

MUQI ZOU

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Education

Purdue University	West Lafayette, IN, US
Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science,	Aug 2020 – expected Dec 2025
Advisors: Prof. Dongyan Xu and Prof. Ruoyu Wang	
Purdue University	West Lafayette, IN, US
M.S. in Computer Science	Aug 2018 - May 2020
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Urbana-Champaign, IL, US
B.S. in Computer Science	Aug 2013 - May 2016
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University	Suzhou, China
B.S. in Electrical Engineering	Aug 2011 - May 2013

Experience

FRIENDS Lab and PURSEC Lab	West Lafayette, IN, US
Graduate Research Assistant	Aug 2020 – Current
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Built an automatic framework at the IR (e.g., LLVM, P-Code) level for verifying the code semantics and binary behavior using symbolic execution and SMT solvers.Developed an automated decompiler backend that harnesses and fine-tunes LLMs with reinforcement learning (GRPO) to improve decompilation quality.Developed an automated decompiler debugging system to identify and localize root causes of bugs, enhancing the reliability of state-of-the-art decompilers.Helped develop a dynamic analysis framework for reverse engineering Deep Neural Networks (DNNs) on edge devices.Helped test an obfuscation system to defend DNN models against reverse-engineering attacks.Helped extend AFLplusplus to create a program mutation-based fuzzer, which enables Intel SGX enclave fuzzing on commodity machines.Helped implement a framework using LLM for cyber threat intelligence mapping and response.	
Purdue University	West Lafayette, IN, US
Graduate Teaching Assistant	Aug 2019 - May 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">CS354 Operating Systems (Spring 2020) — Grading and office hours.CS503 Operating Systems (Fall 2019) — Grading, office hours, designed and implemented a homework project.	

Publications

Peer-reviewed conference publications:

- C1. **Muqi Zou**, Hongyu Cai, Hongwei Wu, Zion Leonahenahe Basque, Arslan Khan, Berkay Celik, Dave (Jing)Tian, Antonio Bianchi, Ruoyu (Fish)Wang, and Dongyan Xu. “D-LiFT: Improving LLM-based Decompiler Backend via Code Quality-driven Fine-tuning.” arXiv preprint, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.10125>
- C2. Solomon Sonya, **Muqi Zou**, Saastha Vasan, Christopher Kruegel, Giovanni Vigna and Dongyan Xu. “One Size Doesn’t Fit All: A Dynamic Heterogeneous Learning Ensemble for Malware Family Classification.” Workshop on Security and AI in conjunction with ESORICS (SECAI’25), 2025
- C3. Zheng Zhong, Ruoyu Wu, Junpeng Wan, **Muqi Zou**, and Dave (Jing) Tian. “Hardening Deep Neural Network Binaries against Reverse Engineering Attack.” 32nd ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS’25), 2025.
- C4. Ruoyu Wu, **Muqi Zou**, Arslan Khan, Taegyu Kim, Dongyan Xu, Dave (Jing) Tian, and Antonio Bianchi. “NeuroScope: Reverse Engineering Deep Neural Network on Edge Devices using Dynamic Analysis.” 34th USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security’25), 2025.
- C5. **Muqi Zou**, Arslan Khan, Ruoyu Wu, Han Gao, Antonio Bianchi, and Dave (Jing) Tian. “D-Helix: A Generic Decompiler Testing Framework Using Symbolic Differentiation.” 33rd USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security’24), 2024.
- C6. Arslan Khan, **Muqi Zou**, Kyungtae Kim, Dongyan Xu, Antonio Bianchi, and Dave Jing Tian. “Fuzzing SGX Enclaves via Host Program Mutations.” 2023 IEEE 8th European Symposium on Security and Privacy (EuroS&P’23), 2023.