



# An introduction to Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC)

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## TLS-SEC



# Outline

- 1 What you've learnt so far (should have)
- 2 Classical vs Quantum computing
- 3 Two noticeable quantum algorithms (and their impact over cryptography)
- 4 State-of-the-art quantum computers
- 5 Possible alternatives
- 6 Post-quantum cryptography



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- How it relates to information security





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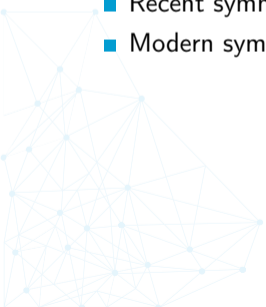




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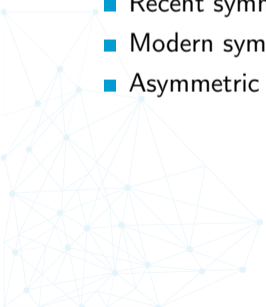




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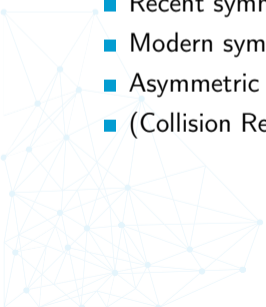




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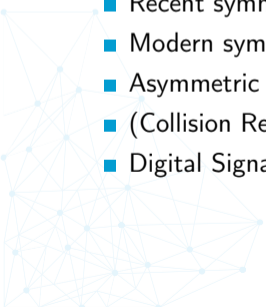




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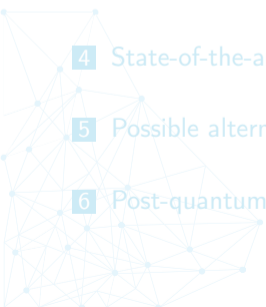
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# Outline



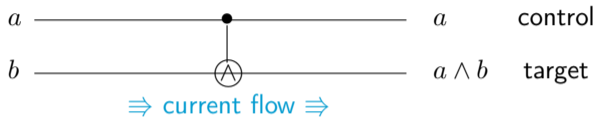
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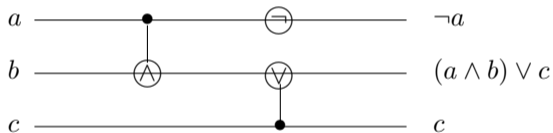
# Classical Boolean Circuits

source: J. Royer

We view them as naming maps  
 $\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$



Now consider



We can describe this by either of:

- $b \leftarrow a \wedge b; a \leftarrow \neg a; b \leftarrow b \vee c$

$|x, y, z\rangle = \text{state vector}$

- $|a, b, c\rangle \mapsto |a, a \wedge b, c\rangle \mapsto |\neg a, a \wedge b, c\rangle \mapsto |\neg a, (a \wedge b) \vee c, c\rangle$



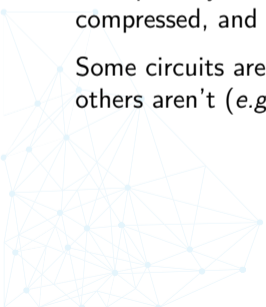
# Classical computing



A classical computer (Turing machine) processes (through a language) classical boolean circuits.

The quantity of information is measured through Shannon's entropy, data can eventually be compressed, and there exist efficient algorithms for error correction.

Some circuits are computable *i.e.* the machine eventually halts (e.g. primality problem), some others aren't (e.g. the halting problem).







# Current security





# Current security vs. classical computing power (2020)





# Current security vs. classical computing power (2020)

1 standard machine: 64 bits architecture

$2^6$



# Current security vs. classical computing power (2020)

1 standard machine: 8 cores

$$2^6 \times 2^3$$



# Current security vs. classical computing power (2020)

1 standard machine: 4 GHz

$$2^6 \times 2^3 \times 2^2 \times 10^9$$



# Current security vs. classical computing power (2020)

1 standard machine: running 1 month

$$2^6 \times 2^3 \times 2^2 \times 10^9 \times 60 \times 60 \times 24 \times 30$$





# Current security vs. classical computing power (2020)

NSA  $\geq$  10 000 standard machines?

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## A concrete example

During 2018, there were  $2^{89}$  SHA-256 hashes computed on the blockchain BitCoin...





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Setting parameters so that best known attacks have complexity (at least)  $2^{128}$ .



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Classical best known attacks:

- Symmetric primitives: brute-force
- Asymmetric primitives: GNFS, sub-exponential complexity



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- Entanglement: the capability of two qubits to be *correlated*. If Alice and Bob both get one of two entangled qubits, and if Alice measures a  $|0\rangle$  at some point, then necessarily Bob must measure the same, as  $|00\rangle$  is the only state where Alice's qubit is a  $|0\rangle$ .



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*Qubits* can be “implemented” using the spin of an electron, or the polarization of a photon, ...





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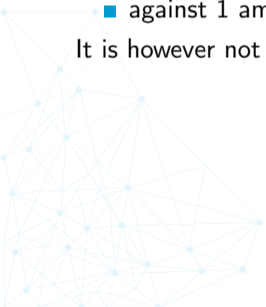
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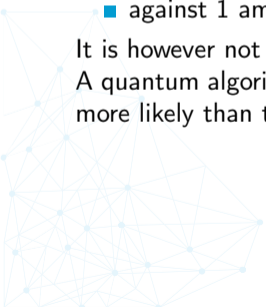


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A quantum algorithm solving a problem needs to make the correct solution (state) exponentially more likely than the other states (cf. quantum annealing / wave function collapsing).

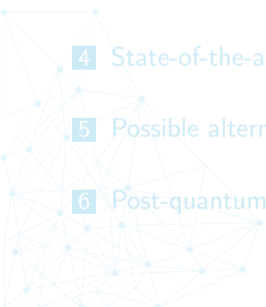




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# Shor's algorithm



SIAM J. COMPUT.  
Vol. 26, No. 5, pp. 1484–1509, October 1997

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009

## POLYNOMIAL-TIME ALGORITHMS FOR PRIME FACTORIZATION AND DISCRETE LOGARITHMS ON A QUANTUM COMPUTER\*

PETER W. SHOR<sup>†</sup>

**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.





# Shor's algorithm: how it works

---

**Algorithm 1:** ShorAlgorithm( $N$ )

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**Input:**  $N$

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  - 5 **if**  $r \equiv 0[2]$  **then**
  - 6   | **return**  $\gcd(g^{r/2} \pm 1, N)$
  - 7 **else**
  - 8   | go to 1
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Meaning that there is a non-negligible probability that  $g^{r/2} \pm 1$  shares non trivial factors with  $N$ .



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Example with  $N = 314191$ , find  $p, q$

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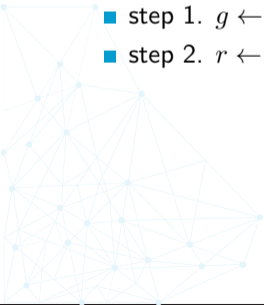
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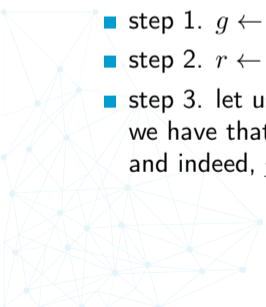
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- step 3. let us denote  $g_p = g^{17388/2} + 1$  and  $g_q = g^{17388/2} - 1$   
we have that  $\gcd(g_p, N) = 829 =: p$  and  $\gcd(g_q, N) = 379 =: q$   
and indeed,  $p \cdot q = 829 \times 379 = 314191 = N$





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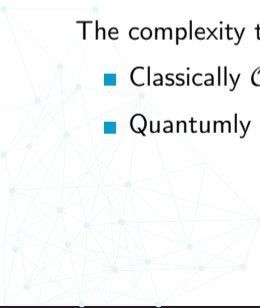


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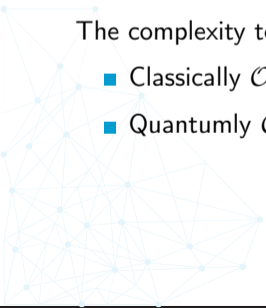


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The complexity to find the *period* of the function  $g \mapsto g^x \pmod N$  is:

- Classically  $\mathcal{O}(N)$
- Quantumly  $\mathcal{O}(\log(N)^3)$ . That's an **exponential** speedup!







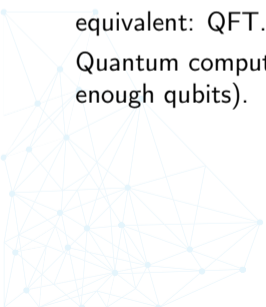
# Quantum period finding



How does it work? Why is it much much faster quantumly?

Fourier Transform is THE tool to analyse frequencies. Fortunately, it has a quantum equivalent: QFT.

Quantum computing allows to provide QFT a superposition of every possible states (assuming enough qubits).





# Consequences of Shor's algorithm on PKC

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 $\mathcal{O}\left((\log N)^2 (\log \log N) (\log \log \log N)\right)$



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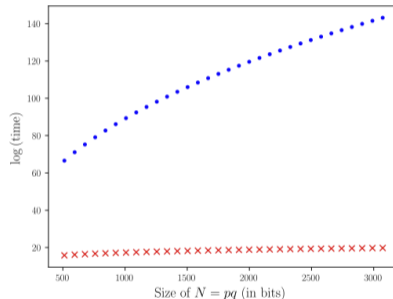


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 $\mathcal{O}\left((\log N)^2 (\log \log N) (\log \log \log N)\right)$   
against  $\exp\left(1.9(\log N)^{1/3}(\log \log N)^{2/3}\right)$   
classically



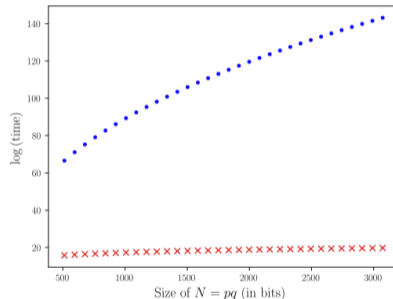
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- Factoring becomes polynomial-time  
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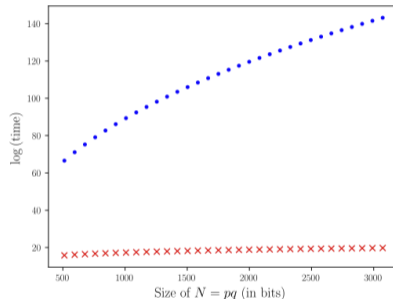
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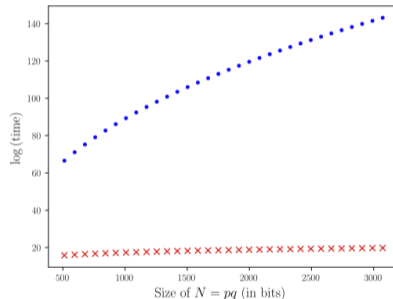
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In other words, **security as we know it collapses...**



# Grover's algorithm

## A fast quantum mechanical algorithm for database search

Lov K. Grover  
3C-404A, Bell Labs  
600 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill NJ 07974  
[lkgrover@bell-labs.com](mailto:lkgrover@bell-labs.com)

## Summary

Imagine a phone directory containing  $N$  names arranged in completely random order. In order to find someone's phone number with a probability of  $\frac{1}{2}$ , any classical algorithm (whether deterministic or probabilistic) will need to look at a minimum of  $\frac{N}{2}$  names. Quantum mechanical systems can be in a superposition of states and simultaneously examine multiple names. By properly adjusting the phases of various operations, successful computations reinforce each other while others interfere randomly. As a result, the desired phone number can be obtained in only  $O(\sqrt{N})$  steps. The algorithm is within a small constant factor of the fastest possible quantum mechanical algorithm.





# Consequences of Grover's algorithm



( $n$ -entries unsorted) Database search takes  $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{n})$  queries instead of  $\mathcal{O}(n)$ .





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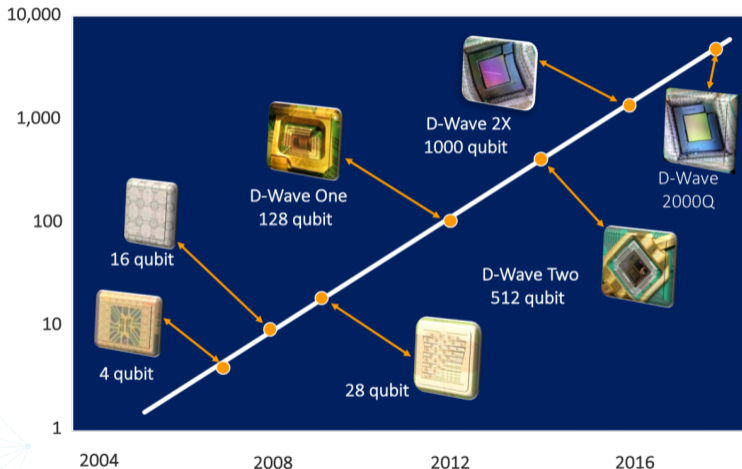
→ More tricky (depending on the model, the size of the quantum computer, ...), at least +33% to preserve the security level



# Outline

- 1 What you've learnt so far (should have)
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- 5 Possible alternatives
- 6 Post-quantum cryptography

# How far are we from a large-scale quantum computer?



A quantum analog to Moore's law: the number of qubits ( $y$ -axe) approximately doubles every year ( $x$ -axe). (Source: D-Wave)



# Large-scale quantum computing: a caveat



This analog to Moore's law has several drawbacks:







# Large-scale quantum computing: a caveat



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In 2020, the largest quantum computer features 72 qubits (Google).





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A bit of perspective regarding quantum stuffs.

(full story here)





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- 2018: Google announces a 72-qubit quantum chip / 2019: quantum supremacy



# Hot news!



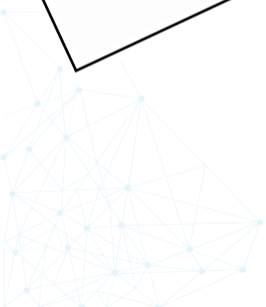


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TECH • QUANTUM COMPUTING

# Google Claims 'Quantum Supremacy,' Marking a Major Milestone in Computing

By Robert Hackett September 20, 2019





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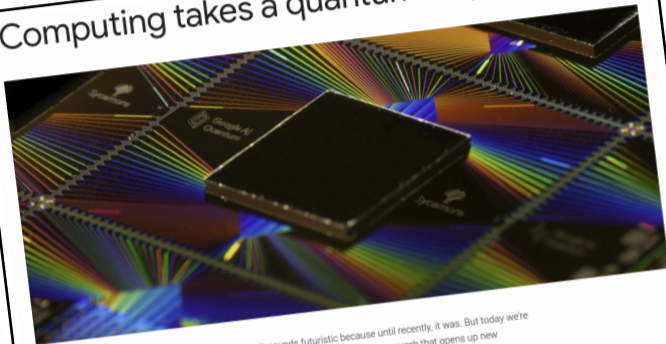
Google's supposed milestone achievement became public last month when a preprint scientific [paper accidentally leaked on the website of NASA](#), a collaborator, as *Fortune* reported at the time. Google has said nothing about the potentially historic experiment since then, lending credence to whispers that its researchers are bound to silence under the terms of a news embargo by a major science journal, unable to disclose more information until a certain date which is presumed to be imminent.



# Hot news!

Google's supposed milestone preprint

## Computing takes a quantum leap forward



Hartmut Neven  
Engineering Director, Google  
AI Quantum Team  
Published Oct 23, 2019

Quantum computing: It sounds futuristic because until recently, it was. But today we're marking a major milestone in quantum computing research that opens up new possibilities for this technology.

Unlike classical computing, which runs everything from your cell phone to a supercomputer, quantum computing is based on the properties of quantum mechanics. As a result, quantum computers could potentially solve problems that would be too difficult or even impossible for classical computers—like designing better batteries.

became public last month when a [on the website of NASA](#), a collaborator, said nothing about the potentially huge advance to whispers that its researchers are being embargoed by a major science journal, a date which is presumed to be

Google Cla





# What is quantum supremacy?





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Quantum supremacy refers to the moment where a functional quantum computer can effectively solve a problem that is not solvable (within decent time frame, e.g. 100 years) with any (super) computer.





# Wha

Quantum supremacy can be effectively solved by any (super) computer

## Why is Google's quantum supremacy experiment impressive?

Asked 13 days ago Active 11 days ago Viewed 12k times

▲ In the [Nature](#) paper published by Google, they say,

129



★

21

To demonstrate quantum supremacy, we compare our quantum processor against state-of-the-art classical computers in the task of sampling the output of a pseudo-random quantum circuit. Random circuits are a suitable choice for benchmarking because they do not possess structure and therefore allow for limited guarantees of computational hardness. We design the circuits to entangle a set of quantum bits (qubits) by repeated application of single-qubit and two-qubit logical operations. Sampling the quantum circuit's output produces a set of bitstrings, for example {0000101, 1011100, ...}. Owing to quantum interference, the probability distribution of the bitstrings resembles a speckled intensity pattern produced by light interference in laser scatter, such that some bitstrings are much more likely to occur than others. Classically computing this probability distribution becomes exponentially more difficult as the number of qubits (width) and number of gate cycles (depth) grow.

So, from what I can tell, they configure their qubits into a pseudo-randomly generated circuit, which, when run, puts the qubits into a state vector that represents a probability distribution over  $2^{53}$  possible states of the qubits, but that distribution is intractable to calculate, or even estimate via sampling using a classical computer simulation. But they sample it by "looking" at the state of the qubits after running the circuit many times.

**Isn't this just an example of creating a system whose output is intractable to calculate, and then "calculating" it by simply observing the output of the system?**

It sounds similar to saying:

If I spill this pudding cup on the floor, the exact pattern it will form is very chaotic, and intractable for any supercomputer to calculate. But I just invented a new special type of computer: this pudding cup. And I'm going to do the calculation by spilling it on the floor and observing the result. I have achieved pudding supremacy.

Quantum computer can solve a problem in a reasonable time frame, e.g. 100 years) with



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This result is a bit biased and oversold: it was obtained using a very specific (ad-hoc) problem that was purposely designed to behave much much better quantumly than classically...



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It however remains impressive, since no regular computer can do that efficiently. A bit weaker than supremacy is “quantum advantage”, where a quantum computer simply performs better than any computer.



# Open challenges towards quantum computing



More work is required to embrace a large scale quantum computer:





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- developing quantum error-correcting codes for error-free quantum computing







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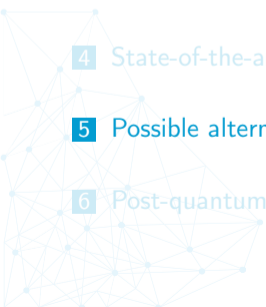
Still, a Sword of Damocles hanging over our heads, and **now** is the time for designing **quantum-safe** alternatives.



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## Possible alternative: physical cryptography

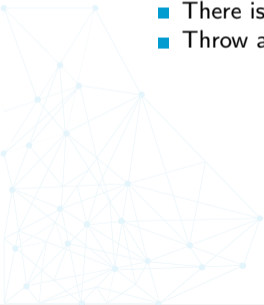
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  - Alice locks the briefcase.
  - A courier transports the briefcase from Alice to Bob.
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  - Throw away algorithmic cryptography!
- Most common reactions from security experts:
  - This would make security much worse.
  - You can't do signatures.
  - This would be insanely expensive.
  - We should not dignify this proposal with a response





# Security advantages of algorithmic cryptography



- Keep secrets heavily shielded inside authorized computers.





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- Reduce trust in third parties:
  - Reduce reliance on closed-source software and hardware.
  - Increase comprehensiveness of audits.
  - Increase comprehensiveness of formal verification.
  - Design systems to be secure even if algorithm and public keys are public.
  - Critical example: signed software updates.

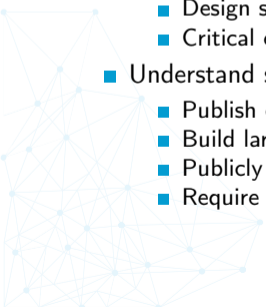




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- Understand security as thoroughly as possible:
  - Publish comprehensive specifications.
  - Build large research community with clear security goals.
  - Publicly document attack efforts.
  - Require systems to convincingly survive many years of analysis.





# Confidence-inspiring crypto takes time to build



- Many stages of research from cryptographic design to deployment:
  - Explore space of cryptosystems.
  - Study algorithms for the attackers.
  - Focus on secure cryptosystems.
  - Study algorithms for the users.
  - Study implementations on real hardware.
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  - Focus on secure, reliable implementations.
  - Focus on implementations meeting performance requirements.
  - Integrate securely into real-world applications.

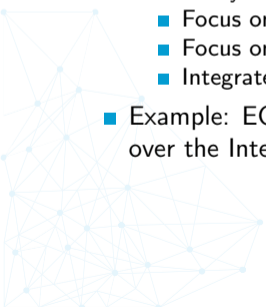




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Let's move to post-quantum crypto now!

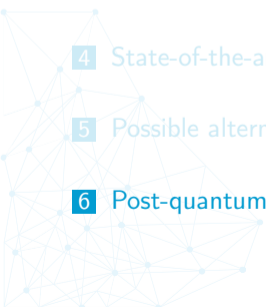




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# Clarification

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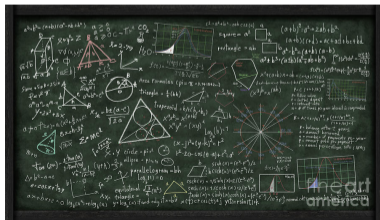
# Clarification

What are the alternatives to classical cryptography in presence of an adversary equipped with a large scale quantum computer?

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- Post-Quantum Cryptography





# Post-Quantum Cryptography



What are the ingredients for building quantum-safe cryptographic primitives?





# Post-Quantum Cryptography



What are the ingredients for building quantum-safe cryptographic primitives?

- Lattice-based cryptography





# Post-Quantum Cryptography



What are the ingredients for building quantum-safe cryptographic primitives?

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- (Error-correcting) Code-based cryptography





# Post-Quantum Cryptography



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- Hash (function) - based cryptography







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# Post-Quantum Cryptography



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- Lattice-based cryptography
- (Error-correcting) Code-based cryptography
- Hash (function) - based cryptography
- Multivariate (polynomials) - based cryptography
- Isogeny (over elliptic curves) - based cryptography





# NIST PQC standardization process

**NIST** National Institute of Standards and Technologies





# NIST PQC standardization process

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- 3<sup>rd</sup> call for standardization
- Asks for post-quantum cryptographic algorithms
- 3 categories :
  - Encryption
  - Key exchange
  - Signature
- Many candidates:
  - Error correcting codes,
  - Lattices,
  - Multivariate,
  - Hash functions,
  - ...



# NIST PQC standardization process

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  - Key exchange
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- Many candidates:
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  - Lattices,
  - Multivariate,
  - Hash functions,
  - ...
- November 2016: announcement
- November 2017: submission deadline (82 submissions)
- December 2017: 1<sup>st</sup> round: 69 submissions
- April 2018: 1<sup>st</sup> standardization conference
- January 2019: 2<sup>nd</sup> round: 26 candidates
- March 2019: tweaks for 2<sup>nd</sup> round
- August 2019: 2<sup>nd</sup> standardization conference
- July 2020: 3<sup>rd</sup> round: 7 finalists, 8 alternates
- 2022 → 2024: draft standards ready

# Hot topic!

	Signatures	KEM/Encryption	Overall
Lattice-based	4	24	28
Code-based	5	19	24
Multi-variate	7	6	13
Hash-based	4		4
Other	3	10	13
Total	23	59	82

Submissions available at:

- <https://csrc.nist.gov/Projects/post-quantum-cryptography/Post-Quantum-Cryptography-Standardization>
- <https://www.safecrypto.eu/pqclounge/>

source:  
Dustin Moody, NIST



## Hot topic!

Below is a timeline of major events with respect to the NIST PQC Standardization Process.

- April 2-3, 2015 Workshop on Cybersecurity in a Post-Quantum World, NIST, Gaithersburg, MD
- February 24, 2016 PQC Standardization: Announcement and outline of NIST's Call for Submissions presentation given at PQCrypto 2016
- April 28, 2016 NISTIR 8105, Report on Post-Quantum Cryptography, released
- August 2, 2016 Federal Register Notice - Proposed Requirements and Evaluation Criteria announced for public comment
- December 20, 2016 Federal Register Notice – Announcing Request for Nomination: for Public-Key Post-Quantum Cryptographic Algorithms
- November 30, 2017 Submission Deadline for NIST PQC Standardization Process
- December 20, 2017 First-Round Candidates were announced. The public comment period on the first-round candidates began.
- April 11-13, 2018 First NIST PQC Standardization Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- January 30, 2019 The First Round ended and the Second Round began. Second-Round candidates announced. The public comment period on the second-round candidates began.
- March 15, 2019 Deadline for updated submission packages for the Second Round
- August 22-24, 2019 2<sup>nd</sup> NIST PQC Standardization Conference, Santa Barbara, CA

source:  
NIST IR 8240

# Hot topic!

## Timeline

*\*This is a tentative timeline, provided for information, and subject to change.*

### Date

Feb 24-26, 2016	NIST Presentation at PQCrypto 2016: <a href="#">Announcement and outline of NIST's Call for Submissions (Fall 2016)</a> , Dustin Moody
April 28, 2016	NIST releases <a href="#">NISTIR 8105, Report on Post-Quantum Cryptography</a>
Dec 20, 2016	<a href="#">Formal Call for Proposals</a>
Nov 30, 2017	Deadline for submissions
Dec 4, 2017	NIST Presentation at AsiaCrypt 2017: <a href="#">The Ship Has Sailed: The NIST Post-Quantum Crypto "Competition"</a> , Dustin Moody
Dec 21, 2017	<a href="#">Round 1 algorithms announced</a> (69 submissions accepted as "complete and proper")
Apr 11, 2018	NIST Presentation at PQCrypto 2018: <a href="#">Let's Get Ready to Rumble - The NIST PQC "Competition"</a> , Dustin Moody
April 11-13, 2018	<a href="#">First PQC Standardization Conference</a> - Submitter's Presentations
January 30, 2019	<a href="#">Second Round Candidates announced</a> (26 algorithms)
March 15, 2019	Deadline for updated submission packages for the Second Round
May 8-10, 2019	NIST Presentation at PQCrypto 2019: <a href="#">Round 2 of the NIST PQC "Competition" - What was NIST Thinking?</a> (Spring 2019), Dustin Moody
August 22-24, 2019	Second PQC Standardization Conference
2020/2021	Round 3 begins or select algorithms
2022/2024	Draft Standards Available





# Outline



- 6** Post-quantum cryptography
  - Lattice-based cryptography
  - Hash-based cryptography
  - Code-based cryptography

