

Problem 1 — Superencipherment for substitution ciphers, 12 marks

(a) i. Proof of Superencipherment

Suppose two keys $K_1, K_2 \in \mathbb{K}$ and some message $m \in \mathbb{M}$. Then $E_{K_1}(m) \equiv m + K_1 \pmod{26}$ and $E_{K_2}(m) \equiv m + K_2 \pmod{26}$ by definition of the shift cipher. Let us apply the Superencipherment two different ways:

A. $E_{K_1}(E_{K_2}(m)) \equiv E_{K_1}(m + K_2 \pmod{26}) \equiv m + K_2 + K_1 \pmod{26}$

B. $E_{K_2}(E_{K_1}(m)) \equiv E_{K_2}(m + K_1 \pmod{26}) \equiv m + K_1 + K_2 \pmod{26}$

Note that both cases are equivalent from the associative property of cyclic groups, of which $\mathbb{Z}/26\mathbb{Z}$ is. In any case we could have selected a third, and different key $K_3 \in \mathbb{K}$ such that $K_3 \equiv K_1 + K_2 \pmod{26}$ and applied only a single cipher: $E_{K_3}(m) \equiv m + K_3 \pmod{26} \equiv m + K_1 + K_2 \pmod{26}$ as required. The resulting key is $K_3 \equiv K_1 + K_2 \pmod{26}$

ii. Proof of Superencipherment by induction on n .

Base Case: Let $n = 2$, we have shown this to be true in part i. The cases for $n = 0, 1$ are trivial.

Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose $l \geq 2$ such that $E_{K_l}(E_{K_{l-1}}(\dots E_{K_1}(m)\dots)) \equiv E_j(m) \pmod{26}$ where $j \in \mathbb{K}$ and $j \equiv K_l + K_{l-1} + \dots + K_1 \pmod{26}$.

We wish to show this for $l + 1 \geq 2$.

Inductive Step: Suppose we have $l + 1 \geq 2$ keys such that $E_{K_{l+1}}(E_{K_l}(\dots E_1(m)\dots))$.

Then by our inductive hypothesis:

$$E_{K_{l+1}}(E_{K_l}(\dots E_1(m)\dots)) \equiv E_{K_{l+1}}(E_j(m)) \pmod{26}$$

$$E_{K_{l+1}}(E_j(m)) \pmod{26} \equiv E_{K_{l+1}}(m + K_l + K_{l-1} + \dots + K_1) \pmod{26}$$

and by definition of the shift cipher:

$E_{K_{l+1}}(m + K_l + K_{l-1} + \dots + K_1) \pmod{26} \equiv m + K_{l+1} + K_l + K_{l-1} + \dots + K_1 \pmod{26}$. Then take a new key $K_g \in \mathbb{K}$ such that $K_g \equiv K_{l+1} + K_l + K_{l-1} + \dots + K_1 \pmod{26}$. Then the Superencipherment is in fact a different single cipher with a different choice of key. This concludes our induction on n .

- (b) Suppose a plain text message M_0 of length l . We have our first Vigenere cipher with keyword W_1 with length m and a second with keyword W_2 and length n . Our first cipher encrypts each letter of M_0 individually using W_1 repeated if $m < l$. Each character is shifted individually by adding its own English alphabet index (0,...,25) plus the corresponding index of the character in W_1 such that the new character's index = $M_{0\text{index}} + W_{1\text{index}} \pmod{26}$. The second cipher repeats this process but our plain text is the resulting cipher text from our first encryption. This double encryption is equivalent to if we had encoded our original plain text such that each new character index = $M_{0\text{index}} + W_{1\text{index}} + W_{2\text{index}} = M_{0\text{index}} + W_{\text{index}}$. W is obtained by adding the modulo 26 of the character indexes of W_1, W_2 . The length is m if $m \geq n$ and n if $n > m$.

Problem 2 — Key size versus password size, 21 marks

- (a) There are $2^7 = 128$ ASCII encodings of single characters so if you have 8 characters then there are $2^7 \times 2^7 \times 2^7 \times 2^7 \times 2^7 \times 2^7 \times 2^7 \times 2^7 = 2^{56}$ encodings.
- (b) i. $94^8 = 6.09 \times 10^{15}$ which is slightly more than 2^{52} .
ii. $\frac{94^8}{2^{56}} \times 100\% = 8.459\%$
- (c) $8 \log_2(94) = 8 \times 6.554588852 = 52.43671082$ bits
- (d) $H(X) = 8 \log_2(26) = 8 \times 4.700439718 = 37.60351774$ bits
- (e) i. $\frac{128}{6.554588852} = 19.528$ characters, so 20 characters.
ii. $\frac{128}{4.700439718} = 27.231$ characters, so 28 characters

Problem 3 — Equiprobability maximizes entropy for two outcomes, 12 marks

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(a)} \quad H(X) &= Pr(X_1) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(X_1)}\right) + Pr(X_2) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(X_2)}\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \log_2(4) + \frac{3}{4} \log_2\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) \\
 &= \frac{2}{4} + \frac{3}{4} \log_2(4/3) \\
 &= 0.8112781244591328 \text{ bits}
 \end{aligned}$$

(b) Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{Suppose } H(X) \text{ is maximal, then } H(X) \frac{d}{dx} = 0 \text{ and } H(X) = p \log_2\left(\frac{1}{p}\right) + (1-p) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{(1-p)}\right) \\
 &\frac{d}{dp} H(X) = \frac{d}{dp} p \log_2\left(\frac{1}{p}\right) + \frac{d}{dp} (1-p) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{(1-p)}\right) \\
 &= \frac{\frac{d}{dp} \log_2\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)}{\log_2(2)} + \frac{d}{dp} (1-p) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{(1-p)}\right) \\
 &= \log_2\left(\frac{1}{p}\right) - \frac{1}{\log_2(2)} + \frac{d}{dp} (1-p) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{(1-p)}\right) \\
 &= \log_2\left(\frac{1}{p}\right) - \frac{1}{\log_2(2)} - \log_2\left(\frac{1}{(1-p)}\right) + \frac{1}{\log_2(2)} \\
 &= \log_2\left(\frac{1}{p}\right) - \log_2\left(\frac{1}{(1-p)}\right) \\
 &0 = \log_2\left(\frac{1}{p}\right) - \log_2\left(\frac{1}{(1-p)}\right) \\
 &\log_2\left(\frac{1}{p}\right) = \log_2\left(\frac{1}{(1-p)}\right) \\
 &e^{\log_2\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)} = e^{\log_2\left(\frac{1}{(1-p)}\right)} \\
 &\frac{1}{p} = \frac{1}{(1-p)} \quad p = 1-p \\
 &p = \frac{1}{2} \text{ as required.}
 \end{aligned}$$

(c) $H(X)$ is maximal when the probabilities are equally likely, and we can express the entropy as $\log_2(n)$. Since we have only two outcomes, $H(X) = \log_2(2) = 1$

Problem 4 — Conditional entropy, 12 marks

(a) $H(M|C) = \sum_{c \in \mathbb{C}} Pr(c) \sum_{m \in \mathbb{M}} Pr(M|C) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M|C)}\right)$

i. $C_1 : \frac{1}{4} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{M}} Pr(M|C_1) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M|C_1)}\right)$
 $= \frac{1}{4}(Pr(M_1|C_1) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_1|C_1)}\right) + Pr(M_2|C_1) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_2|C_1)}\right)$
 $+ Pr(M_3|C_1) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_3|C_1)}\right) + Pr(M_4|C_1) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_4|C_1)}\right))$
 $= \frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{1}{2} \log_2(2) + \frac{1}{2} \log_2(2) + 0 + 0\right)$
 $= \frac{1}{4}$

ii. $C_2 : \frac{1}{4} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{M}} Pr(M|C_2) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M|C_2)}\right)$
 $= \frac{1}{4}(Pr(M_1|C_2) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_1|C_2)}\right) + Pr(M_2|C_2) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_2|C_2)}\right)$
 $+ Pr(M_3|C_2) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_3|C_2)}\right) + Pr(M_4|C_2) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_4|C_2)}\right))$
 $= 0 + 0 + \frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{1}{2} \log_2(2) + \frac{1}{2} \log_2(2)\right)$
 $= \frac{1}{4}$

iii. $C_3 : \frac{1}{4} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{M}} Pr(M|C_3) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M|C_3)}\right)$
 $= \frac{1}{4}(Pr(M_1|C_3) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_1|C_3)}\right) + Pr(M_2|C_3) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_2|C_3)}\right)$
 $+ Pr(M_3|C_3) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_3|C_3)}\right) + Pr(M_4|C_3) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_4|C_3)}\right))$
 $= 0 + \frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{1}{2} \log_2(2) + \frac{1}{2} \log_2(2) + 0\right)$
 $= \frac{1}{4}$

iv. $C_4 : \frac{1}{4} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{M}} Pr(M|C_4) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M|C_4)}\right)$
 $= \frac{1}{4}(Pr(M_1|C_4) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_1|C_4)}\right) + Pr(M_2|C_4) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_2|C_4)}\right)$
 $+ Pr(M_3|C_4) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_3|C_4)}\right) + Pr(M_4|C_4) \log_2\left(\frac{1}{Pr(M_4|C_4)}\right))$
 $= \frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{1}{2} \log_2(2) + 0 + 0 + \frac{1}{2} \log_2(2)\right)$
 $= \frac{1}{4}$

$$H(M|C) = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = 1$$

- (b) Suppose the system provides perfect secrecy, then $Pr(C|M) = P(C) \forall m \in \mathbb{M}, c \in \mathbb{C}$.
 Then from the definition of $P(M|C)$:

$$Pr(M|C) = \frac{Pr(M)Pr(C|M)}{Pr(C)}$$

$$= \frac{Pr(M)Pr(C)}{Pr(C)}$$

$$= Pr(M) \text{ as required}$$

- (c) No it does not provided perfect secrecy since there is no guarantee that there is a unique key K such that $e_K(m) = c$. Also, $Pr(M) = \frac{1}{4}$ but $Pr(M|C) = 1$