

6.5.2 Integrity algorithm

The UIA shall be implemented in the UE and in the RNC.

Figure 16 illustrates the use of the UIA to authenticate the data integrity of a signalling message.

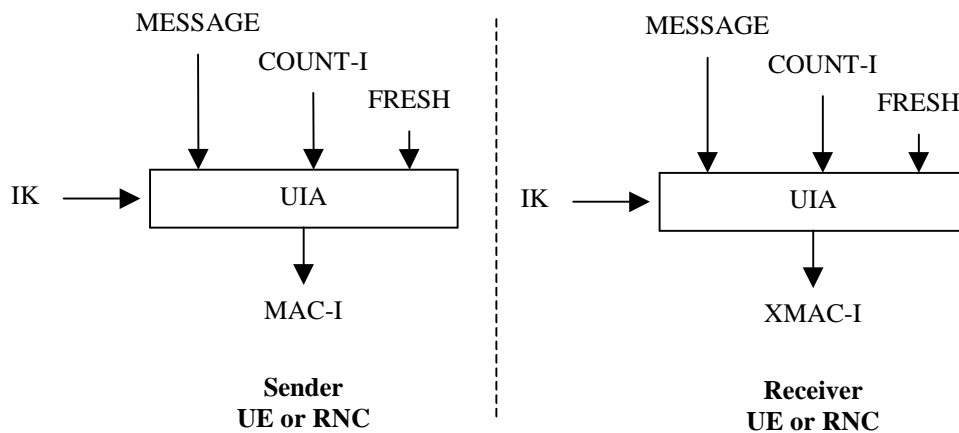


Figure 16: Derivation of MAC-I (or XMAC-I) on a signalling message

The input parameters to the algorithm are the Integrity Key (IK), a time dependent input (COUNT-I), a random value generated by the network side (FRESH), the direction bit (DIRECTION) and the signalling data (MESSAGE). Based on these input parameters the user computes message authentication code for data integrity (MAC-I) using the UMTS Integrity Algorithm (UIA). The MAC-I is then appended to the message when sent over the radio access link. The receiver computes XMAC-I on the message received in the same way as the sender computed MAC-I on the message sent and verifies the data integrity of the message by comparing it to the received MAC-I.

The input parameter COUNT-I protects against replay during a connection. It is a value incremented by one for each integrity protected message. COUNT-I consists of two parts: the HYPERFRAME NUMBER (HFN) as the most significant part and a RRC Sequence Number as the least significant part. The initial value of the hyperframe number is sent by the user to the network at connection set-up (see 6.4.5). The user stores, on the USIM, the greatest used hyperframe number from the previous connection and increments it by one (see 6.4.5xxx). In this way the user is assured that no COUNT-I value is re-used (by the network) with the same integrity key. A reset of the HFN (HFN=0) is performed when the new generated security key set is used for the first time. The user stores one HFN per established security key set.

The input parameter FRESH protects network against replay of signalling messages by the user. At connection set-up the network generates a random value FRESH and sends it to the user. The value FRESH is subsequently used by both the network and the user throughout the duration of a single connection. This mechanism assures the network that the user is not replaying any old MAC-Is.