

# Satwik Kundu

PhD Candidate | Penn State

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## Education

Present	<b>Pennsylvania State University</b>	State College, PA
Aug 2021	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Computer Science & Engineering Thesis (Tentative): <i>Enhancing the Efficiency and Security of Variational Quantum Algorithms</i> Advisor: Prof. Swaroop Ghosh	
June 2021	<b>Jadavpur University</b>	Kolkata, India
July 2017	Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.) in Information Technology Thesis: <i>Facial Expression Recognition using Convolutional Neural Networks</i> Advisor: Prof. Somenath Dhibar	

## Professional Experience

Present	<b>Penn State University   School of EECS</b>	State College, PA
June 2022	Graduate Research Assistant   Advisor: Prof. Swaroop Ghosh Working on improving the security and optimization efficiency of variational quantum algorithms (VQAs).	
Dec 2022	<b>Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC)</b>	State College, PA
May 2022	Research Scholar   Advisors: Dr. Rasit O. Topaloglu, Prof. Suzanne Mohney, Prof. Shengxi Huang, Prof. Swaroop Ghosh Evaluated performance gain for NbAs-based interconnects in cache memories.	
May 2022	<b>Penn State University   School of EECS</b>	State College, PA
Aug 2021	Graduate Teaching Assistant   Instructors: Prof. Ishan Behoora, Prof. Griselda Conejo-Lopez Held recitations, review sessions, office hours, and graded assignments for CMPSC 131 and CMPSC 132.	
June 2021	<b>Jadavpur University</b>	Kolkata, India
Nov 2019	Undergraduate Research Assistant   Advisors: Prof. Ram Sarkar, Prof. Pawan Kumar Singh, Prof. Somenath Dhibar Worked on language identification using MFCC features and facial expression recognition using CNNs.	
Nov 2020	<b>Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur   SEAL [✉]</b>	Kharagpur, India
May 2020	Research Intern   Advisors: Dr. Manaar Alam, Prof. Debdip Mukhopadhyay Performed microarchitectural side-channel attack on Docker containers to assess security vulnerabilities.	

## Honors and Awards

- [2025] **Harvey and Geraldine Brush Graduate Fellowship in Engineering** College of Engineering (CoE), Penn State.
- [2025] **Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School Student Persistence Scholarship** Fox Graduate School, Penn State.
- [2025] **Best Paper Award** IEEE Symposium on Hardware Oriented Security and Trust (HOST) [1 of 140+ submissions].
- [2024] **IBM Research Credits** Awarded \$70,000 in credits for research on improving optimization efficiency of VQAs.
- [2022] **Graduate Research Award** Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Penn State [2 of 100+ students].
- [2015] **Gold Medal** International Olympiad of Mathematics (iOM), organized by SilverZone.
- [2015] **Silver & Bronze Medal** Individual Contest: Silver Medal and Team Contest: Bronze Medal at IYMC.

## Publications

S=In Submission, C=Conference, W=Workshop, J=Journal, B=Book Chapter, \* = Equal Contribution

- [B-2] **Adversarial Threats in Quantum Machine Learning: A Survey of Attacks and Defenses**  
Archisman Ghosh, Satwik Kundu, Swaroop Ghosh  
*Quantum Robustness in Artificial Intelligence*, 2025 [Springer'25]
- [C-9] **Inverse-Transpilation: Reverse-Engineering Quantum Compiler Optimization Passes from Circuit Snapshots**  
Satwik Kundu, Swaroop Ghosh  
*35th IEEE/ACM Great Lakes Symposium on VLSI*, 2025 [GLSVLSI'25]

- [C-8] **Adversarial Data Poisoning Attack on Quantum Machine Learning in the NISQ Era**  
Satwik Kundu, Swaroop Ghosh  
*35th IEEE/ACM Great Lakes Symposium on VLSI, 2025* [GLSVLSI'25]
- [J-2] **Towards Efficient Optimization of Variational Quantum Algorithms with Parameter Prediction**  
Satwik Kundu, Debarshi Kundu, Swaroop Ghosh  
*IEEE Transactions on Quantum Engineering, 2025 [In Review]* [TQE'25]
- [C-7] **STIQ: Safeguarding Training and Inferencing of Quantum Neural Networks from Untrusted Cloud**  
Satwik Kundu, Swaroop Ghosh  
*17th IEEE International Symposium on Hardware Oriented Security and Trust, 2025 [Best Paper Award]* [HOST'25]
- [W-1] **SoK: Security Concerns in Quantum Machine Learning as a Service**  
Satwik Kundu, Swaroop Ghosh  
*13th ACM International Workshop on Hardware and Architectural Support for Security and Privacy, 2024* [HASP @ MICRO'24]
- [C-6] **Evaluating Efficacy of Model Stealing Attacks and Defenses on Quantum Neural Networks**  
Satwik Kundu, Debarshi Kundu, Swaroop Ghosh  
*34th IEEE/ACM Great Lakes Symposium on VLSI, 2024* [GLSVLSI'24]
- [C-5] **Knowledge Distillation in Quantum Neural Network using Approximate Synthesis**  
Mahabubul Alam, Satwik Kundu, Swaroop Ghosh  
*28th IEEE/ACM Asia and South Pacific Design Automation Conference, 2023* [ASP-DAC'23]
- [J-1] **Exploring Topological Semi-Metals for Interconnects**  
Satwik Kundu\*, Rupshali Roy\*, M. Saifur Rahman, Suryansh Upadhyay, Rasit Onur Topaloglu, Suzanne E. Mohney, Shengxi Huang, Swaroop Ghosh  
*Journal of Low Power Electronics and Applications, 2023* [JLPEA'23]
- [C-4] **Quantum Machine Learning for Material Synthesis and Hardware Security**  
Satwik Kundu\*, Collin Beaudoin\*, Rasit Onur Topaloglu, Swaroop Ghosh  
*41st IEEE/ACM International Conference on Computer-Aided Design, 2022* [ICCAD'22]
- [C-3] **Security Aspects of Quantum Machine Learning: Opportunities, Threats and Defenses**  
Satwik Kundu, Swaroop Ghosh  
*32nd IEEE/ACM Great Lakes Symposium on VLSI, 2022* [GLSVLSI'22]
- [C-2] **On the Reliability of Conventional and Quantum Neural Network Hardware**  
Mehdi Sadi, Yi He, Yanjing Li, Mahabubul Alam, Satwik Kundu, Swaroop Ghosh, Javad Bahrami, Naghmeh Karimi  
*40th IEEE VLSI Test Symposium, 2022* [VTS'22]
- [C-1] **Quantum-Classical Hybrid Machine Learning for Image Classification**  
Mahabubul Alam, Satwik Kundu, Swaroop Ghosh  
*40th IEEE/ACM International Conference On Computer Aided Design, 2021* [ICCAD'21]
- [B-1] **Spoken Language Identification of Indian Languages using MFCC Features**  
Mainak Biswas, Saif Rahaman, Satwik Kundu, Pawan Kumar Singh, Ram Sarkar  
*Machine Learning for Intelligent Multimedia Analytics: Techniques and Applications, 2021* [Springer'21]

## Patents

I=Invention Under Review, P=Patent

- [P-1] **Parameter Prediction to Accelerate Convergence of Hybrid Quantum-Classical Algorithms**  
Satwik Kundu, Debarshi Kundu, Swaroop Ghosh  
*Provisional Patent Application No. 63/498,829*
- [I-1] **A Novel Hybrid Interconnect with Topological Semi-Metals**  
Satwik Kundu, Rupshali Roy, Swaroop Ghosh  
*Invention Discloser # 2023-5608 [In Review]*

## Talks & Presentations

“**STIQ: Safeguarding Training and Inferencing of Quantum Neural Networks from Untrusted Cloud**”

➤ [Oral] International Symposium on Hardware Oriented Security and Trust (HOST) May 2025 (San Jose, CA, USA)

“**Enhancing Efficiency and Security of Variational Quantum Algorithms**”

➤ Department of Computer Science, Colorado School of Mines Feb 2025 (Golden, CO, USA)

<b>“Security of Quantum Machine Learning Models”</b>	> 2nd Quantum Computer Cybersecurity Symposium (QCCS), Yale University	Oct 2024 (New Haven, CT, USA)
<b>“Security Concerns in Quantum Machine Learning as a Service”</b>	> [Oral] Workshop on Hardware and Architectural Support for Security and Privacy	Nov 2024 (Austin, TX, USA)
<b>“Knowledge Distillation in Quantum Neural Network Using Approximate Synthesis”</b>	> [Oral] Asia and South Pacific Design Automation Conference (ASP-DAC)	Jan 2023 (Tokyo, Japan)
<b>“Security Aspects of Quantum Machine Learning: Opportunities, Threats and Defenses”</b>	> [Oral] Great Lakes Symposium on VLSI (GLSVLSI)	June 2022 (Irvine, CA, USA)
<b>“A Shuttle-Efficient Qubit Mapper for Trapped-Ion Quantum Computers”</b>	> [Poster] Great Lakes Symposium on VLSI (GLSVLSI)	June 2022 (Irvine, CA, USA)

## Academic Services: Peer Reviewer

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<b>Journal</b>	2025	Springer Nature Quantum Machine Intelligence
	2025	Elsevier Neurocomputing
	2025	IEEE Computer Architecture Letters (CAL)
<b>Conference</b>	2022-25	International Symposium on Microarchitecture (MICRO)
	2024-25	International Conference on Computer-Aided Design (ICCAD)
	2023-24	International Conference on Quantum Computing and Engineering (QCE)
	2023-24	Design Automation and Test in Europe (DATE)
	2023-24	Asia and South Pacific Design Automation Conference (ASP-DAC)
	2023-24	International Symposium on Hardware Oriented Security and Trust (HOST)
	2024	International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA)
	2023	International Conference on Computer Design (ICCD)

## Research Experience

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<b>Pennsylvania State University</b>	Aug'21 - Present
<i>Graduate Research Assistant</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Designed an ML-based framework to reverse-engineer compiler optimization passes, achieving an F1-score of up to 0.96.</li> <li>&gt; Implemented a novel indiscriminate data poisoning attack on QNNs, resulting in over 90% accuracy degradation.</li> <li>&gt; Developed a novel framework to safeguard QNNs against cloud-based adversaries; enhanced model security by <math>\approx 70\%</math>.</li> <li>&gt; Evaluated efficacy of model stealing attacks on QNNs. Proposed novel perturbation based defense techniques.</li> <li>&gt; Implemented a prediction technique to accelerate optimization of VQAs by upto <math>3.3\times</math> while requiring <math>2.5\times</math> fewer shots.</li> <li>&gt; Evaluated performance gain for NbAs-based interconnects in caches and observed IPC improvement of up to 23.8%.</li> <li>&gt; Built QML models to explore applications in addressing hardware security challenges, such as classifying PCB defects.</li> <li>&gt; Proposed knowledge distillation with approximate synthesis to compress pre-trained QNNs, minimizing retraining.</li> </ul>	
<b>Jadavpur University</b>	Nov'19 - June'21
<i>Undergraduate Research Assistant</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Language Identification:</b> Developed a spoken language identification framework using MFCC features for the recognition of the six most widely used spoken languages in India.</li> <li>&gt; Trained a SVM Classifier with static and delta features. Discovered that the best results are obtained using only 13 static features and adding delta and delta-delta features reduces performance.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Emotion Recognition:</b> Developed a Keras-based facial expression recognition system for identifying facial expressions. Trained the model on the FER2013 database and achieved an accuracy of 72.34%.</li> </ul>	

<b>Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur</b>	June'20 - Nov'20
<i>Research Intern</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Built a Docker-containerized client-server framework featuring the AES-128 encryption server (T-table version).</li> <li>&gt; Conducted a microarchitectural side-channel attack (Flush+Reload) on the framework, demonstrating the challenges of key extraction via cache attacks in containerized environments.</li> </ul>	

## Teaching Experience

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**Object-Oriented Programming and Data Structures (CMPSC 132)** *Graduate Teaching Assistant* Spring 2022

- › Managed two recitation sections with over 140 undergraduate students, facilitating weekly quizzes and office hours.
- › Organized review sessions and graded assignments and exams, providing detailed feedback to support student learning.

**Fundamentals of Programming and Algorithm Design (CMPSC 131)** *Graduate Teaching Assistant* Fall 2021

- › Led three recitations with over 200 undergraduate students from various departments, delivering weekly lectures.
- › Conducted weekly office hours, graded assignments, and developed course materials, including quizzes & assignments.

## Mentoring

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[2023 - Present] **Archisman Ghosh** PhD in CSE, Penn State

[2022 - Present] **Debarshi Kundu** PhD in CSE, Penn State

[2022 - Present] **Rupshali Roy** PhD in EE, Penn State

## Media Coverage

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[2025] **Unveiling Circuit Compilation Secrets in Quantum Computing via Machine Learning** Quantum Zeitgeist

[2023] **Interconnects: Exploring Semi-Metals, Semiconductor Engineering** Semiconductor Engineering

[2022] **Quantum Machine Learning: Security Threats & Lines Of Defense** Semiconductor Engineering

## Technical Skills

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**Languages** Python, C/C++, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, SQL, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Flask.

**Tools** GDB, VS Code, Docker, Eclipse, GitHub, MATLAB, gem5, MySQL, SQLite.

**Libraries** Qiskit, PennyLane, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Jax, NumPy, Pandas, Scikit, OpenCV, Keras, OpenMP, MPI, CUDA.

## Academic Projects

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### Analyzing BLIP for Image-Text Retrieval

Dec'23

Pennsylvania State University

- › Finetuned BLIP model on Flickr30K dataset achieving near SOTA results despite hardware constraints (batch size: 8).
- › Leveraged CapFilt mechanism to mitigate noisy data, synthesizing captions and filtering mismatched image-text pairs.
- › Conducted hyperparameter tuning (lr:  $10^{-4}$ ,  $10^{-5}$ ,  $10^{-6}$ ) and achieved a 2.7% average R@1 improvement over baseline.

### Visual Question Answering with Multi-Modal Fusion

Nov'23

Pennsylvania State University

- › Developed an end-to-end VQA model that integrates a VGG16-based CNN for image feature extraction with an LSTM-based encoder for natural language processing, enabling efficient multi-modal information fusion.
- › Designed a custom fusion module employing multiple transformation layers, dropout regularization, and multiplicative interactions to seamlessly combine image and question embeddings, followed by an MLP for answer classification.

### Visual Grounding with DETR and BERT

Oct'23

Pennsylvania State University

- › Developed a visual grounding model by integrating a DETR-based visual backbone with a BERT text encoder, enabling effective fusion of image and language modalities for precise object detection.
- › Implemented a novel visual-linguistic fusion module utilizing a learnable token, transformer architecture, and custom projection layers, optimized with GIoU and Smooth L1 loss functions for bounding box regression.

### Image Captioning with Encoder-Decoder Architecture

Sep'23

Pennsylvania State University

- › Developed a captioning model by integrating a CLIP-based vision encoder with a transformer mapping module and a GPT-2 text decoder, enabling robust and coherent caption generation.
- › Engineered key components including image-to-text embedding transformation, custom positional embedding integration, and dynamic token decoding using pre-trained transformer APIs to enhance model performance.

## CUDA-based Blocked All-Pair Shortest Path

April'23

Pennsylvania State University

- > Developed a CUDA-based blocked APSP algorithm, achieving a  $56\times$  speedup by leveraging advanced blocking, shared memory optimizations, and loop unrolling.
- > Explored various block sizes; found  $16 \times 16$  optimal for performance, minimizing cache misses and balancing ILP.

## MPI + OpenMP Distributed Algorithm

March'23

Pennsylvania State University

- > Implemented a distributed version of the Floyd-Warshall algorithm, achieving  $1.94\times$  speedup for 1,000-vertex graph.
- > Handled uneven graph partitions with MPI Scatterv/Gatherv, ensuring correctness even when vertices were not divisible by the number of processes and threads.

## References

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### Prof. Swaroop Ghosh (Advisor)

*Professor, IEEE and AAIA Fellow*

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### Prof. Nikolay Dokholyan

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*Professor, IEEE Fellow*

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### Prof. Abhronil Sengupta

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