

6.3.3 Authentication and key agreement

The purpose of this procedure is to authenticate the user and establish a new pair of cipher and integrity keys between the VLR/SGSN and the MS. During the authentication, the user verifies the freshness of the authentication vector that is used.

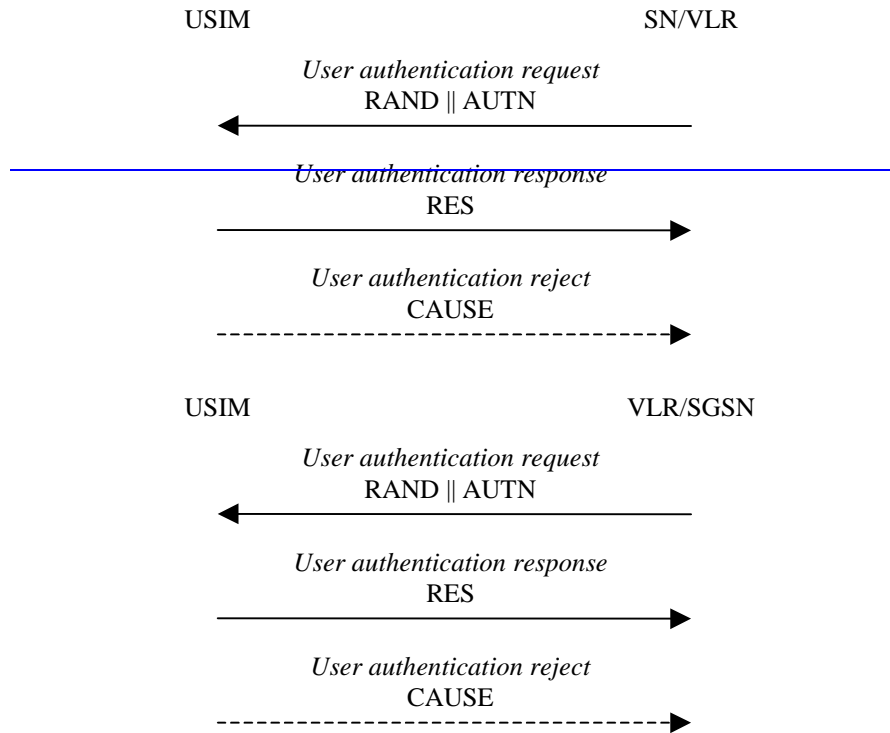


Figure 8: Authentication and key establishment

The VLR/SGSN invokes the procedure by selecting the next unused authentication vector from the ordered array of authentication vectors in the VLR/SGSN database. The VLR/SGSN sends to the user the random challenge RAND and an authentication token for network authentication AUTN from the selected authentication vector.

Upon receipt the user proceeds as shown in Figure 9.

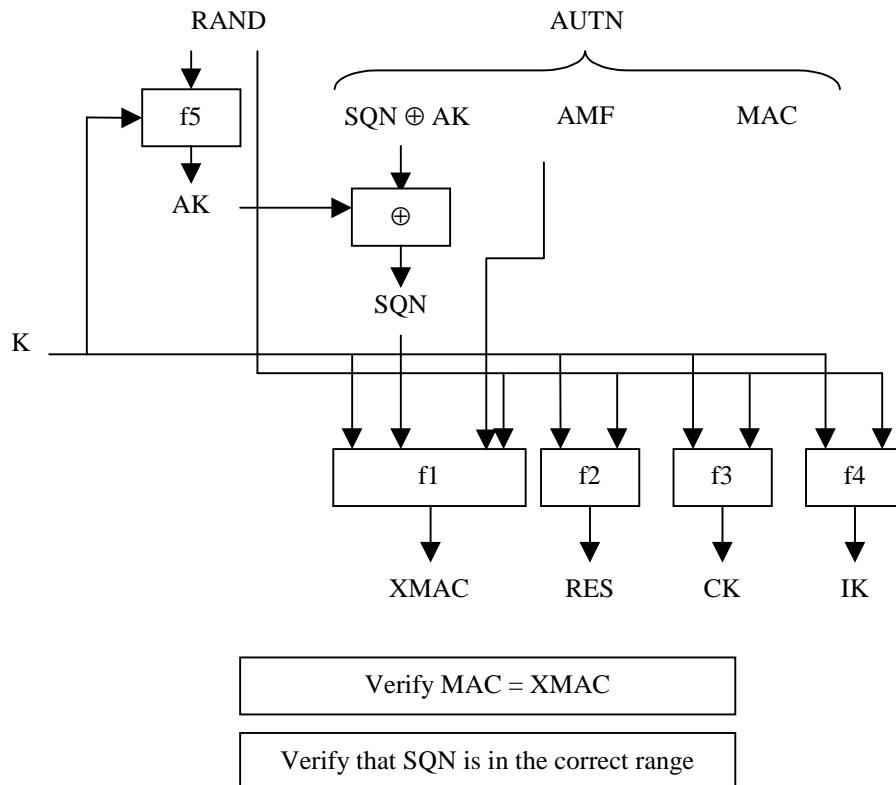


Figure 9: User authentication function in the USIM

Upon receipt of **RAND** and **AUTN** the user first computes the anonymity key $AK = f5_K(RAND)$ and retrieves the sequence number $SQN = (SQN \oplus AK) \oplus AK$.

Next the user computes $XMAC = f1_K(SQN \parallel RAND \parallel AMF)$ and compares this with **MAC** which is included in **AUTN**. If they are different, the user sends *user authentication reject* back to the VLR/SGSN with an indication of the cause and the user abandons the procedure. [In this case, VLR/SGSN shall initiate an Authentication Failure Report procedure towards the HLR as specified in section 6.3.6. VLR/SGSN may also decide to initiate a new identification and authentication procedure towards the user.](#)

Next the USIM verifies that the received sequence number **SQN** is in the correct range.

If the user considers the sequence number to be not in the correct range, he sends *synchronisation failure* back to the VLR/SGSN including an appropriate parameter, and abandons the procedure.

The synchronisation failure message contains the parameter **AUTS**. It is $AUTS = Conc(SQN_{MS}) \parallel MACS$. $Conc(SQN_{MS}) = SQN_{MS} \oplus f5_K(MACS)$ is the concealed value of the counter SEQ_{MS} in the MS, and $MACS = f1^*_K(SEQ_{MS} \parallel RAND \parallel AMF)$ where **RAND** is the random value received in the current user authentication request. $f1^*$ is a message authentication code (MAC) function with the property that no valuable information can be inferred from the function values of $f1^*$ about those of $f1, \dots, f5$ and vice versa.

The **AMF** used to calculate **MACS** assumes a dummy value of all zeros so that it does not need to be transmitted in the clear in the re-synch message.

The construction of the parameter **AUTS** is shown in the following Figure 10:

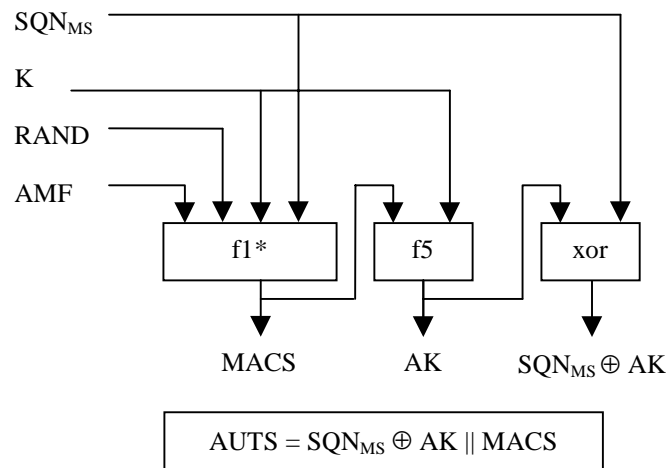


Figure 10: Construction of the parameter AUTS

If the sequence number is considered to be in the correct range however, the user computes $RES = f2_K(RAND)$ and includes this parameter in a *user authentication response* back to the VLR/SGSN. Finally the user computes the cipher key $CK = f3_K(RAND)$ and the integrity key $IK = f4_K(RAND)$. Note that if this is more efficient, RES , CK and IK could also be computed earlier at any time after receiving $RAND$. The MS stores $RAND$ for re-synchronisation purposes.

Upon receipt of *user authentication response* the VLR/SGSN compares RES with the expected response $XRES$ from the selected authentication vector. If $XRES$ equals RES then the authentication of the user has passed. The VLR/SGSN also selects the appropriate cipher key CK and integrity key IK from the selected authentication vector. If $XRES$ and RES are different, VLR/SGSN shall initiate an Authentication Failure Report procedure towards the HLR as specified in section 6.3.6. VLR/SGSN may also decide to initiate a new identification and authentication procedure towards the user.