

Workgroup: None  
Internet-Draft:  
draft-prorock-cose-post-quantum-signatures-01  
Published: 11 July 2022  
Intended Status: Standards Track  
Expires: 12 January 2023  
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## JSON Encoding for Post Quantum Signatures

### Abstract

This document describes JSON and CBOR serializations for several post quantum cryptography (PQC) based suites including CRYSTALS Dilithium, Falcon, and SPHINCS+.

This document does not define any new cryptography, only serializations of existing cryptographic systems.

This document registers key types for JOSE and COSE, specifically LWE, NTRU, and HASH.

Key types in this document are specified by the cryptographic algorithm family in use by a particular algorithm as discussed in RFC7517.

This document registers signature algorithms types for JOSE and COSE, specifically CRYDI3 and others as required for use of various post quantum signature schemes.

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## 1. Notational Conventions

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

## 2. Terminology

The following terminology is used throughout this document:

**PK** The public key for the signature scheme.

**SK** The secret key for the signature scheme.

**signature** The digital signature output.

**message** The input to be signed by the signature scheme.

**sha256** The SHA-256 hash function defined in [RFC6234].

**shake256** The SHAKE256 hash function defined in [RFC8702].

## 3. CRYSTALS-Dilithium

### 3.1. Overview

This section of the document describes the lattice signature scheme CRYSTALS-Dilithium (CRYDI). The scheme is based on "Fiat-Shamir with Aborts"[Lyu09, Lyu12] utilizing a matrix of polynomials for key material, and a vector of polynomials for signatures. The parameter set is strategically chosen such that the signing algorithm is large enough to maintain zero-knowledge properties but small enough to prevent forgery of signatures. An example implementation and test vectors are provided.

CRYSTALS-Dilithium is a Post Quantum approach to digital signatures that is an algorithmic approach that seeks to ensure key pair and signing properties that is a strong implementation meeting Existential Unforgeability under Chosen Message Attack (EUF-CMA) properties, while ensuring that the security levels reached meet security needs for resistance to both classical and quantum attacks. The algorithm itself is based on hard problems over module lattices, specifically Ring Learning with Errors (Ring-LWE). For all security levels the only operations required are variants of Keccak and number theoretic transforms (NTT) for the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_q[X]/(X^{256}+1)$ . This ensures that to increase or decrease the security level involves only the change of parameters rather than re-implementation of a related algorithm.

While based on Ring-LWE, CRYSTALS-Dilithium has less algebraic structure than direct Ring-LWE implementations and more closely resembles the unstructured lattices used in Learning with Errors (LWE). This brings a theoretical protection against future algebraic attacks on Ring-LWE that may be developed.

CRYSTALS-Dilithium, brings several advantages over other approaches to signature suites:

- \*Post Quantum in nature - use of lattices and other approaches that should remain hard problems even when under attack utilizing quantum approaches
- \*Simple implementation while maintaining security - a danger in many possible approaches to cryptography is that it may be possible inadvertently introduce errors in code that lead to weakness or decreases in security level
- \*Signature and Public Key Size - compared to other post quantum approaches a reasonable key size has been achieved that also preserves desired security properties
- \*Conservative parameter space - parameterization is utilized for the purposes of defining the sizes of matrices in use, and thereby the number of polynomials described by the key material.
- \*Parameter set adjustment for greater security - increasing this matrix size increases the number of polynomials, and thereby the security level
- \*Performance and optimization - the approach makes use of well known transforms that can be highly optimized, especially with use of hardware optimizations without being so large that it cannot be deployed in embedded or IoT environments without some degree of optimization.

The primary known disadvantage to CRYSTALS-Dilithium is the size of keys and signatures, especially as compared to classical approaches for digital signing.

### **3.2. Parameters**

Unlike certain other approaches such as Ed25519 that have a large set of parameters, CRYSTALS-Dilithium uses distinct numbers of parameters to increase or decrease the security level according to the required level for a particular scenario. Under CRYSTALS-Dilithium, the key parameter specification determines the size of the matrix and thereby the number of polynomials that describe the lattice. For use according to this specification we do not recommend a parameter set of less than 3, which should be sufficient to maintain 128bits of security for all known classical and quantum attacks. Under a parameter set at NIST level 3, a 6x5 matrix is utilized that thereby consists of 30 polynomials.

### 3.2.1. Parameter sets

Parameter sets are identified by the corresponding NIST level per the table below

NIST Level	Matrix Size	memory in bits
2	4x4	97.8
3	6x5	138.7
5	8x7	187.4

Table 1

### 3.3. Core Operations

Core operations used by the signature scheme should be implemented according to the details in [\[CRYSTALS-Dilithium\]](#). Core operations include key generation, sign, and verify.

### 3.4. Using CRYDI with JOSE

This sections is based on [CBOR Object Signing and Encryption \(COSE\)](#) and [JSON Object Signing and Encryption \(JOSE\)](#)

#### 3.4.1. CRYDI Key Representations

A new key type (kty) value "LWE" (for keys related to the family of algorithms that utilize Learning With Errors approaches to Post Quantum lattice based cryptography) is defined for public key algorithms that use base 64 encoded strings of the underlying binary materia as private and public keys and that support cryptographic sponge functions. It has the following parameters:

\*The parameter "kty" MUST be "LWE".

\*The parameter "alg" MUST be specified, and its value MUST be one of the values specified in the table below

alg	Description
CRYDI5	CRYSTALS-Dilithium paramter set 5
CRYDI3	CRYSTALS-Dilithium paramter set 3
CRYDI2	CRYSTALS-Dilithium paramter set 2

Table 2

\*The parameter "pset" MAY be specfied to indicate the not only paramter set in use for the algorithm, but SHOULD also reflect the targeted NIST level for the algorithm in combination with the specified paramter set. For "alg" "CRYDI" one of the described parameter sets "2", "3", or "5" MUST be specified. Parameter set "3" or above SHOULD be used with "CRYDI" for any situation

requiring at least 128bits of security against both quantum and classical attacks

\*The parameter "x" MUST be present and contain the public key encoded using the base64url [RFC4648] encoding.

\*The parameter "d" MUST be present for private keys and contain the private key encoded using the base64url encoding. This parameter MUST NOT be present for public keys.

Sizes of various key and signature material is as follows (for "pset" value "2")

Variable	Parameter Name	Parameter Set	Size	base64url encoded size
Signature	sig	2	3293	4393
Public Key	x	2	1952	2605
Private Key	d	2	4000	5337

Table 3

When calculating JWK Thumbprints [RFC7638], the four public key fields are included in the hash input in lexicographic order: "kty", "alg", and "x".

### 3.4.2. CRYDI Algorithms

In order to reduce the complexity of the key representation and signature representations we register a unique algorithm name per pset. This allows us to omit registering the pset term, and reduced the likelihood that it will be misused. These alg values are used in both key representations and signatures.

kty	alg	Parameter Set
LWE	CRYDI5	5
LWE	CRYDI3	3
LWE	CRYDI2	2

Table 4

#### 3.4.2.1. Public Key

Per section 5.1 of [CRYSTALS-Dilithium]:

The public key, containing p and t1, is stored as the concatenation of the bit-packed representations of p and t1 in this order. Therefore, it has a size of 32 + 288 kbytes.

The public key is represented as x and encoded using base64url encoding as described in [RFC7517].

Example public key using only required fields:

===== NOTE: '\' line wrapping per RFC 8792 =====

```
{
  "kty": "LWE",
  "alg": "CRYDI3",
  "x": "z7u7GwhsjjnfHH3Nkrs2xvww020Rcw5ymd1TnhRenjDdr00+nfXRVUZVy9q1\
5zDn77zTgrIskM3WX8bqslc+B1fq12iA/wxD2jcd6j+YjKcTkGH260R7vc0YC2ZiMzW\
zGL7yebt7JkmjRbN1N+u/2fAKFLuziMcLNP6WLoWbMqxoC2X00VNAWX3QjXrCcGU23Nr\
imtdmWz5NrP43E592Sctt5M+SVlfgQeYv8pHmtkQknE8/jr7TrgNpuiV7nXmhWHTMJ4I\
zoGXgq43odFFthboEdKNT/enyu+VvUGoIJ6cN8C/1B6o1wlyHEaL0BEIFFbAiAhZ/vnf\
cUYMaVPqsDJuETsjetcE32kGCD7Jkume2t068DlIhB/2Z2JX8mkcbxFI6KrmXiRrXQj9\
9LVn1fEzdf3Vfpcs/C3omsFGqmTpLDK+AvW/SWvkdI2NKq7hL/Ayx1w2u2cqVErQZUTS\
Z+ic6V8kZfXr3gRMnH0KuF5BtjleZ/yVvqqPjwP0ZegCKE12Gd8duhcUde7CR55pil1o\
UXy5AwgCcZTdEcJn10P0bGoots9T19gw1x4vnZCQUKVDPZuZ1gIkGqDUYXS0lcNTjCms\
miFEmn0ZvB88jxULpb1v19HoQ3ocM2oZu4AZRt9G/L07MwcuioFCWtAIau+2gqNan/Z\
AS10l0j2N0LLtAa0xoF+Ctzscrt0ZMyGHmoQ9daHkpUvEq0c08hDtLp1nq3lQIIIFR0Q\
jCns9vNKBu87COBjukZD+L8vV4zy8FN059MCSb9UCLwz2xvfdI1js9/J7hTGaVec8VPx\
md42yPFRGw5Na1oefm8vW49EDmevc8AjAtwDirRBDfv9pX3+5S+M6jhteSLYvpKJXQT1\
zs1379KvIHwkn9VhPA+PiUUw9TgF6x8xWEGSNl0o1Vn1xtM3givehjYxJ5p5/kBEFZI\
DCyFzstAirJ2GadNhae+P1JFZzJWnX5jaLwzldquZwF3yTzNho4sgBA+fKqiXcgn2nw1\
vz0Dkbxr6cMaUoo10eFScU1nAz1Z39W64Ltt2nEuYsORx/ht2RzJxxFc21X3nLeEDFCe\
NkNDxQFBSfpzJkKgJtEXe23mp+CbBVMrbagsLnzsAGLYbnroVmATU5Iqr6LgYBpuFs+N\
Rkq7ZXh6CZPukMGQbc0GuNw06NBuuMnhir5ayGk1ZBiW82C7Nu0hs2pLcgNqWmtt1+LW\
8R96KyoSc784ZYAZ40QqvoySwmxQPBRTRJ+wB0sVpGBLTxdY9Gw3pXeXN5nao340d2ZA\
7YEMlqcTHCAv3F8B9ewl70fQlmg6bvdMuoVdVE+p0er7IAmWMRgviIzYv9sKEEQrCmua\
2qL5xPSbd05KRf8ZA2ZB8lSCDR1nzXrQXZbXBKJivscvQDuzxrwGE0gqRmpbk4f5GYCG\
4i/08Knoru+jjf6wVQDYKfyz1QUGRlXhKUGU1Xfv03r7UbJugycjv05kbGxhoZkq0q8z\
ZEpkefvrrNoxeotw/z4QpjI8Jly97GDb0mGVHbmdHugjMtVTGhVJFBbPIinmR+emt70+\
4q0r7ywrXcvt2lziWtpPBwaf/1XDnN5Gesex1gR1YrcTRNmB808b01sXLQmxcTt4eQ0/\
LUkas7qTJ3AQThOfDdtIpkqsthsBFy+WjsQuoXCyMRcPi6MlpxJndDF32lCnL1ranV6e\
F2ST0SYT+NwNDesMzTRmNBHUW5KAhu0k9WABTvcM5ba0Uq6i0a1NsFrcLag+KhxN6HPn\
oobwJ/EsDi5S7TA18WrjqIhZ8x6h9eRRXerpa0w/FYk+2MpwByp/98VE12/Ew0qAIiPp\
e1AvUeM0lRkpG64bJsmYtHuNWgcv5Qiy7/eGw9ZpvB3J3G3jxvbynExqdFyDc067EKi\
5WxDFPuZjKfKpekNvzQuIrrqs49BzcrYmt5ndEVE21PPfZ/R8B7Rxn2LiK+hQc+cc9\
pEEaWgWA0iMILcp/1CyY6Imd06RHsxwflMH7gej+hN41kaoEghIO19kMGTlZbq5Pc8Pz\
6F2LKTBMJwg9o/0blvilMH9EPblcLeF/bR1AZTUD6ZFdi2TxN6Epn3QVqeG/qPm1EBTF\
Gw1V92m6/08Dd6zi1HPqwkBkHx4F567owofKHaM2imin0yVUpwxoRJRu1RHMCB3tn8C4\
ZpFl+sGV3Gip3tKlS7PKQkTqI6DMwxEbdrvtDY1sHZagpc1LDisA/yFT4RR2m3VnJR9P\
6N3x3teqN1eg6RXdM/MLKcdWr1cjZ/6yeIQYwbr9CjItY/tLQX2gtAR1SX0h99UUBVv+Z\
E03V0Z+Ecsc78lSB9G/6n6CFz1bk/HgAF+cu0yMbGnEM8W3mTUsps4JBACwk5w0XWNNQ\
DWVEdgzuLghPq+hYExDjVzrLELhkH8YgZA+7RXXUZHM/joNOGHUhpUG/bFo3ktnaILCu\
xs0XMUBDC3VcitFFHsGK1svtcERDFxk1HA8pGa59jT0do6n3wEbnBDU1soKNFtpmcVKe\
U13XpvuoW3BgCwJzBUCwvPs47DJRgGx011bSaEYY1hTVaaShcvzgz46Akq0+Q7TjckDP\
/8uzsSQk0AbuhxWFQpSiBP80Z/U="
}
```

Example public key including optional fields:

===== NOTE: '\' line wrapping per RFC 8792 =====

```
{
  "kid": "key-0",
  "kty": "LWE",
  "alg": "CRYDI3",
  "key_ops": ["verify"],
  "x": "z7u7GwshsjnfHH3Nkrs2xvww020Rcw5ymd1TnhRenjDdr00+nfXRVUZVy9q1\
5zDn77zTgrIskM3WX8bqslc+B1fq12iA/wxD2jcd6j+YjKctkGH260R7vc0YC2ZiMzW\
zG17yebt7JkmjRbN1N+u/2fAKFLuziMcLNP6WLoWbMqxoC2X00VNAWX3QjXrCcGU23Nr\
imtdmwz5NrP43E592Sctt5M+SVlfgQeYv8pHmtkQknE8/jr7TrgNpuiV7nXmhWHTMJ4I\
zoGXgq43odFFthboEdKNT/enyu+VvUGoIJ6cN8C/1B6o1WlYHEaL0BEIFFbAiAhZ/vnf\
cUYMaVPqsDJuETsjetcE32kGCD7Jkume2t068D1IhB/2Z2JX8mkcbxFI6KrmXiRxXQj9\
9LVn1fEzdf3Vfpcs/C3omsFGqmTpLDK+AvW/SWvKDi2NKq7hL/Ayx1W2u2cqVERQZUTS\
Z+ic6V8kZfXr3gRMnH0KuF5BtjleZ/yVvqqPjwP0ZegCKE12Gd8duhcUde7CR55pil1o\
UXy5AwgCcZTDecJn10P0bGoots9T19gw1x4vnZCQUKVDPZuZ1gIkGqDUYXS0lcNTjCms\
miFEmn0ZvB88jxULpb1v19HoQ3ocM2oZu4AZRt9G/L07MwcuioFCWtAIau+2gqNan/Z\
AS10l0j2N0LLtAaOxof+Ctzscrt0ZMyGHmoQ9daHkpUvEq0c08hDtLp1nq3lQIIIfR0Q\
jcNs9vNKBu87COBjukZD+L8vV4zy8FN059MCSb9UCLwz2xvfdI1js9/J7hTGaVec8VPx\
md42yPFRgw5Na1oefm8vW49EDmevc8AjAtwDirRBDfV9pX3+5S+M6jhteSLYvpKJXQT1\
zs1379KvIHwn9VhPa+PiUUw9TgF6x8xWEGSN10o1Vn1xtM3givehjYxJ5p5/kBEFZI\
DCyFzstAirJ2GadNhae+P1JFzZJwnX5jaLwzldquZwF3yTzNho4sgBA+fKqiXcgn2nw1\
vz0Dkbr6cMaUoo10eFScU1nAz1Z39W64LtT2nEuYs0Rx/ht2RzJxxFc21X3nLeEDFCe\
NkNDxQFBSfpZjKkgJtXEx23mp+CbBVMrbagsLnszAGLYbnroVmATU5Iqr6LgYBpuFs+N\
Rkq7ZXh6CZPukMGQbc0GuNw06NBuuMNHir5ayGk1ZBiW82C7Nu0hs2pLcgNqWMtt1+Lw\
8R96KyoSc784ZYAZ40QqvoySwmxQPBRTRJ+wB0sVpGBLTxdY9Gw3pXeXN5nao340d2ZA\
7YEM1qcTHCAv3F8B9ew170fQlmg6bvdMuoVdVE+p0er7IAmWMRgviIzYv9sKEEQrCmua\
2qL5xPSbd05KRf8ZAZ2B8lSCDR1nzXrQXZbXBKJivsCVQDuzxrwGE0gqRMpbk4f5GYCG\
4i/08Knoru+jjf6wVQDYKfyz1QUGR1XHKGUG1Xfv03r7UbJugycjV05kbGxhoZkq0q8z\
ZEpkefvrrNoxeotw/z4QpjI8JlY97GD0mGVHbmdHugjMtVTGhVJFBbPIinmR+emt70+\
4qOr7ywRxCvt2lziWtpPBwaf/1XDnN5Gesex1gr1YrcTRNmB808b01sXLQmxcTt4eQ0/\
LUkas7qTJ3AQThOfDdtIpkqsthsBFy+wjsQuoXCYMRCpi6MlpxJndDF32lCnL1ranV6e\
F2ST0SYT+NwNDesMzTRmNBHUW5KAhu0k9WABTvcM5ba0Uq6i0a1NsFrcLag+KhxN6HPn\
oobwJ/EsDi5S7TA18WrjqIhZ8x6h9eRRXerpa0w/FYk+2MpWByP/98VE12/Ew0qAiiPp\
e1AvUeM01RkpG64bJsmYtHuNWgcv5Qiy7/eGw9ZpvB3J3G3jxvbynExqdFyDc067EKi\
5WxDfPuZUjKfKpekNvzQuIrrqs49BzcRyMt5ndEVE21TPPFZ/R8B7RxnB2LiK+hQc+cc9\
pEEaWgWA0iMILcp/1CyY6Imd06RHsxwflMH7gej+hN41kaoEghIO19kMGTlZbq5Pc8Pz\
6F2LKTBMJWg9o/0blvilMH9EPblcLeF/bR1AZTUD6ZFdi2TxN6Epn3QVqeG/qPm1EBTF\
Gw1V92m6/08Dd6zI1HPqwkBkHx4F567owofKHaM2imin0yVUpwXoRjru1RHMcb3tn8C4\
ZpFl+sGV3Gip3tKlS7PKQkTqI6DMwxEbdrvtDy1sHZagpc1LDIsA/yFT4RR2m3VNJR9P\
6N3x3teqN1eg6RXmD/MlKcdWr1cjZ/6yeIQYwbr9CjItY/tLQX2gtAR1SX0h99UUBVv+Z\
E03VOZ+Ecsc781SB9G/6n6CFz1bk/HgAF+cu0yMbGnEM8W3mTUsps4JBACwk5w0XWNNQ\
DWVEdgzuLGHpq+hYExDjVZrLELhkH8YgZA+7RXXUZHM/joNOGHUhpUG/bFo3ktnaILCu\
xs0XMUBDC3VcitFFHsGK1svtcERDFxk1HA8pGa59jT0do6n3wEbnBDU1soKNFtpmcVKE\
U13XpvuoW3BgCwJzBUcWvPs47DJRgGx011bSaEYY1hTVaaShcvzgz46Akq0+Q7TjckDP\
/8uzsSQk0AbuhxWFQpSiBP80Z/U="
}
```



### 3.4.2.2. Private Key

Per section 5.1 of [\[CRYSTALS-Dilithium\]](#):

The secret key contains  $p, K, tr, s_1, s_2$  and  $t_0$  and is also stored as a bit-packed representation of these quantities in the given order. Consequently, a secret key requires  $64 + 48 + 32((k+1) * \lceil \log_2(2n+1)e + 14k) \rceil$  bytes. For the weak, medium and high security level this is equal to  $112 + 576k + 128l$  bytes. With the very high security parameters one needs  $112 + 544k + 96l = 3856$  bytes.

The private key is represented as  $d$  and encoded using `base64url` encoding as described in [\[RFC7517\]](#).

Example private key using only required fields:

===== NOTE: '\ ' line wrapping per RFC 8792 =====

```
{
  "kty": "LWE",
  "alg": "CRYDI3",
  "x": "z7u7GwhsjjnfHH3Nkrs2xvww020Rcw5ymd1TnhRenjDdr00+nfXRUVZVy9q1\
5zDn77zTgrIskM3WX8bqslc+B1fq12iA/wxD2jcd6j+YjKctkGH26OR7vc0YC2ZiMzW\
zG17yebt7JkmjRbN1N+u/2fAKFLuziMcLNP6WLowbMqxoC2X00VNAWX3QjXrCcGU23Nr\
imtdmWz5NrP43E592Sctt5M+SVlfgQeYv8pHmtkQknE8/jr7TrgNpuiV7nXmhWHTMJ4I\
zoGXgq43odFFthboEdKNT/enyu+VvUGoIJ6cN8C/1B6o1WlYHEaL0BEIFFbAiAhZ/vnf\
cUYMaVPqsDJuETsjetcE32kGCD7Jkume2t068D1IhB/2Z2JX8mkcbxFI6KrmXiRxXQj9\
9LVn1fEzdf3Vfpcs/C3omsFGqmTpLDK+AvW/SWVkdDi2NKq7hL/Ayx1W2u2cqVERQZUTS\
Z+ic6V8kZfxr3gRMnH0KuF5BtjleZ/yVvqqPjwP0ZegCKEl2Gd8duhcUde7CR55pil1o\
UXy5AwgCcZTdEcJn10P0bGoots9T19gwx4vnZCQUKVDPZuZ1gIkGqDUYXS0lcNTjCms\
miFEmn0ZvB88jxULpb1v19HoQ3ocM2oZu4AZRt9G/L07MwcuioFCWtAIau+2gqNan/Z\
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Example private key using optional fields:

===== NOTE: '\ ' line wrapping per RFC 8792 =====

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BSQnhBIGI1AoMVB2MCNhUXQiNUGCKHgzUmQxU3dEgBhmQyIQgmFjdxY1dCjgGBSEB4Ij\  
CEJ0MBGIQWRRN3QjRmRSQWQIJgNjcdndMlJhJIU1MlJRd1NmF4dwhHIIdEYYcAhEc1BQ\  
JjESAIbWBQYzYlAIIOcBcoZFcGVkA2SDMCVTBjgzCAAzNnQGYHI1VwJzYxQRckBIZBV4\  
VxZmZiVlYXgHFRNjdEFIYV0FIVdhcnIINEhhIURjg0cxJ0SCIWYUUVChJzdDUTASciAW\  
UiJAg1IoQkIwNjMlcwACZxcHZVJAh4EnNnWAZVVoBjNnNEcicTdyEEUHBVFjETETNjd0\  
YUFmFDVXNUcHFVJoE2A1VwFhmzc0dQckMYJUaBJ0JkUBdyd1AnZiJ3hYYkWAgyR1VziD\  
BERVh1NqAFIGWIhUZXCeQxIThyR1FIGGNTKAcwdRNBGDYEd2RVEwUDMzWAAhNQEEYAS\  
hUSCgTJ3VIdXU1FBFxFkhhVCCZEABJjQCAxFGNkhHQzM1YSSHN1EBEmJkgwZCVwZHRSD\  
GDZzRCQiNhE3IghDhSFoBYCHNFVHMxZAZTSGAVMUQkhBKIFRQEVBB0cHNGEiJVVScQqH\  
hzQiBzKBRYR4Q0R2MVUldwVCikQYEEgFYEREY2NERyFVdHJzdAZHBmhmmdSCFIgh1IwGB\  
AxNzFjEoUWFC4AhZRJSEROEThxAGYBJTgUcUdFJB0FRmcVYnZUUFcAY1AnZEZBVThS\  
ECBQYBNgeAdzQ3KGhIE3ZiFxQoVCgQBjEFdFcIV0IAaFcGI0iAgAUVQAHEInQWECY1I4\  
E2U0MkAXQSzkdSRRc2I4BjEiSGd4hgQEEDcTRmhFd3MBMmY2gERxNwiISAVkFVETGCcI\  
gYhzRXByGBgzKGVXJUhoGEY1hgFmZwgmEWYwVoISd4Vlhid4VUMHgSZXhXUSaCgmJ3Eg\  
MQIzIDIThWRSARQhBFB2QQBjEgIoEHN1BhMciIIBULZWCHdBMZFQoQ2UUJXJCFnZyFD\  
RTFUUTQoQmUjB0aHJXJHeDZlJGBCExATEUEDg3BTACHwImN0AwcFB3IUgBEARxVUREdX\  
QzhVBEBBF4UgcRhCg4gUcoRkdYCAIUQBRUJUyJfjEBYUhsBjIyV2cXBYckeIMic1N4ED\  
gdUGVSCHHcYURXcQB10Dg4hDJFJ3Jld2gyYnQYc1Rje3VwcQNXJBYnOGhYFoU2dHATAw\  
0EeBUGQjJhcDgUJTRXBj3IAEjEXhXeEEmgIAAGdjUVBndnI2FCAVcyV4cxIyZ2dYE1\  
ZEiHcYJYaCcXQXJCaER1coIDRWJkcSNhEVF3JG0CQkYWykcndRA1QTh0MFgzIyVocYJY\  
cwIAFRNiE1VAUECBI3MzQiZkUhr1cid1NSAXFXN0gUNnRCV0ISNmYnB3NIzYMIQWEVVZ\  
ElEohnQyKBN0y1cCdmdjVYiGhVULA0CHMTZIURBgR4aIjWJQJlIDMYhwNGNwiGcIBUDa\  
NXMBETUGICJyMkMIN1BAIAB4gEMDUwhndfJkQDEgRRMld4EzhRM0ZhGAYHMgZ4NhEEhn\  
U2I2VicBBXZUFUNoczcmbzBnUEBxUwCdg4RHUXZS0EZogABHRAISVEAzdoQhRmBgEWYE\  
Z4U1dgQ2ggjQUjMScgIIFQR3YFcZHTy0B1IiVCYGBAVmVAFIdhRmZ1InhwdTRjJjNhVx\  
IzcwgjFlFCaChlIWuYSiADfWAWV3RAIXg2QWYgAYMUjP7wmw0wPp7Uk13L1Ka1Y/6dN4\  
dBr1AYS8JnkVq6pPeBf07ccX95SrVfA07EX7RVEYyhVR9Q0QyEpLBUMcfcfnHCZWKMO0\  
0BF7BXiWMR9BQo4ybtPjGKQ+IZyCKUJVRhZ+uae182qYcBKfMD00zXi08Kaa98eUy6SR\  
pPfkPD6D+xxgtJ0FwtYnp1Jy2aIG3HqMiThoSdVivccGkf94gpVWTMeJQsQpgq7dAJiJ\  
5JOMQjk7JIHcIzxb4T8sQHzA55MffvM7Hus/8FUX7NfIN1JRmc2zHL/7kdfCFSwG67iw\  
U4ob2kTwdKzPvOL+d3e+A0E0PihJ4vVJA0jhWm02fIFNvFhNqPh0MSiSkatPGbSVdqQ1\  
PsG6C+1YqMrTM7KFr4hTQM8a3+tA0sImMjXSSPDkVeuJFq1rw642SJX8yZTXVe8g75D\  
ZTYghbeX5LLzaVkt9mZS7cW16Zy+C3MwnWdRgQ6hUDxYaYJp7S0GJHepcmVV214oD6nw\  
5QprgPgiXvcdXQU00fhKwerYDko0Ij+uqk7NYDv0t8zANphYcE3v+6yVFyYh3eg7DYRJ\  
rIzIcBaG91ySv2iRRC+cWaymH6xuqaHRwZu/p962/u8/c3rITJzCoVc+0bnZ5oItZfBe\  
AYFhLBx7PvPdBULXyCqmtk0tnT/jnaCUVxtGeaIeQmmeM4yPq3d5uWBF0vIyuPmfBSKd\  
Y0NETGlsaoQuqFpOkCmQdMVZKh3UZ8A0jw22LlqaZlrUf0akb0fs71e2HT47KV9y0JHC\  
tec9tjHUEBVmma504AofGcVXLbkqKv+Soax9GooHV0v+uxa8iwjAdTZKtqwKnKDX4jaR\  
+zotCsYi4BuB2JbkjnhG6NL7ubn+aNKwnznZnMKQZiH2Q7vSRyKTM8j90GLq7IP8q2NS\  
oc7iT//eAvb4oF6LaY7qebxQ6R0XCSRrXgpo+pw3lftuUCuGzAxD4+wMZU3d1XsivhJ\  
PnTEjI/V6GmkR1fZ9Xnyfj8SILETWk03dMFJh3LmUwkbRV+C3mL2GzjgQVTkvP82KDBL\  
DAR9iKyPkJnMnK9Ix/StVyJbGAtGp4jHnp+PSjz9ja4qI9jVRjGgIUQhw0DnI0fnp1Un\  
Qhz3F9MQXmPLSPvFw8M0xkUKsAcxQvxZG5LkYByZ0Zr0/ipphwnE6zQu0va+8uTyBX/\  
B9VR24tUITvlhy7SS6JrULrvTA+D/ZCiqKRx61iF6pU3BoC8fgA9D/AifiQnPz0SI5kx\  
FJfDTz1LWMjUlQKBHFvRFLE9eFD0rnwAGx7Pggyc/KrLqVmcmj/96TYtoedp/iw4asfY\  
C2vs+GVyxVoumIdFPFHjPencWbE/niZnVdaJCih1iqgXzDsI8bENh2B9cutDWX+bsHZSC\  
jSQb9YkGN+MoNiJlXmQHSJDyFPhzWPibds/lpS90ppPWIY+PpL0fzDSGFFwswQ4q5Phc\  
pLWHx5lw9KSye+T86p6kadnBBTLTyfn0dG7Np09QKQ0bMN60MnybkVGx5nH9yLJlF1mV\

```

0H+K0VZIKm4UzYV+RYfqqXYtMqTQxeQ1U7L7o0H+6viErXuKj5rS3i+r1rdfECAGgCoq\
0mixATHISAHi2eSV5fk3r5xMkKSwwPIRuMt50+kk1RPuOLohTj7G1CnL602xwBdQMTUx\
4Jq5JBWnfB+U4D9n0si1DwikIhpaUy0oBeaWo4iFQiwVLWjeeQvY6zj66l70XsPHjZXg\
uCitswfp5MYV3cLTkb80uCM/xhp4Y0Edobt6x3k1FD8vbh8g3YAG0Xe/U+Iz3k1npCt2\
R0Q2lGQa0Jm14nbQr3tqTLoXv4szaErFp/Xw05Cnt9DsBzN5DNrmfF6EDcfVf/hn8v9a\
wrg6Rfv8Jpys1YFpwLanhb3Wz+x1yaDsa54IdlF0FnyBxv8GppbFrMpVFX/nLAXGIocc\
WjCRKs0tBJUW/IoXeKOMPud1wHR4dqUCEXsoexHJiNe5sH+akr6UIDObF70hhupBoiY9\
AzVXi5zXf2VdafyQrkGfKz4BEUkiqcaajHr1CF9ZJ+Mjdmfr3z0xyCmCAWir5ZL0BXDj\
T7sYCV3QjCz4a2mGvee9Ix9KSLapCq90UMAxnTLjJGQM/dlpgjDsjsCZX5wKdsnMs79\
60Z75BGDOC1dDINj4f5kHZmwwcmw/04mi/1RPBUABXse3Up3eJQOX2haZPqmY0+2PZTF\
exku9pETHtKcfsdRe1oJLm1B34JSogRmNp1eBxakcIL09huiFvtGVZng/pC/ryoJ/T9q\
9w4aV5H+4u2dHc29Vb77SasxCdRH0sDaLaPpesRXsrdJwjbizOgzRlIx+83o07NuhE+C\
kKf07cZMrFm8r8g1MlzDiFrTf3RTusMtiW6CV1VuTR0PZFngqar5yeYPrpSELtQHSwz\
U5AaY5Qd8tbky5ec+2/QkX0+cdyWhQUuBRpibwRpD3x1yTgT4E91cwTFpvSLk54ZHf+\
D3EsZf0PYMN6d4jVdh9iv+0tCebnfMqP65wY26YBopSLtCXXb1anU1RP1zPzRq99yKnt\
FM7gK1XnBAZoZBBqCyZw90HwmttIFwcm14Wd5BxF9uZh2Y8gtcN8UKWHv43tsNBa7j/T\
ikIBSkIVI/6EQvYPw4YTdyz2V8RKHN5XcdpdWfVhgSJM4I6Bm0Lwenhkmal7Sd247q\
uCTeow8qh+w7Jk4SxrmvJxd5sBnvz150KEaHPeWNNJW00bWEDT+0ZzzD8vMN1/GkbbB3\
s7UfcJXZbRu7HtQ+wHIb1BKVstX3hMonra+k6wS9KPhcAaC3IjZ7ZApSedKk1sw1SuDg\
l48Yw2/cyS3LvmISQn9KPWk7yEpNqNv0vurn3ZF0G00eDjSXUjI+xIrRia5GQ1yb31ma\
nJnf2PdHcMmVr0wu4lMgno7a14nMRdnXkBU8bV0p8wF6Toz59hBJ3a/F+mP4/a19Ixa\
wiVveEPgoi9Q9NcLgQEFCoska+EpcLK0Fv2rYI9JFNF/nDxP5nmGtnkm1FaLo+pleH\
CJYS00TGKqr6X+Y65N01lx5nNwsnWkIukCodoSt4Givdoe/S9JNiu8tW+jTBae2hNr9c\
glErcNKDYe1+T+Ldyr9rf0K9LKNyTBSodgF4KI/hFh9Iv/i55DTwtqjpN0eQnPTB3/6\
+7KzTfSE9il5UMcP3zKKC2mAQvtyYxF3k0m24ZTwPs2LAPJkr/xtPH3BnGE/UfUDmvDS\
TBp9m049Nh9oDZvI4HksY8auiyENk0ys67F9GTHh0YM0FgHyP5qk4/IR5YC3lnq7xx6i\
owebEJAy63htMytq+xd3cJyZR0lWBU0qvSpd/A=="
}

```

### 3.4.3. CRYDI Signature Representation

For the purpose of using the CRYSTALS-Dilithium Signature Algorithm (CRYDI) for signing data using "JSON Web Signature (JWS)" [RFC7515], algorithm "CRYDI" is defined here, to be applied as the value of the "alg" parameter.

The following key subtypes are defined here for use with CRYDI:

"paramter"	CRYDI Paramter Set
5	CRYDI5
3	CRYDI3
2	CRYDI2

Table 5

The key type used with these keys is "PQK" and the algorithm used for signing is "CRYDI". These subtypes MUST NOT be used for key agreement.

The CRYDI variant used is determined by the subtype of the key (CRYDI3 for "pset 3" and CRYDI2 for "pset 2").

Implementations need to check that the key type is "PQK" for JOSE and that the pset of the key is a valid subtype when creating a signature.

The CRYDI digital signature is generated as follows:

1. Generate a digital signature of the JWS Signing Input using CRYDI with the desired private key, as described in [Section 3.2](#). The signature bit string is the concatenation of a bit packed representation of z and encodings of h and c in this order.
2. The resulting octet sequence is the JWS Signature.

When using a JWK for this algorithm, the following checks are made:

- \*The "kty" field MUST be present, and it MUST be "LWE" for JOSE.
- \*The "alg" field MUST be present, and it MUST represent the algorithm and parameter set.
- \*If the "key\_ops" field is present, it MUST include "sign" when creating an CRYDI signature.
- \*If the "key\_ops" field is present, it MUST include "verify" when verifying an CRYDI signature.
- \*If the JWK "use" field is present, its value MUST be "sig".

Example signature using only required fields, represented in compact form:

```
eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXLTJ5IiwiaWF0IjoiYm10b24uZXhhbXBsZSJ9
```

```
.  
SXTigJlzIGEgZGFuZ2VyY3VzIGJ1c2luZXNzLCBGcm9kbywgZ29pbmcgb3V0IHlvdXIGZG9vci4gWw91IHN0ZXAgb250byB0aGUgcm9hZCwgYW5kIGlmIHlvdSBkb24ndCBrcm9vIGlvdXIGZmVldCwgdGhlcmlcmXigJlzIG5vIGtub3dpbmcgd2hlcmlcmUgeW91IG1pZ2h0IGJlIHN3ZXB0IG9mZiB0by4
```

```
.  
cu22eBqkYDKgIlTpxDXGvaFfz6WGoZ7fUDcft0kk0y42miAh2qyBzk1xEsnk2Ipn6-tPid6VrklHkqsGqDqHCdP608TTB5dDDItllVo6_10LPpcbUrhiUSMxbbXUvdvWXzg-UD8biiReQFlfz28zGWVsdINAUF8ZnyPEgVFfn442ZdNqiVJRmBqrYRXe8P_ijQ7p8Vdz0TTrxUeT3lm8d9shnr2lfJT8ImUjvAA2Xez2Mlp8cBE5awDzT0qI0n6uiP1aCN_2_jLAeQTlqRHtfa64QQUmFAAjVKPbByi7xho0uT0cbH510a6GYmJUAfmWjwZ6oD4ifKo8DYM-X72Eaw
```



The same example decoded for readability:

===== NOTE: '\\\ ' line wrapping per RFC 8792 =====

```
{
  "header": { "alg": "CRYDI3", "kid": "did:example:123#key-0" },
  "payload": "It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door.\
\ You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's\
\ no knowing where you might be swept off to.",
  "signature": "2As8T1AHenWzLuTojcAYFDnT05n4bmDGIWenHqoXVizL7311HtVg\
\7PEJHYmpc1fIvFNrm0xJt0asD5bQk3ZY8WuEQDUjsn4j+zbyob8MPQI5u3p5ZkqllLhG\
\6Q8p1q0Hd5voY4a78vNXfJpYsETc0bECAft196z5hml2VjuDBqI7W4ju/iDKambJIDz\
\NLYgYinNyPcHjlfBP7aCfOqGBA0QrWuVgrAkdeM+uH6djaXW25+FeU14Lg1u0IBPrcj\
\ZJ04M07j7BmiuHJDB74QG/ifVqnvr4z2a1MWHjjR7nPPr2CIKpuRthSpNwYVTRSN3mM\
\v0GjVLYaqhJpmUmewhjaQCi3iP7c59yKatGYjLPPEapsbN7ypIo1Bod/R2PZR0zeool\
\d9k30VmGsVLk40EIFn1A8epv+bJISApZWrGuU6NBP8vr4UB2D9DRd8zwvd/vI0Bwdq\
\nfglX4x18lwe8Tnd+21UC9n4zUb+KQl09RR14VfXE0t9g5a0IzCwjAN+0z8vqJ/ZwGH\
\zZotZNF+nZehFPcPLM3dpoUkEI391VH3Q06VTYfbMW9wGJ6Uny1xZFEzNCnMFF9Qhs\
\7Xehy4yEDgJBFYIvbTRCFD+EbZbwQAnLkSm7UXXBR7HdUsJMhTkwdffGziWJBTf1UsG\
\tqaCF1bvXgbcCSe0XGhc0QkQKwwj3kNwY9/hnhH1bn7kyySqaI+w4Ph3pKwRb38sCS/\
\Gb3ryptI8zeze0JR+lClWnu18noJjGincZq7jCGMiMCRFpzUV6rpY/FiM26IpZ8M9ShF\
\BHsTN7KGpyIqG6Yc3Gz0J/4ir7V3I3wYguK7iBUiuTM+0KwxtM75carZJPX/21kn2Hh\
\TC+JVb2/yaHS2oDr1CwQosNhA/cB/cm+YmYgHc3KQwrZ/3Axr6weUSrWJ8qV+vJ5QKK\
\A1+CLrKvGJX6vh+ps1NB5EV9yyMhBXAbbJZ3K+dGed3G7Vj/qF2kbnIU1SIeP1f6LsH\
\XASuVLTU6qG0rTaCMYKwaAc5R0wAgyZmPXu0UwyCtNfb0+S73uX5/N2drUPdXiURW+\
\luFKCtanimU8myoz6YkoY234kz8pedST8eqBZAioe8HeYEKtZSAyYov4YfLgkqHqJG6\
\ycD2uA33kwnMim+jg/hIrWAIYYP9R90KECTvFR877RtffGfn3+tZjWlmsxHZ5pNsTIA\
\dNR+VmNpoUZkQ0dgHuFLztyAnCaumL38LHYHFHj2boa0zYsMGw8WtpEQ3+BNgoanNax\
\dJ5THRRmhvMS3EDwanERimsZ6ZjdK8uchuVhytNiiKvBwEFWYIyoK9uUMBoEfDje4DX\
\wIAefXYCqPK8eXhL+9qDLxAD1DQbCu+Ey3whX/r4r2Q6l+34HpRrn3g5ok+Gt0/3ni9\
\dYiIYpcXYfhMGDoXJLZ3IMkK7L6e5u4/Wye7lot2B5ekSGRrKlKjv+bTIkppxbTU4Pi\
\n40qbD91sRzw2/GzZmJsfcFaKbj5dhoNwyh5cZr1PqsxMI5EdXSxJ69Vwf8e+h4iPoB\
\YS1JnUjhicVwslpA1rdAvTkAsVY8rC22e09Hxzbbk/E7bt3iLDpekbbQAghZ31AwDv5\
\KEG72bBbXIYHzPvhJzr1S2LR0XKTJVd8tAx0SdxQD0t8tE2eKpmWZ38MJfRixt2Rzo1\
\p+bpKrR++pMLRrpViekVpZl/t1EojImN05rLqxZhLxvZ0yDfcT37jc1oqire527/Y9L\
\3k894eHNYcXxjb0LGGPDeLuTSEX+afHZLNbd93Qa5VTmLwsPxEW/Erua6nXUrAR/87P\
\0gIyce3h3s15jzCXsQm/i0Dgyn7PTEo5ksQCFRPiyXq5xgiXGKGGkqTgG280hdb+1N\
\DPnNHU2J0F6GLTqwK3qGbBLzDGIMR2sePGpxZ/pecoX7yn5bT0f4iY10CyLo5nEgSeb\
\JdBjH0ZU+QodLRN0cnenLmP1oNK2yCuT9uIALWH9C1CLhBiE0foIs9/r1W1XHPiPsX7\
\c21w+B1IPfzUX1cVdndnNo4XdHl9CH1tYJDLr8LfeuYnz+bnafLqEUryTc8zU14A+qB\
\SIDDDjefCbmDsTrdqzGT2J89MKVi0ogy3qJzyt3jo04xq+Q30GjboFJikyJEqUm8BmX\
\d3ctGfzsEr+5w7fDRco40/tDQUSH0q0W0sPkhue1LqKDziJXwhPQI42miVN2A4+0AS4\
\f2uTgpdNn1gIfH2+d0CkBJlhZeA1Tgrp8FHQxca05kut6cTLrL7CSBqINa7Khe1zyXa\
\PZG/tXUk+iv0BYT92b7CRNmg1qhE0G8V3q3QRb6EePYa1WXRQ7ij4rRcQWcj66A1hZ5\
\KjDUVJh+02cZTFrv97wM/im3vb3dbiSxAiQExSa2KATfLI2oS+y7R1RNJ+9nF/vTaFc\
\0H0dKfmuJAUKAcyk/h0Quvdaf9jxEcstj95mva+HkIqPuFifidlvGiafKr4fHZryp1h\
\g7QUtDRU2a4BRfzCzL6PK0BFV3xVI7qoQbKEqQyldv8mZRd0LBRKprxHW7PdUqutH2V\
\GEmZ4UuCYXT11UweBx2W9lHrQX+xaKAjTu6oLYIOvmFVCUr4mCrYRcLZnzwORcsqI14\
\G88x8r5aeilL4lsQZ03kNotR4n0qzFVRU2+EX07QJFm+NKxB7aRZ5oH+dSy+Ye6aMeG\
\Epv491LU0LVnZNMBP2eUhoEo0gimmZGtUobjRdLuYyNiJfJzVkjwF3gYQtY59zb+46N\
\SzvWUqpFUG80Vswns8GNAQ5hfLoH80GGohT+UvoqvpTEXhiAAFstT/EQrHLZrYpXHJI\
```



## 4. Falcon

### 4.1. Overview

This section of the document describes the lattice signature scheme [Falcon], the "Fast Fourier lattice-based compact signatures over NTRU". Falcon is based on the GPV hash-and-sign lattice-based signature framework introduced by Gentry, Peikert and Vaikuntanathan [GPV08], which is a framework that requires a class of lattices and a trapdoor sampler technique. For the class of lattices, Falcon uses the well-known NTRU lattices, while for the trapdoor sampler, it uses a new fast Fourier sampling technique [DP16]. The underlying hard problem is the short integer solution problem (SIS) over NTRU lattices, for which no efficient solving algorithm is currently known for both classical as well as quantum settings.

The main design principle of Falcon is compactness, i.e. it was designed in a way that achieves minimal total memory bandwidth requirement (the sum of the signature size plus the public key size). This is possible due to the compactness of NTRU lattices. Falcon also offers very efficient signing and verification procedures. The main potential downsides of Falcon refer to the non-triviality of its algorithms and the need for floating point arithmetic support.

The GPV framework, which underpins the Falcon design, is proven to be secure in the (quantum) random oracle model as long as the SIS problem remains intractable. Falcon requires an adaption of this prove to account for the fact it uses NTRU lattices.

Falcon brings several advantages over other approaches to signature suites:

- \*Post quantum secure as long as the NTRU-SIS problem remains intractable.
- \*Compactness: Falcon aims at minimum signature plus public key sizes. This should be contrasted with hash-based signature schemes (e.g. SPHINCS+), which minimizes public key sizes but suffer from long signatures, and multivariate quadratic schemes, which minimizes signatures sizes but suffers from long public keys. It also offers substantially shorter signatures than other lattice schemes while public keys are about the same size.
- \*Efficiency: Falcon can produce thousands of signatures per second on a common computer, while verification is up to ten times faster. The operations in Falcon have  $O(n \log n)$  complexity for degree  $n$ .
- \*Side-channel resistance: Falcon used to have an important limitation regarding side-channel attacks due to the hardness of implementing discrete Gaussian sampling over the integers in

constant-time, a gap that has been recently filled in the literature.

#### 4.2. Core Operations

Core operations used by the signature scheme should be implemented according to the details in [Falcon]. Core operations include key generation, sign, and verify.

#### 4.3. Using FALCON with JOSE

This sections is based on CBOR Object Signing and Encryption (COSE) and JSON Object Signing and Encryption (JOSE)

##### 4.3.1. FALCON Key Representations

A new key type (kty) value "NTRU" (for keys related to the family of algorithms that utilize NTRU based approaches to Post Quantum lattice based cryptography) is defined for public key algorithms that use base 64 encoded strings of the underlying binary materia as private and public keys and that support cryptographic sponge functions. It has the following parameters:

\*The parameter "kty" MUST be "NTRU".

\*The parameter "alg" MUST be specified, and its value MUST be one of the values specified the below table

alg	Description
FALCON512	Falcon with parameter set 512
FALCON1024	Falcon with parameter set 1024

Table 8

\*The parameter "pset" MAY be specified to indicate the paramter set in use for the algorithm, but SHOULD also reflect the targeted NIST level for the algorithm in combination with the specified paramter set. For "alg" "FALCON" one of the described parameter sets "512" or "1024" MUST be specified. Parameter set "512" or above SHOULD be used with "FALCON" for any situation requiring at least 128bits of security against both quantum and classical attacks

\*The parameter "x" MUST be present and contain the public key encoded using the base64url [RFC4648] encoding.

\*The parameter "d" MUST be present for private keys and contain the private key encoded using the base64url encoding. This parameter MUST NOT be present for public keys.

Sizes of various key and signature material is as follows

Variable	Parameter Name	Parameter Set	Size	base64url encoded size
Signature	sig	512	666	
Public Key	x	512	897	
Private Key	d	512	1281	
Signature	sig	1024	1280	
Public Key	x	1024	1793	
Private Key	d	1024	2305	

Table 9

When calculating JWK Thumbprints [RFC7638], the four public key fields are included in the hash input in lexicographic order: "kty", "alg", and "x".

#### 4.3.2. FALCON Algorithms

In order to reduce the complexity of the key representation and signature representations we register a unique algorithm name per pset. This allows us to omit registering the pset term, and reduced the likelihood that it will be misused. These alg values are used in both key representations and signatures.

kty	alg	Parameter Set
NTRU	FALCON512	512
NTRU	FALCON1024	1024

Table 10

#### 4.4. Using FALCON with COSE

The approach taken here matches the work done to support secp256k1 in JOSE and COSE in [RFC8812].

The following tables map terms between JOSE and COSE for signatures.

Name	Value	Description	Recommended
FALCON512	TBD	TBD	No
FALCON1024	TBD	TBD	No

Table 11

The following tables map terms between JOSE and COSE for key types.

Name	Value	Description	Recommended
NTRU	TBD	TBD	No

Table 12

## 5. SPHINCS-PLUS

This section defines core operations used by the signature scheme, as proposed in [SPHINCS-PLUS].

### 5.1. Overview

This section of the document describes the hash-based signature scheme SPHINCS+. The scheme is based on the concept of authenticating a large number or few-time signatures keypair using a combination of Merkle-tree signatures, a so-called hypertree. For each message to be signed a (pseudo-)random FTS keypair is selected with which the message can be signed. Combining this signature along with an authentication path through the hyper-tree consisting of hash-based many-time signatures then gives the SPHINC+ signature. The parameter set is strategically chosen such that the probability of signing too many messages with a specific FTS keypair to impact security is small enough to prevent forgery attacks. A trade-off in parameter set can be made on security guarantees, performance and signature size.

SPHINCS+ is a post-quantum approach to digital signatures that is promises Post-Quantum Existential Unforgeability under Chosen Message Attack (PQ-EU-CMA), while ensuring that the security levels reached meet security needs for resistance to both classical and quantum attacks. The algorithm itself is based on the hardness assumptions of its underlying hash functions, which can be chosen from the set Haraka, SHA-256 or SHAKE256. For all security levels the only operations required are calls to these hash functions on various combinations of parameters and internal states.

Contrary to CRYSTALS-Dilithium and Falcon, SPHINCS+ is not based on any algebraic structure. This reduces the possible attack surface of the algorithm.

SPHINCS+ brings several advantages over other approaches to signature suites:

- \*Post Quantum in nature - use of cryptographically secure hash functions and other approaches that should remain hard problems even when under an attack utilizing quantum approaches
- \*Minimal security assumptions - compared to other schemes does not base its security on a new paradigm. The security is solely based on the security of the assumptions of the underlying hash function.
- \*Performance and Optimization - based on combining a great many hash function calls of SHA-256, SHAKE256 or Haraka means existing (secure) SW and HW implementations of those hash functions can be re-used for increased performance

- \*Private and Public Key Size - compared to other post quantum approaches a very small key size is the form of hash inputs-outputs. This then has the drawback that either a large signature or low signing speed has to be accepted
- \*Cryptanalysis assurance - attacks (both pre-quantum and quantum) are easy to relate to existing attacks on hash functions. This allows for precise quantification of the security levels
- \*Overlap with stateful hash-based algorithms - means there are possibilities to combine implementations with those of XMSS and LMS (TODO refs)
- \*Inherent resistance against side-channel attacks - since its core primitive is a hash function, it thereby is hard to attack with side-channels.

The primary known disadvantage to SPHINCS+ is the size signatures, or the speed of signing, depending on the chosen parameter set. Especially in IoT applications this might pose a problem. Additionally hash-based schemes are also vulnerable to differential and fault attacks.

## 5.2. Core Operations

Core operations used by the signature scheme should be implemented according to the details in [SPHINCS-PLUS]. Core operations include key generation, sign, and verify.

## 5.3. Using SPHINCS-PLUS with JOSE

This sections is based on CBOR Object Signing and Encryption (COSE) and JSON Object Signing and Encryption (JOSE)

### 5.3.1. SPHINCS-PLUS Key Representations

A new key type (kty) value "HASH" (for keys related to the family of algorithms that utilize hash based approaches to Post Quantum Cryptography) is defined for public key algorithms that use base 64 encoded strings of the underlying binary materia as private and public keys and that support cryptographic sponge functions. It has the following parameters:

\*The parameter "kty" MUST be "HASH".

\*The parameter "alg" MUST be specified, and its value MUST be one of the values specified the below table

alg	Description
SPHINCS+128s	SPHINCS+ with parameter set of 128s
SPHINCS+128f	SPHINCS+ with parameter set of 128f
SPHINCS+192s	SPHINCS+ with parameter set of 192s



alg	Description
SPHINCS+192f	SPHINCS+ with parameter set of 192f
SPHINCS+256s	SPHINCS+ with parameter set of 256s
SPHINCS+256f	SPHINCS+ with parameter set of 256f

Table 13

\*The parameter "pset" MAY be specified to indicate the parameter set in use for the algorithm, but SHOULD also reflect the targeted NIST level for the algorithm in combination with the specified parameter set. For "alg" "HAS" one of the described parameter sets as listed in the section SPHINCS+ Algorithms MUST be specified.

\*The parameter "x" MUST be present and contain the public key encoded using the base64url [RFC4648] encoding.

\*The parameter "d" MUST be present for private keys and contain the private key encoded using the base64url encoding. This parameter MUST NOT be present for public keys.

Sizes of various key and signature material is as follows (TBD)

Variable	Parameter Name	Parameter Set	Size	base64url encoded size
Signature	sig			
Public Key	x			
Private Key	d			

Table 14

When calculating JWK Thumbprints [RFC7638], the four public key fields are included in the hash input in lexicographic order: "kty", "alg", and "x".

### 5.3.2. SPHINCS-PLUS Algorithms

In order to reduce the complexity of the key representation and signature representations we register a unique algorithm name per pset. This allows us to omit registering the pset term, and reduced the likelihood that it will be misused. These alg values are used in both key representations and signatures.

kty	alg	Parameter Set
HASH	SPHINCS+128s	128s
HASH	SPHINCS+128f	128f
HASH	SPHINCS+192s	192s
HASH	SPHINCS+192f	192f
HASH	SPHINCS+256s	256s
HASH	SPHINCS+256f	256f

Table 15

### 5.3.2.1. Public Key

TODO

### 5.3.2.2. Private Key

TODO

### 5.3.3. SPHINCS-PLUS Signature Representation

TODO

## 5.4. Using HASH with COSE

The approach taken here matches the work done to support secp256k1 in JOSE and COSE in [\[RFC8812\]](#).

The following tables map terms between JOSE and COSE for signatures.

Name	Value	Description	Recommended
SPHINCS+128s	TBD	TBD	No
SPHINCS+128f	TBD	TBD	No
SPHINCS+192s	TBD	TBD	No
SPHINCS+192f	TBD	TBD	No
SPHINCS+256s	TBD	TBD	No
SPHINCS+256f	TBD	TBD	No

Table 16

The following tables map terms between JOSE and COSE for key types.

Name	Value	Description	Recommended
HASH	TBD	TBD	No

Table 17

## 6. CRYSTALS-Kyber

TBD

## 7. Security Considerations

The following considerations SHOULD apply to all signature schemes described in this specification, unless otherwise noted.

### 7.1. Validating public keys

All algorithms in that operate on public keys require first validating those keys. For the sign, verify and proof schemes, the use of KeyValidate is REQUIRED.

## 7.2. Side channel attacks

Implementations of the signing algorithm SHOULD protect the secret key from side-channel attacks. Multiple best practices exist to protect against side-channel attacks. Any implementation of the the CRYSTALS-Dilithium signing algorithm SHOULD utilize the following best practices at a minimum:

- \*Constant timing - the implementation should ensure that constant time is utilized in operations
- \*Sequence and memory access persistence - the implementation SHOULD execute the exact same sequence of instructions (at a machine level) with the exact same memory access independent of which polynomial is being operated on.
- \*Uniform sampling - uniform sampling is the default in CRYSTALS-Dilithium to prevent information leakage, however care should be given in implementations to preserve the property of uniform sampling in implementation.
- \*Secrecy of S1 - utmost care must be given to protection of S1 and to prevent information or power leakage. As is the case with most proposed lattice based approaches to date, fogery and other attacks may succeed, for example, with Dilithium through leakage of S1 through side channel mechanisms.

## 7.3. Randomness considerations

It is recommended that the all nonces are from a trusted source of randomness.

## 8. IANA Considerations

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Key Types" registry:

- \*Name: "LWE"
- \*Description: LWE family post quantum signature algorithm key pairs
- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 3.1 of this document (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Key Types" registry:

- \*Name: "NTRU"
- \*Description: NTRU family post quantum signature algorithm key pairs
- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 3.1 of this document (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Key Types" registry:

- \*Name: "HASH"
- \*Description: Hash based post quantum signature algorithm key pairs
- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 3.1 of this document (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Key Parameters" registry:

- \*Parameter Name: "pset"
- \*Parameter Description: The parameter set of the crypto system
- \*Parameter Information Class: Public
- \*Used with "kty" Value(s): "LWE", "NTRU", "HASH"
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 2 of this document (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Key Parameters" registry:

- \*Parameter Name: "d"
- \*Parameter Description: The private key
- \*Parameter Information Class: Private
- \*Used with "kty" Value(s): "LWE", "NTRU", "HASH"
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 2 of RFC 8037

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Key Parameters" registry:

- \*Parameter Name: "x"
- \*Parameter Description: The public key
- \*Parameter Information Class: Public
- \*Used with "kty" Value(s): "LWE", "NTRU", "HASH"
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 2 of RFC 8037

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Signature and Encryption Algorithms" registry:

- \*Algorithm Name: "CRYDI2"
- \*Algorithm Description: CRYDI2 signature algorithms
- \*Algorithm Usage Location(s): "alg"
- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 3.1 of this document (TBD)
- \*Algorithm Analysis Documents(s): (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Signature and Encryption Algorithms" registry:

- \*Algorithm Name: "CRYDI3"
- \*Algorithm Description: CRYDI3 signature algorithms
- \*Algorithm Usage Location(s): "alg"
- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 3.1 of this document (TBD)
- \*Algorithm Analysis Documents(s): (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Signature and Encryption Algorithms" registry:

- \*Algorithm Name: "CRYDI5"
- \*Algorithm Description: CRYDI5 signature algorithms
- \*Algorithm Usage Location(s): "alg"
- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 3.1 of this document (TBD)
- \*Algorithm Analysis Documents(s): (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Signature and Encryption Algorithms" registry:

- \*Algorithm Name: "FALCON512"
- \*Algorithm Description: FALCON512 signature algorithms
- \*Algorithm Usage Location(s): "alg"
- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 4.1 of this document (TBD)
- \*Algorithm Analysis Documents(s): (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Signature and Encryption Algorithms" registry:

- \*Algorithm Name: "FALCON1024"
- \*Algorithm Description: FALCON1024 signature algorithms
- \*Algorithm Usage Location(s): "alg"
- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 4.1 of this document (TBD)
- \*Algorithm Analysis Documents(s): (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Signature and Encryption Algorithms" registry:

- \*Algorithm Name: "SPHINCS+128s"
- \*Algorithm Description: SPHINCS+128s signature algorithms
- \*Algorithm Usage Location(s): "alg"

- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 5.1 of this document (TBD)
- \*Algorithm Analysis Documents(s): (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Signature and Encryption Algorithms" registry:

- \*Algorithm Name: "SPHINCS+128f"
- \*Algorithm Description: SPHINCS+128f signature algorithms
- \*Algorithm Usage Location(s): "alg"
- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 5.1 of this document (TBD)
- \*Algorithm Analysis Documents(s): (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Signature and Encryption Algorithms" registry:

- \*Algorithm Name: "SPHINCS+192s"
- \*Algorithm Description: SPHINCS+192s signature algorithms
- \*Algorithm Usage Location(s): "alg"
- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 5.1 of this document (TBD)
- \*Algorithm Analysis Documents(s): (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Signature and Encryption Algorithms" registry:

- \*Algorithm Name: "SPHINCS+192f"
- \*Algorithm Description: SPHINCS+192f signature algorithms
- \*Algorithm Usage Location(s): "alg"
- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 5.1 of this document (TBD)
- \*Algorithm Analysis Documents(s): (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Signature and Encryption Algorithms" registry:

- \*Algorithm Name: "SPHINCS+256s"
- \*Algorithm Description: SPHINCS+256s signature algorithms
- \*Algorithm Usage Location(s): "alg"
- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 5.1 of this document (TBD)
- \*Algorithm Analysis Documents(s): (TBD)

The following has NOT YET been added to the "JSON Web Signature and Encryption Algorithms" registry:

- \*Algorithm Name: "SPHINCS+256f"
- \*Algorithm Description: SPHINCS+256f signature algorithms
- \*Algorithm Usage Location(s): "alg"
- \*JOSE Implementation Requirements: Optional
- \*Change Controller: IESG
- \*Specification Document(s): Section 5.1 of this document (TBD)
- \*Algorithm Analysis Documents(s): (TBD)

## 9. Appendix

- \*JSON Web Signature (JWS) - [RFC7515](#)
- \*JSON Web Encryption (JWE) - [RFC7516](#)
- \*JSON Web Key (JWK) - [RFC7517](#)
- \*JSON Web Algorithms (JWA) - [RFC7518](#)
- \*JSON Web Token (JWT) - [RFC7519](#)
- \*JSON Web Key Thumbprint - [RFC7638](#)
- \*JWS Unencoded Payload Option - [RFC7797](#)
- \*CFRG Elliptic Curve ECDH and Signatures - [RFC8037](#)
- \*CRYSTALS-Dilithium - [Dilithium](#)
- \*SPHINCS+ - [SPHINCS-PLUS](#)

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### 9.1. Test Vectors

//TODO

## 10. Normative References

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