

## Quiz. 1

(Deadline March 07, 2024)

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## Problem 1

Given the ciphertext:

C UYGHARMZ IUWMPRWIR GAIR YVRMP

MBHMZWMPUM C VMMXWPE YV PYR VCZ

ZMGYQMD VZYG CX CZG YP CPCXKTWPE CPD MBHXYZM

RNM VXYYD YV CDQCPUMD OPYSXMDM SNWUN MCUN

KMCZ LZWPEI SWRN WR

a) Please write a program to find out the frequencies of letters in the ciphertext.

“109550198.py”

b) Use the plaintext frequency count information below as a reference to break these encrypted messages.

A COMPUTER SCIENTIST MUST OFTEN

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c) Assume C is ciphertext, and P is plaintext. Can you find a particular relationship between C and P?

Ans) The comparison table is in the bottom table.

Table 1: Ciphertext letter frequency count: (times)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
2	2	12	6	4	0	5	3	4	0	2	1	19
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
5	1	12	2	9	3	1	6	7	9	6	12	9

Table 2: Common frequency of letters appearance: (%)

E	A	R	I	O	T	N	S	L	C	U	D	P
11.16	8.5	7.58	7.54	7.16	6.95	6.65	5.74	5.49	4.54	3.63	3.38	3.17
M	H	G	B	F	Y	W	K	V	X	Z	J	Q
3.01	3.0	2.47	2.07	1.81	1.78	1.29	1.10	1.01	0.29	0.27	0.20	0.20

Table 3: Ciphertext to plaintext mapping

Ciphertext	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Plaintext	U	X	A	D	G	J	M	P	S	Q	Y	B	E
	20	23	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	16	24	1	4
Ciphertext	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Plaintext	H	K	N	V	T	W	Z	C	F	I	L	O	R
	7	10	13	21	19	22	25	2	5	8	11	14	17

**d)** Suppose " $f(x) = ax + b \bmod 26$ ", where  $x$  is plaintext, please solve the value of  $a$  and  $b$ .

$$f(0) = b \bmod 26 = 2$$

$$f(1) = a + b \bmod 26 = 11$$

after calculation, we get  $a = 9, b = 2$

**e)** What is the key size of the Mono-Alphabetic Substitution Cipher? Such a size makes exhaustive search becomes difficult?

Ans) 26! which does make exhaustive search becomes difficult.

**f)** (Bonus) Please try to see if it is possible to decipher this problem with ChatGPT or another tool.

Ans) It is challenging to decrypt a problem using tools like ChatGPT, explores key space size in affine cipher encryption, and requires finding inverses in a given set.

## Problem 2

Plaintext is encrypted using an affine cipher. A plaintext symbol,  $x$ , is drawn from  $Z_{30}$  and, hence, encryption is defined as " $y = ax + b \bmod 30$ ", where  $y$  is the resulting ciphertext and the encryption key is given by  $k_{\text{enc}} = (a, b)$ .

**a)** Determine the size of the key space (that is, the total number of keys).

- The number of possible values for  $a$  is 8 (values coprime with 30).
- The number of possible values for  $b$  is 30 (any value in  $Z_{30}$ ).
- Therefore, the size of the key space is  $8 \times 30 = 240$ .

**b)** Determine all values in  $Z_{30}$  that have inverses and, by trial-and-error, determine the inverses.

The values in  $Z_{30}$  that have inverses and their respective inverses are:

1 with inverse 1  
 7 with inverse 13  
 11 with inverse 11  
 13 with inverse 7  
 17 with inverse 23  
 19 with inverse 19  
 23 with inverse 17  
 29 with inverse 29

These inverses are calculated based on the property that an element  $a \in Z_{30}$  has a multiplicative inverse if  $\gcd(a, 30) = 1$ , using the Extended Euclidean Algorithm to find such inverses.

- c) An attacker intercepts the following plaintext/ciphertext pairs:

x	y
4	8
10	26
27	7

Determine the encryption key  $k_{\text{enc}} = (a, b)$ .

$$8 = 4a + b \bmod 30$$

$$26 = 10a + b \bmod 30$$

$$7 = 27a + b \bmod 30$$

After analyzing the given plaintext/ciphertext pairs and iterating over possible values of  $a$ , the encryption key was found to be:

$$a=13$$

$$b=16$$

- d) Determine the decryption key  $k_{\text{dec}} = (c, d)$ , where " $x = cy + d \bmod 30$ ".

Using the modular inverse of the encryption key  $a$  and adjusting for  $b$ , the decryption key was determined as:

$$c=7, \text{ which is the modular inverse of } a=13$$

$$d=8, \text{ calculated to reverse the encryption process}$$