

Information Theory

Thursday

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`github.com/mathias-madsen/nasslli2025/`

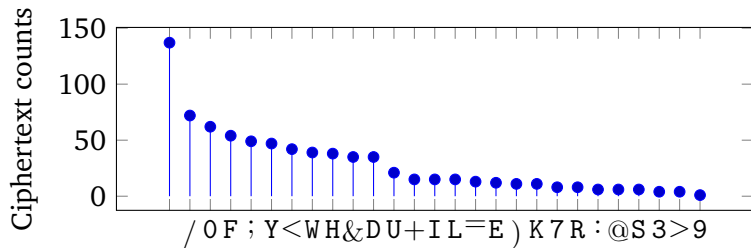
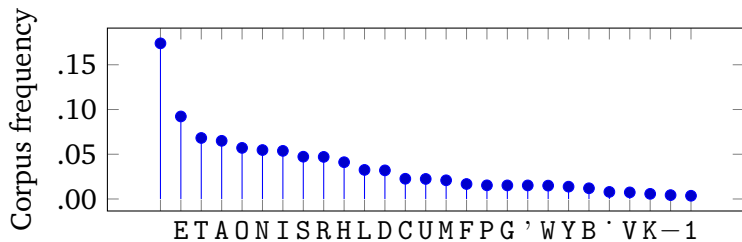


NASSLLI, June 2025

Substitution Ciphers

FLO DOOYW)YOS O;/ +OY;/YR O; F&/ U/)F &<;D EOH;E /<WFR F&/
UH;/ L<W KY07//; K: F&/ /;FY: O) < +O=YF@ <;D 9=WF <F F&<F IO
H;FR < +/YF<H; WH;HWF/Y KUO+7 O) K=HUDH;E F&Y=WF)OYL<YD HFW
E<KU/ O; F&/ WFY//F3 HF L<W FLO WFOYH/W &HE&@ W&OL/D ;O LH;
DOLR ;OF&H;E K=F < DOOY O; F&/ UOL/Y WFOY: <;D < KUH;D)OY/&
/<D O) DHW+OUO=Y/D L<UU O; F&/ =II/Y@ <;D KOY/ H; />/Y:)/<F
=Y/R F&/ S<Y7W O) IYOUO;E/D <;D WOYDHD ;/EUHE/;+/3 F&/ DOOYR
L&H+& L<W /M=HII/D LHF& ;/HF&/Y K/UU ;OY 7;O+7/YR L<W KUHWF
/Y/D <;D DHWF<H;/D3 FY<SIW WUO=+&/D H;FO F&/ Y/+ /WW <;D WFY=
+7 S<F+&/W O; F&/ I<;/UW@ +&HUDY//; 7/IF W&OI =IO; F&/ WF/IW@
F&/ W+&OOUK0: &<D FYH/D &HW 7;H)/ O; F&/ SO=UDH;EW@ <;D)OY
+UOW/ O; < E//Y<FH0;R ;O O;/ &<D <II/<Y/D FO DYH/> <L<: F&
/W/ Y<;DOS >HWHFOYW OY FO Y/I<HY F&/HY Y<><E/W3

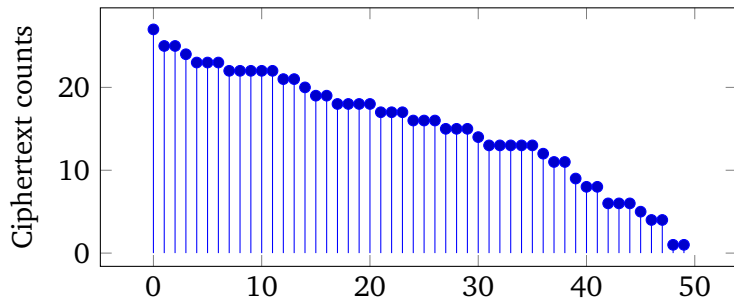
Substitution Ciphers



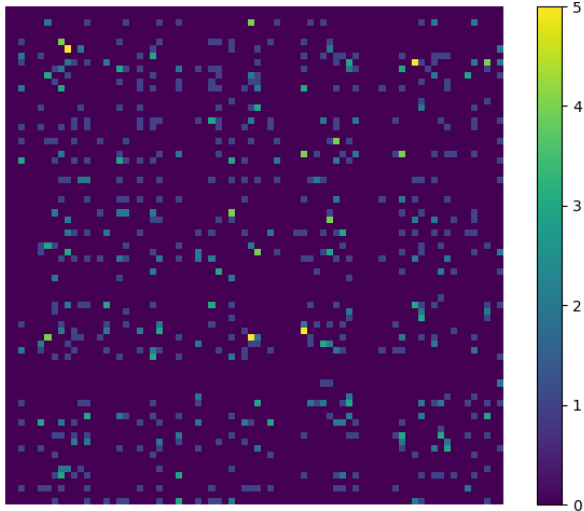
One-to-Many Substitution Ciphers

—	63, 17, 52, 7, 18, 34, 73
E	75, 9, 38, 11
T	50, 2, 36
A	5, 29, 48
O	71, 65, 22
N	8, 45
I	49, 12
S	23, 20
R	26, 60
⋮	⋮

One-to-Many Substitution Ciphers



One-to-Many Substitution Ciphers



One-to-Many Substitution Ciphers

Δ ▣ P / Z / U B ▣ K O R π 9 X π B
W V + Ε Γ Υ F Θ Δ H P ▣ K Ι ϑ Υ Ε
M J γ Λ U I X Δ ϑ T ⊥ N ϑ Υ D ϑ ϑ
S ϑ / Δ ▣ B P O R A U ▣ 7 R J ϑ E
K Λ L M Z J ϑ R \ 9 F H V W Ε Δ Υ
▣ + ϑ Γ D Δ K I ϑ ϑ ϑ X Δ ϑ ϑ S ϑ
R N ⊥ I Υ E J O Δ ϑ G B T ϑ S ▣ B
L ϑ / P ▣ B ▣ X ϑ E H M U Λ R R X

Ravi and Knight: “Bayesian inference for Zodiac and other homophonic ciphers,” *Proceedings of the 49th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 2011.

Permutation Ciphers

FOR _TH E_N EXT _FO UR_ DAY S_I T_S EEM ED_ ...



ORF TH_ _NE XTE FO_ R_U AYD _IS _ST EME D_E ...

Permutation Ciphers

From bigrams alone:

HEEWR	:	WHERE (49.3%)	EWHER (10.9%)	REWHE (8.6%)	HEREW (6.0%)
TTAH	:	THAT (55.8%)	TATH (16.1%)	ATHT (9.6%)	TTHA (6.8%)
TINGH	:	THING (45.2%)	TINGH (11.8%)	NGITH (8.0%)	NGHIT (7.6%)
OECH	:	ECON (20.3%)	CONE (18.1%)	ENCO (17.5%)	ONCE (16.8%)
DSAI	:	ADIS (22.4%)	DISA (9.9%)	ASID (9.9%)	ISAD (9.7%)

Periodic Substitution Ciphers

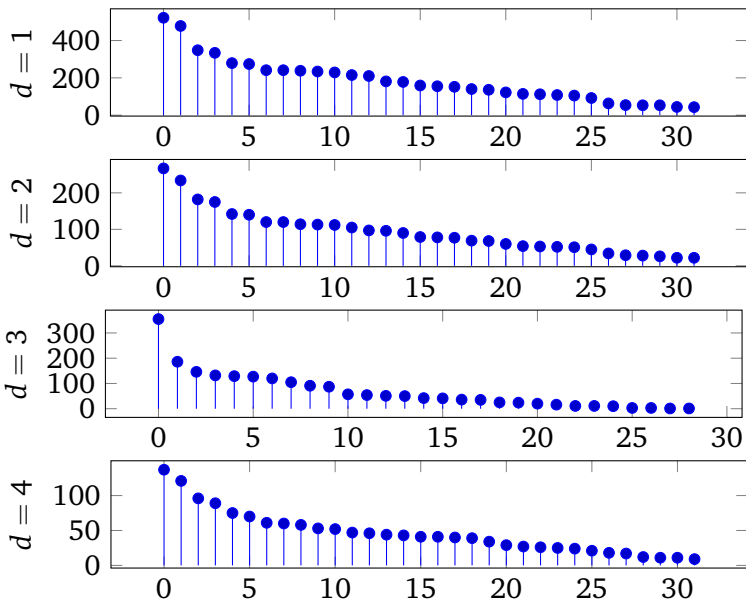
	1, 4, 7, ...	2, 5, 8, ...	3, 6, 9, ...
A	C	B	A
B	A	C	B
C	B	A	C

ABB BCA CCB AAB BCA ...



CCB AAA BAB CBB AAA ...

Periodic Substitution Ciphers



Periodic Substitution Ciphers



An Enigma machine

Periodic Substitution Ciphers



Henryk Zygałski, Jerzy Różycki, and Marian Rejewski in Poznań
(photo by Adam Mickiewicz, 1932)

Rejewski: "How Polish Mathematicians Deciphered the Enigma," *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing*, 1981.

Perfect Secrecy

Definition

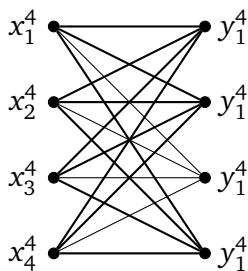
An encoding method achieves **perfect secrecy** if

$$p(x^n | y^n) = p(x^n)$$

for all plaintext messages x^n and ciphertexts y^n .

Shannon: “Communication Theory of Secrecy Systems,”
Bell System Technical Journal, 1949.

Perfect Secrecy



Key	Message			
	1	2	3	4
1	1	2	3	4
2	2	3	4	1
3	3	4	1	2
4	4	1	2	3

Theorem: Size of the Keyspace

A perfectly secret code has at least as many keys as there are (nonzero-probability) plaintext messages.

One-Time Pad

x^n	A	B	A	A	B	A	A	...	B
k^n	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	...	0
y^n	A	A	B	A	B	A	A	...	B

Running-Key Ciphers

x^n	T	H	E	_	G	R	E
k^n	W	H	E	N	_	S	H
y^n	P	5	/	N	G	J	2	...	<

Marginal, Conditional, and Joint Entropy

Definition

$$H(X) = E \left(\log_2 \frac{1}{p(X)} \right)$$

$$H(X | Y) = E \left(\log_2 \frac{1}{p(X | Y)} \right)$$

$$H(X, Y) = E \left(\log_2 \frac{1}{p(X, Y)} \right)$$

Theorem

$$H(X, Y) = H(X | Y) + H(Y)$$

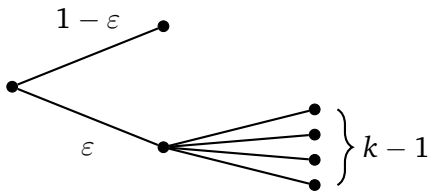
Theorem

$$H(X | Y) \leq H(X)$$

Fano's Inequality

Theorem: Fano's Inequality

Let X be a random variable that can take k different values, one of which has probability $1 - \varepsilon$. Then $H(X) \leq 1 + \varepsilon \log_2 k$.



In fact

$$\varepsilon H_2(1/k) \leq H(X) \leq 1 + \varepsilon \log_2 k,$$

or equivalently,

$$\frac{H(X) - 1}{\log k} \leq \varepsilon \leq \frac{H(X)}{H_2(1/k)}.$$

Entropy for Codebreaking

$$H(X^n | Y^n) \leq H(X^n, K | Y^n) = H(K | Y^n) \leq H(K)$$