in terms of the aforementioned network parameters when sensitive data is transmitted. This indicates that our proposed solution is a promising mechanism for building energy-efficient and secure UWCNs.

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