

Cryptanalysis of an Identity-Based Encryption Scheme With Equality Test and Improvement

YONGJIAN LIAO , (Member, IEEE), YU FAN, YIKUAN LIANG,
YULU LIU, AND RAMADAN MOHAMMED

School of Information and Software Engineering, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Chengdu 610054, China

Corresponding author: Yongjian Liao (liao yj@uestc.edu.cn)

This work was supported in part by the Sichuan Science and Technology Program under Grant 2018GZ0180, Grant 2017GZDZX0002, Grant 2018GZ0085, and Grant 2017GZDZX0001.

ABSTRACT Privacy-presenting for cloud computing has been concerned for several years. Public key encryption with equality test as a variant of keyword searchable encryption is one of the important concepts in this area. In order to simplify the management of certificate and optimize the scheme, an identity-based encryption with equality test was proposed by Wu *et al.* In this paper, we analyze that some binary operations of the encryption in the scheme are not clear so that the scheme is not more efficient than the existing schemes or the test of the scheme is not available when we analyze the most possible definitions of the binary operations in the scheme. Finally, we improve the scheme and furthermore, our improved scheme is fine-grained.

INDEX TERMS Identity-based encryption, binary operation, equality test, cloud computing, performance.

I. INTRODUCTION

In cloud computing era, data which are in encrypted form are used to storing in the cloud servers. In order to efficiently manage the data and utilize them in the future, some basic operations on the data for cloud servers are necessary, such as searching the keyword (encrypted form).

Boneh *et al.* [1] introduced an amazing notion — public key encryption with keyword search (PKEKS), in which an encrypted keyword can be searched by cloud server but cannot be unknown and decrypted. Later, Yang *et al.* [2] proposed a variant of it — public key encryption with equality test (PKEET), which utilizes the advantage of the public key encryption (PKE) and searchable encryption (SE). The PKEET scheme not only has the functionality of decryption, but also can test whether ciphertexts are encryptions of an unknown keyword even if it is encrypted by different public keys.

Tang proposed an extension of PKEET with fine-grained authorization scheme (PKEET-FG) [3] and all-or-nothing PKEET [4] to improve a PKEET-FG [5]. In order to simplify the certificate management of PKEET, Ma [7] presented identity-based encryption with equality test (IBEET), and

showed the scheme is one-way secure under chosen ciphertext attack (OW-CCA). However, the scheme was proved insecure by Liao *et al.* [8]. In order to improve the efficiency of the IBEET scheme, Wu *et al.* [9] proposed a new one by reducing the computational cost. Recently, A semi-generic construction of IBEET scheme and PKEET scheme [10] was proposed by Lee *et al.*, but it needs to use the encryption algorithm twice and a one-time signature, which aren't efficient. Zhang and Xu [11] proposed a scheme from lattices, which is viewed as secure scheme under quantum computing attacks. Chen and Liao [12] considered another properties of ABE scheme and Mohammed *et al.* [13] proposed IBEET scheme from integer factorization assumption for wireless body area networks.

In this article, we analyze the construction of an IBEET scheme as follows. We first analyze some binary operations used in the IBEET scheme proposed by Wu *et al.* according to their construction and performance analysis, and find that the definition of a binary operation of rM is not clear, where $r \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$ and $M \in \{0, 1\}^*$. Because the binary operation of rM is viewed as a usual multiplication in Encryption algorithm and a scalar multiplication in performance analysis, respectively. Then we prove the scheme is inefficient or insecure if we view the binary operation of rM as the usual multiplication, and the Test algorithm cannot perform if we view the binary operation

of rM as the scalar multiplication. Finally, we also improve the IBEET scheme and prove the security and performance. We show that our scheme is more efficient than the existing schemes and is fine-grained.

The article is organized as follows. In section II we introduce some basic notions to be used in the paper. We then recall the model and security model of IBEET in section III. In section IV we recall the IBEET scheme proposed by Wu et al. and analyze it according to different definition of a binary operation. We improve the IBEET scheme and analyze it in section V. Finally, we conclude the paper in section VI.

II. PRELIMINARY

Here, we first recall some basic mathematical knowledge which will be used.

A. BILINEAR PAIRING

Let \mathbb{G} be an additive group and \mathbb{G}_T be a multiplicative group, which have the same prime order q , \mathbb{Z}_q^* be the multiplicative group of the finite field \mathbb{F}_q . A bilinear map $e : \mathbb{G} \times \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_T$ [14], which satisfies the following three properties:

- Bilinearity: For any $a, b, c \in \mathbb{G}$,

$$e(a, b + c) = e(a, b)e(a, c), \quad \text{and} \\ e(a + b, c) = e(a, c)e(b, c).$$

- Non-degeneracy: For any non-identity elements $g_1, g_2 \in \mathbb{G}$, $e(g_1, g_2) \neq 1_{\mathbb{G}_T}$, where $1_{\mathbb{G}_T}$ is the identity element of \mathbb{G}_T .
- Computability: For any elements $g_1, g_2 \in \mathbb{G}$, there is a polynomial-time algorithm to compute $e(g_1, g_2)$.

Definition 1: Computational Diffie-Hellman problem (CDH problem). Let \mathbb{G} be an additive group above. Given $(P, aP, bP) \in \mathbb{G}^3$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$, to compute abP .

B. MODEL OF IBEET

Three parties are in an IBEET as follows, the key generator center (KGC), user and the cloud server, which are in FIGURE 1. The KGC produces the user's private key. The user produces the trapdoor of the private keys and ciphertexts. The cloud server can store the data of users which are in encrypted form and run the test algorithm when it receives the ciphertext's trapdoors. The user can get its private key over a secure channel. The cloud server can get data (ciphertexts) and trapdoors over open channels.

An IBEET scheme [9] consists of six algorithms as follows.

- **Setup**(k): It produces public parameters PKT and a master key msk for the input a security parameter k .
- **Extract**(msk, ID): It produces a private key sk_{ID} of an identity ID for the input msk and the identity $ID \in \{0, 1\}^*$.
- **Enc**(ID, M): It produces a ciphertext $C \in \mathbb{C}$ for the input $ID \in \{0, 1\}^*$ and a message $M \in \mathbb{M}$. Where \mathbb{M} and \mathbb{C} are the plaintext space and ciphertext space, respectively.
- **Dec**(sk_{ID}, C): It produces a plaintext $M \in \mathbb{M}$ for a ciphertext $C \in \mathbb{C}$ and a private key sk_{ID} .

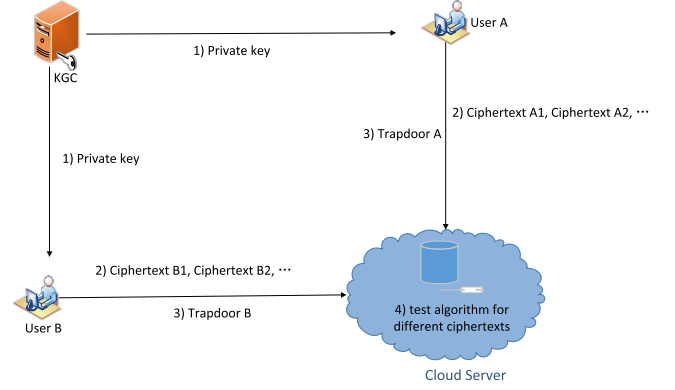


FIGURE 1. Model of IBEET.

- **Trapdoor**(sk_{ID_A}, C): It produces a trapdoor td_A for a user A 's private key sk_{ID_A} and a ciphertext C which is encrypted by using ID_A . It produces the same trapdoor td_A for all ciphertext if C is an empty string.
- **Test**(C_A, td_A, C_B, td_B): It outputs "1" if the plaintext of C_A and C_B are the same; Otherwise it outputs "0".

If the trapdoors for the ciphertexts are different, we call the IBEET scheme is fine-grained.

C. SECURITY MODEL OF IBEET

We recall the definition of one-way against chosen ciphertext security (OW-ID-CCA) for IBEET scheme [9].

- **Setup:** The challenger \mathcal{C} runs the Setup algorithm to produce the public parameters PKT and master key msk . Then it sends PKT to the adversary \mathcal{A} .
- **The Phase 1**
 - Private-key-query. \mathcal{C} runs the Extract algorithm to produce the private key sk_i of an identity ID_i . Then it sends the private key sk_i as a response of ID_i 's query to adversary \mathcal{A} .
 - Trapdoor-query TD_i . \mathcal{C} runs the above private-key-query to produce the trapdoor td_i at any time, and then sends it to \mathcal{A} .
 - Decryption-query (ID_i, C_i). \mathcal{C} runs the decryption oracle to decrypt the ciphertext C_i , and then sends an output of the decryption oracle, M_i , to adversary \mathcal{A} .
- **Challenge:** \mathcal{A} submits a challenge identity ID^* which didn't appear in the private-key-query in the phase 1. Then \mathcal{C} picks a plaintext $M^* \in \mathcal{M}$ randomly and sends $C^* = \text{Enc}(ID^*, M^*)$ to \mathcal{A} as a challenge ciphertext.
- **The Phase 2.** All queries are the same as them in the Phase 1, except
 - $ID_i \neq ID^*$ in the Private-key-query.
 - $(ID_i, C_i) \neq (ID^*, C^*)$ in the Decryption-query.
- **Guess:** \mathcal{A} submits a guess $M' \in \mathcal{M}$.

\mathcal{A} is called a OW-ID-CCA adversary in the above game [9]. The OW-ID-CCA adversary's advantage is the probability which \mathcal{A} wins the game, i.e.,

$$Adv_{\text{IBEET}, \mathcal{A}}^{\text{OW-ID-CCA}}(k) = \Pr[M = M'].$$

Definition 2: We call an IBEET scheme to be OW-ID-CCA secure if $Adv_{\text{IBEET}, \mathcal{A}}^{\text{OW-ID-CCA}}(k)$ is negligible in k for all OW-ID-CCA adversaries.

III. CRYPTANALYSIS OF AN IBEET SCHEME

In this section, we recall the IBEET scheme proposed by Wu *et al.* [9] before we analyze it.

A. REVIEW OF THE IBEET SCHEME

- **Setup:** On the input a security parameter $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, the algorithm generates the following system public parameters K . \mathbb{G} and \mathbb{G}_T are an additive group and a multiplicative group with the same prime order $p \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ respectively. Let $e : \mathbb{G} \times \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_T$ be a bilinear map, and P be a generator of group \mathbb{G} . Set $g = e(P, P)$. $H : \mathbb{G}_T \rightarrow \mathbb{G}$, $h_1 : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$ and $h_2 : \mathbb{G}_T \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$ are three hash functions. The algorithm then randomly picks two numbers $s, s' \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$, and computes $P_{pub} = sP$, $P'_{pub} = s'P$. Finally, it publishes

$$K = (q, \mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_T, P, e, g, P_{pub}, P'_{pub}, H, h_1, h_2)$$

as public parameters and (s, s') as the master key.

- **Extract:** On input an identity $ID \in \{0, 1\}^*$, the algorithm computes $h_{ID} = h_1(ID)$ and private key $sk_{ID} = (sk_{1, ID}, sk_{2, ID}) = (\frac{1}{h_{ID}+s}P, \frac{1}{h_{ID}+s'}P)$.
- **Enc:** On input an identity $ID \in \{0, 1\}^*$ and a plaintext $M \in \{0, 1\}^*$, the algorithm randomly picks two numbers $r_1, r_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$, and computes the ciphertext $C = (C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4)$, where

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= r_1(h_{ID}P + P'_{pub}), \\ C_2 &= (r_1 M) \oplus H(g^{r_1}), \\ C_3 &= r_2(h_{ID}P + P_{pub}), \\ C_4 &= (M || r_1) \oplus h_2(g^{r_2}). \end{aligned}$$

- **Dec:** On input ciphertext $C = (C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4)$ and the private key $sk_{ID} = (\frac{1}{h_{ID}+s}P, \frac{1}{h_{ID}+s'}P)$ of the identity ID , the algorithm computes

$$C_4 \oplus h_2(e(\frac{1}{h_{ID}+s}P, C_3)) = M || r_1,$$

then it verifies

$$C_1 = r_1(h_{ID}P + P'_{pub})$$

and

$$C_2 \oplus r_1M = H(e(\frac{1}{h_{ID}+s'}P, C_1)).$$

If both equations hold, then the algorithm outputs M .

- **Trapdoor:** On input an identity $ID \in \{0, 1\}^*$, the algorithm computes the trapdoor $td_{ID} = sk_{2, ID} = \frac{1}{h_{ID}+s'}P$.
- **Test:** On input $(C_A, td_{ID_A}, C_B, td_{ID_B})$, where

$$C_A = (C_{1,A}, C_{2,A}, C_{3,A}, C_{4,A}) = \text{Encrypt}(ID_A, M_A),$$

$$C_B = (C_{1,B}, C_{2,B}, C_{3,B}, C_{4,B}) = \text{Encrypt}(ID_B, M_B)$$

$$td_{ID_A} = \frac{1}{h_{ID_A}+s'}P \text{ and } td_{ID_B} = \frac{1}{h_{ID_B}+s'}P,$$

The algorithm computes

$$E_A = e(td_{ID_A}, C_{1,A}) = e(\frac{1}{h_{ID_A}+s'}P, C_{1,A}),$$

$$X_A = C_{2,A} \oplus H(E_A)$$

$$E_B = e(td_{ID_B}, C_{1,B}) = e(\frac{1}{h_{ID_B}+s'}P, C_{1,B}),$$

$$X_B = C_{2,B} \oplus H(E_B)$$

and verifies

$$(E_A)^{X_B} = (E_B)^{X_A}.$$

If the above equation holds, then $M_A = M_B$.

B. ANALYSIS OF THE SCHEME

The definition of a binary operation of rM wasn't clear in [9]. On the one hand, the binary operation of rM can be viewed as the normal multiplication of two fixed size numbers (strings) from the construction of the Enc algorithm, where $r \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$ and $M \in \{0, 1\}^*$. On the other hand, the binary operation of rM had been viewed as a scalar multiplication in the performance in [9] (They countered that there are 5 scalar multiplications in the Enc algorithm). At the same time, rM had been viewed as a scalar multiplication in almost all other PKEET and IBEET schemes [2], [6], [7]. Next, we analyze the IBEET scheme from the two possible definitions of the binary operation, i.e., a binary operation of rM is an integer multiplication and a scalar multiplication, respectively.

1) BINARY OPERATION OF rM IS AN INTEGER MULTIPLICATION

If the definition of the binary operation of rM is viewed as multiplication of two integers (strings), then the scheme will produce inefficiency, and furthermore it will cause some security problem. We analyze it as follows.

One of contribution of the scheme [9] is that the scheme was efficient and available to mobile computing (in subsection 1.1 of [9]). They claimed their scheme was more efficient than the IBEET scheme proposed by Ma [7]. However, we analyze their scheme and find this advantage is not correct if we take into account the usual multiplication of rM . From the game of the definition 2, any adversary can make trapdoor query to obtain trapdoor td of the challenge ciphertext. Thus, the adversary has

$$r_1^*M^* = C_2^* \oplus H(e(td, C_1^*)).$$

On the one hand, we analyze the efficiency of their IBEET scheme. For the security perspective, the length of $r_1^*M^*$ must be more than 1024 bits (For RSA scheme, the security parameter is at least 1024 bits), that implies the group \mathbb{G} over a finite field \mathbb{Z}_p^* is more than 512 bits. But a secure IBEET scheme [8] which are improved from the IBEET scheme proposed by Ma [7] is secure over a finite field \mathbb{Z}_p^* about 160 bits. We know that computational cost of schemes over elliptic curve of 512 bits are much less than it of schemes over elliptic curve of 160 bits. Thus, their scheme [9] is much less

efficient than the Ma's IBEET scheme if viewing the binary operation of rM as the usual integer multiplication.

On the other hand, $r_1^* \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$ and $M^* \in \{0, 1\}^*$ are random but not prime, and there exists risk of factorizing $r_1^*M^*$ even the length of $r_1^*M^*$ is more than 1024 bits. Once the adversary factorizes it, it can get r_1^* from testing the equation

$$C_1^* = r_1'(h_{ID}P + P'_{pub}),$$

where r_1' is an element of set of all possible divisors of $r_1^*M^*$. That implies $r_1' = r_1^*$. Then the adversary can compute

$$M^* = r_1'^{-1}r_1^*M^*.$$

Thus, the scheme maybe not satisfy the definition 2, one-way security if viewing the binary operation of rM as the usual integer multiplication. Its security relies on the choice of r and M . Additionally, it will produce an additional cost (encoding M) if the scheme requires that the 'keyword' M is prime.

2) BINARY OPERATION OF rM IS A SCALAR MULTIPLICATION

In this subsection, the binary operation of rM is taken into account as the scalar multiplication, which was used in the Test algorithm of the IBEET scheme and viewed as a scalar multiplication in the performance [9].

Suppose that \mathbb{G} is an additive group of some elliptic curve and $M \in \mathbb{G}$ is a point of the elliptic curve, which is defined in Section II. Let \mathbb{Z}^+ be the set of positive integers. Thus, for a random number $r \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, we have

$$r \cdot M \stackrel{Def}{=} \underbrace{M + \dots + M}_r.$$

Here, the multiplication is the scalar multiplication over the group \mathbb{G} .

However, the point M' in \mathbb{G} and the number $r' \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$ are viewed as bit strings in the IBEET scheme [7], [9] and the PKEET scheme [2], [4]. Because the coordinates of M' (set $M' = (m_1, m_2)$) are elements of a finite field, which can be viewed as a concatenation of two bit strings, i.e. $m_1||m_2$. Thus, the definition of the multiplication over two bit strings is described as follows.

$$r' \bullet M' \stackrel{Def}{=} r' \times M'$$

where the symbol " \times " is the multiplication symbol of the usual multiplication on the integer set \mathbb{Z} .

Next, we take into account the following equality which was used in [9].

$$r' \bullet (r \cdot M) \stackrel{?}{=} r \bullet (r' \cdot M).$$

Obviously, although M is an element of \mathbb{G} and \mathbb{G} is an abelian group, the binary operations \bullet and \cdot are not the same operations, the 'associative' law and the 'commutative' law do not hold. That is to say,

$$r' \bullet (r \cdot M) \neq r \bullet (r' \cdot M).$$

In order to explain the above inequality clearly, we give the following example to show it is correct.

Let $EC : y^2 = x^3 + 7x$ be an elliptic curve over a finite field \mathbb{Z}_{13} . It is easy to verify $(3, 3)$ is a point of order 3 over the elliptic curve EC . Suppose that $r = 1$, $r' = 2$ and $M = (3, 3)$. We have

$$r' \bullet (r \cdot M) = 2 \bullet (1 \cdot (3, 3)) = 2 \bullet (3, 3) = 30,$$

$$r \bullet (r' \cdot M) = 1 \bullet (2 \cdot (3, 3)) = 1 \bullet (3, 10) = 58.$$

where we encode 3 as a bit string 11 and encode 10 as a bit string 1010. So $(3,3)$ is 1111, $(3,10)$ is 111010.

Thus, we have $r' \bullet (r \cdot M) \neq r \bullet (r' \cdot M)$.

Maybe there are another encoding algorithm to encode a point in \mathbb{G} . However, if we define the bilinear pairing \hat{e} with two multiplicative groups \mathbb{G} and \mathbb{G}_T with the same order q ,

$$\hat{e} : \mathbb{G} \times \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_T.$$

$r' \bullet (r \cdot M)$ should be written as $r' \bullet M^r$, it is obvious that

$$r' \bullet M^r \neq r \bullet M^{r'}.$$

In fact, the IBEET scheme proposed by Wu et al. had misused these two binary operations in their Test algorithm.

Analysis of Their IBEET Scheme

Next, we will show that the construction of the IBEET scheme is not rational, which causes the *Test* algorithm cannot be performed.

Since the *Test* algorithm needs to verify the equality

$$(E_A)^{X_B} = (E_B)^{X_A},$$

where $E_A = g^{r_1,A} \in \mathbb{G}$, $E_B = g^{r_1,B} \in \mathbb{G}$, $X_A = r_{1,A}M_A$ and $X_B = r_{1,B}M_B$. That means that the *Test* algorithm needs to verify the equality

$$g^{r_{1,A}(r_{1,B}M_B)} = g^{r_{1,B}(r_{1,A}M_A)}$$

to determine if that $M_A = M_B$ holds or not. That is to say,

$$r_{1,A}(r_{1,B}M_B) = r_{1,B}(r_{1,A}M_A) \pmod p$$

holds if and only if $M_A = M_B$.

However, as we discuss in previous subsection, this equality doesn't hold. Because for $r_{1,A}, r_{1,B} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$ and $M_A, M_B \in \mathbb{G}$, in the above equality the binary operation of $r_{1,B}M$ and $r_{1,A}M$ is the scalar multiplicative operation over \mathbb{G} , but the binary operation of $r_{1,A}$ and $(r_{1,B}M)$, $r_{1,B}$ and $(r_{1,A}M)$ is the multiplicative operation over \mathbb{Z}_p^* . On the one hand, r_1M is not $r_1 \bullet M$ defining in the subsection A of this section. If r_1M is $r_1 \bullet M$, the Enc algorithm cannot control the length of r_1M , and which causes the operation of $C_2 = (r_1 M) \oplus H(g^{r_1})$ cannot run. On the other hand, the equality $(E_A)^{X_B} = (E_B)^{X_A}$ in the Test algorithm means that X_A, X_B are viewed as numbers, but not elements of \mathbb{G} .

Thus these two "multiplications" are not the same binary operations, and the associative law and the commutative law do not hold. Thus, even though the equality $M_A = M_B$ holds, the inequality

$$g^{r_{1,A}(r_{1,B}M_B)} \neq g^{r_{1,B}(r_{1,A}M_A)}$$

holds.

IV. OUR IMPROVED SCHEME

In this section, we will improve the IBEET scheme proposed by Wu et al. as follows. Where we view the binary operation of rM as the scalar multiplication for $r \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ and $M \in \mathbb{G}$.

A. OUR CONSTRUCTION

We do not change Setup, Extract and Decrypt algorithms of their IBEET scheme, almost not change the *Enc* algorithm except that $M \in \mathbb{G}$ and hash functions $H : \mathbb{G}_T \rightarrow \mathbb{G}$, $h_1 : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$ and $h_2 : \mathbb{G}_T \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{|\mathbb{G}|+|q|}$ are required. We describe the other algorithms of the IBEET scheme as follows.

- *Enc*: On input an identity $ID \in \{0, 1\}^*$ and a plaintext $M \in \mathbb{G}$, the algorithm randomly picks two numbers $r_1, r_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$, and computes the ciphertext $C = (C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4)$, where

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= r_1(h_{ID}P + P'_{pub}), \\ C_2 &= (r_1 M) \oplus H(g^{r_1}), \\ C_3 &= r_2(h_{ID}P + P_{pub}), \\ C_4 &= (M || r_1) \oplus h_2(g^{r_2}). \end{aligned}$$

- *Trapdoor*: On input an identity $ID \in \{0, 1\}^*$ and its private key $(sk_{1,ID}, sk_{2,ID})$, the algorithm computes

$$C_4 \oplus h_2(e(sk_{1,ID}, C_3)) = M || r_1,$$

and then outputs the trapdoor $td_{ID} = (td_{1,ID}, td_{2,ID}) = (\frac{1}{h_{ID}+s'}P, r_1P)$.

- *Test*: On input $(C_A, td_{ID_A}, C_B, td_{ID_B})$, where

$$\begin{aligned} C_A &= (C_{1,A}, C_{2,A}, C_{3,A}, C_{4,A}) = \text{Encrypt}(ID_A, M_A), \\ C_B &= (C_{1,B}, C_{2,B}, C_{3,B}, C_{4,B}) = \text{Encrypt}(ID_B, M_B), \\ td_{1,ID_A} &= \frac{1}{h_{ID_A}+s'}P \text{ and } td_{1,ID_B} = \frac{1}{h_{ID_B}+s'}P, \end{aligned}$$

the algorithm computes

$$\begin{aligned} E_A &= e(td_{1,ID_A}, C_{1,A}) = e(\frac{1}{h_{ID_A}+s'}P, C_{1,A}), \\ X_A &= C_{2,A} \oplus H(E_A), \\ E_B &= e(td_{1,ID_B}, C_{1,B}) = e(\frac{1}{h_{ID_B}+s'}P, C_{1,B}), \\ X_B &= C_{2,B} \oplus H(E_B) \end{aligned}$$

and verifies

$$e(td_{2,ID_A}, X_B) = e(td_{2,ID_B}, X_A).$$

If the above equation holds, then $M_A = M_B$. Our Test algorithm is distinct to it in [7]. In order to run the Test algorithm, our Trapdoor algorithm should generate a corresponding trapdoor for every ciphertext.

B. SECURITY ANALYSIS OF OUR IMPROVED IBEET SCHEME

We first show the **Correctness** of the improve scheme. On input the trapdoors td_{ID_A} , td_{ID_B} and the ciphertexts C_A , C_B , the algorithm Test can compute:

$$\begin{aligned} X_A &= C_{2,A} \oplus H(E_A) = C_{2,A} \oplus H(e(td_{1,ID_A}, C_{1,A})) \\ &= C_{2,A} \oplus H(g^{r_{1,A}}) = r_{1,A}M_A, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} X_B &= C_{2,B} \oplus H(E_B) = C_{2,B} \oplus H(e(td_{1,ID_B}, C_{1,B})) \\ &= C_{2,B} \oplus H(g^{r_{1,B}}) = r_{1,B}M_B. \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} e(td_{2,ID_A}, X_B) &= e(r_{1,A}P, r_{1,B}M_B) = e(P, M_B)^{r_{1,A}r_{1,B}}, \\ e(td_{2,ID_B}, X_A) &= e(r_{1,B}P, r_{1,A}M_A) = e(P, M_A)^{r_{1,A}r_{1,B}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the equality

$$e(td_{2,ID_A}, X_B) = e(td_{2,ID_B}, X_A)$$

holds if and only if $M_A = M_B$.

Our improved scheme is based on the IBEET scheme proposed by Wu et al., and we do not change Setup, Extract, Encrypt and Decrypt algorithms of their scheme. But in order to perform the equality test, we improve the Trapdoor algorithm and Test algorithm. The trapdoor td_2 is the one and only if the Encrypt algorithm had generated the ciphertext (C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4) of some plaintext M . At the same time, td_2 does not reveal any information on the plaintext M and the random numbers r_1 and r_2 . That means these modifies do not change the security of the IBEET scheme. Thus, we get the following Theorem 1, which can be proved by using the same method in [9].

Theorem 1: Suppose a OW-ID-CCA adversary \mathcal{A} has advantage $\epsilon(k)$ against our improved IBEET scheme, then there also exists an algorithm that can solve the CDH problem in group \mathbb{G} with advantage of at least

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{\epsilon(k)}{(q_H + q_{h_2} + q_{dec})e(q_{sk} + q_{td} + q_{dec} + 1)} \\ &- \frac{q_{dec}q_H}{2^{l_1}(q_H + q_{h_2} + q_{dec})} \\ &+ (\frac{1}{2^{l_1+l_2}} + \frac{1}{2^{l_1}} + \frac{1}{2^{l_2}}) \frac{(q_H + q_{h_2})q_{dec}}{q_H + q_{h_2} + q_{dec}}. \end{aligned}$$

where q_H , q_{h_2} , q_{dec} , q_{sk} and q_{td} denote the number of hash function H queries, hash function h_2 queries, decryption queries, private key queries and trapdoor queries, respectively.

Since the proof of the above theorem is almost the same as the proof in [9], we omit it here.

C. PERFORMANCE AND COMPARISON

Because we do not modify the Setup, Extract, Encrypt and Decrypt algorithms of the IBEET scheme proposed by Wu et al., it is easy to know that the computation cost of the

TABLE 1. Comparison of IBEET Schemes.

Schemes	[7]	[9]	[10]	Ours
Enc Cost	$4E_{\mathbb{G}}+2E_{\mathbb{G}_T}$	$4E_{\mathbb{G}}+2E_{\mathbb{G}_T}$	$5E_{\mathbb{G}}+E_{\mathbb{G}_T}$	$4E_{\mathbb{G}}+2E_{\mathbb{G}_T}$
Dec Cost	$2BP+2E_{\mathbb{G}}$	$2BP+3E_{\mathbb{G}}$	3BP	$2BP+3E_{\mathbb{G}}$
Test Cost	4BP	$2BP+2E_{\mathbb{G}}$	2BP	4BP
Length of MSK	$2 Z_p $	$2 Z_p $	$3 Z_p $	$2 Z_p $
Length of CT	$4 \mathbb{G} + H $	$3 \mathbb{G} + h $	$4 \mathbb{G} +5 H $	$3 \mathbb{G} + h $
Length of TD	$ \mathbb{G} $	$ \mathbb{G} $	$ \mathbb{G} $	$2 \mathbb{G} $
Function of Test	YES	NO	YES	YES
Security	NO	YES	YES	YES
Fine-Grained [5]	NO	NO	NO	YES

Where Enc Cost, Dec Cost and Test Cost represent the computation cost of encryption, decryption and test, respectively. Length of MSK, CT and TD represent the length of the master key, ciphertext and trapdoor, respectively. $E_{\mathbb{G}}$, $E_{\mathbb{G}_T}$ and BP represent the average computation cost of an exponentiation of \mathbb{G} and \mathbb{G}_T and bilinear pairing, respectively. $|\mathbb{G}|$, $|\mathbb{G}_T|$ and $|Z_p|$ represent the average length of an element of \mathbb{G} , \mathbb{G}_T and Z_p , respectively. $|H|$ and $|h|$ represent the length of the output of the hash functions H and h , respectively.

encryption algorithm and the decryption algorithm of ours is the same as that of their IBEET scheme. Therefore, it is more efficient than the Ma's IBEET scheme. The ciphertext of ours and it of the IBEET scheme proposed by Wu et al. are same. Therefore, the length of the ciphertext is less than that of the Ma's IBEET scheme. However, the computation cost of our Trapdoor algorithm is less efficient than the other two schemes, and the length of the trapdoor td_{ID} is longer than that of the other two IBEET schemes. Because the trapdoor of the other two schemes is only a part of the private key of the identity, but that in our improved scheme includes an element r_1P (in \mathbb{G}) besides a part of the identity's private key. The computation cost of our improved scheme is almost the same as that of Ma's IBEET scheme and there is only a bit insignificantly different between these two IBEET schemes. Because we use exclusive-OR operation instead of an additive operation in group \mathbb{G} once. Compared with 4 times bilinear pairing operations, this almost is not optimized. If we use some test result for the execution time of basic operations which is in table 1 in paper [9], the computation cost difference of the Test algorithm of two schemes were only 0.012 ms.

Since the scheme proposed by Lee et al. was a semi-generic construction, we compare their Boneh-Franklin version [10] with other schemes in TABLE 1. Our improved scheme is a bit more efficient than it of their scheme [10] on computation cost of encryption and decryption, and the length of the master key and ciphertext. However, their computation cost of test is more efficient than it of other schemes. However, only our scheme performs the fine-grained trapdoor [5], which depends on the ciphertext and user's private key. The detailed is in the TABLE 1.

V. CONCLUSION

PKEET and IBEET are two important notions to solve keywords searchable in cloud computing. They have the functionality of decryption and comparison of plaintext equality.

In this paper, we firstly proved that some binary operation used in the IBEET scheme proposed by Wu et al. was not reasonable, which caused the scheme less efficient or insecure or non-available according to different definitions. Then we improved the scheme and constructed a secure and efficient IBEET scheme which is fine-grained.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors would like to thank the anonymous reviewers for their very valuable comments.

REFERENCES

- [1] D. Boneh, G. Di Crescenzo, R. Ostrovsky, and G. Persiano, "Public key encryption with keyword search," in *Advances in Cryptology—EUROCRYPT* (Lecture Notes in Computer Science), vol. 3027. Berlin, Germany: Springer-Verlag, 2004, pp. 506–522.
- [2] G. Yang, C. H. Tan, Q. Huang, and D. S. Wong, "Probabilistic public key encryption with equality test," in *Proc. Cryptographers Track RSA Conf., in Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, San Francisco, CA, USA: Springer, vol. 5985, 2010, pp. 119–131.
- [3] Q. Tang, "Public key encryption schemes supporting equality test with authorisation of different granularity," *Int. J. Appl. Cryptogr.*, vol. 2, no. 4, pp. 304–321, Jul. 2012.
- [4] Q. Tang, "Public key encryption supporting plaintext equality test and user-specified authorization," *Secur. Commun. Netw.*, vol. 5, no. 12, pp. 1351–1362, Dec. 2012.
- [5] Q. Tang, "Towards public key encryption scheme supporting equality test with fine-grained authorization," in *Proc. Australas. Conf. Inf. Secur. Privacy, in Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, Melbourne, Australia: Springer, vol. 6812, 2011, pp. 389–406.
- [6] S. Ma, Q. Huang, M. Zhang, and B. Yang, "Efficient public key encryption with equality test supporting flexible authorization," *IEEE Trans. Inf. Forensics Security*, vol. 10, no. 3, pp. 458–470, Mar. 2015.
- [7] S. Ma, "Identity-based encryption with outsourced equality test in cloud computing," *Inf. Sci.*, vol. 328, pp. 389–402, Jan. 2016.
- [8] Y. Liao, H. Chen, W. Huang, R. Mohammed, H. Pan, and S. Zhou, "Insecurity of an IBEET scheme and an ABEET scheme," *IEEE Access*, vol. 7, pp. 25087–25094, 2019. doi: [10.1109/ACCESS.2019.2900752](https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2019.2900752).
- [9] L. Wu, Y. Zhang, K.-K. R. Choo, and D. He, "Efficient and secure identity-based encryption scheme with equality test in cloud computing," *Future Gener. Comput. Syst.*, vol. 73, pp. 22–31, Aug. 2017.
- [10] H. T. Lee, S. Ling, J. H. Seo, and H. Wang, "Semi-generic construction of public key encryption and identity-based encryption with equality test," *Inf. Sci.*, vol. 373, pp. 419–440, Dec. 2016.
- [11] X. Zhang and C. Xu, "Trapdoor security lattice-based public-key searchable encryption with a designated cloud server," *Wireless Pers. Commun.*, vol. 100, no. 3, pp. 907–921, Jun. 2018.
- [12] H. Chen and Y. Liao, "Improvement of an outsourced attribute-based encryption scheme," *Soft Comput.*, pp. 1–6, May 2019. doi: [10.1007/s00500-019-04088-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00500-019-04088-y).
- [13] M. Ramadan, Y. Liao, F. Li, S. Zhou, and H. Abdalla, "IBEET-RSA: Identity-based encryption with equality test over RSA for wireless body area networks," *Mobile Netw. Appl.*, pp. 1–11, Apr. 2019. doi: [10.1007/s11036-019-01215-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11036-019-01215-9).
- [14] D. Boneh, B. Lynn, and H. Shacham, "Short signatures from the Weil pairing," in *Advances in Cryptology—ASIACRYPT* (Lecture Notes in Computer Science), vol. 2248. Berlin, Germany: Springer, 2001, pp. 514–532.
- [15] D. Boneh and M. Franklin, "Identity-based encryption from the Weil pairing," in *Advances in Cryptology—CRYPTO* (Lecture Notes in Computer Science), vol. 2139. Santa Barbara, CA, USA: Springer, 2001, pp. 213–229.