# Zheng Yu

# zheng.yu@northwestern.edu | github.com | Homepage

#### **EDUCATION**

# Northwestern University

Ph.D. Student in Computer Science Department

Sept. 2022 - Present

#### Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Bachelor of Computer Science in Computer Science, member of ACM Class

Sept. 2018 - June. 2022

#### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

#### Research Intern

Feb. 2022 – July. 2022

Northwestern University, USA

Mentors: Xinyu Xing

- As a research intern at Northwestern University advised by Prof Xinyu Xing.
- Focused on designing next-generation memory corruption protection mechanism.

## Student Intern

June. 2021 – Jan. 2022

JD Security

JD.com, Inc.

- As a student intern at the Qiling team on JD.com.
- Focused on microcontroller (MCU) firmware emulation.
- As a core developer of Qiling which is a binary analysis framework.

## Research Intern

Feb. 2021 – April. 2021

Southern University of Science and Technology

Mentors: Yinqian Zhang

- As a research intern in SUSTech advised by Prof Yingian Zhang.
- Focused on the design of remote attestation protocol on distributed TEE systems.
- Develop and improve RISC-V trusted computing platform Keystone-Enclave.

#### Undergraduate Research Assistant

July. 2020 – June. 2022

Sustainable Architectures and Infrastructure Laboratory (<u>SAIL</u>)

Mentors: Chao Li

- As an undergraduate research assistant in the SAIL lab advised by Prof Chao Li.
- Focused on data center systems and architecture design and cloud computing power management.
- Prof Chao Li's evaluation of me is "He has the potential to become an outstanding graduate student"

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

# Student Mentor

Apr. 2022 – Oct. 2022

Google Summer of Code 2022

- As a student mentor of Qiling Improvements projects in GSOC 2022.
- Focused on bridging qiling with other reverse engineering tools (e.g. r2, ghidra).
- Discuss and provide guidance to developers involved in the project.

# Teaching Assistant

June. 2019 – Sept. 2019

Shanghai Jiao Tong University

- As a teaching assistant in Programming Design Course (CS151) in SJTU
- Design programming assignments and course projects for students
- Students think I am a helpful and responsible teaching assistant

#### Publication

- Lu Zhang; Chao Li; Xinkai Wang; Weiqi Feng; **Zheng Yu**; Quan Chen; Jingwen Leng; Minyi Guo; Pu Yang; Shang Yue. "FIRST: Exploiting the Multi-Dimensional Attributes of Functions for Power-Aware Serverless Computing" IPDPS 2023.
- Zheng Yu, KAI JERN LAU, MuChen Su, Anh Quynh NGUYEN. "Reversing MCU with Firmware Emulation" BlackHat Europe 22.

# Honors & Awards

5th at Defcon 23 CTF Finals StrawHat Team	DEFCON 2023
Outstanding graduates Outstanding Graduate of Shanghai Jiaotong University	SJTU 2022
Zhiyuan Honor Scholarship Top 2% in SJTU	SJTU 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
The 35nd China National Olympiad in Informatics Silver Medal (top 100)	CCF 2017

## **PROJECTS**

 $\mathbf{Qiling} \mid \mathit{MCU}, \mathit{Python}$  [Link]

- Add MCU emulation module to the project, which can emulate MCUs from three top vendors.
- Add support for Cortex-M and RISCV architectures.
- Support fuzzing test of MCU firmware using afl.

## **Pymx** | Compiler, Python

[Link]

- Pymx is a compiler written in Python3 for compiling a Java-like language.
- Supports compile the source code into rv32im assembly code.
- Implemented many optimization methods, including global value numbering, dead code elimination, and SSA.
- The performance of the assembly code generated by the compiler is better than that generated by gcc with O1.

## RV32-CPU | FPGA, Verilog

[Link]

- This project is a RISC-V CPU with Tomasulo algorithm implemented in Verilog HDL,
- The project works fine at 100M on the fpga and it did not show any errors during the experiment.
- Supports many useful features, include out-of-order execution, instruction cache, load buffer, etc.
- All the code of this project is original, not borrowed from any project.

# TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Chinese(Native), English(Fluent)

Programming Languages: C, Python, C++, Rust, Javascript, Verilog

Frameworks: Angr, Unicorn, IDA, Qiling, Ghidra

Developer Tools: Git, VSCode, Emacs, Docker, Vivado, Android Studio

Hardware: STM32, Arduino, NXP, FPGA