

## Day 06 – Merkle-Hellman Knapsack cipher

## Hill cipher

**Definition 1.** Hill cipher is a **block cipher** where **pairs of plaintext letters** are encrypted by the transformation

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \pmod{26}$$

*A: 2x2 matrix  
that is invertible mod 26.*

where  $A$  is a  $2 \times 2$  invertible matrix modulo 26.

Decryption is given by  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} \pmod{26}$  *A<sup>-1</sup> is the inverse of A  
in mod 26.*

Remark:

- Extend the algorithm to any modulo  $N$   
where  $N = \#$  letters in the alphabet.
- Use any  $n \times n$  invertible matrix  $A$ .  
(under mod  $N$ )

↳ To find  $A^{-1} \pmod{N}$ : use a modified  
Gauss-Jordan elim.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & I \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{GJ elim.}} \begin{bmatrix} I & A^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \pmod{N}.$$

(see my MatLab m-file)

### Euclidean algorithm - Berlekamp version

The Euclidean algorithm is the process which yields the greatest common divisor  $d$  of two given integers  $A$  and  $B$  where  $A > B$ . The Berlekamp's algorithm is a slight modification of the Euclidean algorithm that can also give us the inverse of  $B \bmod A$ .

Algorithm:

1. Set  $r_{-2} = A, r_{-1} = B, p_{-2} = 0, p_{-1} = 1, q_{-2} = 1, q_{-1} = 0$
2. For each  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  compute the following

$$\begin{aligned} r_{k-2} &= a_k r_{k-1} + r_k \\ p_k &= a_k p_{k-1} + p_{k-2} \\ q_k &= a_k q_{k-1} + q_{k-2} \end{aligned}$$

3. Stop at step  $n$  where  $r_n = 0$

Then  $r_{n-1} = \gcd(A, B)$ . Furthermore, in the case  $\gcd(A, B) = 1$  then

$$B \cdot (-1)^n p_{n-1} = 1 + A \cdot (-1)^n q_{n-1}$$

$B^{-1} \bmod A$ .

If  $\gcd(A, B) \neq 1$   
then  $B^{-1} \bmod A$   
D.N.E.

Example. Find the inverse of 115 in modulo 12659,

k	r	a	p	q
-2	12659		0	1
-1	115		1	0
0	9	110	110	1
1	7	12	1321	12
2	2	1	1431	13
3	1	3	5614	51
4	0	2	12,659	115

Stop  $\rightarrow$   $n=4$

$\gcd(A, B)$

$A$   $B$

Here,

$$\begin{aligned} B^{-1} &= (-1)^n p_{n-1} \\ &= (-1)^4 \cdot 5614 \\ &= 5614 \end{aligned}$$

In Wolfram Alpha:

>> Quotient Remainder [A, B]

Steps of Berlekamp:  $k=0$

$$r_{-2} = a_0 \cdot r_{-1} + r_0$$

$$12,659 = \underbrace{110}_{a_0} \times 115 + \underbrace{9}_{r_0}$$

$$p_0 = 110 \times 1 + 0 = 110$$

$$q_0 = 110 \times 0 + 1 = 1$$

output (  $a, r$  )  
 $\swarrow \searrow$   
 quotient remainder

$k=1$ :

$$115 = (\underbrace{12}_{a_1}) \times \underbrace{9}_{r_0} + (\underbrace{7}_{r_1}) \quad a_1 = 12, r_1 = 7$$

$$p_1 = \underbrace{12}_{a_1} \times \underbrace{110}_{p_0} + \underbrace{1}_{p_{-1}} = 1321$$

$$q_1 = 12 \times \underbrace{1}_{q_0} + \underbrace{0}_{q_{-1}} = 12$$

$k=2$ :

$$r_0 = a_2 \times r_1 + r_2 \quad a_2 = 1, r_2 = 2$$

$$q_1 = 1 \times 7 + 2$$

$$p_2 = a_2 \times p_1 + p_0 = 1 \times 1321 + 110 = 1431$$

$$q_2 = a_2 \times q_1 + q_0 = 1 \times 12 + 1 = 13$$

### Subset-Sum Problem (SSP)

Given an increasing sequence  $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_n$  and a "target" number  $M$ . We want to determine if there is a subsequence of the  $a_i$ 's whose sum is  $t$ .

Formally, we want to find the values  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ , where each  $x_i$  is either 0 or 1 such that

$$x_1 a_1 + x_2 a_2 + \dots + x_n a_n = M.$$

**Example.** Solve the SSP for  $a_1 = 3, a_2 = 5, a_3 = 11, a_4 = 23, a_5 = 51$ , and  $M = 67$ .

$$\begin{aligned} 67 &= 51 + 16 \\ &= 51 + 11 + 5 \end{aligned}$$

$$67 = a_2 + a_3 + a_5 = 0 \cdot a_1 + 1 \cdot a_2 + 1 \cdot a_3 + 0 \cdot a_4 + 1 \cdot a_5.$$

$$x = (0, 1, 1, 0, 1)$$

If the  $a_i$ 's form a **super-increasing sequence** then for every right-hand side  $M$ , the SSP either has **no** solution or a **unique** solution.

**Definition 2.** A super-increasing sequence is a sequence where each number in the sequence is greater than the sum of those preceding it.

Formally,  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  is a super-increasing sequence if for all  $1 \leq k \leq n$ ,

$$a_k > \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} a_i.$$

**Example.**

1.  $(3, 5, 11, 23, 51)$  ✓  $3 > 0, 5 > 3, 11 > 5+3, 23 > 11+5+3, 51 > 23+11+5+3$
2.  $(1, 4, 7, 12, 19)$  ~~✗~~  $12 = 7+4+1$
3.  $(13, 18, 35, 72, 155, 301, 595)$  ✓ (You check)

**Example.** Solve the SSP for  $M = 1003$  and the super-increasing sequence

$(13, 18, 35, 72, 155, 301, 595)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 1003 &= 595 + 408 \\
 &= 595 + 301 + 107 \\
 &= 595 + 301 + 72 + 35 \\
 &= 595 + 301 + 72 + 35 + 0 \\
 1003 &= 0 \cdot 13 + 0 \cdot 18 + 1 \cdot 35 + 1 \cdot 72 \\
 &\quad + 0 \cdot 155 + 1 \cdot 301 + 1 \cdot 595 \\
 x &= (0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1)
 \end{aligned}$$

Remark: If the given sequence is not super-increasing, then the solution may not be unique.

**Example.** Consider  $M = 20$  and the sequence  $(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)$ .

The ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) Table:

Dec	Bin	Hex	Char	Dec	Bin	Hex	Char	Dec	Bin	Hex	Char	Dec	Bin	Hex	Char
0	0000	0000	00 [NUL]	32	0010	0000	20 space	64	0100	0000	40 @	96	0110	0000	60 `
1	0000	0001	01 [SOH]	33	0010	0001	21 !	65	0100	0001	41 A	97	0110	0001	61 a
2	0000	0010	02 [STX]	34	0010	0010	22 "	66	0100	0010	42 B	98	0110	0010	62 b
3	0000	0011	03 [ETX]	35	0010	0011	23 #	67	0100	0011	43 C	99	0110	0011	63 c
4	0000	0100	04 [EOT]	36	0010	0100	24 \$	68	0100	0100	44 D	100	0110	0100	64 d
5	0000	0101	05 [ENQ]	37	0010	0101	25 %	69	0100	0101	45 E	101	0110	0101	65 e
6	0000	0110	06 [ACK]	38	0010	0110	26 &	70	0100	0110	46 F	102	0110	0110	66 f
7	0000	0111	07 [BEL]	39	0010	0111	27 '	71	0100	0111	47 G	103	0110	0111	67 g
8	0000	1000	08 [BS]	40	0010	1000	28 (	72	0100	1000	48 H	104	0110	1000	68 h
9	0000	1001	09 [TAB]	41	0010	1001	29 )	73	0100	1001	49 I	105	0110	1001	69 i
10	0000	1010	0A [LF]	42	0010	1010	2A *	74	0100	1010	4A J	106	0110	1010	6A j
11	0000	1011	0B [VT]	43	0010	1011	2B +	75	0100	1011	4B K	107	0110	1011	6B k
12	0000	1100	0C [FF]	44	0010	1100	2C ,	76	0100	1100	4C L	108	0110	1100	6C l
13	0000	1101	0D [CR]	45	0010	1101	2D -	77	0100	1101	4D M	109	0110	1101	6D m
14	0000	1110	0E [SO]	46	0010	1110	2E .	78	0100	1110	4E N	110	0110	1110	6E n
15	0000	1111	0F [SI]	47	0010	1111	2F /	79	0100	1111	4F O	111	0110	1111	6F o
16	0001	0000	10 [DLE]	48	0011	0000	30 0	80	0101	0000	50 P	112	0111	0000	70 p
17	0001	0001	11 [DC1]	49	0011	0001	31 1	81	0101	0001	51 Q	113	0111	0001	71 q
18	0001	0010	12 [DC2]	50	0011	0010	32 2	82	0101	0010	52 R	114	0111	0010	72 r
19	0001	0011	13 [DC3]	51	0011	0011	33 3	83	0101	0011	53 S	115	0111	0011	73 s
20	0001	0100	14 [DC4]	52	0011	0100	34 4	84	0101	0100	54 T	116	0111	0100	74 t
21	0001	0101	15 [NAK]	53	0011	0101	35 5	85	0101	0101	55 U	117	0111	0101	75 u
22	0001	0110	16 [SYN]	54	0011	0110	36 6	86	0101	0110	56 V	118	0111	0110	76 v
23	0001	0111	17 [ETB]	55	0011	0111	37 7	87	0101	0111	57 W	119	0111	0111	77 w
24	0001	1000	18 [CAN]	56	0011	1000	38 8	88	0101	1000	58 X	120	0111	1000	78 x
25	0001	1001	19 [EM]	57	0011	1001	39 9	89	0101	1001	59 Y	121	0111	1001	79 y
26	0001	1010	1A [SUB]	58	0011	1010	3A :	90	0101	1010	5A Z	122	0111	1010	7A z
27	0001	1011	1B [ESC]	59	0011	1011	3B ;	91	0101	1011	5B [	123	0111	1011	7B {
28	0001	1100	1C [FS]	60	0011	1100	3C <	92	0101	1100	5C \	124	0111	1100	7C
29	0001	1101	1D [GS]	61	0011	1101	3D =	93	0101	1101	5D ]	125	0111	1101	7D }
30	0001	1110	1E [RS]	62	0011	1110	3E >	94	0101	1110	5E ^	126	0111	1110	7E ~
31	0001	1111	1F [US]	63	0011	1111	3F ?	95	0101	1111	5F _	127	0111	1111	7F [DEL]

## Merkle-Hellman Knapsack

Alice (**receiver**) and Bob (**sender**) want to communicate using Knapsack.

1. Alice (**receiver**) chooses

- A **super-increasing sequence**  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$ ,
- A **prime**  $p > \sum_{i=1}^n a_i$ , and
- An **encrypting factor**  $A$  with  $2 \leq A \leq p-1$ .

She will keep these values secret.

2. For each  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , Alice then compute the sequence  $b_i$ 's by

$$b_i = A \cdot a_i \mod p.$$

Then she **sends** the sequence  $b_i$ 's.

3. Now suppose Bob (**sender**) wants to send a binary message  $x_1 x_2 \dots x_n$  of  $n$ -bits. He then uses Alice published sequence  $b_i$ 's and compute

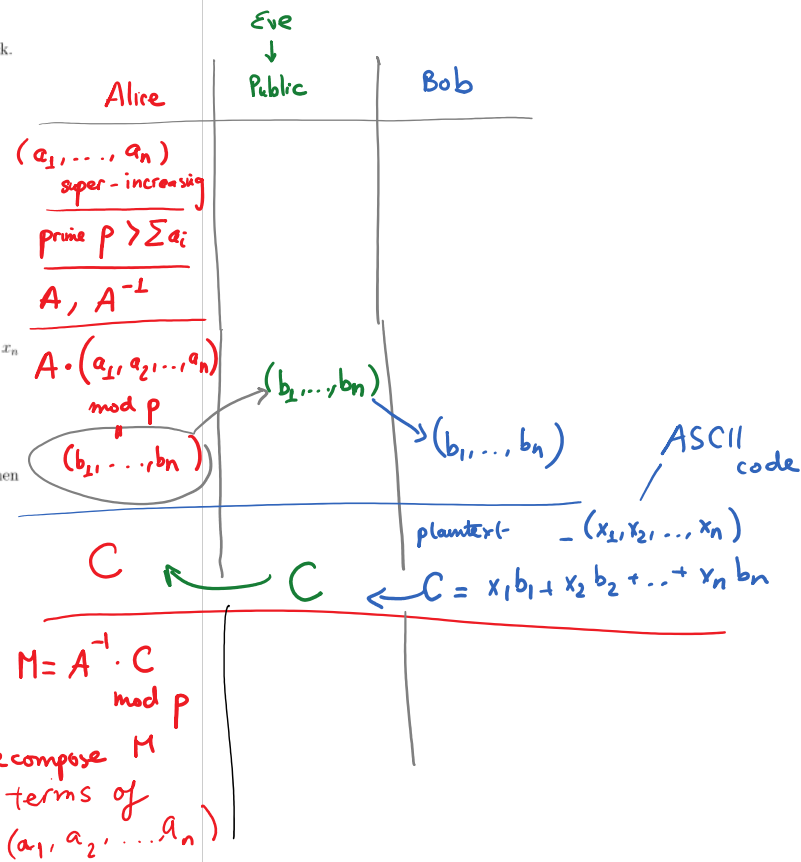
$$C = x_1 b_1 + x_2 b_2 + \dots + x_n b_n$$

then he **sends** the value  $C$  to Alice.

4. To decrypt Bob's message, Alice computes  $M = A^{-1} \cdot C \mod p$  then solves the SSP

$$x_1 a_1 + x_2 a_2 + \dots + x_n a_n = M$$

to recover the binary string  $x_1 x_2 \dots x_n$



**Example.** Alice picks the super increasing sequence

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_8) = (2, 5, 9, 22, 47, 99, 203, 409)$$

the prime  $p = 997$  and the encryption factor  $A = 60$ .

- a. Compute the sequence  $b_i$ 's that Alice will publish
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Suppose Bob wants to send the letter "b" (ASCII code: 01100010) to Alice. Find his ciphertext  $C$ .
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. Suppose Alice receives  $C = 1255$  from Bob. Decrypt this message.