

GNSS and ADS-B both have constraints in the network which affect the security features which can be deployed

legacy technologies:

primary surveillance radar (PSR)
secondary surveillance radar (SSR)

radar signals broadcast from radar station
reflected by aircraft

does not work well with high aircraft density

accuracy of 1-2 nmi
≈ 1.85-3.7 km

high cost

ADS-B: automatic dependent surveillance - broadcast

designed in 1992, made mandatory in 2020

use GPS to determine location, then broadcast this in a message
+ timestamp, velocity
→ ADS-B out

ADS-B in: receive information from other aircraft
maybe mandatory from 2025?

ES1090 used in most countries

as UAT is often occupied by other services
frequency

ADS-B ES1090 message size: 112 bits

of which

56 bits of data = 7 bytes, i.e. much lower than in IEEE 802.15.4, which makes security even more difficult to implement

Anyone can listen in, since there is no security
positive countermeasures

selective jamming → aircraft disappearance

threats

make aircraft appear in vicinity of another aircraft
aircraft may appear all around a ground station
make aircraft appear in no-fly zones

ADS-B is insecure because:

it was developed in 1980s-90s → 'security was not a thing'
with a focus on performance

signing is difficult, because missing even one of the messages over which the signature is made makes it impossible to verify the signature

cost of securing ADS-B lies in long discussions before implementation

safety is more important than security

↓
risks people

↓
risks systems

authentication + integrity could be important, but confidentiality is not

reliability of message delivery is low and even lower for consecutive messages in a row
receiving multiple

security solutions

PKI

retroactive key publication

TESLA protocol

→ use hash of master key, reimage is next key
disclose key after interval

sign with ECDSA with airplane key

needs key management

signature may still be for too large

message fragmentation required, high overhead + bandwidth use

TESLA: optimized for constrained environments

physical layer schemes

use hard-to-replicate imperfections e.g. in hardware/software

→ hardware-based device fingerprinting

use symmetric key to sign signed message (uses HMAC)

channel fingerprinting (did signals come from air or ground?) → easy to implement, changes in channel, requires bidirectional communication (-)

→ downside: authentication becomes probabilistic

security depends on time synchronization

alternatives: frequency hopping → leads to packet loss
→ word against eavesdropping + jamming, but

secure location verification

double check authenticity of location claims from multiple vantage points

susceptible to existence of multiple paths (e.g. due to signals bouncing around buildings)

altitude is difficult to estimate, since all receivers are at approximately the same altitude

distance bounding

data fusion

→ traffic modelling