# Formal Specifications for Certifiable Cryptography

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# **Certification**





# **Verified Cryptography Workflow**









**Translate**



### Good news: For any modern crypto algorithm, there is probably a verified implementation

- You don't have to sacrifice performance
- Mechanized proofs that you can run and re-run yourself
- You (mostly) don't have to read or understand the proofs

#### HACL\* and libcrux

- **HACL\*:** Verified C/assembly implementations of all the classical crypto you need
	- Specs/Proofs in F\*
	- Intel/ARM SIMD-optimized
	- "Fastest in the world" (sometimes)
- **libcrux:** Verified Rust (and C) implementations of modern FIPS algorithms: SHA-3, ML-KEM, FrodoKEM, …
- Used in Firefox, Linux, etc.



### But… not always easy to use, extend, or combine code from verified libraries

- You do need to carefully audit the formal specs, written in tool-specific spec languages like F\*, Coq, EasyCrypt
- You do need to safely use their low-level APIs, which often embed subtle security-critical pre-conditions

#### Specs are needed for analysis and verification

### But... what makes a spec a (good) spec?

# Specs for ML-KEM

Mathematical Operations

Compress<sub>d</sub>: 
$$
\mathbb{Z}_q \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{2^d}
$$
  
 $x \longrightarrow \lceil (2d/q) \cdot x \rfloor$ 

- **Feature:** Succinct, unambiguous, mathematical
- Uses mathematical integers, in principle unbounded
- Uses modular field arithmetic, with specific rounding functions
- ML-KEM also uses polynomials, vectors, matrices
- Other crypto standards use elliptic curves, finite fields, pairing-based curves, ...

#### Mathematical Algorithms

- Computes a math function
- Uses loops, variables
- Easy to implement
- Not so simple to understand
- Is this a "good" spec?
- Is it correct?
- **Desired Feature:**

"We hold these specs to be self-evidently correct"

**Algorithm 9 NTT**<sup> $-1$ </sup>( $\hat{f}$ ) Computes the polynomial  $f \in R_a$  corresponding to the given NTT representation  $\hat{f} \in T_a$ . **Input:** array  $\hat{f} \in \mathbb{Z}_a^{256}$ .  $\triangleright$  the coefficients of input NTT representation **Output:** array  $f \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{256}$ .  $\triangleright$  the coefficients of the inverse-NTT of the input 1:  $f \leftarrow \hat{f}$  $\triangleright$  will compute in-place on a copy of input array  $2: k \leftarrow 127$ 3: for  $(len \leftarrow 2; len \leftarrow 128; len \leftarrow 2 \cdot len)$ for  $(start \leftarrow 0; start < 256; start \leftarrow start + 2 \cdot len)$  $4:$ zeta  $\leftarrow \zeta^{\text{BitRev}_7(k)}$  mod q  $5:$  $k \leftarrow k-1$  $6:$ for  $(i \leftarrow start; i < start + len; i++)$  $7:$  $t \leftarrow f[i]$  $8:$  $f[j] \leftarrow t + f[j + len]$  $9:$  $\triangleright$  steps 9-10 done modulo q  $f[j+len] \leftarrow zeta \cdot (f[j+len]-t)$  $10:$ end for  $11:$ end for  $12.$  $13:$  end for  $\triangleright$  multiply every entry by 3303  $\equiv 128^{-1}$  mod q 14:  $f \leftarrow f \cdot 3303 \mod q$ 15: return  $f$ 

#### EasyCrypt Spec

op as\_sint(x : Fq) = if (q-1) / 2 < asint x then asint x - q else asint x. op compress(d : int, x : Fq) : int = round (asint  $x * 2^d / \mathbb{R}$  q) %  $2^d$ . op decompress(d : int, x : int) : Fq = inFq (round  $(x * q /_R 2^d)$ ).

op invntt(p : poly) = Array256.init (fun i 
$$
\Rightarrow
$$
 let ii = i / 2 in

\nif i % 2 = 0 then  $\sum_{j=0}^{127}$  inv (inFq 128) \* p[2\**j*] \* zroot<sup>-(2\*br *j*+1)\*ii</sup>

\nelse  $\sum_{j=0}^{127}$  inv (inFq 128) \* p[2\**j*+1] \* zroot<sup>-(2\*br *j*+1)\*ii</sup>

- **● Feature:** Machine Checked
- **● Feature:** Basis for security proof for ML-KEM
- **Feature:** Basis for correctness proof for Jasmin implementation
- Close to the mathematical spec (easy to eyeball and to formally verify)
- Can this be in the NIST spec? Is it stable? Is it readable for programmers?

#### Python pseudocode in the IETF RFC

- Python, SAGE-friendly
- **Feature:** Executable
- **Feature:** Readable by programmers, written by cryptographers
- Is this a "good" spec?
- Is it correct?

```
Compress(x, d) = Round (2^d / q) x ) umod 2<sup>d</sup>
def InvNTT(self):
    cs = list(self.cs)layer = 2zi = n//2while layer \langle n: \ranglefor offset in range (0, n-layer, 2*layer):
            zi \equiv 1
            z = pow(zeta, brv(zi), q)for j in range (offset, offset+layer):
                t = (cs[j+layer] - cs[j]) % qcs[j] = (inv2*(cs[j] + cs[j+layer])) % qcs[j+layer] = (inv2 * z * t) % qlayer *= 2return Poly (cs)
```
#### An executable, translatable spec in hacspec



```
fn ntt_inverse(f_hat: KyberPolynomialRingElement) -> KyberPolynomialRingElement {
    let mut f = f hat:
    let mut k: u8 = 127;
    // for (len \leq -2; len \leq -128; len \leq -2*len)
    for len in NTT_LAYERS {
         // for (start \langle -0; \text{ start} \rangle < 256; start \langle -\text{ start} + 2* \text{len} \ranglefor start in (0..(COEFFICIENTS_IN_RING_ELEMENT - len)).step_by(2 * len) {
             // zeta <- Zeta<sup>^</sup>(BitRev_7(k)) mod q
             let zeta = ZETA.pow(bit_rev_7(k));k = 1:
              for j in start..start + len {
                  let t = f[j];f[j] = t + f[j + len];f[i + len] = zeta * (f[i + len] - t);\mathcal{F}}
    \mathcal{F}// f <- f*3303 mod q
    for i in 0..f.coefficients().len() {
         f[i] = f[i] * INVERSE_0F_128;\mathcal{F}\mathtt f
```
#### Mathematical Precision vs. Implementation Guidance

- **KyberSlash Attacks**
- **Version 1:** timing attack due to division in Compress\_1 applied to plaintext
- **Version 2:** timing attack due to division in Compress\_12 applied to IND-CPA ciphertext
- Would having secrecy annotations in the spec have helped?

Compress<sub>d</sub>:  $\mathbb{Z}_q \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{2^d}$ 

 $x \longrightarrow \lceil (2d/q) \cdot x \rceil$ 

```
// t += ((int16_t)t >> 15) & KYBER_Q;
// t = (((t \le 1) + KYBER_Q/2)/KYBER_Q) & 1;
t \leq 5 = 1:
t = 1665;t * = 80635;t \ge 28;
t \&= 1:
```
### Specs for Constructions & Protocols

#### CryptoVerif (Signed DH, HPKE, WireGuard)

- Process calculus
- Defines protocol actions, cryptographic assumptions, security goals, as oracles,
- **Feature:** Machine-checked
- **Feature:** Close to pen-and-paper proofs written by cryptographers
- Should this be in the HPKF RFC?

```
let processA(hf:hashfunction, skA:skey) =
  0A1(hostX: host) :=a \leq -R Z:
    ga \leftarrow \exp(g, a);
    return(A, hostX, ga);
```

```
0A3(=A, =hostX, gb:G, s:signature) :=get keys(=hostX, pkX) in
  if verify(msg2(A, hostX, ga, gb), pkX, s) then
  gba \leftarrow exp(gb, a);
  kA \leftarrow hash(hf, gba);event endA(A, hostX, ga, gb);
  return(sign(msg3(A, hostX, ga, gb), skA));
```

```
0Afin() :=
  if hostX = B then (
   keyA:key <- kA
   else
    return(KA)
```
#### ProVerif (TLS 1.3, Signal, …)

- Process calculus
- Defines protocol actions, **symbolic** cryptographic assumptions, security goals, as concurrent processes
- **Feature: Machine-checked**
- **Feature:** Fully automatic, finds protocol flaws, MitM attacks
- Not a crypto proof (symbolic)
- Should this be in the TLS RFC?

(\* TLS 1.3 0+1-RTT Processes: no client auth, uses psk (potentially NoPSK) \*) 

let  $Client13() =$ (get preSharedKeys(a,b,psk) in in (io, ioffer: params); let nego(=TLS13, DHE\_13(g, eee), hhh, aaa, pt) = ioffer in new cr: random: let  $(x:bitstring, qx:element) = dh keygen(q) in$ let (early\_secret:bitstring, kb:mac\_key) = kdf\_es(psk) in let zoffer =  $nego(TLS13, DHE_13(g,gx), hhh, aaa, Binder(zero))$  in let pt = Binder(hmac(StrongHash, kb, msg2bytes(CH(cr, zoffer)))) in let offer =  $nego(TLS13, DHE_13(g,gx)$ , hhh, aaa, pt) in  $let ch = CH(cr, offer) in$ event ClientOffersVersion(cr, TLS13); event ClientOffersKEX(cr, DHE\_13(g, gx)); event ClientOffersAE(cr,aaa); event ClientOffersHash(cr, hhh);  $out(io, ch);$ let (kc0:ae\_key,ems0:bitstring) = kdf\_k0(early\_secret,msg2bytes(ch)) in insert clientSession0(cr,psk,offer,kc0,ems0);

 $in(io, SH(sr, mode))$ ; let  $nego(=\text{TLS13},\text{DHE}\_13(=g,gy),h,a,spt)$  = mode in let  $log = (ch, SH(sr, mode))$  in

```
let gxy = e2b(dh-exp(g, gy, x)) in
let handshake_secret = kdf_hs(early_secret,gxy) in
let (master_secret:bitstring,chk:ae_key,shk:ae_key,cfin:mac_key,sfin:mac_key) =
```
# Questions: what makes a good spec?

#### Questions for discussion

- Should we embed formal specifications within NIST and IETF crypto standards?
- If not, would it be possible to link the pseudocode used in these standards with formal specifications?
- Is it more valuable to have an executable specification for testing or a formal spec for verification?
- Are specifications written in languages like Python and Rust more accessible, readable, usable than specifications written in formal languages like F∗ or EasyCrypt?
- Should formal specifications describe high-level mathematical concepts like polynomial multiplication or should they detail low-level algorithms like NTT multiplication?
- Should specifications in standards be targeted towards security proofs or implementation correctness, and can they do both?
- Should standards and their formal specifications include indications for secure implementations, such as algorithms that may be at risk of side-channel attacks?



### **hacspec: a tool-independent spec language**

#### **Design Goals**

- **Easy to use** for crypto developers
- **Familiar** language and tools
- **Succinct** specs, like pseudocode
- **Strongly typed** to avoid spec errors
- **Executable** for spec debugging
- **Testable** against RFC test vectors
- **Translations** to formal languages like **F\*, Coq, EasyCrypt, …**

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#### **A purely functional subset of Rust**

- Safe Rust without external side-effects
- No mutable borrows
- All values are copyable
- Rust tools & development environment
- A library of common abstractions
	- Arbitrary-precision Integers
	- Secret-independent Machine Ints
	- Vectors, Matrices, Polynomials,...

**Language and Toolchain Details: [hacspec.org](https://hacspec.org)**

#### **hacspec: purely functional crypto code in Rust**



#### **hacspec: abstract integers for field arithmetic**



### **hacspec: secret integers for "constant-time" code**

#### **Separate Secret and Public Values**

- New types: U8, U32, U64, U128
- Can do arithmetic:  $+, *, -$
- Can do bitwise ops:  $\land$ ,  $\land$ , &
- Cannot do division: **/, %**
- Cannot do comparison:  $==$ ,  $!=$ ,  $\le$ , ...
- Cannot use as array indexes:  $x[u]$

#### **Enforces secret independence**

- A "constant-time" discipline
- Important for some crypto specs



### **hacspec: translation to formal languages**



a: StateIdx, b: StateIdx

c StateIdx.

d StateIdx mut state: State

 $)$   $\rightarrow$  State {

#### **hacspec: towards high-assurance crypto software**



#### **hacspec: towards high-assurance crypto software**



#### **hacspec: towards high-assurance crypto software**



# libcrux: a library of verified cryptography

### **libcrux: architecture**





### **Unsafe APIs: Array Constraints**





### **Verified F\* API: Preconditions**

- $let$  aead\_encrypt\_st (w:field\_spec) = key: lbuffer uint8 32ul
	- -> nonce: lbuffer uint8 12ul
	- $\rightarrow$  alen:size t
	- -> aad:lbuffer uint8 alen
	- -> len:size t
	- -> input: lbuffer uint8 len
	- -> output: lbuffer uint8 len
	- $\rightarrow$  tag: lbuffer uint8 16ul ->

#### Stack unit

#### (requires fun h ->

```
live h key /\ live h nonce /\ live h aad /\
live h input /\ live h output /\ live h tag /\
disjoint key output /\ disjoint nonce output /\
disjoint key tag /\ disjoint nonce tag /\
disjoint output tag /\ eq_or_disjoint input output /\
disjoint aad output)
```
#### Length Constraints



### **Verified F\* API: Preconditions**

- $let$  aead\_encrypt\_st (w:field\_spec) = key: lbuffer uint8 32ul
	- -> nonce: lbuffer uint8 12ul
	- -> alen:size t
	- -> aad: lbuffer uint8 alen
	- -> len:size t
	- -> input: lbuffer uint8 len
	- -> output: lbuffer uint8 len
	- $\rightarrow$  tag: lbuffer uint8 16ul  $\rightarrow$ Stack unit

(requires fun h ->

live h key /\ live h nonce /\ live h add /\ live h input /\ live h output /\ live h tag /\ disjoint key output /\ disjoint nonce output /\ disjoint key tag /\ disjoint nonce tag /\ disjoint output tag /\ eq\_or\_disjoint input output /\ disjoint aad output)

Disjointness Constraints



### **libcrux: Typed Rust APIs**

type Chacha20Key =  $[u8; 32];$ type Nonce =  $[u8; 12];$ type Tag =  $[u8; 16];$ 

fn encrypt( key: &Chacha20Key, msg\_ctxt: &mut [u8], nonce: Nonce, aad:  $\&$ [u8]  $\rightarrow$  Tag



## libcrux: supported algorithms & perf



#### **libcrux: performance**







**RFC 9180 Hybrid Public Key Encryption** 

#### **HPKE: Construction**



#### **HPKE code performance: hacspec vs. stateful Rust**





# Ongoing and Future Work

### **The Last Yard: linking hacspec to security proofs**



### **Verification Tools: more proof backends for hacspec**

#### **Security Analysis Tools**

- SSProve: modular crypto proofs
- EasyCrypt: verified constructions

- ProVerif: symbolic protocol proofs
- CryptoVerif: verified protocols
- Squirrel: protocol verifier

#### **Program Verification Tools**

- QuickCheck: logical spec testing
- Creusot: verifying spec contracts
- Aeneas: verifying Rust code
- **LEAN: verification framework**
- <Your favourite prover here>

#### **Conclusions**

#### ● **Fast verified code** is available today for most modern crypto algorithms

- + some post-quantum crypto; Future: verified code for ZKP, FHE, MPC, …
- Most code in C or Intel assembly; Ongoing: Rust, ARM assembly, …
- **hacspec** can be used as a common spec language for multiple tools/libraries
	- Ongoing: adding new Rust features, new proof backends, linking with Rust verifiers, …
	- **Try it yourself:** [hacspec.org](https://hacspec.github.io/)
- **libcrux** provides safe Rust APIs to multiple verified crypto libraries
	- Ongoing: recipes for integrating new verified crypto from various research projects
	- **Try it yourself:** [libcrux.org](https://github.com/cryspen/libcrux)

#### **Thanks!**

- **HACL\*: <https://github.com/hacl-star/hacl-star>**
- **Vale:<https://github.com/ValeLang/Vale>**
- **libjade:<https://github.com/formosa-crypto/libjade>**
- **AUCurves: <https://github.com/AU-COBRA/AUCurves>**

- **● hacspec:<https://github.com/hacspec/hacspec>**
- **● libcrux: <https://github.com/cryspen/libcrux>**