Post-quantum crypto on ARM Cortex-M

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Crypto today

5 building blocks for a "secure channel"
Symmetric crypto

- Block or stream cipher (e.g., AES, ChaCha20)
- Authenticator (e.g., HMAC, GMAC, Poly1305)
- Hash function (e.g., SHA-2, SHA-3)

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- Key agreement / public-key encryption (e.g., RSA, Diffie-Hellman, ECDH)
- Signatures (e.g., RSA, DSA, ECDSA, EdDSA)

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The asymmetric monoculture

- All widely deployed asymmetric crypto relies on
    - the **hardness of factoring**, or
    - the **hardness of (elliptic-curve) discrete logarithms**

Polynomial-Time Algorithms for Prime Factorization and Discrete Logarithms on a Quantum Computer*

Peter W. Shor†

Abstract

A digital computer is generally believed to be an efficient universal computing device; that is, it is believed able to simulate any physical computing device with an increase in computation time by at most a polynomial factor. This may not be true when quantum mechanics is taken into consideration. This paper considers factoring integers and finding discrete logarithms, two problems which are generally thought to be hard on a classical computer and which have been used as the basis of several proposed cryptosystems. Efficient randomized algorithms are given for these two problems on a hypothetical quantum computer. These algorithms take a number of steps polynomial in the input size, e.g., the number of digits of the integer to be factored.

"In the past, people have said, maybe it's 50 years away, it's a dream, maybe it'll happen sometime. I used to think it was 50. Now I'm thinking like it's 15 or a little more. It's within reach. It's within our lifetime. It's going to happen."

—Mark Ketchen (IBM), Feb. 2012, about quantum computers

Definition
Post-quantum crypto is (asymmetric) crypto that resists attacks using classical *and quantum* computers.

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5 main directions

- Lattice-based crypto (PKE and Sigs)
- Code-based crypto (mainly PKE)
- Multivariate-based crypto (mainly Sigs)
- Hash-based signatures (only Sigs)
- Isogeny-based crypto (so far, mainly PKE)

The NIST competition

Count of Problem Category	Column Labels		
Row Labels	Key Exchange	Signature	Grand Total
?	1		1
Braids	1	1	2
Chebychev	1		1
Codes	19	5	24
Finite Automata	1	1	2
Hash		4	4
Hypercomplex Numbers	1		1
Isogeny	1		1
Lattice	24	4	28
Mult. Var	6	7	13
Rand. walk	1		1
RSA	1	1	2
Grand Total	**57**	**23**	**80**

4 31 27

Overview tweeted by Jacob Alperin-Sheriff on Dec 4, 2017.

The NIST competition (ctd.)

"Key exchange"

- What is meant is **key encapsulation mechanisms** (KEMs)
  - $(\mathrm{vk}, \mathrm{sk}) \leftarrow \mathrm{KeyGen}()$
  - $(c, k) \leftarrow \mathrm{Encaps}(\mathrm{vk})$
  - $k \leftarrow \mathrm{Decaps}(c, \mathrm{sk})$

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Status of the NIST competition

- In total 69 submissions accepted as “complete and proper”
- Several broken, 5 withdrawn
- Jan 2019: NIST announces 26 round-2 candidates
  - 17 KEMs and PKEs
  - 9 signature schemes

Round-2 of the NIST PQC project

"Performance (hardware+software) will play more of a role"

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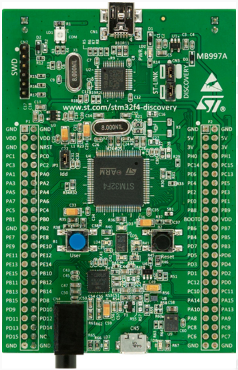
"...we will recommend that teams generally focus their hardware implementation efforts on Cortex-M4"

—Daniel Apon, Feb 2019

pqm4

Joint work with
Matthias Kannwischer, Joost Rijneveld, and Ko Stoffelen.

- Started as part of PQCRYPTO H2020 project
- Continued within EPOQUE ERC StG
- Library and testing/benchmarking framework
    - PQ-crypto on ARM Cortex-M4
    - Uses STM32F4 Discovery board
    - 192 KB of RAM, benchmarks at 24 MHz
- Easy to add schemes using NIST API
- Optimized SHA3 and AES shared across primitives



pqm4 usage

- Run functional tests of all primitives and implementations:

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python3 test.py
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- Easy to evaluate only subset of schemes, e.g.:

```
python3 test.py newhope1024cca sphincs-shake256-128s
```

Signatures (not) in pqm4

	reference	optimized
CRYSTALS-Dilithium	✓	(✓)
FALCON	✗$_{RAM}$	✓
GeMSS	✗$_{Key}$	—
LUOV	✓	—
MQDSS	✗$_{RAM}$	—
Picnic	✗$_{RAM}$	—
qTESLA	✓	—
Rainbow	✗$_{Key}$	—
SPHINCS+	✓	—

✗$_{Key}$: keys too large ✗$_{RAM}$: implementation uses too much RAM

✗$_{Lib}$: available implementations depend on external libraries

KEMs (not) in pqm4

	reference	optimized
BIKE	✗$_{Lib}$	—
Classic McEliece	✗$_{Key}$	—
CRYSTALS-Kyber	✓	✓
Frodo-KEM	✓	✓
HQC	✗$_{Lib}$	—
LAC	✓	—
LEDAcrypt	✗$_{RAM}$	WIP
NewHope	✓	✓
NTRU	✓	✓
NTRU Prime	✓	—
NTS-KEM	✗$_{Key}$	—
ROLLO	✗$_{Lib}$	—
Round5	✓	✓
RQC	✗$_{Lib}$	—
SABER	✓	✓
SIKE	✓	—
ThreeBears	✓	✓

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Learning with errors (LWE)

- Given uniform $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{k \times \ell}$
- Given "noise distribution" χ
- Given samples $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e}$, with $\mathbf{e} \leftarrow \chi$

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Learning with rounding (LWR)

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Lattice-based KEMs – the basic idea

Alice (server)		Bob (client)
$\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{e} \xleftarrow{\$} \chi$		$\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{e}' \xleftarrow{\$} \chi$
$\mathbf{b} \leftarrow \mathbf{a}\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e}$	$\xrightarrow{\mathbf{b}}$	$\mathbf{u} \leftarrow \mathbf{a}\mathbf{s}' + \mathbf{e}'$
	$\xleftarrow{\mathbf{u}}$	

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\text{Alice has} \quad \mathbf{v} &&= \mathbf{u}\mathbf{s} &&= \mathbf{a}\mathbf{s}\mathbf{s}' + \mathbf{e}'\mathbf{s} \\
&\text{Bob has} \quad \mathbf{v}' &&= \mathbf{b}\mathbf{s}' &&= \mathbf{a}\mathbf{s}\mathbf{s}' + \mathbf{e}\mathbf{s}'
\end{aligned}
$$

- Secret and noise $\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}', \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}'$ are small
- $\mathbf{v}$ and $\mathbf{v}'$ are *approximately* the same

Core operation: multiplication in $\mathcal{R}_q = \mathbb{Z}_q[X]/f$

Power-of-two q

- Several schemes use $q = 2^m$, for small m
- Examples: Round5, NTRU, Saber
- More round-1 examples: Kindi, RLizard

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Prime "NTT-friendly" q

- Kyber and NewHope use prime q supporting fast NTT
- For $A, B \in \mathcal{R}_q$, $A \cdot B = \mathrm{NTT}^{-1}(\mathrm{NTT}(A) \circ \mathrm{NTT}(B))$
- NTT is Fourier Transform over finite field
- Use $f = X^n + 1$ for power-of-two n

Multiplication in $\mathbb{Z}_{2^m}[X]$

- Joint work with **Matthias Kannwischer** and **Joost Rijneveld**
- Represent coefficients as 16-bit integers
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- Can do better using Karatsuba:

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\begin{aligned}
& (a_\ell + X^k a_h) \cdot (b_\ell + X^k b_h) \\
= \; & a_\ell b_\ell + X^k(a_\ell b_h + a_h b_\ell) + X^n a_h b_h \\
= \; & a_\ell b_\ell + X^k((a_\ell + a_h)(b_\ell + b_h) - a_\ell b_\ell - a_h b_h) + X^n a_h b_h
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- Generalization: Toom-Cook
  - Toom-3: split into 5 multiplications of 1/3 size
  - Toom-4: split into 7 multiplications of 1/4 size
- Approach: Evaluate, multiply, interpolate

Initial observations

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  - Optimize Saber, $q = 2^{13}, n = 256$
  - Use Toom-4 + two levels of Karatsuba
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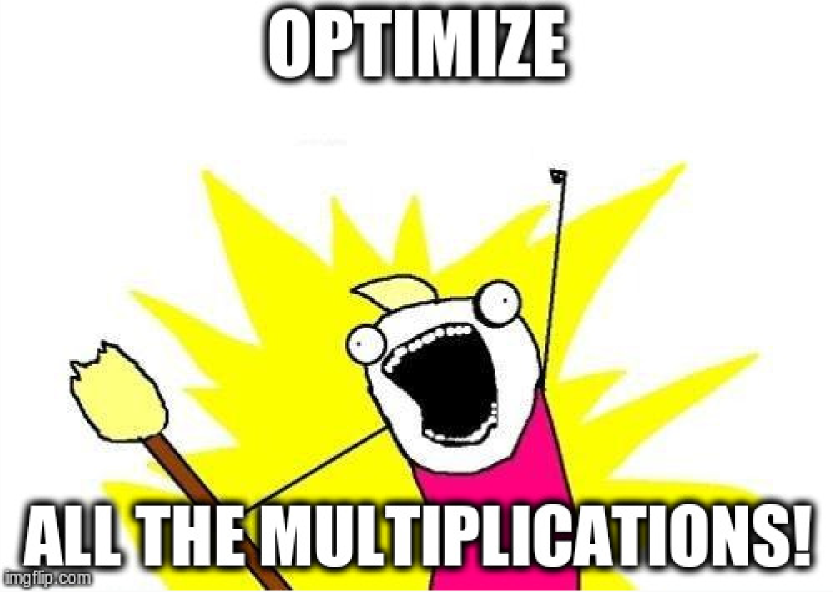
- **Is this the best approach? How about other values of q and n?**


OPTIMIZE
ALL THE MULTIPLICATIONS!
imgflip.com

Our approach

- Generate optimized assembly for Karatsuba/Toom
- Use Python scripts, receive as input n and q
- Hand-optimize "small" schoolbook multiplications
    - Make heavy use of DSP "vector instructions"
    - Perform two 16×16-bit multiply-accumulate in one cycle
    - Carefully schedule instructions to minimize loads/stores
- Benchmark different options, pick fastest

Multiplication results

	approach	"small"	cycles	stack
Saber ($n = 256,\ q = 2^{13}$)	Karatsuba only	16	41 121	2 020
	Toom-3	11	41 225	3 480
	Toom-4	**16**	**39 124**	**3 800**
	Toom-4 + Toom-3	-	-	-
Kindi-256-3-4-2 ($n = 256,\ q = 2^{14}$)	**Karatsuba only**	**16**	**41 121**	**2 020**
	Toom-3	11	41 225	3 480
	Toom-4	-	-	-
	Toom-4 + Toom-3	-	-	-
NTRU-HRSS ($n = 701,\ q = 2^{13}$)	Karatsuba only	11	230 132	5 676
	Toom-3	15	217 436	9 384
	Toom-4	**11**	**182 129**	**10 596**
	Toom-4 + Toom-3	-	-	-
NTRU-KEM-743 ($n = 743,\ q = 2^{11}$)	Karatsuba only	12	247 489	6 012
	Toom-3	16	219 061	9 920
	Toom-4	**12**	**196 940**	**11 208**
	Toom-4 + Toom-3	16	197 227	12 152
RLizard-1024 ($n = 1024,\ q = 2^{11}$)	Karatsuba only	16	400 810	8 188
	Toom-3	11	360 589	13 756
	Toom-4	**16**	**313 744**	**15 344**
	Toom-4 + Toom-3	11	315 788	16 816

NTT-based multiplication

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- NTT is an FFT in a finite field
- Evaluate polynomial $f = f_0 + f_1 X + \cdots + f_{n-1} X^{n-1}$ at all n-th roots of unity
- Divide-and-conquer approach
  - Write polynomial f as $f_0(X^2) + X f_1(X^2)$

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\begin{aligned}
f(\beta) &= f_0(\beta^2) + \beta f_1(\beta^2) \text{ and} \\
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$$f(\beta) = f_0(\beta^2) + \beta f_1(\beta^2) \text{ and}$$
$$f(-\beta) = f_0(\beta^2) - \beta f_1(\beta^2)$$

    - f_0 has $n/2$ coefficients
    - Evaluate f_0 at all $(n/2)$-th roots of unity by recursive application
    - Same for f_1

NTT-based multiplication

- First thing to do: replace recursion by iteration
- Loop over $\log n$ levels with $n/2$ "butterflies" each

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- Butterfly on level k:
  - Pick up f_i and f_{i+2^k}
  - Multiply f_{i+2^k} by a power of ω to obtain t
  - Compute $f_{i+2^k} \leftarrow a_i - t$
  - Compute $f_i \leftarrow a_i + t$

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- Main optimizations on Cortex-M4:
    - "Merge" levels: fewer loads/stores
    - Optimize modular arithmetic (precompute powers of ω in Montgomery domain)
    - Lazy reductions
    - Carefully optimize using DSP instructions

Selected optimized lattice KEM cycles

Scheme	Key Generation	Encapsulation	Decapsulation
ntruhps2048509	77 698 713	645 329	542 439
ntruhps2048677	144 383 491	955 902	836 959
ntruhps4096821	211 758 452	1 205 662	1 066 879
ntruhrss701	154 676 705	402 784	890 231
lightsaber	459 965	651 273	678 810
saber	896 035	1 161 849	1 204 633
firesaber	1 448 776	1 786 930	1 853 339
kyber512	514 291	652 769	621 245
kyber768	976 757	1 146 556	1 094 849
kyber1024	1 575 052	1 779 848	1 709 348
newhope1024cpa	975 736	975 452	162 660
newhope1024cca	1 161 112	1 777 918	1 760 470

Comparison: Curve25519 scalarmult: 625 358 cycles

Selected optimized lattice KEM stack bytes

Scheme	Key Generation	Encapsulation	Decapsulation
ntruhps2048509	21 412	15 452	14 828
ntruhps2048677	28 524	20 604	19 756
ntruhps4096821	34 532	24 924	23 980
ntruhrss701	27 580	19 372	20 580
lightsaber	9 656	11 392	12 136
saber	13 256	15 544	16 640
firesaber	20 144	23 008	24 592
kyber512	2 952	2 552	2 560
kyber768	3 848	3 128	3 072
kyber1024	4 360	3 584	3 592
newhope1024cpa	11 096	17 288	8 308
newhope1024cca	11 080	17 360	19 576

Some lessons learned and TODOs

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- NTRU-HPS is currently additionally bottlenecked by slow constant-time sorting
- Some more speedups possible ($\approx$ 5%?) by using floating-point registers

Resources online

- NIST PQC website:

  https://csrc.nist.gov/Projects/Post-Quantum-Cryptography

- NIST "PQC forum" mailing list:

  https://csrc.nist.gov/projects/post-quantum-cryptography/email-list

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- pqm4 library and benchmarking suite:
  https://github.com/mupq/pqm4
- Code of $\mathbb{Z}_{2^m}[x]$ multiplication paper, including scripts:
  https://github.com/mupq/polymul-z2mx-m4
- $\mathbb{Z}_{2^m}[x]$ multiplication paper:
  https://cryptojedi.org/papers/#latticem4
- Kyber/NTT optimization paper:
  https://cryptojedi.org/papers/#nttm4