I. INTRODUCTION

Internet of Things (IoT) is a newer technology in this fastest world. Any physical objects like phone, laptop, refrigerator, printer, air cooler etc. are considered as smart things. “IoT can be defined as a network of uniquely identifiable, accessible, and manageable smart things that are capable of performing communication, computation and ultimate decision making”[1]. “It is a unified part of Future Internet and could be defined as a dynamic global network infrastructure with self-configuring capabilities based on standard and interoperable communication protocols where physical and virtual “things” have identities, physical attributed, use intelligent interfaces, and are seamlessly integrated into the information network” [2]. 

IoT requires components to enable communication between devices such as wireless connections like Sensors, RFID, Bluetooth, ZigBee, WSN, WLAN, WMAN or Wi-Fi. Sensor data is an essential part of IoT system, and it shares data to third parties to avail useful services and applications like, location-based services, smart home management and elderly monitoring etc. IoT data properties generate many data management issues such as scalability of data, interoperability, accessing data, data archiving etc. IoT data storage can be local, distributed and centralized. Here, data security is extremely challenging due to the different data properties.

Providing data security to the streaming or sensed data is a major issue in IoT. In order to use device communication effectively, we need to improve the security. Cryptography is an effective way to protect the sensitive information. This paper proposes a multilevel encryption for IoT data using Merkle-Hellman knapsack cryptosystem and ECC. ECC is well-suited for IoT applications that need long-term security requirements. Also, Elliptic curves offers high level of security and smaller the key length [3]. Subset problem is created in Merkle Hellman knapsack cryptosystem to encrypt the data. Hence, the computation is very simple and efficient [4].

II. RELATED WORKS

Daisy Premila Bai et al. [9] proposed Elliptic Curve Cryptography based security framework for Internet of Things and Cloud Computing. This model adopted multifactor authentication which worked in seven phases. The proposed model gives data security against some of the major security issues such as integrity, confidentiality, privacy and authentication. The proposed framework were implemented and proved that it enhances security. Arghya Rai et al [4] proposed an encryption technique using Merkle-Hellman knapsack cryptosystem and discrete logarithms based on RSA concepts. The basic needs for cryptography were discussed in this paper. Two algorithms were used to encrypt amessage and strengthened the security of the data. Finally the proposed method was proved to be secure with mathematical model.

Mailov Arif et al. [10] discussed various cryptographic algorithms used for data encryption. Elliptic Curve Cryptography offers high security for IoT applications. The authors compared many Elliptical curves and their key lengths and key generation times for securing e-ID. ECC algorithm was implemented in Azerbaijan E-ID Card and proved that ECC in e-ID production gave high performance and greater security than RSA algorithm. Laiphrakpam et al. [7] discussed Elliptic curve cryptography algorithm and proposed a new technique to enhance ECC by reducing its computational cost and time. They removed mapping of characters to affine points and replaced by using ASCII values. They proved by implementing the proposed work that gave better security when compared with other algorithms.

III. PROPOSED WORK

In this approach, a multilevel encryption technique (Merkle-Hellman Knapsack cryptosystem with Elliptic Curve Cryptography) is used. The purpose of the proposed technique is to secure the data sensed from the IoT devices.
Figure 3 shows the system model of the proposed approach. Data from the IoT devices will be sent to the gateway using protocols such as CoAP and HTTP across the internet. Once data is received by the gateway, it is prepared for transmission to the server. Before the data being transmitted to the server, they are encrypted using multilevel encryption technique.

A. Elliptic Curve Cryptosystem Overview

Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) is the public key cryptography approach used for data encryption. Neal Koblitz [5] and Victor Miller [6] proposed elliptic curves in 1985 to design public key cryptographic systems. This solves the major issue of public key cryptography by providing high level security with less key length. An Elliptic Curve is a plane curve defined by an equation:

\[ y^2 = x^3 + ax + b \]  \hspace{1cm} (1)

A standard form of elliptic curve E over finite field \( F_p \) (\( p \) is a large prime number) is computed by using the following equation:

\[ E: y^2 = x^3 + ax + b \pmod{p} \]  \hspace{1cm} (2)

Then, the procedure involves choosing two non-negative integers a, b which are less than \( p \) such that, it satisfies the condition:

\[ 4a^3 + 27b^2 \pmod{p} \neq 0 \]  \hspace{1cm} (3)

1) Operations of ECC

1.1 Point Inverse

If \( S(x_1, y_1) \) is a point on an elliptic curve, then its inverse is given by \( -S(x_1, y_1) \). The following equation is used to calculate the inverse[7].

\[ -S(x_1, y_1) = S(x_1, p-y_1) \]  \hspace{1cm} (4)

1.2 Point Addition

Point addition is one of the elliptic curve arithmetic operations. When the two points of a curve \( P(x_1, y_1) \) and \( Q(x_2, y_2) \) overlap \( (P = Q) \), \( 2P \) is given by the following calculation [7].

\[ x_3 = \lambda^2 - 2x_1 \]  \hspace{1cm} (7)

\[ y_3 = \lambda(x_1 - x_3) - y_1 \]  \hspace{1cm} (8)

Where

\[ \lambda = \frac{3x_1^2 + a}{2y_1} \]

1.3 Point Doubling

Point doubling is one of the basic elliptic curve arithmetic operations. When the two points of a curve \( P(x_1, y_1) \) and \( Q(x_1, y_1) \) overlap \( (P = Q) \), \( 2P \) is given by the following calculation [7].

\[ x_3 = \lambda^2 - 2x_1 \]  \hspace{1cm} (7)

\[ y_3 = \lambda(x_1 - x_3) - y_1 \]  \hspace{1cm} (8)

Where

\[ \lambda = \frac{3x_1^2 + a}{2y_1} \]

1.4 Scalar Multiplication

Let \( P \) be any point on the elliptic curve. Multiplication operation over \( P \) is defined by the repeated addition [7].

\[ kP = P + P + \ldots + k \text{ times} \]  \hspace{1cm} (9)

Example: Let us consider the elliptic curve over \( F_p \) where \( a=1, b=1, p=11 \) with the equation (1).

Now, \( y^2 = x^3 + x + 1 \pmod{11} \)

The set of solutions are \( E= \{(1,10), (1,1), (3,5), (3,6), (4,2), (4,9), (6,4), (6,7), (8,3), (8,8), O\} \), including the point infinity \( O \).

Elliptic curve point addition shows as follows:

By given points, \( P = (1,1) \) and \( Q = (8,8) \)

\[ \lambda = \frac{8^2 - 1 - 8}{8 - 1} \pmod{11} = 1 \]

\[ P + Q = (1,1) + (8,8) \]

\[ x_3 = 1^2 - 1 - 8 = -8 = 3 \]

\[ y_3 = 1(1-3) - 1 = -3 = 8 \]

\[ P + Q = (1,1) + (8,8) = (3,8) \]

If the selected point \( P \) be \( (8,8) \), then the doubling operation is performed as follows.

\[ \lambda = \frac{3*8^2 + 1}{2*8} \pmod{11} \]

\[ = (50/5) \pmod{11} = 10 \]

\[ x_3 = 10^2 - 2*8 = 84 \pmod{11} = 7 \]

\[ y_3 = 10(8 - 7) - 8 = 10 - 8 = 2 \]

\[ 2P = (8,8) + (8,8) = (7,2) \]
The result of point addition and point doubling is (3,8) and (7,2), because the elliptic curve points are in Abelian group.

General Procedure for ECC is as follows:
(i) Both sender and receiver agrees to send publicly-known data items. For this the following steps are followed
a) In elliptic curve equation, values of $a$ and $b$ and prime $p$
b) Points (elliptic group) computed from the elliptic curve equation
c) A base point $B$ taken from the elliptic group
(ii) Each user generates public or private key pair using the following steps
a) Private key (d): an integer $x$, selected from the interval $[1, p-1]$
b) Public key (Q): product of private key and base point $Q = d*B$

B. Merkle Hellman Knapsack Cryptosystem overview

Ralph Merkle and Martin Hellman invented the superincreasing subset problem in the year 1978. It attempts to disguise an easily solved instance of the subset problem called superincreasing subset sum problem, by modular multiplication and a permutation [8]. The nature of superincreasing order is hidden by vector $v$ using modular multiplication and a permutation, and then the superincreasing vector is represented by $v$. The distorted vector forms the encrypted message. The original superincreasing vector forms the private key which is used to decipher the message.

(i) Superincreasing Order

A super increasing sequence is a sequence $(a_1, a_2, a_3, ..., a_n)$ of positive integers with the property that
$$a_i > \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} b_j$$
for each $i$, $2 \leq i \leq n$.

C. Multilevel Encryption Technique

The proposed multilevel encryption technique performs encryption in two steps.

(i) Firstly, the given plain text is parted by each characters and then convert it into its equivalent binary values. Binary values are then encrypted using Merkle-Hellman encryption scheme. Mainly, it is to generate a subset problem which can be solved fluently. Here, by using modular representation and permutation the superincreasing nature can be hidden. The Merkle-Hellman encryption procedure is given below.

Step 1: Choose super increasing sequence of positive integers, where each numbers is greater than the sum of all preceding numbers $s = (s_1, s_2, s_3, ..., s_n)$

Step 2: Convert each character of the plain text into binary equivalent represented by $b_i$

Step 3: Choose an integer ($a$) which is greater than the sum of all numbers in the sequence $s$ and its co-prime ($r$)

Step 4: The sequence $s$ and the numbers $a$ and $r$ form the private key of the cryptosystem.

Step 5: All the elements in the sequence are multiplied with number rand the modulus of the multiple is taken by dividing with the number $a$.

Step 6: $p_i = s_i \times r \mod (a)$, where all the elements in the sequence are multiplied with the corresponding elements of the binary sequence $b$ and then adding the resulting sum.

Step 7: The encrypted Message is $M = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} p_i \times b_i$

(ii) Secondly, these encrypted characters are further encrypted by elliptic curve cryptography (ECC). ECC is utilized to generate the cipher text of the result provided by Merkle-Hellman encryption. The procedure for Elliptic Curve Cryptosystem is given below.

With these techniques, the data could be shared securely. The following section will give the mathematical model of the proposed work. In this proposed approach, the data is secured by applying two different encryption techniques such as Merkle-Hellman knapsack cryptosystem and Elliptic curve Cryptography. With these techniques, the data could
be shared securely. The following section will give the mathematical model of the proposed work.

IV. MATHEMATICAL MODEL

Example – Encrypting the string “sir”

(A.) Firstly, the plain text is encrypted using Merkle Hellman knapsack cryptosystem

Step 1: choosing a superincreasing sequence.
In this case the sequence is $s = 3, 5, 9, 18, 38, 75, 155, 312$

Step 2: Convert the characters of a given string into their binary equivalent

Convert each character into their ASCII value and then find their binary equivalent

$s = 11100011$

$i = 11010001$

$r = 11100010$

The binary sequence $b = (b_1, b_2, ... b_n)$

Step 3: Choose an integer $a$ and its co-prime $r$

An integer $a = 672$ (greater than the sum of all values in the sequence $s$)

The co-prime $r = 13$

Step 4: Find sequence $p = p_1, p_2, ..., p_n$, where $p_i = s_i \mod \text{ } r$

$p_1 = 3 \cdot 13 \mod 672 = 39$

$p_2 = 5 \cdot 13 \mod 672 = 65$

$p_3 = 9 \cdot 13 \mod 672 = 117$

$p_4 = 18 \cdot 13 \mod 672 = 234$

$p_5 = 38 \cdot 13 \mod 672 = 494$

$p_6 = 75 \cdot 13 \mod 672 = 303$

$p_7 = 155 \cdot 13 \mod 672 = 671$

$p_8 = 312 \cdot 13 \mod 672 = 24$

Step 5: Encrypting the message $M$ = ‘sir’

The objective of the proposed work is to improve the security of the IoT data that are sensed by the IoT devices. This is achieved by the proposed multilevel encryption. The data are encrypted in the gateway before storing it in the cloud server. Encryption of data is performed in two stages. In the first stage, Merkle-hellman knapsack cryptosystem is used to encrypt the data. In the second stage, the encrypted text acts as an input for ECC. Finally, the obtained cipher text is sent to the cloud server. This approach ensures the security of the data and improves computation time.

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