

Yanning Chen

✉ self@lightquantum.me |  [PhotonQuantum](#) |  yanningchen.me

Education

Ph.D. Student, Computer Science.

University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.

Sep 2024 — Now

Advisor: Ningning Xie, Fan Long

B. Eng, Computer Science and Technology.

Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China.

Sep 2019 — Jun 2024

Positions

Research Intern.

University of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA.

Sep 2023 — Jan 2024

Advisor: Yu Feng

Student Researcher.

Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China.

Apr 2020 — Jun 2024

Advisor: Qinxiang Cao

Software Engineer Intern.

Linux Foundation, Remote.

Sep 2020 — Dec 2020

Mentor: PingCAP

Publications

Junrui Liu, Jiaxin Song, **Yanning Chen**, Hanzhi Liu, Hongbo Wen, Yanju Chen, Yu Feng. **Tessel: An Optimizing Compiler for Efficient Zero-Knowledge Circuits**. *The Science of Blockchain Conference 2025*

Teaching

Teaching Assistant.

CSC2125H: Blockchain Technology and Engineering.

Winter 2025

Teaching Assistant.

CSC324: Principles of Programming Languages.

Fall 2024

Skills & Interests

- Research Interests: Substructural Type Systems, Effects, Row Types
- Programming Languages: Lean, Coq, Rust, OCaml, Python, Golang, C/C++, Java