Nakul Khambhati

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Interests Theoretical Computer Science: Applied Cryptography, Large Language Models

EDUCATION University of California, Los Angeles

Sept. 2021–Dec. 2024

• B.S. Mathematics of Computation (Honors Program). GPA: 3.95/4.00

- M.A. Mathematics (Departmental Scholar's Program). GPA: 3.95/4.00
 - o Theoretical CS specialization: Cryptography, Blockchain, Complexity, Probability, Algebra, Analysis

RESEARCH Proactive MPC with Low Communication*

March 2023–Present

- Mentored by Prof. Rafail Ostrovsky, Prof. Vassilis Zikas.
 - Investigated how enforcing sublinear communication in MPC affects the feasibility bounds on the number of corrupted parties that can be tolerated in the setting of information-theoretic security.
 - \circ Presented protocols in the (2, n)-client/server model that achieve security against semi-honest adaptive and malicious mobile adversaries with erasures and showed that they achieve optimal bounds.

MPC In The Sky* Feb. 2024–Present

- Mentored by Prof. Rafail Ostrovsky, Prof. Sam Kumar.
 - Presented a TLS-in-MPC protocol allowing clients to securely authenticate to an AWS server.
 - $\circ\,$ Enabled efficient secure computation by off-loading heavy computation to the cloud while maintaining anonymity and privacy.
 - $\circ\,$ Provided an implementation using MP-SDPZ and EMP-Toolkit.

Efficient Private Certifier Intersection*

April 2024-Present

- Collaborated with Akash Shah, Sikhar Patranabis, Arup Mondal.
 - Presented an efficient protocol for parties holding certificates to identify a common set of valid certifiers without revealing any information about the other certificates.
 - Optimized our protocol by performing signature verification using authenticated secret-sharing and set intersection using garbled circuits.
 - $\circ\,$ Provided an implementation using MP-SDPZ and EMP-Toolkit.

Watermarking Large Language Models*

Nov. 2023–Present

- Mentored by Prof. Amit Sahai, Prof. Violet Peng.
 - Engineered and analyzed random walk attacks on state-of-the-art watermarking schemes (GitHub).
 - Tested our attacks by watermarking open-source models like Mixtral in different entropy settings.
 - Used PyTorch and Pandas for natural language processing and data manipulation.

ACTIVITIES Theory@UCLA

March 2023–Present

- President & Co-Founder
 - $\circ\,$ Established UCLA's first theoretical computer science club and recruited 40+ members.
 - Organized reading groups every quarter Lattice Cryptography (Spring 23), Theorist's Toolkit (Fall 23), Zero-Knowledge Proofs (Winter 24) and Secure Multiparty Computation (Spring 24).
 - Hosted review sessions for Algorithms & Complexity [CS 180] and Theory of Computation [CS 181].
 - Maintained the club website, organized socials and handled logistics.

Olga Radko Endowed Math Circle, UCLA

June 2022-June 2024

- Lead Instructor
 - Conducted weekly 2 hour problem-solving sessions for advanced high-school students.
 - Tutored 3 levels Intermediate 2A, Advanced 2A and Advanced 3 and 80+ students in total.
 - Designed worksheets and lectured on topics including graph theory, error-correcting codes, combinatorics and optimization.

Math & CS Grader, UCLA

March 2023-Present

- Linear Algebra Honors [Math 115AH] Spring '23, Fall '23, Winter '24, Spring '24, Summer '24
- Discrete Mathematics [Math 61] Winter '24
- Theory of Computation [CS 181] Spring '24

HONORS Ostrovsky Summer 2023 & Summer 2024 scholarships for research in cryptography at UCLA 2023-2024

Dean's Honors List every quarter at UCLA

2021-2024

IB Diploma World Topper: Final score of 45/45

2021

SKILLS Python (

Python, C, C++, LATEX, Git, Vim