

# POST-QUANTUM CRYPTO: THE EMBEDDED CHALLENGE

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SECURE CONNECTIONS  
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PUBLIC

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A photograph of an IBM Q quantum computing system. A central white cylindrical unit is suspended by a metal frame. Below it, a complex assembly of copper and gold components is visible, surrounded by a dense network of blue and white cables. In the background, there are blue server racks filled with electronic equipment. The entire setup is housed within a laboratory environment with metal support structures.

IBM Q

POST-QUANTUM CRYPTO STANDARDS ARE COMING  
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU BELIEVE IN QUANTUM COMPUTERS OR NOT



# POST-QUANTUM CRYPTO IS ON THE HORIZON

## AUTOMOTIVE



**70%** connected cars by 2025

## INDUSTRIAL & IOT



IoT Edge & end nodes from **6B units** in 2021 to **12B units** in 2025

## MOBILE



Tagging **60B products** per year by 2025

## COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE



Secure anchors & services for **40B processors**

What is the impact on the billions of embedded devices?



## EMBEDDED USE CASES

### Digital signatures (verification)

Secure boot

Mobile. Firmware integrity for payment terminals

Over-the-air updates

Automotive. Firmware authentication, smart car access

### Key-Exchange

Secure element communication

Industrial & IoT. Communication within IoT devices

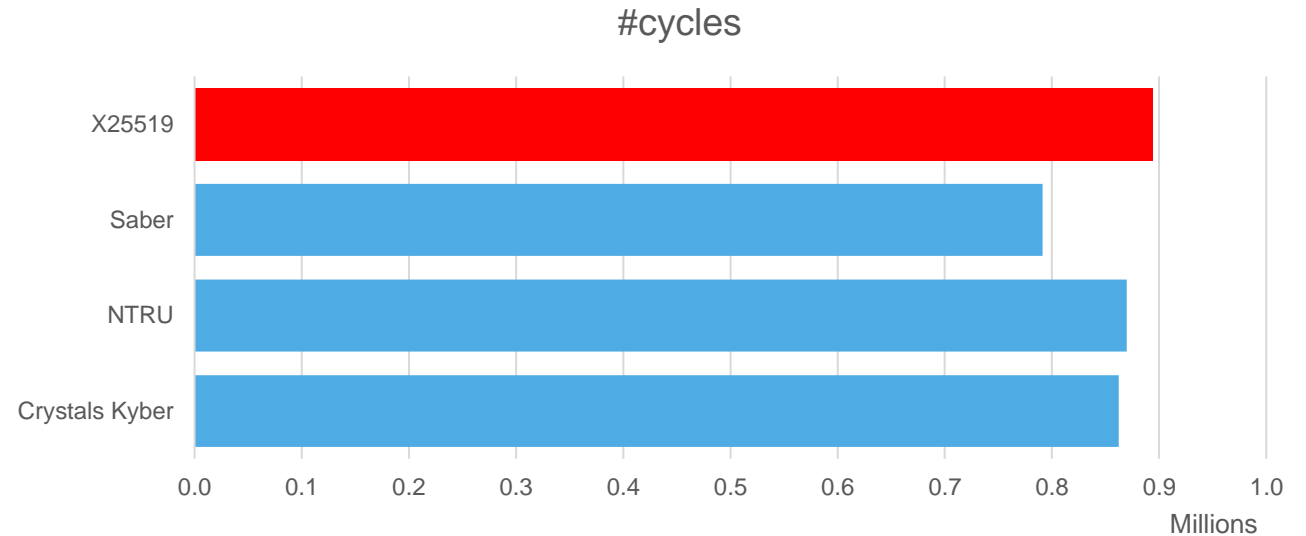
Trust provisioning

Industrial & IoT. Communication by IoT devices





## CLASSIC VS LATTICES IN PRACTICE (1/2)



- KEM finalists example excluding Classic McEliece (public key sizes range from 255 KiB to 1,326 KiB)
- Numbers from pqm4 library on Cortex-M4 [A]
- X25519 numbers from [B]

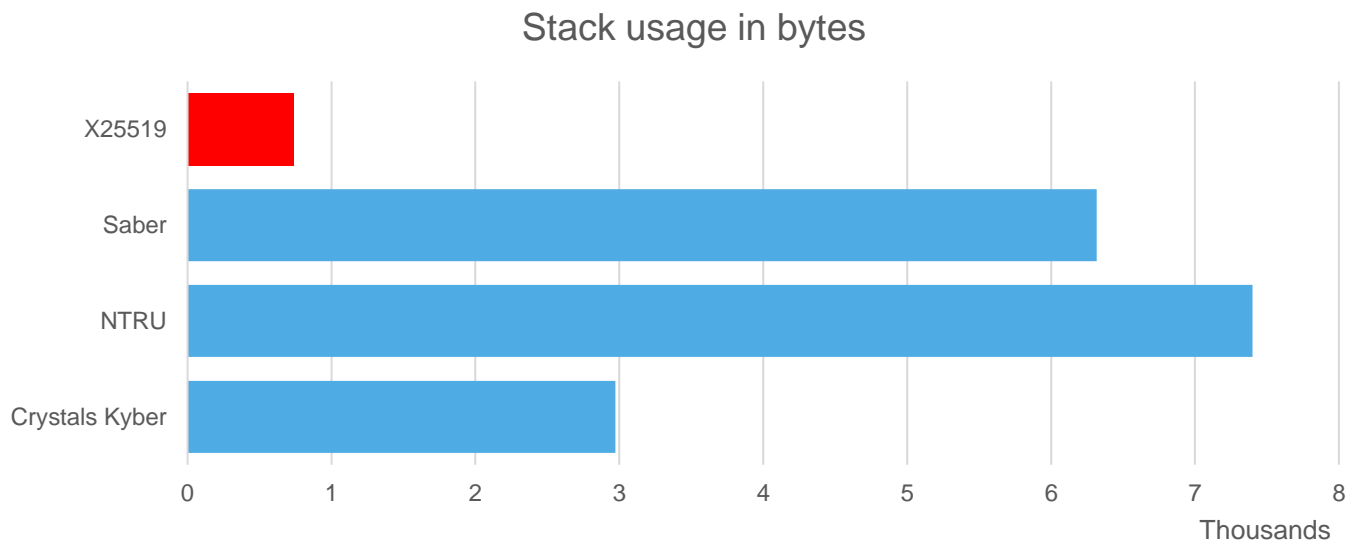
Note: Cortex-M4 is high-end for many embedded applications

[A] Kannwischer, Rijneveld, Schwabe, Stoffelen. pqm4: Testing and Benchmarking NIST PQC on ARM Cortex-M4. PQC standardization Conference, 2019.

[B] Fujii, Aranha: *Curve25519 for the Cortex-M4 and beyond*. LatinCrypt 2017.



## CLASSIC VS LATTICES IN PRACTICE (2/2)



- This ignores RAM / flash memory for key material
- Typical max. stack requirements:  
1k, 2k, 4k bytes → serious challenge

## REUSING EXISTING COPROCESSORS



### Grundzüge einer arithmetischen Theorie der algebraischen Größen.

(Von *L. Kronecker*.)

(Abdruck einer Festschrift zu Herrn *E. E. Kummers* Doctor-Jubiläum, 10. September 1881.)

- Idea [A]: Re-use contemporary coprocessors
- Can do better: Combine symbolic NTTs with Kronecker substitution in a smart way
- Reduces number of operations required on the coprocessor

[A] Albrecht, Hanser, Hoeller, Pöppelmann, Virdia, Wallner: Implementing RLWE-based schemes using an RSA co-processor. TCHES 2019

[B] Harvey. Faster polynomial multiplication via multipoint Kronecker substitution. J. Sym. Comp. 2009.

[C] Bos, Renes and Vredendaal: Polynomial Multiplication with Contemporary Co-Processors: Beyond Kronecker, Schönhage-Strassen & Nussbaumer. Cryptology ePrint Archive, Report 2020/1303, IACR, 2020.





## CONCLUSIONS

- Irrelevant if the quantum threat is real or not  
→ Post-quantum crypto support is already being requested
- Standards are coming
- We didn't even talk about **hardened implementations**

### **Short term (2020)**

Stateful-hash signature schemes

### **Long term (2022/2024)**

NIST standards → KEM, digital signatures  
Possibly multiple winners per category



# THANK YOU.

QUESTIONS?



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