Liyi Zhou

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AFFILIATIONS

CS Lecturer (~Assistant Professor) @ **The University of Sydney**

Co-founder @ **Decentralized Intelligence AG (D23E)**

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

AGENTIC SECURITY CAN AI AGENTS REPLACE THE BEST HUMAN HACKERS?

`Large Language Model` `Security` **Agentic Discovery and Validation of Android App Vulnerabilities**

Ziyue Wang, L Zhou

`Large Language Model` `Security` **AI Agent Smart Contract Exploit Generation**

A Gervais, L Zhou

`Large Language Model` `Security` **Leveraging Symbolic Analysis and LLMs for Inconsistency Detection in DeFi**

R Gan, L Zhou, L Wang, K Qin, X Lin

6th Conference on Advances in Financial Technologies (AFT 2024)

BLOCKCHAIN EXTRACTABLE / EXTRACTED VALUE HIGH-FREQUENCY TRADING IN DECENTRALIZED FINANCE.

`Security` **High-Frequency Trading on Decentralized On-Chain Exchanges**

L Zhou, K Qin, C Torres, D Le, A Gervais.

`Core A*` *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (SP'21)*

`Security` **On the Just-In-Time Discovery of Profit-Generating Transactions in DeFi Protocols**

L Zhou, K Qin, A Cully, B Livshits, A Gervais.

`Core A*` *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (SP'21)*

`Security` **Quantifying Blockchain Extractable Value: How dark is the forest?**

K Qin, L Zhou, A Gervais.

`Core A*` *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (SP'22)*

OTHER

`Security` `Privacy` **SoK: Decentralized Finance (DeFi) Attacks**

L Zhou, X Xiong, J Ernstberger, S Chaliasos, Z Wang, Y Wang, K Qin, R Wattenhofer, D Song, A Gervais

`Core A*` *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (SP'23)*

`Security` **Blockchain Amplification Attack**

T Tsuchiya, L Zhou, K Qin, A Gervais, N Christin

`Core A*` *Measurement and Modeling of Computer Systems (Sigmetrics '25)*

`Security` **Speculative Denial-of-Service Attacks in Ethereum**

A Yaish, K Qin, L Zhou, Aviv Zohar, A Gervais.

`Core A*` *Usenix Security Symposium (USENIX-Security'24)*

`Security` **The Blockchain Imitation Game**

K Qin, S Chaliasos, L Zhou, B Livshits, D Song, A Gervais.

`Core A*` *Usenix Security Symposium (USENIX-Security'23)*

`Privacy` **On How Zero-Knowledge Proof Blockchain Mixers Improve, and Worsen User Privacy**

Z Wang, S Chaliasos, K Qin, L Zhou, L Gao, P Berrang, B Livshits, A Gervais

`Core A*` *International World Wide Web Conference (WWW'23)*

`Security` **Smart Contract and Defi Security Tools: Do They Meet the Needs of Practitioners?**

S Chaliasos, M Charalambous, L Zhou, R Galanopoulou, A Gervais, D Mitropoulos, B Livshits.

`Core A*` *International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE'24)*

Teaching

INFO2222: Computing 2 Usability and Security @ The University of Sydney   *2025*

Services

Program Committee Co-Chair

ACM CCS Workshop on Decentralized Finance and Security   2024, 2025

Program Committee

`Core A*` Usenix Security   2026

`Core A*` The ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)   2025, 2026

`Core A` Financial Cryptography and Data Security (FC)   2024, 2025, 2026

The Science of Blockchain (Stanford)   2023, 2024, 2025

The Latest in DeFi Research (TL;DR)   2024, 2025

CESC Crypto Economics Security Conference (UC Berkeley)   2022

ACM CCS Workshop on Decentralized Finance and Security   2021, 2022, 2023

Invited Reviewer

Transactions on Information Forensics & Security   2023

Financial Innovation   2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing   2023

External Reviewer

`Core A*` IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy   2023

Awards and Grants

Sui Academic Research Awards, 25k USD   *2025*

Innosuisse Start-Up Innovation, 703k CHF, AI-Enhanced Smart Contract Auditing   *Ongoing*, 2024

Ethereum Academic Grant 2024, 55k USD, Training an EVM-native GPT   *Completed*, 2024

Ethereum Academic Grant 2023, 72k USD, Blockchain Censorship DoS   *Completed*, 2023

Ethereum Academic Grant 2023, 25k USD, Blockchain Censorship Measurement   *Completed*, 2023

Education

PhD in Computer Science   Imperial College London *Oct 2019 – Feb 2025*

MRes in Web Science and Big Data Analytics   University College London *Oct 2017 – Sep 2018*

MSci & ARCS in Maths and Computer Science   Imperial College London *Oct 2010 – Sep 2014*