



# Compact Dilithium on Cortex M3 and Cortex M4

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1. Introduction
2. Constant time multiplications on Cortex-M3
3. Optimizing performance
4. Optimization memory
5. Results
6. Conclusion



## Introduction

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- ▶ Signature scheme
- ▶ Part of CRYSTALS (with Kyber)
- ▶ One of the 3rd round finalists



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- ▶ Part of CRYSTALS (with Kyber)
- ▶ One of the 3rd round finalists
- ▶ Fiat-Shamir with aborts
- ▶ Module-LWE and Module-SIS
- ▶ Small keys and signatures
- ▶ Operates in the polynomial ring  $\mathbb{R}_q = \mathbb{Z}_q[X]/(X^{256} + 1)$ , with  $q = 8380417$   
⇒ Allows efficient polynomial multiplication with NTT







# The Number-Theoretic Transform (NTT)

- ▶ Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) in finite field
- ▶ Let  $g = g_0 + g_1X + \dots + g_{n-1}X^{n-1}$ , polynomial in  $\mathbb{R}_q$
- ▶ Representation of polynomial  $g$ :
  - By its coefficients:  $g_0, g_1 \dots g_{n-1}$
  - By evaluating  $g$  at the powers of the  $n$ 'th primitive root of unity:  
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 $g(\omega^0), g(\omega^1) \dots g(\omega^{n-1})$
- ▶ Formal definition of the NTT in Dilithium

- $\hat{g} = NTT(g) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \hat{g}_i X^i$ , with  $\hat{g}_i = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \psi^j g_j \omega^{ij}$ ; and

- $g = INTT(\hat{g}) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} g_i X^i$ , with  $g_i = n^{-1} \psi^{-i} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \hat{g}_j \omega^{-ij}$ .

- ▶ Polynomial Multiplication in  $\mathbb{R}_q$   
 $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = INTT(NTT(\mathbf{a}) \circ NTT(\mathbf{b}))$





## Gen

```
01  $\mathbf{A} \leftarrow R_q^{k \times \ell}$   
02  $(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) \leftarrow S_\eta^\ell \times S_\eta^k$   
03  $\mathbf{t} := \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s}_1 + \mathbf{s}_2$   
04 return  $(pk = (\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{t}), sk = (\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2))$ 
```

## Sign( $sk, M$ )

```
05  $\mathbf{z} := \perp$   
06 while  $\mathbf{z} = \perp$  do  
07    $\mathbf{y} \leftarrow S_{\gamma_1 - 1}^\ell$   
08    $\mathbf{w}_1 := \text{HighBits}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}, 2\gamma_2)$   
09    $c \in B_{60} := \text{H}(M \parallel \mathbf{w}_1)$   
10    $\mathbf{z} := \mathbf{y} + c\mathbf{s}_1$   
11   if  $\|\mathbf{z}\|_\infty \geq \gamma_1 - \beta$  or  $\|\text{LowBits}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{y} - c\mathbf{s}_2, 2\gamma_2)\|_\infty \geq \gamma_2 - \beta$ , then  $\mathbf{z} := \perp$   
12 return  $\sigma = (\mathbf{z}, c)$ 
```

## Verify( $pk, M, \sigma = (\mathbf{z}, c)$ )

```
13  $\mathbf{w}'_1 := \text{HighBits}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} - c\mathbf{t}, 2\gamma_2)$   
14 if return  $\llbracket \|\mathbf{z}\|_\infty < \gamma_1 - \beta \rrbracket$  and  $\llbracket c = \text{H}(M \parallel \mathbf{w}'_1) \rrbracket$ 
```





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- ▶ **Arm Cortex M3** (AtmelSAM3X8E )



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  - NIST choice for PQC
  - 32-bit, ARMv7e-M
  - 1 MiB ROM, 196 KB RAM, 168 MHz
  - 32-bit multiplications in **1 cycle**  
(UMULL, SMULL, UMLAL, SMLAL)
- ▶ **Arm Cortex M3** (AtmelSAM3X8E )



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## ► Arm Cortex M3 (AtmelSAM3X8E )

- Arduino Due
- 32-bit, ARMv7-M
- 512 KiB Flash, 96 KB RAM, 84 MHz
- **Variable time 32-bit multiplications!**







## Constant time multiplications on Cortex-M3

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- ▶ Variable time 64-bit multiplications
  - But, 16-bit multipliers are constant time  
MUL – 1 cycle; MLA, MLS – 2 cycles



# Overcoming the non-constant time multiplications

- ▶ Variable time 64-bit multiplications
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- ▶ Our solution: use 32-bit multipliers  
⇒ represent the 64-bit values in radix  $2^{16}$



# Overcoming the non-constant time multiplications

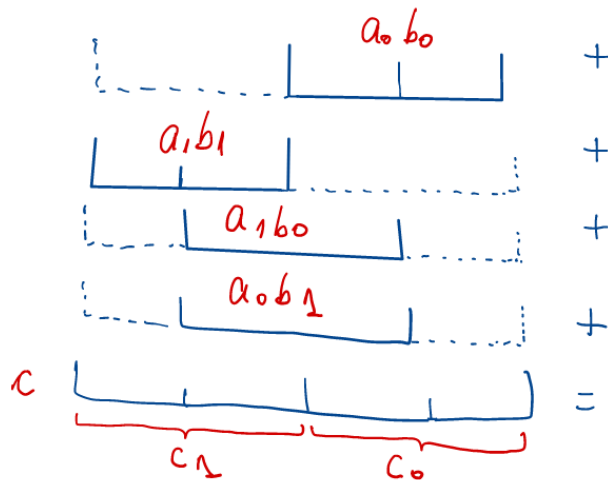
- ▶ Variable time 64-bit multiplications
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⇒ represent the 64-bit values in radix  $2^{16}$ 
  - Let  $a = 2^{16}a_1 + a_0$  and  $b = 2^{16}b_1 + b_0$   
with  $0 \leq a_0, b_0 < 2^{16}$  and  $-2^{15} \leq a_1, b_1 < 2^{15}$



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with  $0 \leq a_0, b_0 < 2^{16}$  and  $-2^{15} \leq a_1, b_1 < 2^{15}$
  - Then  $ab = 2^{32}a_1b_1 + 2^{16}(a_0b_1 + a_1b_0) + a_0b_0$ ,  
with  $-2^{31} \leq a_ib_j < 2^{31}$







## Optimizing performance

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- (1) Applying the CRT
- (2) {Unsigned  $\Rightarrow$  Signed} representation
- (3) Merging layer



$$c := a \cdot b$$

$$\hat{a} := \text{NTT}(a)$$

$$\hat{b} := \text{NTT}(b)$$

$$\hat{c} := \hat{a} \cdot \hat{b}$$

$$c := \text{NTT}^{-1}(\hat{c})$$

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<sup>1</sup>Based on [BCLv19].



$$c := a \cdot b$$

$$a_i := a \bmod q_i$$

$$b_i := b \bmod q_i$$

$$c_i := NTT^{-1}(NTT(a_i) \circ NTT(b_i))$$

$$c := CRT(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k)$$

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 $\Rightarrow$  choose  $q_i$  NTT primes



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 $\Rightarrow$  choose  $q_i$  NTT primes
- ▶  $\prod_i q_i$  must be larger than coefficients in  $c$ !
- ▶ For Dilithium, need to split into 4 polynomials mod  $q_i$
- ▶ Unfortunately, this is slower than doing schoolbook
- ▶ But it might be useful for other platforms :)





- ▶ Unsigned subtraction  $a - b$  overflows if  $a < b$



## {Unsigned => Signed} representation

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- ▶ Signed representation is better! :)
  - No extra addition
  - Numbers grow less  $\Rightarrow$  less reductions



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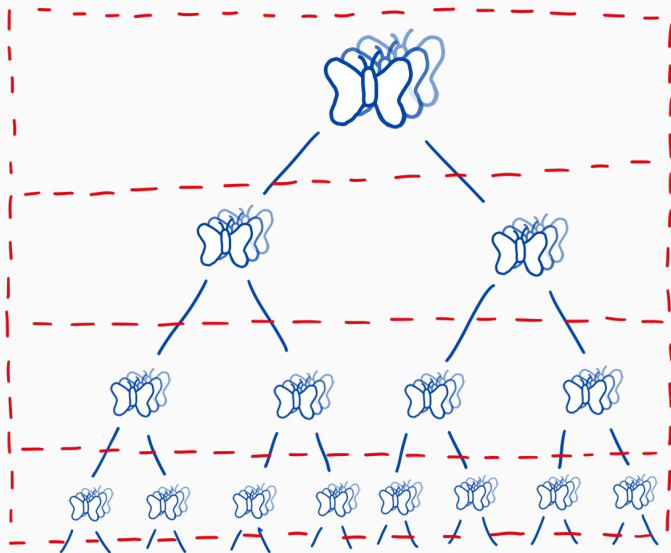
- ▶ NTT (= FFT) recurses a binary tree
- ▶ Depth first: Many reloads of twiddle factors
- ▶ Breadth first: Many loads/spills of coefficients
- ▶ Go for hybrid approach, i.e., *merging layers*



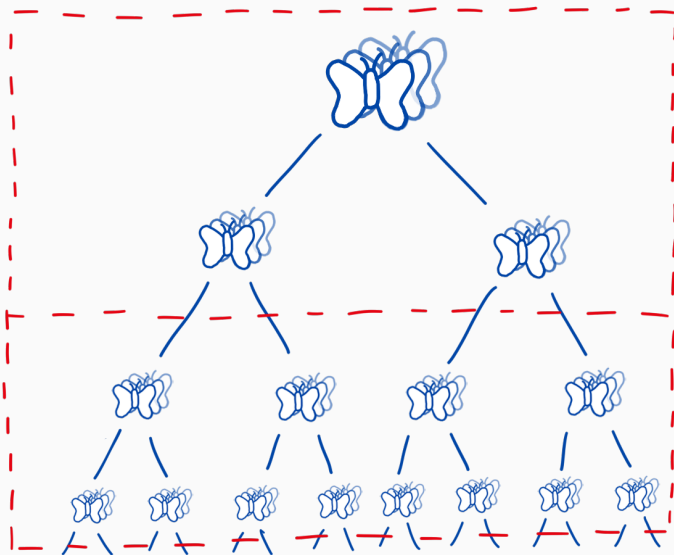




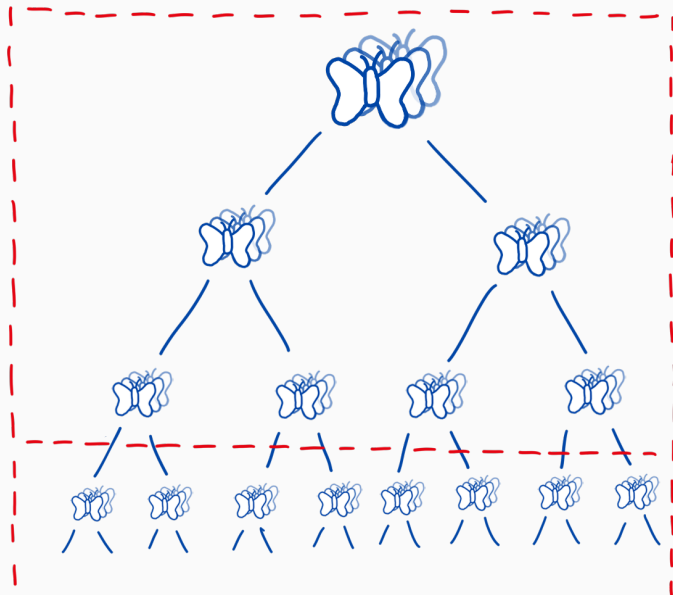
## Merging layers (visualisation)



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## Merging layers (visualisation)



- ▶ M4: Merge 2 layers
- ▶ M3 (constant-time): No merged layers
- ▶ M3 (leaktime): Merge 2 layers



## Optimization memory

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# Three strategies

- (1) Storing  $A$  in flash (realistic setting)
- (2) Storing  $A$  in SRAM (“vanilla” setting)
- (3) Streaming  $A$  and  $y$  (how small can we go?)



# Three strategies

- (1) Storing A in flash (realistic setting)
  - Can read A from flash during signing
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# Three strategies

- (1) Storing A in flash (realistic setting)
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  - Generate A once during signing
  - Needs extra SRAM space
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# Three strategies

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  - Can read A from flash during signing
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- (2) Storing A in SRAM (“vanilla” setting)
  - Generate A once during signing
  - Needs extra SRAM space
- (3) Streaming A and y (how small can we go?)
  - No extra space needed
  - Likely to be very slow



Sign( $sk, M$ )

```
09  $\mathbf{A} \in R_q^{k \times \ell} := \text{ExpandA}(\rho)$   $\triangleright \mathbf{A}$  is generated and stored in NTT Representation as  $\hat{\mathbf{A}}$ 
10  $\mu \in \{0, 1\}^{384} := \text{CRH}(tr \parallel M)$ 
11  $\kappa := 0, (\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{h}) := \perp$ 
12  $\rho' \in \{0, 1\}^{384} := \text{CRH}(K \parallel \mu)$  (or  $\rho' \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^{384}$  for randomized signing)
13 while  $(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{h}) = \perp$  do  $\triangleright$  Pre-compute  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_1 := \text{NTT}(\mathbf{s}_1)$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_2 := \text{NTT}(\mathbf{s}_2)$ , and  $\hat{\mathbf{t}}_0 := \text{NTT}(\mathbf{t}_0)$ 
14    $\mathbf{y} \in S_{\gamma_1-1}^\ell := \text{ExpandMask}(\rho', \kappa)$ 
15    $\mathbf{w} := \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}$   $\triangleright \mathbf{w} := \text{NTT}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{A}} \cdot \text{NTT}(\mathbf{y}))$ 
16    $\mathbf{w}_1 := \text{HighBits}_q(\mathbf{w}, 2\gamma_2)$ 
17    $c \in B_{60} := \text{H}(\mu \parallel \mathbf{w}_1)$   $\triangleright$  Store  $c$  in NTT representation as  $\hat{c} = \text{NTT}(c)$ 
18    $\mathbf{z} := \mathbf{y} + c\mathbf{s}_1$   $\triangleright$  Compute  $c\mathbf{s}_1$  as  $\text{NTT}^{-1}(\hat{c} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{s}}_1)$ 
19    $(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_0) := \text{Decompose}_q(\mathbf{w} - c\mathbf{s}_2, 2\gamma_2)$   $\triangleright$  Compute  $c\mathbf{s}_2$  as  $\text{NTT}^{-1}(\hat{c} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{s}}_2)$ 
20   if  $\|\mathbf{z}\|_\infty \geq \gamma_1 - \beta$  or  $\|\mathbf{r}_0\|_\infty \geq \gamma_2 - \beta$  or  $\mathbf{r}_1 \neq \mathbf{w}_1$ , then  $(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{h}) := \perp$ 
21   else
22      $\mathbf{h} := \text{MakeHint}_q(-c\mathbf{t}_0, \mathbf{w} - c\mathbf{s}_2 + c\mathbf{t}_0, 2\gamma_2)$   $\triangleright$  Compute  $c\mathbf{t}_0$  as  $\text{NTT}^{-1}(\hat{c} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{t}}_0)$ 
23     if  $\|c\mathbf{t}_0\|_\infty \geq \gamma_2$  or the # of 1's in  $\mathbf{h}$  is greater than  $\omega$ , then  $(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{h}) := \perp$ 
24      $\kappa := \kappa + 1$ 
25 return  $\sigma = (\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{h}, c)$ 
```

## Results

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## Measuring performance

- ▶ M4: Use systick timer
- ▶ M3: Use the DWT cycle counter (CYCCNT)



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- ▶ M4: Use systick timer
- ▶ M3: Use the DWT cycle counter (CYCCNT)

## Measuring stack usage

- (1) Fill the stack with dummy values
- (2) Run the algorithm
- (3) Count how many dummy bytes were overwritten



## Results: NTT performance

				NTT	$\text{NTT}^{-1}$	$\circ$
Dilithium	[GKOS18]	constant-time	M4	10 701	11 662	—
	<b>This work</b>	constant-time	M4	8 540	8 923	1 955
	<b>This work</b>	variable-time	M3	19 347	21 006	4 899
	<b>This work</b>	constant-time	M3	33 025	36 609	8 479



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	<b>This work</b>	constant-time	M3	33 025	36 609	8 479

- ▶ On Cortex M4 we have a 25% improvement
- ▶ (Leaktime) operations on M3 are  $2.3\times - 2.5\times$  slower
- ▶ Constant-time NTT  $1.7\times$  slower than leaktime



## Results M4 strategy 1

Algorithm/strategy	Params	Work	Speed [kcc]	Stack [B]
KeyGen (1)	Dilithium2	<b>This work</b>	2 267	7 916
	Dilithium3	<b>This work</b>	3 545	8 940
	Dilithium4	<b>This work</b>	5 086	9 964
Sign (1)	Dilithium2	[RGC19, scen. 2]	3 640	–
	Dilithium2	<b>This work</b>	3 097	14 428
	Dilithium3	[RGC19, scen. 2]	5 495	–
	Dilithium3	<b>This work</b>	4 578	17 628
	Dilithium4	[RGC19, scen. 2]	4 733	–
	Dilithium4	<b>This work</b>	3 768	20 828
Verify	Dilithium2	<b>This work</b>	1 259	9 004
	Dilithium3	[GKOS18]	2 342	54 800
	Dilithium3	<b>This work</b>	1 917	10 028
	Dilithium4	<b>This work</b>	2 720	11 052

# Results M4 strategy 2

Algorithm/strategy	Params	Work	Speed [kcc]	Stack [B]
KeyGen (2 & 3)	Dilithium2	<b>This work</b>	1 315	7 916
	Dilithium3	[GKOS18]	2 320	50 488
	Dilithium3	<b>This work</b>	2 013	8 940
	Dilithium4	<b>This work</b>	2 837	9 964
Sign (2)	Dilithium2	[RGCB19, scen. 1]	4 632	–
	Dilithium2	<b>This work</b>	3 987	38 300
	Dilithium3	[GKOS18]	8 348	86 568
	Dilithium3	[RGCB19, scen. 1]	7 085	–
	Dilithium3	<b>This work</b>	6 053	52 756
	Dilithium4	[RGCB19, scen. 1]	7 061	–
	Dilithium4	<b>This work</b>	6 001	69 276
Verify	Dilithium2	<b>This work</b>	1 259	9 004
	Dilithium3	[GKOS18]	2 342	54 800
	Dilithium3	<b>This work</b>	1 917	10 028
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Sign (3)	Dilithium2	<b>This work</b>	13 332	8 924
	Dilithium3	<b>This work</b>	23 550	9 948
	Dilithium4	<b>This work</b>	22 658	10 972
Verify	Dilithium2	<b>This work</b>	1 259	9 004
	Dilithium3	[GKOS18]	2 342	54 800
	Dilithium3	<b>This work</b>	1 917	10 028
	Dilithium4	<b>This work</b>	2 720	11 052

## Cortex M4

- ▶ At the time, fastest implementation for M4
- ▶ 13%, 27%, and 18% speedup compared to [GKOS18]
- ▶ 14% – 20% speedup compared to [RGCB19]



## Results M3 strategy 1

Algorithm/ strategy	Params	Speed [kcc]	Stack [B]
KeyGen (1)	Dilithium2	2 945	12 631
	Dilithium3	4 503	15 703
	Dilithium4	6 380	18 783
Sign (1)	Dilithium2	5 822	14 869 <sup>a</sup>
	Dilithium3	8 730	18 083 <sup>b</sup>
	Dilithium4	7 398	18 083 <sup>c</sup>
Verify	Dilithium2	1 541	8 944
	Dilithium3	2 321	9 967
	Dilithium4	3 260	10 999

<sup>a</sup> Uses additional 23 632 bytes of flash space.

<sup>b</sup> Uses additional 34 896 bytes of flash space.

<sup>c</sup> Uses additional 48 208 bytes of flash space.



Algorithm/ strategy	Params	Speed [kcc]	Stack [B]
KeyGen (2 & 3)	Dilithium2	1 699	7 983
	Dilithium3	2 562	9 007
	Dilithium4	3 587	10 031
Sign (2)	Dilithium2	7 115	39 503
	Dilithium3	10 667	53 959
	Dilithium4	10 031	70 463
Verify	Dilithium2	1 541	8 944
	Dilithium3	2 321	9 967
	Dilithium4	3 260	10 999



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Sign (3)	Dilithium2	18 932	9 463
	Dilithium3	33 229	10 495
	Dilithium4	31 180	11 511
Verify	Dilithium2	1 541	8 944
	Dilithium3	2 321	9 967
	Dilithium4	3 260	10 999



## Cortex M3

- ▶ No previous work to compare with
- ▶ Signing: 40% – 100% more cycles than M4
- ▶ Verify only 20% slower





- ▶ Keygen and Verify are always pretty cheap
- ▶ Generally need 40, 54, 70 kB of memory
- ▶ Strategy 1: 24, 35, 48 kB can be flash instead of SRAM



- ▶ Keygen and Verify are always pretty cheap
- ▶ Generally need 40, 54, 70 kB of memory
- ▶ Strategy 1: 24, 35, 48 kB can be flash instead of SRAM
- ▶ Also can get signing to around 10 kB
- ▶ For a factor  $3\times - 4\times$ , we save 39, 43, 58 kB



## Conclusion

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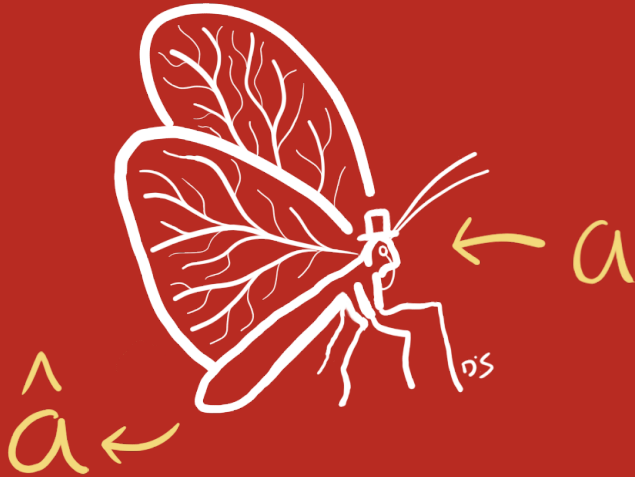
Paper: <https://dsprenkels.com/files/dilithium-m3.pdf>

Code: <https://github.com/dilithium-cortexm/dilithium-cortexm>


Authors:

- ▶ Daan: <https://dsprenkels.com>
- ▶ Denisa: TBD
- ▶ Matthias: <https://kannwischer.eu>







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