# 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:

## O Discrete Gaussian Sampling Algorithms

- I created *two new* discrete Gaussian sampling algorithms. Discrete Gaussian sampling is a crucial algorithm used in post-quantum cryptography.
- My algorithms are faster, consume less memory, and / or support a wider range of discrete Gaussian distributions, compared to previous techniques.
- My techniques have been used by the FN-DSA post-quantum digital signature scheme, a pending standard by 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 Monash University.
  These protocols are crucial for cryptocurrencies such as Monero and 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.
- o Four media articles (1, 2, 3, 4) have been released by CSIRO and / or 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).
- O 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).

## o GPU-accelerated FN-DSA Digital Signature Scheme

- I created *new* techniques to solve the unique challenges of efficiently implementing the FN-DSA post-quantum digital signature scheme, a pending standard by NIST, on a GPU.
  My techniques increase the throughput of a crucial algorithm in FN-DSA by *ten times* on a GPU.
- We developed *first* GPU-accelerated FN-DSA implementation with *high throughput*.
- Monash University has released media article.

## 08/2021- Research Assistant,

10/2022 Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University

# Selected Projects:

## **O LATTE Hierarchical Identity-based Encryption**

- I developed *first* complete optimized practical implementation of LATTE, a post-quantum Hierarchical Identity-based Encryption scheme endorsed by ETSI.
- 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 ETSI.
- Monash University has released LinkedIn blog.

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

- I was a Chief Investigator for the project of post-quantum cryptography integration in Bouncy Castle, an *Australian sovereign* software cryptography library.
- I was part of the supervision team, providing cryptographic engineering insights and guidance to four research assistants.
- o I have been recognized as Contributor of 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 Titanium, a new post-quantum Key Encapsulation Mechanism designed by 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 NIST.

# Referees

Dr Ron Steinfeld Dr Amin Sakzad Dr Dongxi Liu

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