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CSC-366

Crypto: Heuristic Problem Solving - Reflection

This assignment has really driven home the idea of heuristics and how they are applied automatically by our mind to aid us in completing tasks. When you're presented with a crypto problem, it is hard to consciously think about all of the heuristics that your mind is conjuring up and evaluating. It has become very evident throughout the course of this assignment that there is a very large number of heuristics at play, even in the microdomain of Crypto.

The idea of human executability, or the hex rating for short, is a fundamental part of which heuristics the mind decides to evaluate at a given time. One would think that the mind would attempt to evaluate heuristics which have the highest hex ratings first. However it is likely that the mind also takes into account the applicability rating as well. A heuristic may be very easy for a human to execute, but may not be very applicable. In a case like this, the mind may prioritize a heuristic which is a little more difficult to execute, but is more applicable to the current problem domain.

Clearly, the structure which defines human executability and applicability is very different, and surely more complex than a couple of numerical ratings. This is a more abstract thought, and one which would have to be investigated with much more in depth than can be done in this reflection.