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

Selected Projects:

Discrete Gaussian Sampling Algorithms

- o I created *two new* discrete Gaussian sampling algorithms. Discrete Gaussian sampling is a crucial algorithm used by the post-quantum cryptography.
- o 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 FN-DSA post-quantum digital signature scheme, a pending standard by the NIST.

Post-quantum Privacy Preserving Protocols

- 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.
- o 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

Awards:

 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

07/2025- Chief Technology Officer, Co-founder,

ExeQuantum

11/2022 - Postdoctoral Fellow,

06/2025 Data61 Cybersecurity and Quantum Systems Group, CSIRO

Awards:

- o iAwards 25 ACT Winner (Government & Public Sector).
- SCS Biannual Award May 2024 (Early Career in Engineering Award).
- SCS Biannual Award May 2023 (Engineering and Technology Award).

Selected Projects:

o MIKA: A Minimalist Approach to Hybrid Key Exchange

- I worked with 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.
- Our work won the iAwards 25 ACT (Government & Public Sector).

GPU-accelerated FN-DSA Digital Signature Scheme

- o I created *new* techniques to solve the unique challenges of efficiently implementing the FN-DSA post-quantum digital signature scheme, a pending standard by the NIST, on a GPU. My techniques increase the throughput of a crucial algorithm in FN-DSA by *ten times* on a GPU.
- We developed the *first* GPU-accelerated FN-DSA 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:

OLATTE Hierarchical Identity-based Encryption

- I developed the *first* complete optimized practical implementation of LATTE, a post-quantum 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.
- I has been recognized as a Contributor of the Bouncy Castle.

02/2018- Teaching Associate,

10/2022 Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University

06/2017 - Research Assistant,

11/2017 Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University

Selected Projects:

o Titanium Key Encapsulation Mechanism

- o I developed an *efficient* and *secure* software implementation of the Titanium, a new post-quantum Key Encapsulation Mechanism designed by the Monash University.
- o 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

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