Advancing Secure and Compressed Sensor Data Transmission in IoT and 6G Networks

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Abstract: The rapid expansion of IoT and the emergence of 6G networks bring unprecedented opportunities for connectivity and data processing. However, these advancements also introduce critical challenges, including the exponential growth of data volume and security vulnerabilities in real-time transmissions. Traditional data compression and encryption techniques struggle to meet the stringent requirements of low latency, scalability, and computational efficiency in 6G-enabled IoT environments.

To address these challenges, this study explores integrated compression and encryption mechanisms tailored for IoT data transmission in 6G networks. Lossless and lossy compression techniques are analyzed for optimizing storage and bandwidth utilization, while lightweight encryption models are investigated to enhance security without imposing excessive computational burdens. Additionally, synergistic approaches combining compression and encryption are examined to balance performance and security trade-offs.

The findings highlight that adaptive compression and encryption schemes can significantly improve data transmission efficiency while maintaining robust security. AI-driven techniques further enhance real-time processing and scalability. These innovations have broad applications in smart cities, industrial IoT, healthcare, and autonomous systems, where secure and efficient data transmission is paramount. Future research should focus on quantum-safe cryptography, edge intelligence, and optimized resource allocation to ensure the seamless integration of IoT and 6G networks.

Keywords: IoT, 6G Networks, Data Compression, Data Security, Encryption Techniques, Energy Efficiency

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Introduction

The Internet of Things (IoT) has ushered in a new era of interconnected devices, enabling industries to leverage real-time data for decision-making, process automation, and optimization. By 2030, the number of IoT devices is expected to exceed 25 billion, generating a vast amount of sensor data continuously. The applications of IoT span multiple domains, including smart cities, healthcare, transportation, industrial automation, and environmental monitoring. While IoT has the potential to revolutionize these sectors, it also presents substantial challenges regarding efficient data transmission, security, and energy consumption. These challenges become particularly pronounced as IoT continues to evolve and scale, necessitating the development of innovative solutions that can address the unique requirements of IoT devices operating within constrained environments.

The advent of 6G networks, the next frontier in wireless communication technology, promises to provide a transformative infrastructure to support the continued growth of IoT. 6G is anticipated to deliver ultra-low latency, massive connectivity, and unprecedented data rates, facilitating seamless information exchange across billions of devices. This advancement will enable new use cases such as holographic communication, autonomous systems, and real-time healthcare applications. However, as the scale and complexity of IoT networks increase, the need for efficient, secure, and scalable data transmission methods becomes even more critical.

This paper focuses on addressing the key challenge of secure and efficient sensor data transmission in IoT and 6G networks, with a specific emphasis on integrating data compression techniques with robust security measures. One significant challenge in IoT and 6G networks is managing the sheer volume of data generated by sensors and devices. In traditional wireless networks, bandwidth limitations often constrain the amount of data transmitted in a given time. This issue is exacerbated in IoT networks, where devices are often deployed in remote or resource-constrained environments with limited power, memory, and computational capabilities. Data compression techniques offer a potential solution by reducing the size of transmitted data,

thereby improving bandwidth utilization and reducing transmission time. However, while compression can enhance network performance, it often introduces security vulnerabilities.

Security is another critical aspect, as the data transmitted between devices can be highly sensitive and susceptible to unauthorized access, tampering, and eavesdropping. IoT devices, particularly those deployed in healthcare or critical infrastructure applications, require robust security mechanisms to protect data integrity and ensure privacy. Unfortunately, many traditional security protocols, such as encryption and authentication, are computationally intensive and may not be suitable for IoT devices with limited resources. Additionally, the energy consumption of these security protocols can be a major concern, as IoT devices are often powered by batteries with limited lifespans.

These challenges—data volume, network bandwidth, energy consumption, and security—underscore the need for innovative solutions that effectively address both compression and security requirements in IoT and 6G networks. Traditional methods of compressing data and securing it through encryption are often insufficient to meet the demands of modern IoT networks. Moreover, these approaches can be incompatible, leading to trade-offs between security and efficiency. Thus, there is a critical need for a novel approach that harmonizes data compression and security, providing an efficient and secure framework for IoT and 6G-enabled systems.

This paper proposes a unified framework for secure and compressed sensor data transmission in IoT and 6G networks, integrating lightweight compression algorithms with adaptive encryption techniques. The framework aims to achieve efficient data compression, robust security integration, energy efficiency, and scalability, addressing the unique challenges faced by IoT devices in 6G environments.

This paper proposes a unified framework for secure and compressed sensor data transmission in IoT and 6G networks, which integrates lightweight compression algorithms with adaptive encryption techniques. The framework aims to address the following key objectives:

1. Efficient Data Compression: The proposed compression algorithm is designed to reduce the size of sensor data while maintaining high fidelity and low computational overhead. The algorithm leverages advanced techniques such as entropy coding, transform-based compression, and deep learning-based methods to achieve optimal compression ratios.

2. Robust Security Integration: The framework integrates lightweight encryption techniques that are energy-efficient and suitable for IoT devices. These encryption techniques ensure data confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity without significantly impacting the device's power consumption or computational resources. The encryption approach is adaptive, adjusting its complexity based on the security requirements of the transmitted data.

3. Energy Efficiency: By minimizing the size of the transmitted data and incorporating energy-efficient encryption methods, the framework aims to extend the operational lifespan of IoT devices, which often rely on battery power. The energy consumption of both compression and encryption processes is carefully optimized to ensure that the solution is suitable for long-term deployment in resource-constrained environments.

4. Scalability: The proposed framework is designed to be scalable, accommodating the growing number of IoT devices in 6G networks. The system is flexible and can adapt to the varying needs of different IoT applications, from low-bandwidth sensors to high-definition video streams.

The proposed framework is evaluated through a series of experiments using both synthetic and real-world IoT sensor datasets, with a focus on performance metrics such as compression ratio, energy consumption, encryption overhead, and security robustness. The results demonstrate the superiority of the proposed approach over existing methods in terms of compression efficiency, security performance, and energy savings. Specifically, the proposed compression algorithm achieves up to 30% higher compression efficiency compared to traditional methods, while the lightweight encryption technique incurs minimal energy costs without sacrificing security. The framework's performance is also evaluated in a simulated 6G network environment to assess its scalability and applicability to large-scale IoT deployments.

The contributions of this paper are threefold:

1. A novel compression algorithm that is lightweight and optimized for IoT devices, significantly improving the efficiency of data transmission in resource-constrained environments.

2. An adaptive encryption scheme that balances security and energy consumption, ensuring that the confidentiality and integrity of the data are preserved without overburdening IoT devices.

3. Comprehensive evaluation and validation of the framework, demonstrating its effectiveness in enhancing both the security and performance of IoT and 6G networks.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows: Section II reviews the existing literature on data compression and security techniques for IoT networks, identifying the limitations of current methods. Section III introduces the system model and problem formulation, outlining the key design goals and constraints. Section IV presents the detailed methodology, including the compression and encryption algorithms used in the proposed framework. Section V discusses the experimental setup, followed by the results and discussion in Section VI. Finally, Section VII concludes the paper, summarizing the key findings and suggesting avenues for future research.

Related work

The literature highlights various innovative techniques addressing security, resource allocation, and efficiency in IoT and 6G networks, yet several challenges remain unresolved. For instance, constrained reinforcement learning (CRL) has been employed to optimize resource allocation with a focus on energy efficiency and computational cost, but its scalability to heterogeneous devices poses a significant challenge [1]. Similarly, the EdgeGo algorithm, designed for efficient resource sharing by optimizing latency, bandwidth, and resource utilization, shows promise but is limited to specific edge computing scenarios [2]. Evolutionary algorithms have been explored for enhancing security in mobile ad hoc networks (MANETs), improving throughput and reliability; however, these approaches suffer from high computational overhead, particularly in dynamic network environments [3].

In the realm of fog and cloud computing, fine-grained encryption techniques improve data confidentiality and sharing efficiency, but their limited adaptation to real-time applications restricts their utility [4]. Additionally, traceable and privacy-aware access control mechanisms enhance data traceability and privacy preservation but introduce overhead due to complex privacy management techniques [5]. Blockchain technology has also been integrated into spectrum-sharing solutions, improving energy efficiency and throughput; however, the high computational requirements of blockchain systems remain a drawback [6].

Further, IoT-based secure big data management in fog and 6G networks ensures data integrity, privacy, and energy optimization, but its applicability to small-scale data is underexplored [7]. The use of secret sharing with collaborative blockchain for IoT storage enhances security and scalability but involves complex implementation challenges, especially for heterogeneous IoT devices [8]. Techniques like spectrum sensing and clustering algorithms contribute to energy harvesting efficiency and cluster stability, though their optimization for large-scale IoT networks remains a critical issue [9]. Lastly, built-in security frameworks for 6G address authentication delay and resource utilization; however, these lack flexibility in adapting to varying network conditions [10].

The literature on 6G security and privacy highlights a wide range of innovative techniques, each addressing specific challenges but also presenting notable limitations. A roadmap for 6G security and privacy [11] emphasizes data privacy and network resilience but lacks practical implementation guidelines. Deep learning-assisted software-defined security architectures [12] demonstrate improved attack detection rates and reduced latency but rely heavily on extensive training datasets. Similarly, broad discussions on new challenges in 6G security [13] underline issues such as security and data privacy but fail to address specific use cases.

Privacy concerns on the 6G network edge [14] focus on ensuring data confidentiality and edge security but pay insufficient attention to latency-sensitive applications. Research on physical-layer security [15] emphasizes resilience against signal interception and enhanced transmission security, yet its effectiveness depends significantly on the physical environment's characteristics. Meanwhile, machine learning-based security approaches for millimeter-wave (mmWave) beam prediction [16] achieve accurate beam predictions and maintain data privacy but remain vulnerable to adversarial attacks.

Security frameworks utilizing reconfigurable intelligent surfaces (RIS) [17] optimize signal reflection and improve attack detection capabilities but face challenges related to the complexity of RIS hardware. AI-based 6G security technologies [18] offer robust intrusion detection and rapid response times but incur high computational costs for AI algorithms. IoT-based smart agriculture systems [19] ensure effective disease detection and compression efficiency but struggle with scalability across diverse crop types.

Lastly, deep compressed sensing for urban monitoring [20] enhances data imputation accuracy and environmental predictions but focuses narrowly on specific environmental scenarios, limiting its broader applicability. This synthesis highlights the trade-offs and opportunities in advancing 6G security and privacy solutions, paving the way for more targeted and scalable implementations.

Reference [21] introduces federated learning (FL) techniques for Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) communications, highlighting their potential while noting the limited exploration of communication latency as a key limitation. Reference [22] explores IoT and blockchain-based cloud models for secure data transmission; however, the study was retracted due to implementation flaws. In [23], secure multi-path routing based on trust evaluation is proposed, but the approach suffers from scalability issues in dynamic IoT networks. Reference [24] presents an anonymous authentication mechanism using blockchain for IoT, which, while innovative, faces challenges in the complexity of blockchain implementation.

In the medical IoT (IoMT) domain, reference [25] proposes blockchain-assisted secure image transmission and diagnosis, though it struggles with high latency in image encryption and transmission processes. Similarly, hybrid cryptographic schemes for secure IoT frameworks are examined in [26], but the study highlights the energy consumption overhead in IoT devices as a significant drawback. Reference [27] discusses blockchain-based compressed storage for agricultural IoT, but its limited testing on real agricultural datasets raises concerns about its practical applicability.

From a technical perspective, deep learning-based compressed sensing for biomedical signals is explored in [28], where the high computational cost poses challenges for real-time applications. A related study, [29], integrates joint compressed sensing and shallow learning models for ECG signal reconstruction, though the approach demonstrates limited accuracy in noisy environments. Lastly, reference [30] provides an overview of 6G wireless communication networks, focusing on key challenges and future technologies, but it lacks specific case studies or practical scenarios to substantiate its findings.

This analysis highlights the significant strides made in secure data transmission and processing techniques while underscoring the persistent challenges, such as scalability, computational overhead, and real-world applicability, that demand further research.

The advancements in secure and compressed data transmission techniques for IoT and 6G networks are evident through various innovative methodologies. Joint cryptographic and compressed sensing techniques have been explored to enhance IoT security, but they face challenges such as increased processing delays in resource-constrained devices [31]. Blockchain-enhanced 6G security offers robust distributed ledger mechanisms but suffers from high latency due to consensus protocols [32]. Cross-layer security approaches integrating compressed sensing have been introduced, though they remain vulnerable to denial-of-service (DoS) attacks [33]. Privacy-preserving data aggregation schemes for 6G networks focus on secure data handling but are computationally expensive for large-scale implementations [34]. Lightweight cryptographic algorithms improve resource efficiency in IoT communications but exhibit limited robustness against quantum computing threats [35].

Machine learning-based anomaly detection techniques are utilized for secure IoT data compression, yet their effectiveness against novel attack patterns is limited [36]. Blockchain-enabled compressed sensing is a promising approach for multimedia IoT transmission; however, maintaining synchronization across nodes is a critical challenge [37]. In vehicular IoT, blockchain-based secure data sharing mechanisms are explored, but integrating them with real-time vehicular systems proves complex [38]. Resource allocation and secure data compression methods for 6G IoT address resource management efficiently but lack consideration for dynamic variations in resource availability [39]. Additionally, quantum-safe cryptography techniques employing post-quantum algorithms have been developed for IoT data compression and transmission, though they require further experimental validation in practical IoT environments [40]. These studies highlight significant advancements while emphasizing the need to address specific limitations for real-world applicability.

Recent advancements in secure data transmission and compression for 6G IoT networks have explored various innovative techniques, each with its own set of parameters and limitations. For instance, the implementation of Secure Multi-Access Edge Computing (MEC) for 6G IoT [41] emphasizes secure access mechanisms but faces challenges in scaling across heterogeneous IoT environments. Similarly, homomorphic encryption techniques for IoT data compression [42] offer robust data security but suffer from high computational overhead, making them less viable for real-time applications.

AI-augmented blockchain frameworks [43] integrate machine learning with blockchain for secure IoT data transmission, but the complexity of this integration limits their practical deployment. Energy-efficient and secure data compression algorithms [44] aim to balance energy optimization and data accuracy, although achieving this trade-off remains challenging. Context-aware secure

IoT frameworks leveraging machine learning [45] provide tailored security solutions but struggle with poor generalization across diverse IoT scenarios.

Other promising approaches include distributed ledger technologies for secure compressed sensing in smart grids ([46]), which face significant overhead in managing large-scale grids, and deep reinforcement learning for secure data routing in IoT [47], hindered by the scarcity of training data. Secure over-the-air (OTA) compression and encryption [48] promise enhanced security but lack practical large-scale implementations. Furthermore, advanced cryptographic protocols for IoT data aggregation and compression [49] demonstrate potential but are burdened by high implementation complexity in real-world scenarios. These advancements highlight both the potential and the challenges of achieving secure, efficient, and scalable solutions for IoT data management.

Table 1. Compares this work with the related work or previous research by other researchers

Reference	**Security Enhancement**	**Data Compression Efficiency**	**Scalability and Practical Implementation**
[2],[5],[6],[7],[8],[10],[11],[12],[13],[14], [16],[17],[18],[22],[23],[24],[25],[26],[30], [32],[34],[35],[38],[40],[42],[43],[45],[47],[49]	Yes	No	No
[3],[27],[28],[29],[31],[33],[36],[37],[39],[44] [46],[48]	Yes	Yes	No
[1],[19],[20]	No	Yes	No
[4],[15],[21],[41]	Yes	No	Yes
[9]	No	Yes	Yes
This proposed Work	Yes	yes	Yes

This work addresses the critical challenges in secure and compressed sensor data transmission for IoT and 6G networks by integrating advanced cryptographic techniques with efficient data compression mechanisms. Unlike existing methods, which often focus on either security or compression efficiency, our approach ensures a balanced trade-off while maintaining scalability for real-world deployment.

Compared to previous studies, our framework enhances data integrity, privacy, and energy efficiency, overcoming limitations such as high computational overhead, restricted scalability, and lack of adaptability to dynamic network conditions. The proposed method improves security resilience against cyber threats, optimizes data transmission efficiency, and enables seamless resource management in heterogeneous IoT environments.

Experimental evaluations demonstrate that our approach outperforms existing solutions in terms of security enhancement, compression efficiency, and scalability, making it well-suited for next-generation 6G IoT applications. The findings pave the way for future advancements, including the integration of AI-driven security mechanisms, post-quantum cryptographic protocols, and blockchain-based privacy frameworks for ultra-secure and energy-efficient IoT ecosystems.

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