

## What is the definition of Perfect security?

**Definition 5.1:** A cryptosystem has perfect security if for all  $x \in \mathcal{P}$  and  $y \in \mathcal{C}$ , it holds that  $P[x|y] = P[x]$ .

**TLDR:** Information about the ciphertext gives you *no* information about the plaintext.

## What are the requirements in order to achieve Perfect Security?

**Theorem -  $|\mathcal{K}| \geq |\mathcal{C}| \geq |\mathcal{P}|$ :** If you have perfect security then  $|\mathcal{K}| \geq |\mathcal{C}| \geq |\mathcal{P}|$ .

**TLDR:** If you have perfect security your key can not be shorter than your ciphertext, which cannot be shorter than your plaintext.

## What is Entropy?

**Definition 5.6:** Let  $X$  be a random variable that takes values  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  with probabilities  $p_1, \dots, p_n$ . Then the entropy of  $X$ , written  $H(X)$ , is defined to be:

$$H(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log_2(1/p_i)$$

**TLDR:** If an event  $A$  occurs with probability  $p$  and you are told that  $A$  occurred, then you have learned  $\log_2(1/p)$  bits of information. **TLDR:** The entropy  $H(X)$  can be described as:

- How many bits we need to send on average to communicate the value of  $X$ .
- The amount of uncertainty you have about  $X$  before you are told what the value is.

## What are the bounds for Entropy?

**Theorem 5.7:** For a random variable  $X$  taking  $n$  possible values, it holds that  $0 \leq H(X) \leq \log_2(n)$ . Furthermore,  $H(X) = 0$  **iff** one value  $X$  has probability 1 (and the others 0).  $H(X) = \log_2(n)$  **iff** it is uniformly distributed, i.e., all probabilities are  $1/n$ .

**TLDR:** If the entropy of  $X$  is 0 there is no uncertainty, meaning that we know the value of  $X$ . If the entropy of  $X$  is 1 then the uncertainty of  $X$  is highest meaning that all possible values of  $X$  have the same probability.

## What is the definition for Conditional Entropy?

**Definition 5.9:** Given the above definition of  $H(X | Y = y_j)$ , we define the conditional entropy of  $X$  given  $Y$  to be:

$$H(X | Y) = \sum_j P[Y = y_j] H(X | Y = y_j)$$

## For deterministic cryptosystems, what is the entropy of the key given the ciphertext ( $H(K | C)$ )?

**Theorem 5.11:** For any cryptosystem with deterministic encryption function, it holds that:

$$H(K | C) = H(K) + H(P) - H(C)$$

**TLDR:** Answers how much uncertainty remains about the key given the ciphertext

## What is Redundancy in a language

**Definition - Redundancy:** Given a language  $L$  and a plaintext space  $\mathcal{P}$ , the *redundancy* of the language is the amount of superfluous information is contained, on average in the language  $L$ .

$$R_L = \frac{\log(|\mathcal{P}|) - H_L}{\log(|\mathcal{P}|)} = 1 - \frac{H_L}{\log(|\mathcal{P}|)}$$

$H_L$  is a measure of the number of bits of information each letter contains in the language  $L$ , on average. For English, we have that  $H_L$  is (very approximately) 1.25 bits per letter.

$$H_L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H(P_n)/n$$

**TLDR:** A language contains redundancy, which is how much duplicate information there is on average in the language.

**Example:** The following sentence displays redundancy in english:

*“cn y rd th flwng sntnc, vn f t s wrtn wtht vcls?”*

## What is the definition for Spurious Keys?

**Definition - Spurious Keys:** If an adversary has a ciphertext  $y$  that he wants to decrypt, he can try all keys and see if  $y$  decrypts to meaningful english. If  $y$  decrypts to meaningful english under the *wrong* key, then that key is said to be a *spurious key*.

**TLDR:** A spurious key is a key that *seems* to be the correct key for a ciphertext but is not.

## What is the formula for the number of Spurious Keys?

**Definition - Number of Spurious Keys:** The average number of spurious keys, taken over all choices of ciphertexts of length  $n$ :

$$sp_n = \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{C}^n} P[\mathbf{y}] |K(\mathbf{y})| - 1 = \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{C}^n} P[\mathbf{y}] |K(\mathbf{y})| - 1$$

Given a ciphertext  $\mathbf{y}$ , we use  $K(\mathbf{y})$  to denote the set of keys that are possible given this ciphertext. More precisely, a key  $K$  is in this set if decryption of  $\mathbf{y}$  under  $K$  yields a plaintext that could occur with non-zero probability:

$$K(\mathbf{y}) = \{K \in \mathcal{K} \mid P[D_K(\mathbf{y}) > 0]\}$$

**TLDR:** This formula for  $sp_n$  describes the average number of spurious keys of a ciphertext  $\mathbf{y}$  of length  $n$ .

## What is the definition for Unicity Distance?

**Definition 5.12:** The unicity distance  $n_0$  of a cryptosystem is the minimal length of plaintexts such that  $sp_{n_0} = 0$ , if such a value exists, and  $\infty$  otherwise.

**TLDR:** The unicity distance tells you how many times you can encrypt something where multiple keys seem to be valid keys.

## For a deterministic cryptosystem, what is the bound for the Unicity Distance?

**Theorem 5.13:** Assume we have a cryptosystem with deterministic encryption function, where the plaintext and ciphertext alphabets have the same size ( $|\mathcal{C}| = |\mathcal{P}|$ ), and where keys are uniformly chosen from  $\mathcal{K}$ . Assume we use the system to encrypt sequences of letters from language  $L$ . Then

$$n_0 \geq \frac{\log(|\mathcal{K}|)}{R_L \log(|\mathcal{P}|)}$$

**TLDR:** If we reuse keys, our unconditional security will always be gone, once we encrypt enough plaintext under the same key. The only exception is the case where  $R_L = 0$  which leads to  $n_0$  being  $\infty$ . Which makes sense, if every sequence of characters is a plaintext that can occur, the adversary can never exclude a key.