Pratyush Ranjan Tiwari

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EDUCATION

Ashoka University

Harvana, India

B.Sc. CS & Math (GPA: 3.6/4.0)

August 2016 - May 2019 Haryana, India

Ashoka University Scholars Program

1 year PG by research (GPA 3.9/4.0)

August 2019 - May 2020

Research and Publications

Thesis work on Cryptographic Accumulators

Ashoka University

Under Prof. Mahabir P Jhanwar

November 2018- Ongoing

- o Trading Accumulation Size for Witness Size: A Merkle Tree Based Universal Accumulator via Subset Differences: Merkle tree based accumulator with guaranteed less than logarithmic membership and non-membership verification. Available on IACR eprint: (link)
- A full Implementation of Zero Knowledge Accumulators: C and C++ based implementation of the Asiacrypt (2015) paper titled "Zero-Knowledge Accumulators and Set Operations". Pairing based operation are enabled by the PBC library in C and big integer arithmetic enabled by the NTL library in C++. This is the only public implementation of zero knowledge accumulators. (Repository Link)

Security Analysis of Aadhaar

Ashoka University

Under Prof. Debayan Gupta

August 2018- Ongoing

o Biometric Security: Aadhaar is India's citizen identification system with Biometrics recorded for citizen identification and identity authentication when required. Worked on demystifying the Deduplication algorithm and possible security flaws in the Fingerprint, Face and Iris recognition biometrics. Extensive research on all possible attacks on all Biometric systems and other alternatives. Paper on Aadhaar currently under submission at EuroS&P 2020.

EXPERIENCE

Celo

Berlin, Germany

Cryptography Engineering Intern

May 2019 - Aug 2019

- o Ultralight Client Sync: Celo's Ultralight Client Sync enables users to download very small number of block headers to verify correctness of current validator set.
- Hash to Group: Worked on the problem of making sure the Hash outputs are group elements. Celo uses Pedersen hashes. Implementation of Pedersen Hashes in Rust and Sage similar to the ZCash Protocol.
- Elliptic Curve Implementation: Implemented Twisted Edwards and Montgomery Elliptic Curves in Sage.
- Cryptography Workshops: Conducted Cryptography Workshops to help the organization understand the nuances of Elliptic Curves and Zero Knowledge Proofs. Made complex material accessible to employees with very different backgrounds.

Celo

celo.org

Fellow

November 2018 - Feb 2018

o Privacy Preserving Eigenvalue Computation: Celo's algorithmically volume regulated stablecoin protocol requires each user to calculate their own Eigentrust score. Developing an efficient Zero Knowledge protocol to enable this. Youngest fellow among all the Celo fellows. Usually fellows are advanced Graduate students.

Dunya Labs

dunvalabs.io Aug 2018 - Feb 2018

Blockchain Research Intern

- o Stablecoins: Analysis of various stablecoins in different market conditions, attacks on security and robustness of stablecoin systems. Comparing existing and up and coming stablecoin models based on metrics we decided. Prepared a 7000 word comparison whitepaper. Secure link available on request to read the whitepaper.
- o Non- Interactive Zero Knowledge Proofs: Explored possible applications of ZK Snarks on various chains. Possibility of off-chain computations using Zero Knowledge.
- Protocol Analysis: Deep dive into protocols of major and promising blockchain systems like Ethereum, EOS, ZCash, Tezos.

• Eclipse testing: Eclipse is a tool on the EOS blockchain to help users stake their tokens automatically. Wrote python code to test best ways to stake.

IIT Madras Chennai, India
Summer Research Intern June 2018 - July 2018

• Cryptanalysis of Stream Ciphers: Cryptanalysis of Stream Ciphers like Grain 128 and Trivium under Prof. Santanu Sarkar.

• **855-round key recovery attack on Trivium**: Worked alongside PhD students to implement 855-round key recovery attack on Trivium. Implementations in *C* and *Sage*.

Indian Academy of Sciences

Chennai, India

Summer Fellow

May 2018 - June 2018

• Network Analysis of Indian stock markets: Research on Network Analysis of pre and post crisis Indian stock markets using the Graph Networks. Focusing on the highest market cap companies listed at NSE. Performed network analysis using R.

THEORETICAL PROJECTS

Cryptanalysis of NIST SHA-3 Finalists

Ashoka University

Under Prof. Sumit Kumar Pandey

Jan 2018- April 2018

o: Understood and presented existing techniques for Cryptanalysis of NIST SHA-3 Finalists

Independent Study Module

Ashoka Univeristy

Combinatorial Optimization and Algorithms under Prof. Udayan B Darji

Aug 2017- Dec 2017

• Algorithms for Load Balancing problems on paths: Studied combinatorial optimization problems under Prof. Udayan B Darji. Final project on Algorithms for Load Balancing problems on paths.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant: Fall 2019

Ashoka University

For Prof. Debayan Gupta

Aug 2019- Dec 2019

• A New Geography in the Information Age: TA for this course based on technology scalability issues, ethics of AI, Cryptocurrency regulations.

Teaching Assistant: Spring 2020

Ashoka University

For Prof. Debayan Gupta

Jan 2020- May 2020

• Computer Security and Privacy: Will be holding Discussion Sections, advising all the projects for this course. This is a required course at Ashoka University and always has higher than average class size

Applied Projects

- NBA Game Results Predictor: Achieved 89% accuracy in predicting 2018 season games using 2014-2017 statistics for training a deep neural network. Highest of all reported models online.
- Saarthi: Chatbot for Ashoka University: A Natural language processing based chatbot for Ashoka University built using Dialogflow, Python and Heroku.

Programming Skills

• Languages: Python, Rust, C, C++, SAGE, MATLAB, R, Solidity

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dean's List: On the Dean's merit list for 4 out of 6 semesters attended at Ashoka University
- FAST-SF Summer Fellowship : Selected among top 30 students from all over India as the recipient of Focus Area in Science and Technology Summer Fellowship 2018
- ACM ICPC Amritapuri regionals Top team at Ashoka University for International Collegiate Programming Contest 2017

Extracurricular Interests

- **Bodybuilding**: Got interested in Classic Physique also known as Golden Era of bodybuilding during Freshman year. I train 4-5 times a week and have focused personally on having a streamlined physique myself. Aim to compete in the Classic Physique class of Bodybuilding in a few years.
- Mixed Martial Arts: I train often in Boxing and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu have trained at various locations in Delhi and at Fenriz MMA in Berlin.