# Kuo Zhao

## Qualifications

02/2018- Doctor of Philosophy,

03/2022 Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University

**PhD thesis:** Efficient Implementation Techniques for Lattice-based Cryptosystems **Supervisors:** Associate Professor Ron Steinfeld and Associate Professor Amin Sakzad

## **Selected Projects:**

## ODiscrete Gaussian Sampling Algorithms [1, 2]

- I created *two new* discrete Gaussian sampling algorithms. Discrete Gaussian sampling is a crucial algorithm used by the post-quantum cryptography.
- My algorithms are *faster*, consuming *less* memory, and/or supporting a *wider* range of discrete Gaussian distributions, compared to previous techniques.
- My techniques have been employed by the FALCON post-quantum digital signature scheme, a pending standard by the NIST.

## O Post-quantum Privacy Preserving Protocols [3, 4, 5, 6, 7]

- I investigated the implementation aspects for post-quantum privacy preserving protocol primitives, in *ongoing* research collaborations with researchers in the Monash University. These protocols are crucial for cryptocurrencies such as the Monero and the Algorand.
- I developed *efficient* techniques and/or implementations for these cryptography primitives. My techniques are *faster* than previous post-quantum solutions for the same protocol.
- Four media articles (1, 2, 3, 4) have been released by the CSIRO and/or the Monash University.

## 02/2016- Master of Networks and Security,

12/2017 Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University

Minor thesis: Efficient implementation techniques for lattice-based crypto Achievements:

 Dux of Postgraduate (Master of Networks and Security), Cliff Bellamy Awards 2018, Monash University.

## 09/2011- Bachelor of Engineering,

06/2015 College of Computer Science & Technology, Zhejiang University, China

**Employments** 

### 11/2022-now Postdoctoral Fellow,

Data61 Cybersecurity and Quantum Systems Group, CSIRO

#### Awards

- SCS Biannual Award May 2023 (Engineering and Technology Award).
- O SCS Biannual Award May 2024 (Early Career in Engineering Award).

**Program Committee:** Asiacrypt 2023, ACM CCS 2024 Artifact Evaluation, ICISC 2024, TCCS 2024.

#### **PhD Supervisions:**

O Mert Yassı (Jul 2023-present, co-supervisor)

## Selected Projects:

## O MIKA: A Minimalist Approach to Hybrid Key Exchange [8]

- O I worked with researchers in CSIRO's Data61 and the Australian company Penten to develop a new framework for hybrid key exchange protocols. The framework achieves *minimal* modifications to the core codebase and the state machine of the protocol compared to existing solutions.
- I developed and tested a proof-of-concept implementation of MIKA in the IPSec software strongSwan.

## OGPU-accelerated FALCON Digital Signature Scheme [9]

- O I *initiated* a research collaboration with researchers from South Korea.
- I created *new* techniques to solve the unique challenges of efficiently implementing the FALCON post-quantum digital signature scheme, a pending standard by the NIST, on a GPU. My techniques increase the throughput of a crucial algorithm in FALCON by *ten times* on a GPU.
- We developed the *first* GPU-accelerated FALCON implementation with *high throughput*.
- O A media article has been released by the Monash University.

#### 08/2021 - Research Assistant,

10/2022 Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University

## Selected Projects:

## **O LATTE Hierarchical Identity-based Encryption** [10]

- I initiated a research collaboration with researchers from Canada and the United Kingdom.
- I developed the *first* complete optimized practical implementation of LATTE, a postquantum Hierarchical Identity-based Encryption scheme endorsed by the ETSI.
- O I created new optimization techniques for the algorithms in LATTE. My techniques significantly accelerate the algorithms and reduce the communication costs. With my techniques, a crucial algorithm in LATTE now only takes less than a second computational time on a desktop computer, significantly faster than the order of minutes previously estimated by the ETSI.
- O A LinkedIn blog has been released by the Monash University.

## o Implementation of Post-Quantum Algorithms for Bouncy Castle Library

- o I was a Chief Investigator for the project of post-quantum cryptography integration in the Bouncy Castle, an *Australian sovereign* software cryptography library.
- I was part of the supervision team, providing cryptographic engineering insights and guidance to four student research assistants.
- My name has been listed on the Contributors of the Bouncy Castle.

## 02/2018- Teaching Associate,

10/2022 Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University

#### **Teaching:**

- O Semester 2, 2022: FIT9137 Introduction to computer architecture and networks
- O Semester 1, 2022: FIT9137 Introduction to computer architecture and networks
- O Semester 1, 2022: FIT2093 Introduction to cyber security (Admin Tutor)
- O Semester 1, 2021: FIT9137 Introduction to computer architecture and networks
- O Semester 1, 2021: FIT3173 Software security
- O Semester 1, 2020: FIT9137 Introduction to computer architecture and networks
- O Semester 1, 2020: FIT5163 Information and computer security
- O Semester 1, 2020: FIT2093 Introduction to cyber security (Admin Tutor)
- O Semester 2, 2019: FIT5124 Advanced topics in security (Admin Tutor)
- O Semester 1, 2019: FIT2093 Introduction to cyber security (Admin Tutor)
- O Semester 2, 2018: FIT5124 Advanced topics in security
- O Semester 1, 2018: FIT2093 Introduction to cyber security

### 06/2017 - Research Assistant,

11/2017 Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University

## **Selected Projects:**

## O Titanium Key Encapsulation Mechanism [11]

- I developed an *efficient* and *secure* software implementation of the Titanium, a new post-quantum Key Encapsulation Mechanism designed by the Monash University.
- I created *new* techniques to significantly *accelerate* its arithmetic computations.
- My implementation has been submitted to the Post-Quantum Cryptography Standardization Process by the NIST.

## Referees

Dr Ron Steinfeld Dr Amin Sakzad Dr Dongxi Liu

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## **Publications**

- [1] Zhao, Raymond K.; Steinfeld, Ron; Sakzad, Amin: FACCT: FAst, Compact, and Constant-Time Discrete Gaussian Sampler over Integers. In: *IEEE Trans. Computers* 69 (2020), Nr. 1, S. 126–137
- [2] Zhao, Raymond K.; Steinfeld, Ron; Sakzad, Amin: COSAC: COmpact and Scalable Arbitrary-Centered Discrete Gaussian Sampling over Integers. In: *PQCrypto* Bd. 12100, Springer, 2020 (Lecture Notes in Computer Science), S. 284–303
- [3] Esgin, Muhammed F.; Zhao, Raymond K.; Steinfeld, Ron; Liu, Joseph K.; Liu, Dongxi: MatRiCT: Efficient, Scalable and Post-Quantum Blockchain Confidential Transactions Protocol. In: *CCS*, ACM, 2019, S. 567–584
- [4] ESGIN, Muhammed F.; STEINFELD, Ron; ZHAO, Raymond K.: Efficient Verifiable

- Partially-Decryptable Commitments from Lattices and Applications. In: *Public Key Cryptography (1)* Bd. 13177, Springer, 2022 (Lecture Notes in Computer Science), S. 317–348
- [5] ESGIN, Muhammed F.; STEINFELD, Ron; ZHAO, Raymond K.: MatRiCT+: More Efficient Post-Quantum Private Blockchain Payments. In: *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy*, IEEE, 2022, S. 560–577
- [6] ESGIN, Muhammed F.; ERSOY, Oguzhan; KUCHTA, Veronika; LOSS, Julian; SAKZAD, Amin; STEINFELD, Ron; YANG, Xiangwen; ZHAO, Raymond K.: A New Look at Blockchain Leader Election: Simple, Efficient, Sustainable and Post-Quantum. In: *AsiaCCS*, ACM, 2023, S. 623–637
- [7] Steinfeld, Ron; Sakzad, Amin; Esgin, Muhammed F.; Kuchta, Veronika; Yassi, Mert; Zhao, Raymond K.: LUNA: Quasi-Optimally Succinct Designated-Verifier Zero-Knowledge Arguments from Lattices. In: CCS, ACM, 2024, S. 3167–3181
- [8] Zhao, Raymond K.; Sultan, Nazatul H.; Yialeloglou, Phillip; Liu, Dongxi; Liebowitz, David; Pieprzyk, Josef: MIKA: A Minimalist Approach to Hybrid Key Exchange. In: *PST*, IEEE, 2024, S. 1–11
- [9] Lee, Wai-Kong; Zhao, Raymond K.; Steinfeld, Ron; Sakzad, Amin; Hwang, Seong O.: High Throughput Lattice-Based Signatures on GPUs: Comparing Falcon and Mitaka. In: *IEEE Trans. Parallel Distributed Syst.* 35 (2024), Nr. 4, S. 675–692
- [10] Zhao, Raymond K.; McCarthy, Sarah; Steinfeld, Ron; Sakzad, Amin; O'Neill, Máire: Quantum-Safe HIBE: Does It Cost a Latte? In: *IEEE Trans. Inf. Forensics Secur.* 19 (2024), S. 2680–2695
- [11] Steinfeld, Ron; Sakzad, Amin; Zhao, Raymond K.: Practical MP-LWE-based encryption balancing security-risk versus efficiency. In: *Des. Codes Cryptogr.* 87 (2019), Nr. 12, S. 2847–2884
- [12] TASOPOULOS, George; LI, Jinhui; FOURNARIS, Apostolos P.; ZHAO, Raymond K.; SAKZAD, Amin; STEINFELD, Ron: Performance Evaluation of Post-Quantum TLS 1.3 on Resource-Constrained Embedded Systems. In: *ISPEC* Bd. 13620, Springer, 2022 (Lecture Notes in Computer Science), S. 432–451
- [13] TASOPOULOS, George; DIMOPOULOS, Charis; FOURNARIS, Apostolos P.; ZHAO, Raymond K.; SAKZAD, Amin; STEINFELD, Ron: Energy Consumption Evaluation of Post-Quantum TLS 1.3 for Resource-Constrained Embedded Devices. In: *CF*, ACM, 2023, S. 366–374
- [14] Fraile, Lidia P.; Tasopoulos, Georgios; Koulamas, Christos; Zhao, Raymond K.; Sultan, Nazatul H.; Regazzoni, Francesco; Fournaris, Apostolos P.: Enabling Quantum-Resistant EDHOC: Design and Performance Evaluation. In: *IEEE Access* 13 (2025), S. 75861–75884