

# Modern Cryptanalysis of Historical Ciphers

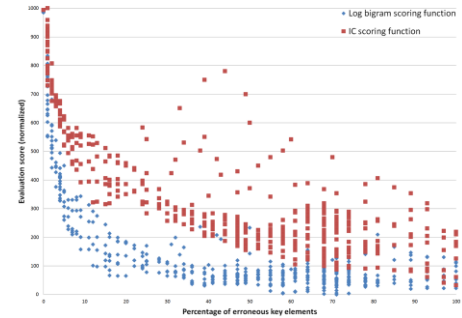
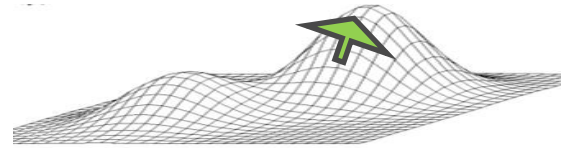
*November 1, 2019*  
*George Lasry*

# Agenda

- **Introduction**
  - Motivation
  - Difficulty
  - Generic approaches
- **Case studies**
  - Hagelin M-209
  - Playfair
  - Double transposition
  - SIGABA

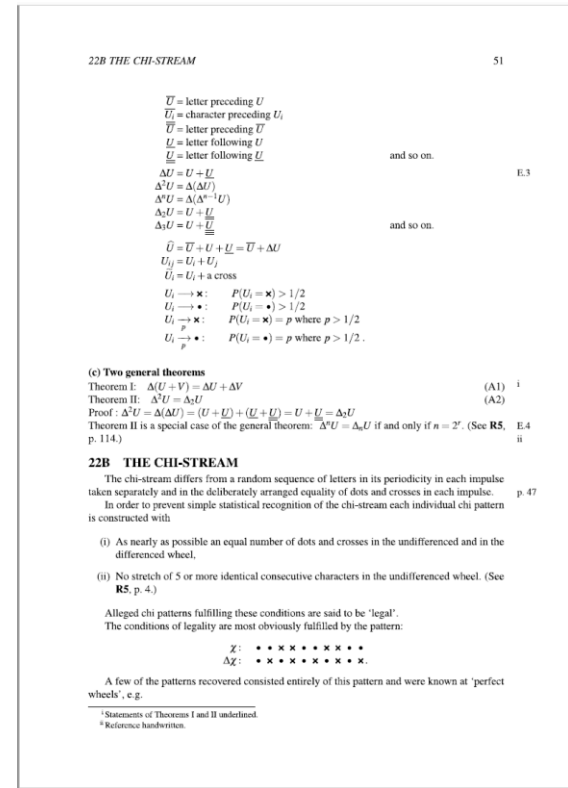
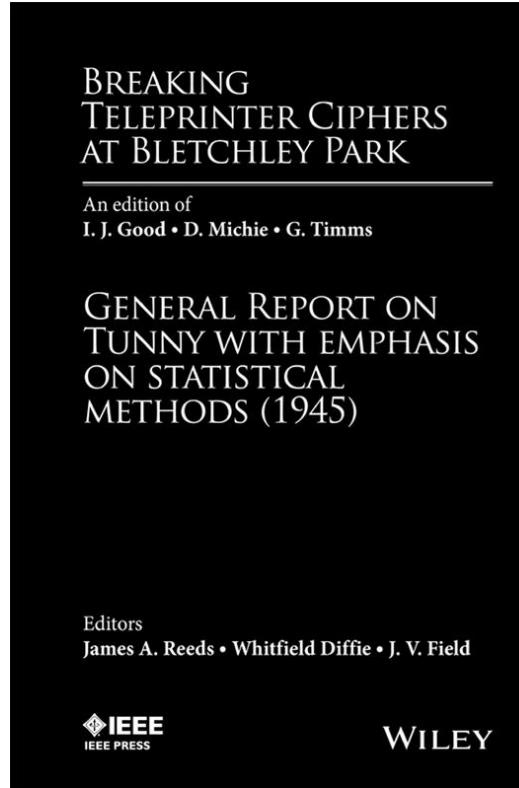
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# Motivation

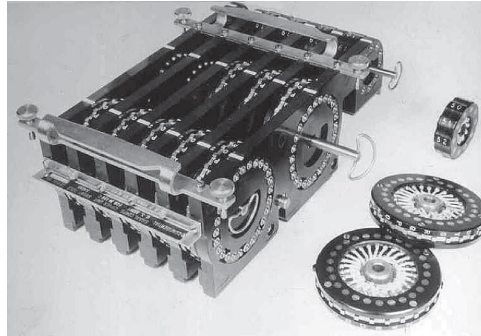
- Historical cryptanalysis
- Undecrypted texts
- Public challenges
- Fun



# Difficulty - Factors

- **System design**

- Diffusion
- Confusion
- Weaknesses



- **Key**

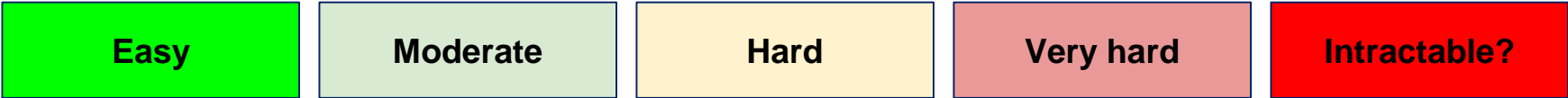
- Key space/length

- **Ciphertext**

- Length
- Language



# Difficulty



Monoalphabetic substitution

Playfair (long ciphertext)

Playfair (short ciphertext)

**Playfair (very short)**

Fialka

Transposition (short key)

**Transposition (long key)**

**ADFGVX**

**Double transposition**

Double transposition (long random key)

Vigenere

Enigma (long ciphertext)

Enigma (short ciphertext)

**SIGABA (known plaintext)**

**Hagelin M-209 (long ciphertext)**

**Hagelin M-209 (short ciphertext)**

**Hagelin M-209 (known plaintext)**

**Sturgeon T52 (regular stepping)**

**Sturgeon T52 (irregular stepping)**

# Generic Approaches - 1

## Exhaustive Search

- **Simple brute force**
- **Dictionary search**
- Match some constraints (e.g., known plaintext)
- Or optimize a scoring function

## Combinatorial Search

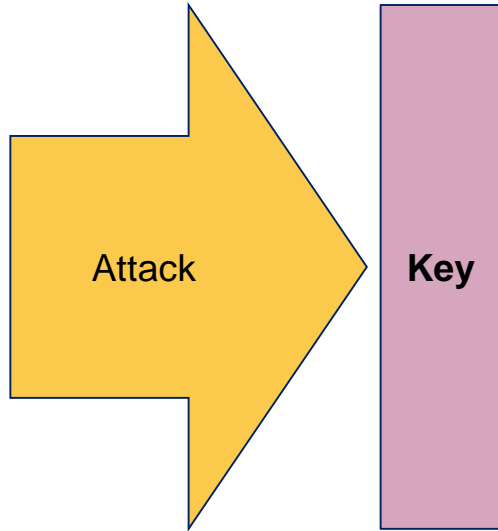
- **Backtracking**
- **Meet in the Middle (MITM)**
- Match some constraints

## Stochastic Search

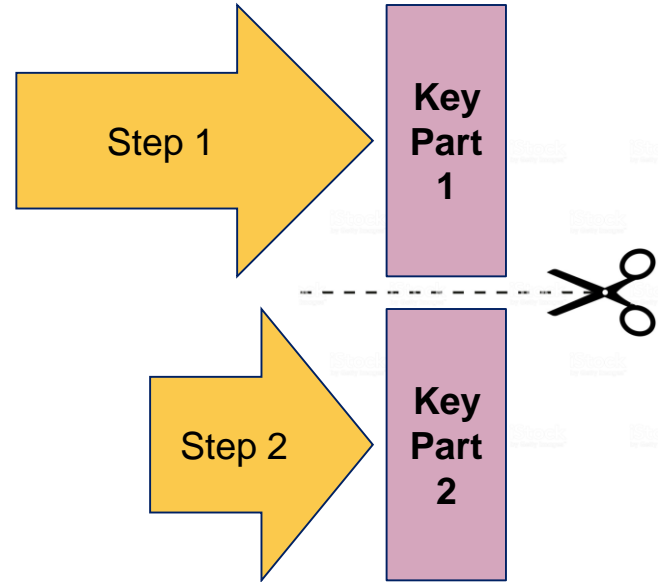
- **Hill climbing**
- **Simulated annealing**
- Hybrid (e.g., nested)
- Others (e.g., genetic algorithms)
- Optimize a fitness or scoring function

# Generic Approaches - 2

## Frontal Attack

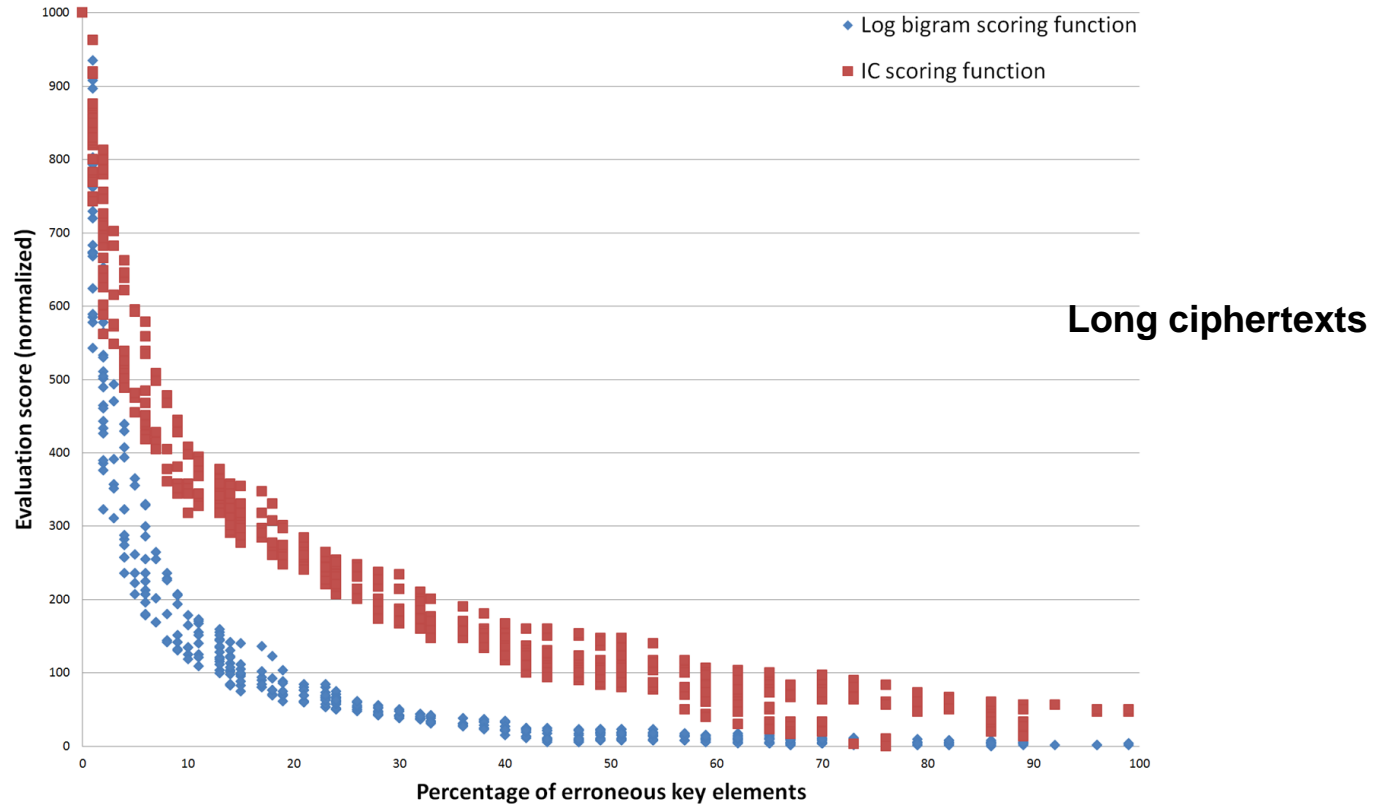


## Divide and Conquer

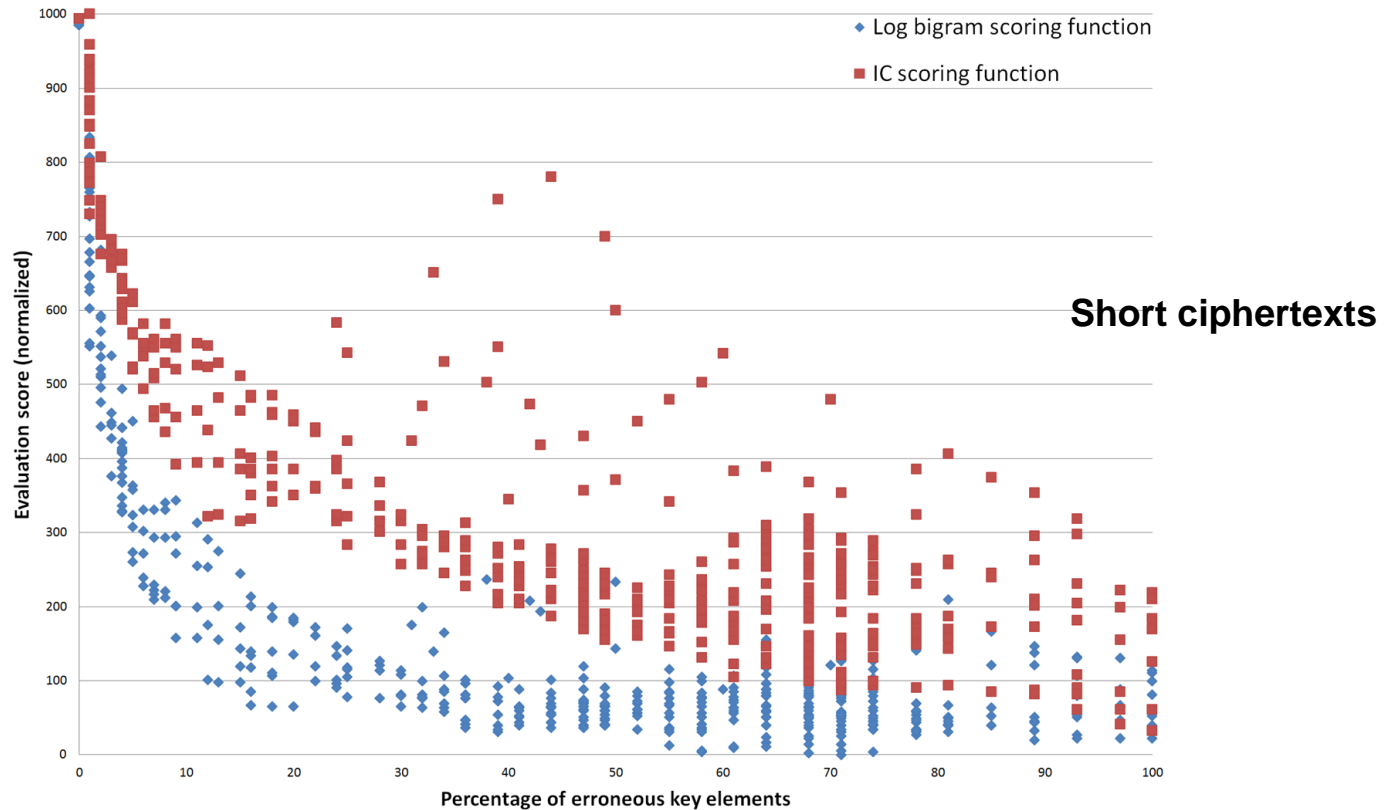




# Scoring Functions - Resilience to Errors vs. Selectivity



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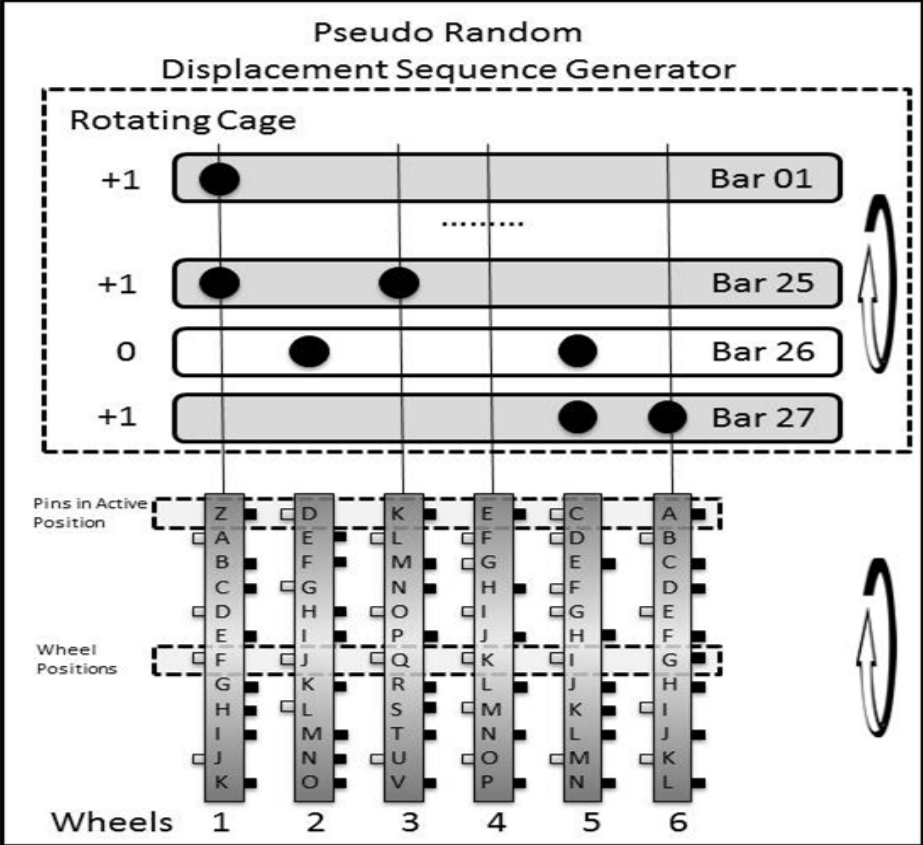
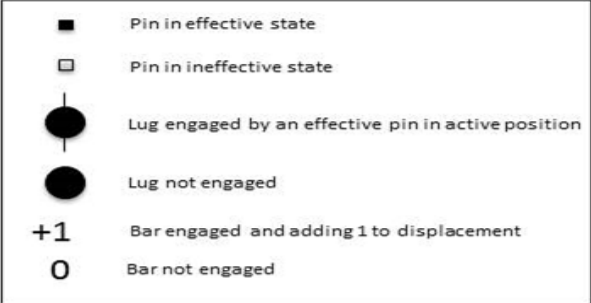
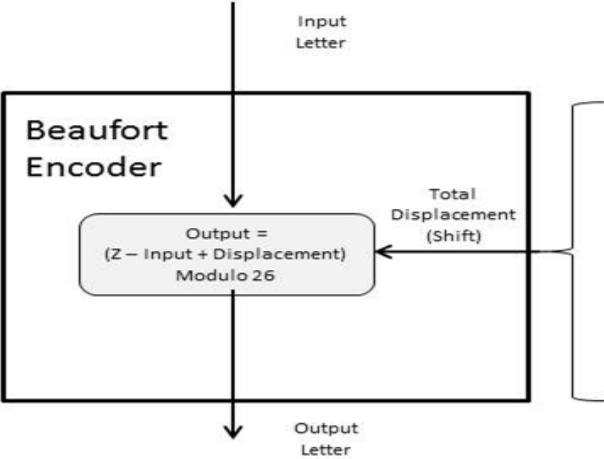


# Hagelin M-209



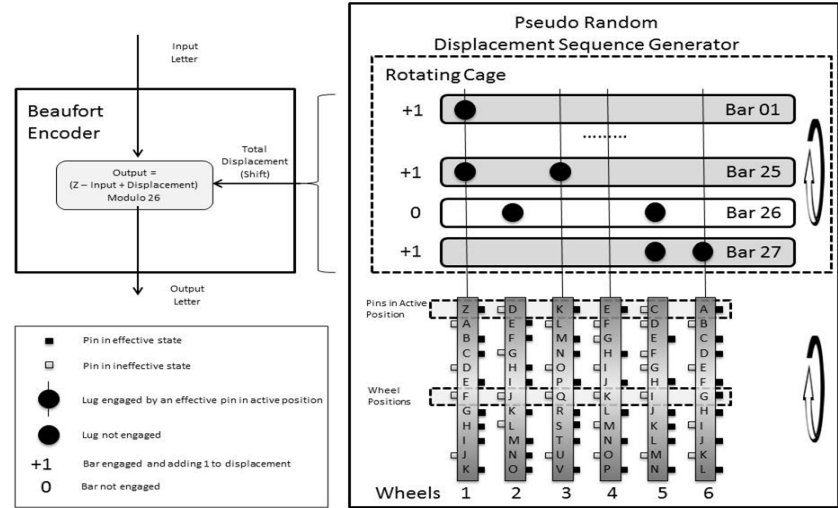
Boris Hagelin  
1892-1983

# Hagelin M-209 – Functional Diagram



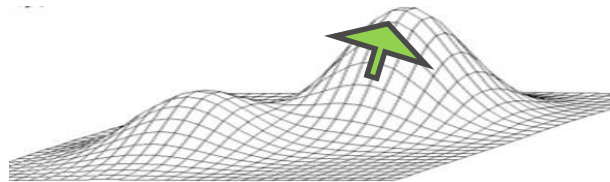
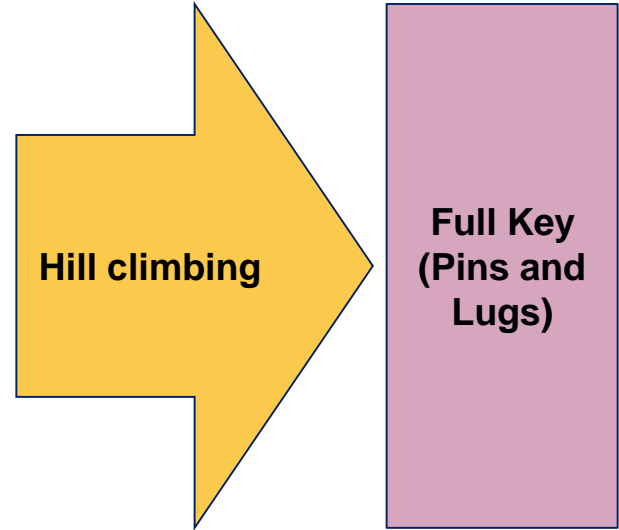
# Hagelin M-209 - Key Space

- **Wheel pins**
  - $2^{131}$  options
- **Lugs**
  - $2^{38}$  options
- **Total keyspace**
  - $2^{169}$

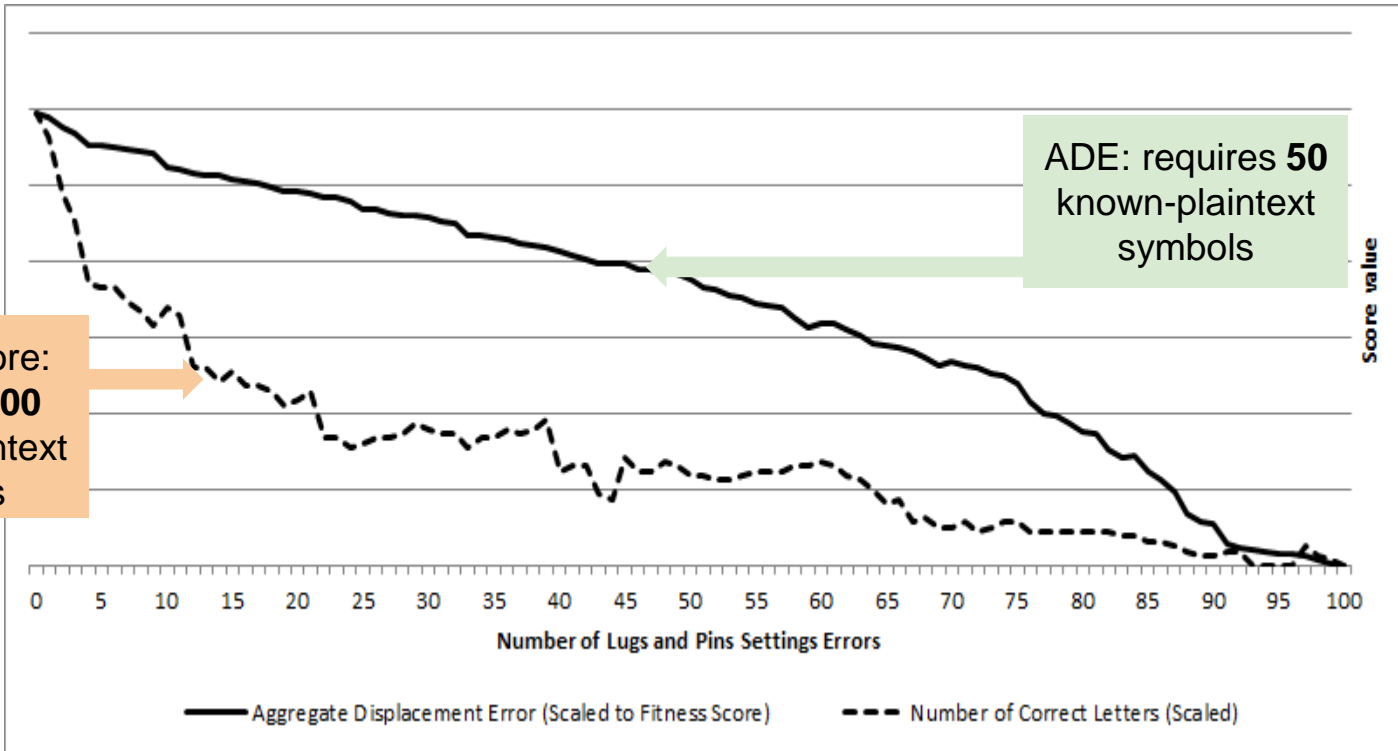


# Known-Plaintext Attack

- **Frontal attack**
  - On full key space - pins and lugs
- **Hill climbing**
- **Specialized score**
  - ADE - Aggregate Displacement Score



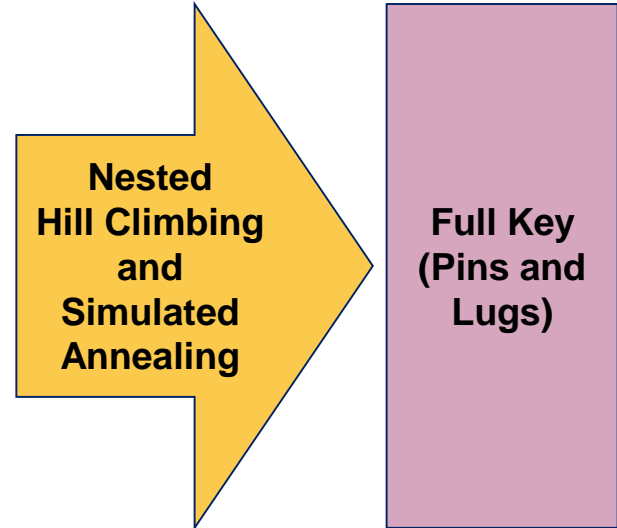
# Known-Plaintext Attack - ADE Scoring Function





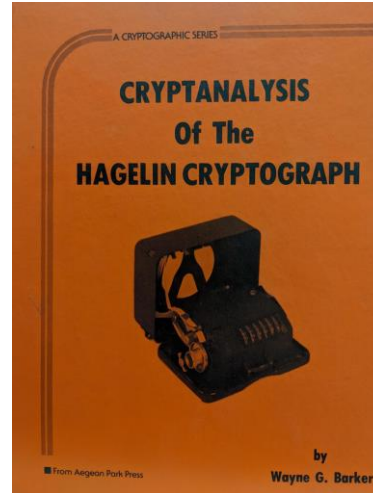
# M-209 - Ciphertext-Only Attack

- **Frontal nested attack**
- **Outer hill climbing - lugs**
  - Inner simulated annealing - pins
- **Log monograms**
- **Requires only 500 letters**
  - Vs. 1500 with previous attacks



# M-209 - Ciphertext-Only Attack

- Frontal nested attack
- Outer hill climbing - lugs
  - Inner simulated annealing - pins
- Log monograms
- Requires only 500 letters
  - Vs. 1500 with previous attacks
- **Challenges solved**
  - 1035 letters - 1977
  - 500 letters - 2012




```
FNUWK LHDHS VBVAV QYLMQ KJAGF  
MAEBZ ENVAZ OSNMQ FXOIR ZRNGW  
HCFCY JTSGB APNPU IXSPW YXOGC  
SCCEP QCKVK VXNIF BENTR WOCQQ  
HIUWZ MPPWP ZOVWH ZIJLU VRSCG  
NPQYC WPPQL ICNRR MOUWW PIKRC  
VYECN BAFAL EBOBU JQQOT UFEPQ  
NHIOY XKPCM JEIMI MDPZY JRJPI  
QJWLC FEROP JKGUG HXPKG QTYOM  
KYQZX OIKJN KRLTH FRNBY QVAQH  
NJHPQ UKYOZ SPOTH NHOIQ HGLXP  
EKND5 AAMZR NNAKS HGMXO NNDTG  
EVCEY SXACE LPXGC FICYW ZWOVF  
EYYWH EVQFL (1035)
```

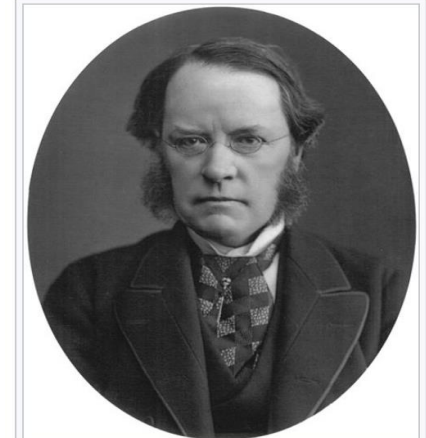



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The Playfair system was invented by [Charles Wheatstone](#), who first described it in 1854. 



[Lord Playfair](#), who heavily promoted  its use.

P	L	A	Y	F
I	R	E	X	M
B	C	D	G	H
K	N	O	Q	S
T	U	V	W	Z

# The Playfair Cipher – Key Square

- **Keyword:**

– PLAYFAIREXAMPLE

P	L	A	Y	F	A				
I	R	E	X	A	M	P	L	E	A
B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	=	J
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	
T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z			

# The Playfair Cipher – Encryption Rule 1

P	L	A	Y	F
I	R	E	X	M
B	C	D	G	H
K	N	O	Q	S
T	U	V	W	Z

HI

Shape: Rectangle  
Rule: Pick Same Rows,  
Opposite Corners

BM

# The Playfair Cipher – Encryption Rule 2

P	L	A	Y	F
I	R	E	X	M
B	C	D	G	H
K	N	O	Q	S
T	U	V	W	Z

EX

Shape: Row

Rule: Pick Items to Right of Each Letter, Wrap to Left if Needed

XM

# The Playfair Cipher – Encryption Rule 3

P	L	A	Y	F
I	R	E	X	M
B	C	D	G	H
K	N	O	Q	S
T	U	V	W	Z

DE

Shape: Column  
Rule: Pick Items Below Each  
Letter, Wrap to Top if Needed

OD

# The Playfair Cipher – Example

Original plaintext: Hide the gold in the tree stump

Formatted plaintext: HI DE TH EG OL DI NT HE TR EX ES TU MP

Ciphertext: BM OD ZB XD NA BE KU DM UI XM MO UV IF



# Prior Attacks

- **Historical attacks**

- Ciphertext only: 800 letters (Mauborgne, 1918)
- Key from keyword: 30 letters (Monge, 1936)
- From crib

- **Modern attacks**

- Hillclimbing: hundreds of letters
- Simulated annealing: 80 letters (Cowan, 2008)
  - 4-grams, logarithmic scale
- Compression-based: 60 letters (Al-Kazaz et al., 2018)
  - Order 5, equivalent to 6-grams on log. scale



**SOLUTION OF A PLAYFAIR CIPHER<sup>1</sup> \***  
By Private **ALF MONGE**, *Ninth Signal Service Company*

## Breaking Short Playfair Ciphers with the Simulated Annealing Algorithm

MICHAEL J. COWAN

**Abstract** Describes adaptation of simulated annealing to solve short playfair ciphers (80-120 letters) without using a probable word.

**Keywords** classical ciphers, cryptanalysis, Playfair, short ciphers, simulated annealing (SA)

## An Automatic Cryptanalysis of Playfair Ciphers Using Compression

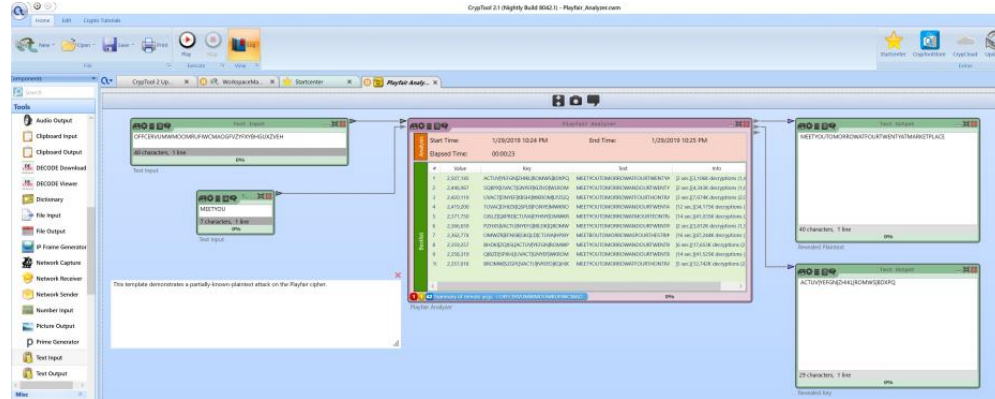
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# Ciphertext-Only Attack - Short Ciphertexts

- **Integrated into CryptTool 2**
  - Java code
  - Analysis Connector API
- **Simulated Annealing**
  - Enhanced
- **6-grams**
- **Rich transformations**
  - Swaps of any 2 elements/rows/columns
  - Permutations of the rows/columns, inside row/column



# Simulated Annealing - Variable Temperature

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**Algorithm 4** Simulated annealing algorithm - variable temperature

---

```
1: procedure SIMULATEDANNEALING( $C, N, T_0, \alpha$ )      ▷  $N$  = SA rounds,  $\alpha$  = cooling factor
2:    $BestKey \leftarrow CurrentKey \leftarrow RandomKey()$ 
3:    $T \leftarrow T_0$ 
4:   for  $I = 1$  to  $N$  do
5:     for  $Transformation \in PossibleTransformations$  do
6:        $CandidateKey \leftarrow Apply(Transformation, CurrentKey)$ 
7:        $D \leftarrow S(CandidateKey, C) - S(CurrentKey, C)$       ▷ Degradation
8:        $P_a \leftarrow e^{-\frac{|D|}{T}}$       ▷ Acceptance probability
9:       if  $D > 0$  or  $Random(0..1) < P_a$  then
10:         $CurrentKey \leftarrow CandidateKey$       ▷ New key accepted
11:        if  $S(CurrentKey, C) > S(BestKey, C)$  then
12:           $BestKey \leftarrow CurrentKey$       ▷ Found a better global key
13:         $T \leftarrow \alpha \cdot T$       ▷ Reduce temperature
14:   return  $BestKey$ 
```

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# Simulated Annealing - Fixed Temperature

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## Algorithm 5 Simulated annealing algorithm - fixed temperature

---

```
1: procedure SIMULATEDANNEALING( $C, N, T$ )                                ▷  $T = \text{fixed temperature}$ 
2:    $BestKey \leftarrow CurrentKey \leftarrow RandomKey()$ 
3:   for  $I = 1$  to  $N$  do
4:     for  $Transformation \in PossibleTransformations$  do
5:        $CandidateKey \leftarrow Apply(Transformation, CurrentKey)$ 
6:        $D \leftarrow S(CandidateKey, C) - S(CurrentKey, C)$                                 ▷ Degradation
7:        $P_a \leftarrow e^{-\frac{|D|}{T}}$                                           ▷ Acceptance probability
8:       if  $D > 0$  or  $Random(0..1) < P_a$  then
9:          $CurrentKey \leftarrow CandidateKey$                                           ▷ New key accepted
10:      if  $S(CurrentKey, C) > S(BestKey, C)$  then
11:         $BestKey \leftarrow CurrentKey$                                           ▷ Found a better global key
12:   return  $BestKey$ 
```

---

# Simulated Annealing - Minimal Acceptance Probability

**Algorithm 6** Simulated annealing algorithm - with minimal acceptance probability

```
1: procedure SIMULATEDANNEALING( $C, N, T, P_{min}$ )   ▷  $P_{min} = \text{min. acceptance probability}$ 
2:    $BestKey \leftarrow CurrentKey \leftarrow RandomKey()$ 
3:   for  $I = 1$  to  $N$  do
4:     for  $Transformation \in PossibleTransformations$  do
5:        $CandidateKey \leftarrow Apply(Transformation, CurrentKey)$ 
6:        $D \leftarrow S(CandidateKey, C) - S(CurrentKey, C)$                                ▷ Degradation
7:        $P_a \leftarrow e^{-\frac{|D|}{T}}$                                                        ▷ Acceptance probability
8:       if  $D > 0$  or ( $Random(0..1) < P_a$  and  $P_a > P_{min}$ ) then
9:          $CurrentKey \leftarrow CandidateKey$                                            ▷ New key accepted
10:        if  $S(CurrentKey, C) > S(BestKey, C)$  then
11:           $BestKey \leftarrow CurrentKey$                                              ▷ Found a better global key
12:   return  $BestKey$ 
```


# Klaus SchmeH's Challenges



**Playfair cipher: Is it unbreakable, if the message has only 50 letters?**

Von Klaus SchmeH / 7. April 2018 / 15 Kommentare / Seite 1 von 2 / [Auf einer Seite lesen](#)

Gefällt mir 11 Twittern Mehr



<p>Rule 1</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>U</td><td>R</td><td>P</td><td>I</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td></tr> <tr><td>F</td><td>G</td><td>H</td><td>K</td><td>L</td></tr> <tr><td>M</td><td>N</td><td>O</td><td>Q</td><td>T</td></tr> <tr><td>V</td><td>W</td><td>X</td><td>Y</td><td>Z</td></tr> </table>	S	U	R	P	I	E	A	B	C	D	F	G	H	K	L	M	N	O	Q	T	V	W	X	Y	Z	LM->I	<p>Rule 2</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>U</td><td>R</td><td>P</td><td>I</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td></tr> <tr><td>F</td><td>G</td><td>H</td><td>K</td><td>L</td></tr> <tr><td>M</td><td>N</td><td>O</td><td>Q</td><td>T</td></tr> <tr><td>V</td><td>W</td><td>X</td><td>Y</td><td>Z</td></tr> </table>	S	U	R	P	I	E	A	B	C	D	F	G	H	K	L	M	N	O	Q	T	V	W	X	Y	Z	BA->CB
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The Playfair cipher is an encryption method from the 19th century. Some say that a Playfair-encrypted message of 50 or less letters is still secure today, if the method is used properly. Let's put this claim to the test.




**Playfair cipher: Is it breakable, if the message has only 40 letters?**

Von Klaus SchmeH / 8. Dezember 2018 / 11 Kommentare /

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My readers have shown that a Playfair cryptogram consisting of only 50 letters can be broken. Here's a Playfair challenge with only 40 letters. Can you break it, too?



**Playfair cipher: Is it breakable, if the message has only 30 letters?**

Von Klaus SchmeH / 15. April 2019 / 7 Kommentare / Seite 1 von 2 / [Auf einer Seite lesen](#)

Gefällt mir 5 Twittern Mehr



<p>Rule 1</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>U</td><td>R</td><td>P</td><td>I</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td></tr> <tr><td>F</td><td>G</td><td>H</td><td>K</td><td>L</td></tr> <tr><td>M</td><td>N</td><td>O</td><td>Q</td><td>T</td></tr> <tr><td>V</td><td>W</td><td>X</td><td>Y</td><td>Z</td></tr> </table>	S	U	R	P	I	E	A	B	C	D	F	G	H	K	L	M	N	O	Q	T	V	W	X	Y	Z	LM->I	<p>Rule 2</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>U</td><td>R</td><td>P</td><td>I</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td></tr> <tr><td>F</td><td>G</td><td>H</td><td>K</td><td>L</td></tr> <tr><td>M</td><td>N</td><td>O</td><td>Q</td><td>T</td></tr> <tr><td>V</td><td>W</td><td>X</td><td>Y</td><td>Z</td></tr> </table>	S	U	R	P	I	E	A	B	C	D	F	G	H	K	L	M	N	O	Q	T	V	W	X	Y	Z	BA->CB
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# Agenda

- Introduction

- Motivation
- Difficulty
- Generic approaches

- Case studies

- Hagelin M-209
- Playfair
- Double transposition
- SIGABA

3	2	7	6	4	5	1
K	E	Y	W	O	R	D
T	H	I	S	I	S	A
S	E	C	R	E	T	T
E	X	T	E	N	C	R
Y	P	T	E	D	B	Y
T	H	E	D	O	U	B
L	E	T	R	A	N	S
P	O	S	I	T	I	O
N	C	I	P	H	E	R

(a)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
D	E	K	O	R	W	Y
A	H	T	I	S	S	I
T	E	S	E	T	R	C
R	X	E	N	C	E	T
Y	P	Y	D	B	E	T
B	H	T	O	U	D	E
S	E	L	A	N	R	T
O	O	P	T	I	I	S
R	C	N	H	E	P	I

(b)

5	2	1	4	3	6
S	E	C	R	E	T
A	T	R	Y	B	S
O	R	H	E	X	P
H	E	O	C	T	S
E	Y	T	L	P	N
I	E	N	D	O	A
T	H	S	T	C	B
U	N	I	E	S	R
E	E	D	R	I	P
I	C	T	T	E	T
S	I				

(c)

1	2	3	4	5	6
C	E	E	R	S	T
R	T	B	Y	A	S
H	R	X	E	O	P
O	E	T	C	H	S
T	Y	P	L	E	N
N	E	O	D	I	A
S	H	C	T	T	B
I	N	S	E	U	R
D	E	I	R	E	P
T	C	E	T	I	T
I	S				

(d)



# Double Transposition Cipher - The “Spy Cipher”

3	2	7	6	4	5	1
K	E	Y	W	O	R	D
T	H	I	S	I	S	A
S	E	C	R	E	T	T
E	X	T	E	N	C	R
Y	P	T	E	D	B	Y
T	H	E	D	O	U	B
L	E	T	R	A	N	S
P	O	S	I	T	I	O
N	C	I	P	H	E	R

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
D	E	K	O	R	W	Y
A	H	T	I	S	S	I
T	E	S	E	T	R	C
R	X	E	N	C	E	T
Y	P	Y	D	B	E	T
B	H	T	O	U	D	E
S	E	L	A	N	R	T
O	O	P	T	I	I	S
R	C	N	H	E	P	I

5	2	1	4	3	6
S	E	C	R	E	T
A	T	R	Y	B	S
O	R	H	E	X	P
H	E	O	C	T	S
E	Y	T	L	P	N
I	E	N	D	O	A
T	H	S	T	C	B
U	N	I	E	S	R
E	E	D	R	I	P
I	C	T	T	E	T
S	I				

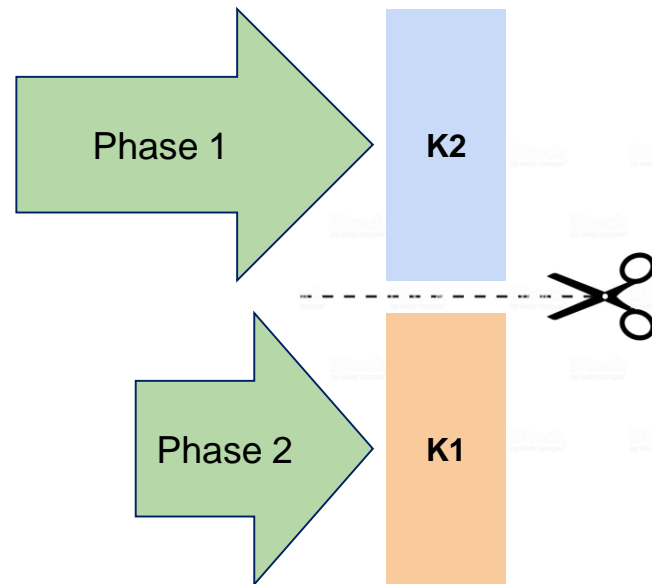
1	2	3	4	5	6
C	E	E	R	S	T
R	T	B	Y	A	S
H	R	X	E	O	P
O	E	T	C	H	S
T	Y	P	L	E	N
N	E	O	D	I	A
S	H	C	T	T	B
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D	E	I	R	E	P
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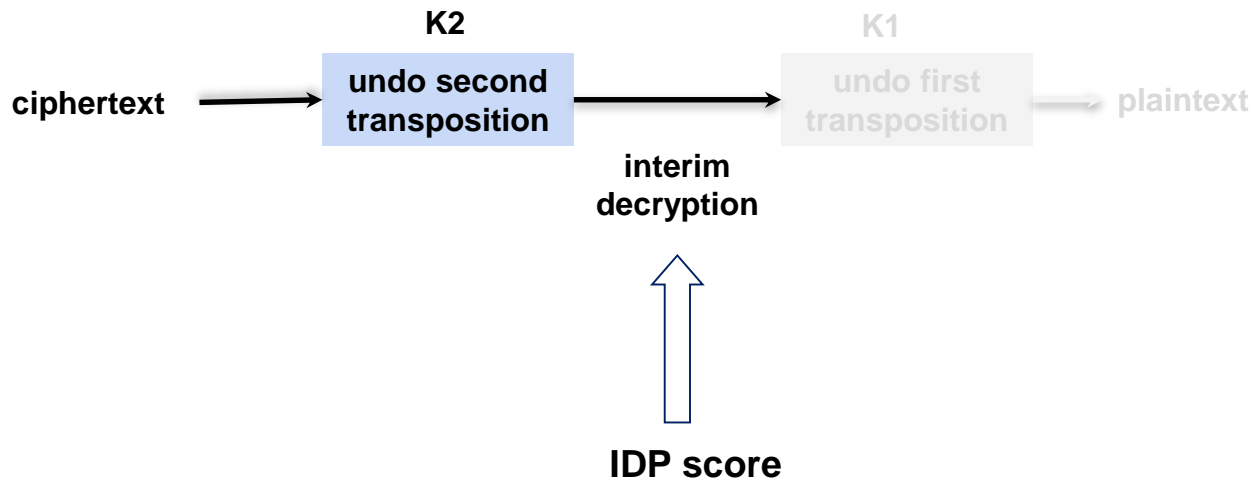


# Double Transposition - Attack

- **Divide and Conquer**
- **Phase 1**
  - Find K2
  - Hillclimbing
  - *Specialized scoring - IDP*
- **Phase 2**
  - Undo K2 and find K1
  - Hillclimbing, 4-grams



# IDP - Index of Digraphic Potential



- Hillclimbing
- Dictionary attack

# The Double Transposition Cipher Challenge, 2007

- **Otto Leiberich**
- **Klaus Schmeh**
- **Secure parameters**
  - Different K1 and K2
  - Key lengths 20 to 25
  - Cryptogram length



VESINTNVONMWSFEWNOEALWRNRNCFITEEICRHCODDEEAHEACAEOHMYTONTDFIFMDANGTDRVAONRRTORMTDHE  
QUALTHNFHHWHLESIIAOTOUTOSCDNRITYEELSOANGPVSHLRMUGTNUITASETNENASNANRTRRHGUODAAAR  
AOEGHEESAODWIDEHUNNTFMUSISCDLEDTRNARTMOOIREEYEIMINFELORWETDANEUTHEEEENENTHEOOEAUEA  
EAHUHICNCGDTUROUTNAEYLOEINRDHEENMEIAHREEDOV . . .

# Solving the Challenge



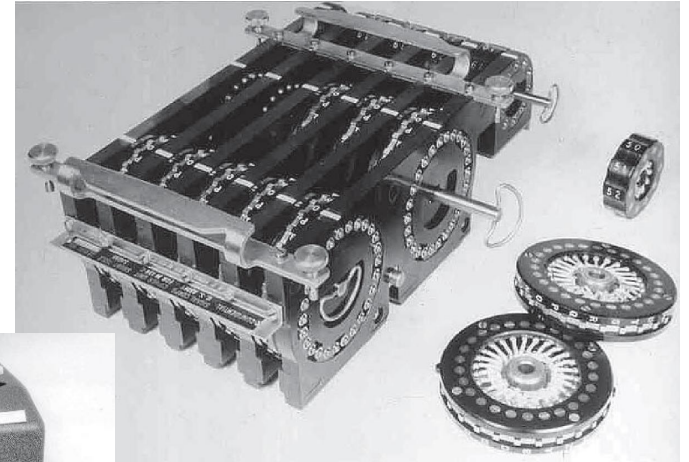
***What exciting news, deciphering the “Doppelwürfel”!  
I congratulate you to this great success.***

*Otto Leiberich, December 29, 2013*

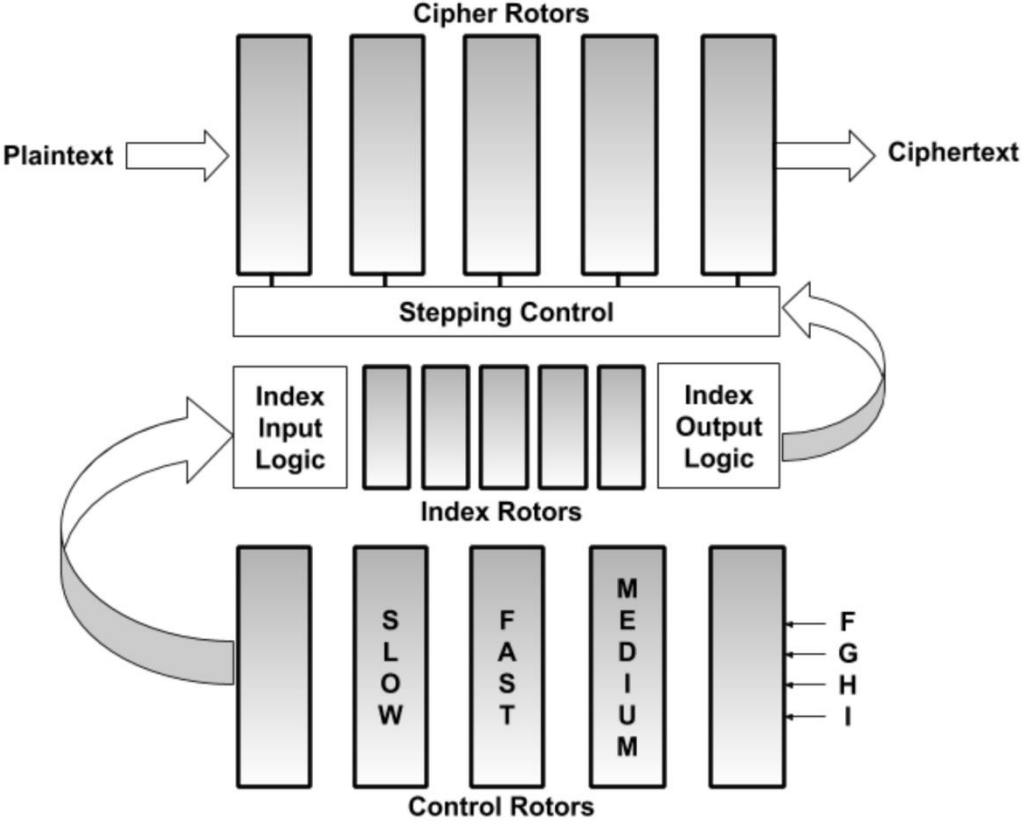


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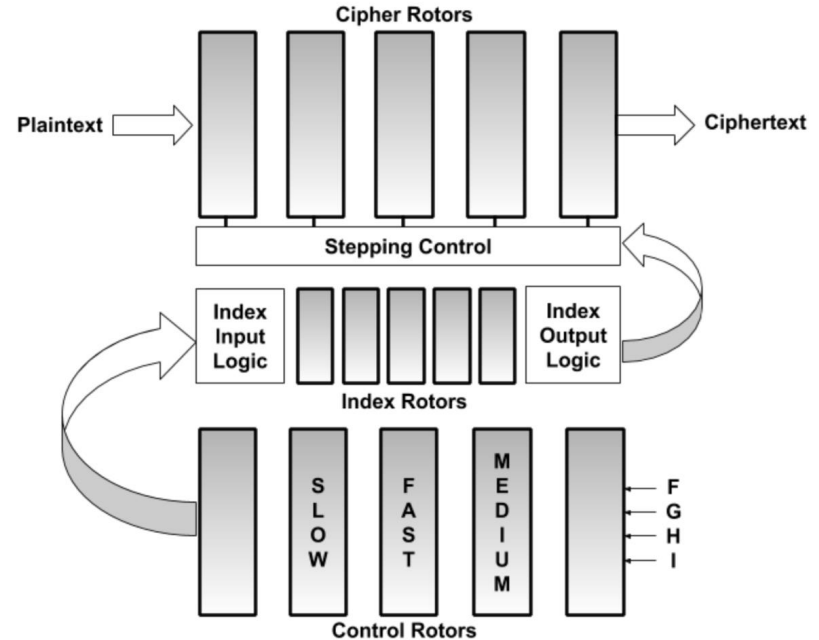


# Design of SIGABA



# SIGABA - Key Space

- **Cipher and control rotors**
  - $2^{78.8}$  options
- **Index Rotors**
  - $2^{16.8}$  options
- **Total keyspace**
  - $2^{95.6}$



# Prior Attacks

- **WW2**
  - “U.S. 5-letter traffic: Work discontinued as unprofitable at this time.”
- **Savard and Pkelney – 1999**
  - Attack on messages “in depth”
  - Unrealistic operational scenario
- **Stamp and Chan – 2007, Stamp and Low – 2007**
  - Known-plaintext attack
  - $2^{86.7}$  vs.  $2^{95.6}$  for brute-force attack

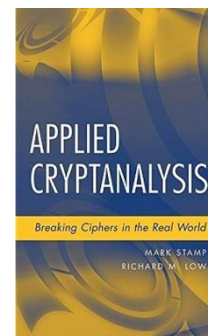


## THE ECM MARK II: DESIGN, HISTORY, AND CRYPTOLOGY

John J. G. Savard<sup>1</sup> and Richard S. Pkelney<sup>2</sup>

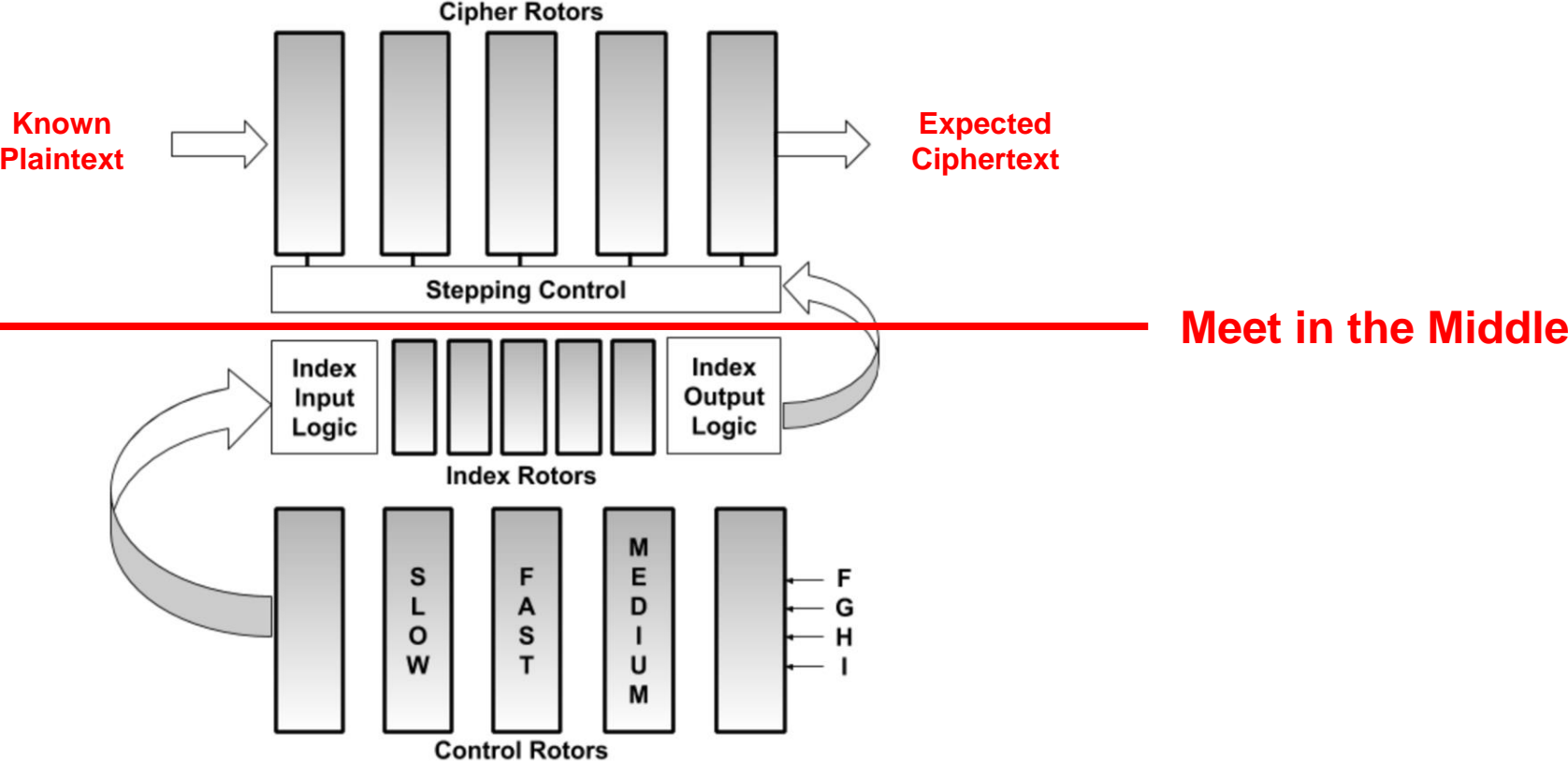
ADDRESS: (1) 10245 - 151 Street, Edmonton Alberta, T5P 1T6 CANADA, jsavard@ecn.ab.ca and (2) 1817 Jackson St., Apt. 2, San Francisco CA 94109 USA, pkelney@rspeng.com

ABSTRACT: The ECM Mark II, a highly secure electromechanical cipher machine used during and after World War II, is described and examined with a view to assessing the relevance of each of its features to its security. A cryptanalytic attack on the machine is outlined, which, however, requires the availability of a large number of identically-keyed messages.

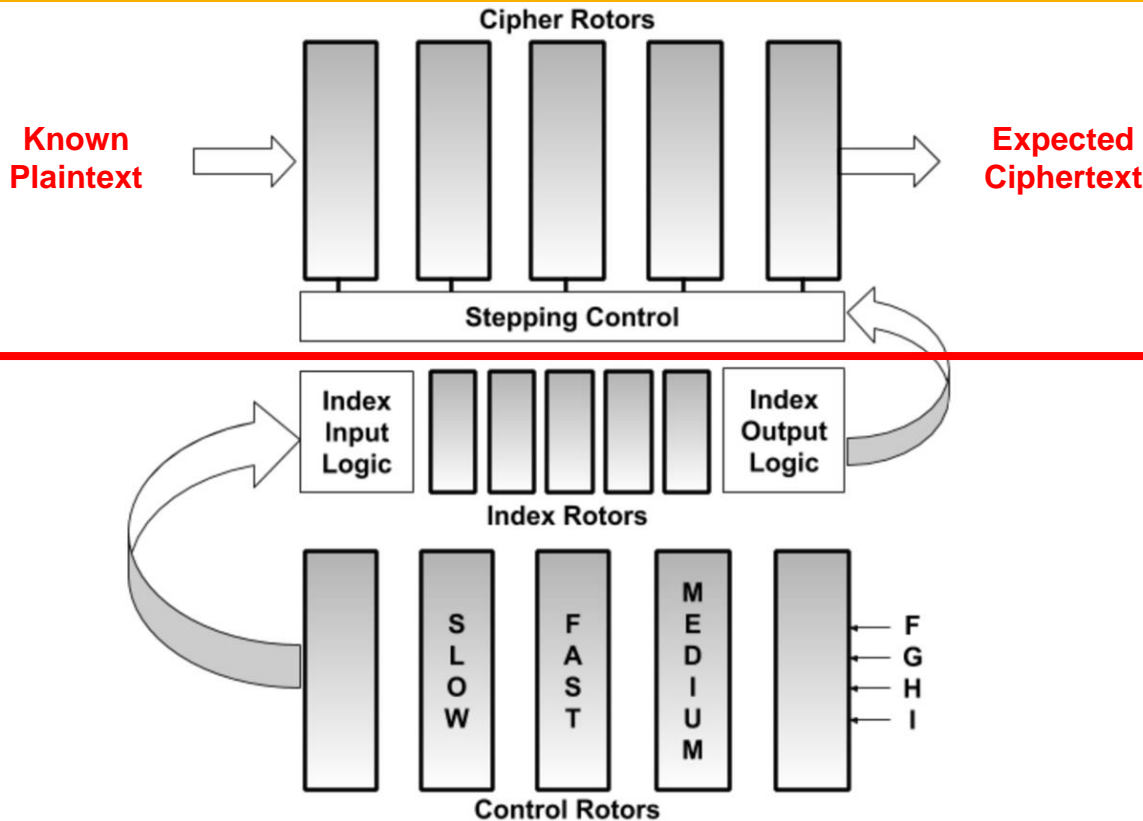




# New Known-Plaintext Attack – Concept



# New Known-Plaintext Attack – Outline



**Phase 1:** Find matching *cipher* rotor settings and stepping sequences

**Meet in the Middle**

**Phase 2:** Find *control* and *index* rotor settings that generate one of the matching *cipher* stepping sequences

# Hash Table for Meet-in-the-Middle Attack

**Stepping Sequence (Hash Key)**

(Maps to) **Cipher Rotor Settings**

		<b>Rotor Selection</b>					<b>Starting Positions</b>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	
01011 01000 11001 00111 00111 11110 00010	⇒	8R	0	4R	7	1	H Y J N H
	⇒	1	7R	0	8R	4	T U A L M
01111 01100 11100 11001 00010 10101 10001	⇒	1R	4	8R	7	0	K H J N M
11010 10011 00111 10101 00111 00110 10011	⇒	0	8R	7R	4	1R	E Q A M B

# Meet-in-the-Middle Attack – Complexity

- **Processing**
  - Phase 1:  $2^{47.1}$
  - Phase 2:  $2^{60.2}$
  - Overall:  $\max(2^{47.1}, 2^{60.2}) = 2^{60.2}$
  - Comparison:
    - $2^{95.6}$  for brute-force attack
    - $2^{86.7}$  for best prior attack (Stamp & al. 2007)
    - $2^{56}$  for DES – cracked in 1997
- **Space**
  - About 80GB RAM for hash table
- **Feasible with modern technology**



# Solving MysteryTwisterC3 Challenges

**MysteryTwister C3**  
THE CRYPTO CHALLENGE CONTEST

NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS: **9622**

MTC3 PARTNERS

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The four levels Level I Level II **Level III** Level X Challenges Hall-of-Fame Overall Hall-of-Fame Submit a challenge




## Level III Challenges (59)


Page 1 of the challenges in **Level III**, ordered by date posted (the most recent appear first).

 **Sigaba Part 2**  
[stamp-06] - 3 users already solved this challenge.

 Decrypt the given ciphertext which is encrypted with the Sigaba machine.  
Please give the letters in the key as capital letters.

 This challenge has solutions that cannot be automatically checked. If you find such a solution and want to receive your points please write us an [E-Mail](#).  
[Read more...](#)

 Click [here](#) to get to the corresponding forum topic to share your opinion.  
 Click [here](#) to download the challenge.  
 Click [here](#) to download the additional file of the challenge.

 Congratulations George Lasry! You've already solved this challenge. You are number 3 in the [hall of fame](#) of this challenge.

# New Challenges

	Ciphertext	First 100 Plaintext Letters	Hint
#1	GSZQEMAGFULNFZHHRVUTCUEXU FBMPDGORORJRPMAUDOZMJWJCVH YCBZDELQWKVLYJLSZBQJXWXLR WOIMBVUTBAVRHPPPYQDTIURLV IQGIZSEVGXOYCMGESFOXDLPFT UQQCRDSRNFDTBDDULFJKQGXZB XKKIMSBSIUZSZNOCLEFRRVTO XFQRRXLDEMSLORKXUCGDKCZKY ULDORUGEDLTTROBUVWJTBVH YWOKANYJCGQUYGPMSMJRILZP SQJQXKKMGEMGWQKXWVKF	AHZFOULZSHREWDZNEWSZBESHR EWZTHYZVERYZHEARTZI ZDIDZN OTZTHINKZTOZBEZSOZSADZTON IGHTZASZTHISZHATHZMADEZME	All cipher and control rotors are at position A.
#2	ZMJHMLJTJSSHZEEMXJRVZCUS PMETNBPZQCAHGYJDHJNQNMTHY EJAOOQYFSURONLTOGOVKOMABX QXGKRAVBZYWBRWYGLBYFNNA XIVJVOJYBQGTWJIZESYBRAN XEWYDRMYAINJWDFWBVCTHRGL ZCTNHWWBRYJSZSYMSLUXBLZ STDEARVCGSMTJOWIRFXYIBZCF CCYRUXMUCISNUIFLCOJYZQTB DWVFDJHZBNSAPYAUWYQGFY ZJYWP CWRVSVCTPHTFPGHCCJAM CFZRHYNFXJVVWNNN	WOULDSTZTHOUZNOTZBEZGLADZ TOZHAVEZTHEZNIGGARDLYZRAS CALLYZSHEEPBITERZCOMEZBYZ SOMEZNOTABLEZSHAMEZFABIAN	The last 4 cipher rotors and the last 4 control rotors are at position A.
#3	HYQUSBFHVDVKSLSKGUQIVZAR QKCQZBLGCTCLQHZNBEQVUOJH BROKUKRYXWPGSPDJSNLLTDSB MTTPRPFHMSXPLBDENAYJWAQZD JDXGBJCWXNARABTTSEZBJDYHT NEIQCCRTFUAZDITVBHJGWQHF UHAPPBYPJALXGELTILPULVSNC BJJIGFJNYDURITVWYHTNFKSLS ALTHLBYQBYXUK	TISZWONDERFULWHATZMAYZBE ZWROUGHTZOUTZOFZTHEIRZDIS CONTENTZNOWZTHATZTHEIRZSO ULSZAREZTOPFULZOFZOFFENCE	The last 3 cipher rotors and the last 3 control rotors are at position A.

#4	CXZZZGZOLDYDPAGJQTFJSEYZP ORHMSTYLQVJSARJLDCBYXFPKB NREAEYVOPBQKVFYETYOUQNMAT CBWIFKJWZJFZWZHMJYQALVNXY UDUVEJGJNBWZRCVMIHDHLPDSD LSBPTFNEGWIAIRZZPIPPVEBWW VBGLNCGBKWFUUCVGTGKGEHJQ XGEHVPLDLDLALNWNVDXOTPPWCQ HNAWFTXVOWIZFVRWXBIIJDFAU TMCNWDHLSCHNOBQRURVLCXLB YDXKMPYIWPYOXPFXBNE.SBUCR WZECWYOUXTVVNRGGHPTE	IZWILLZBESPEAKZOURZDIETZW HILESZYOUZBEGUILEZTHEZTIM EZANDZFEEDZYOURZKNOWLEDGE ZWITHZVIEWINGZOFZTHEZTOWN	The last 2 cipher rotors and the last 2 control rotors are at position A.
#5	JJWJZMPUKYDGRHSPIXTYPAPA IVGFOTXMFWRZLBRXQPNRYLCPF WNNZFHFSMVIEEDAHZOMBIVPA RTAOWYORFACGAIUAFFDCTEV YZAQIQXVHZFCIBSVSQJMYPTS YNWXBFBKDKVDXQZQEVVGAAMI LRFYRGIPJCKVVPQAEIAIMOPY XCSJFDAUHYZYVQJXGGZTMCAGW BEICRYROYCPNGEZQFVVQTSZBP SZYWCNNWMBUCNYQX	HOWMIGHTZWEZSEZEFALSTAFF ZBESTOWZHIMSELFZTONIGHTZI NZHISZTRUEZCOLOURSZANDZNO TZOURSSELVESZBEZSEENZPOINS	The last cipher rotor and the last control rotor are at position A.
#6	FWEYNOPSTLFFMXXQITVIMRVHOL YDEIROBXPVZVBLCSJPSYIXIY IJHJMCHAWSWAQBHSUVASAGYLR DJREKIFQXBEJZUFVIJBJMWVT VSPHOQTRAECHEEJLBRCDTGKRP OVSKDYWNWNIUTPKVXSHDCBC WVYDGBVJLMPZJROXKDPDTMC PHXGCTHPDLVHYQHHRFTTKSOTE IWAXEDMUOVBLSLZUWFTYGNCOY YPHZRNJRBXYVVSNPYWAEMXOIV UQWAXAECBOODIPLWGCQVJVDX GKCBXHCUK	TOZHAVEZNOZSCREENZBETWEEN ZTHISZPARTZHEZPLAYDZANDZH IMZHEZPLAYDZITZFORZHEZNEE DSZWILLZBEZABSOLUTEZMILAN	No hint given.

Table 1: New SIGABA Challenges

# Reference Source Code for SIGABA Simulator

- Used to create the challenges
- Validated against:
  - Pekelney (1998)
  - Itself validated against real machine
  - Sullivan (2002)

## 5 Appendix – Source Code and Challenges

Listing 1: SIGABA Simulator Source Code

```
package simulator;

class Sigaba {
    private Rotor cipherBank[] = new Rotor[5];
    private Rotor controlBank[] = new Rotor[5];
    private IndexRotor indexBank[] = new IndexRotor[5];
    Sigaba(String cph, String cti, String ids,
           String cphP, String ctiP, String idsP) {
        for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
            cipherBank[i] =
                new Rotor(cph.charAt(i) - 2) - '0',
                        cph.charAt(i) - 2 + 1) == 'R',
                        cphP.charAt(i) - 'A' - 3;
            controlBank[i] =
                new Rotor(cti.charAt(i) - 2) - '0',
                        cti.charAt(i) - 2 + 1) == 'R',
                        ctiP.charAt(i) - 'A' - 3;
            indexBank[i] =
                new IndexRotor(ids.charAt(i) - '0',
                               idsP.charAt(i) - '0');
        }
    }

    String encryptDecrypt(boolean decrypt, String in) {
        String outString = "";
        for (char c : in.toCharArray()) {
            outString +=
                (char) cipherPath.decrypt(c - 'A' + 'A');
            cipherBankUpdate();
            controlBankUpdate();
        }
        return outString;
    }

    private void controlBankUpdate() {
        if (controlBank[2].pos == (int) '0' - 'A') {
            // rotate rotor mome
            if (controlBank[3].pos == (int) '0' - 'A') {
                // same rotor mome
                controlBank[1].advance();
            }
            controlBank[3].advance();
        }
        // fast rotor always mome
        controlBank[2].advance();
    }

    private static final int INDEX_IN[] =
        {9, 1, 2, 3, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6,
         6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8};
    private static final int INDEX_OUT[] =
        {1, 5, 5, 4, 4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 1};
    private void cipherBankUpdate() {
        boolean move[] = new boolean[5];
        for (int i = (int) '0' - 'A';
             i <= (int) '9' - 'A';
             i++) {
            int indexIn = INDEX_IN[controlPath(i)];
            move[INDEX_OUT[indexIn] - 1] = true;
        }
        for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
            if (move[i]) cipherBank[i].advance();
        }
    }

    private int cipherPath(boolean decrypt, int c) {
        if (decrypt) {
            for (int i = 4; i >= 0; i--)
                c = cipherBank[i].rightToLeft(c);
        } else {
            for (int i = 0; i <= 4; i++)
                c = cipherBank[i].leftToRight(c);
        }
        return c;
    }

    private int controlPath(int c) {
        for (int i = 4; i >= 0; i--)
            c = controlBank[i].rightToLeft(c);
        return c;
    }

    private int indexPath(int c) {
        for (int i = 0; i <= 4; i++)
            c = indexBank[i].indexPath(c);
        return c;
    }
}

static class Rotor {
    private static final String WRINGS =
        "YUHQZGHEIKNSQZKQWJFAMQOM",
        "SPXWVOTLXVACTVJLQZGKZGZ",
        "WNRKQZTANFPQJMSVKEJLCE",
        "TQZURWBNVULZGQWVWYKZLCE",
        "VYWTARQVLCZUNRQJZVAFKRC",
        "QJZHTKAGKQWVYMNZSLDE",
        "TUBKQZNSANVTQZUNWLPKQZ",
        "CTKALYTBKQZSRYKZGZKQZ",
        "VNRKQZNSANVTQZUNWLPKQZ",
        "ZZZJAMQOYTCESBIBNNULJLWNR";
    // Index for left to right
    private static final int TO_RIGHT = 0;
    // Index for right to left
    private static final int TO_LEFT = 1;
    private int wiring[] = new int[26];
    int pos;
    private boolean reversed;
    Rotor(int wiringIndex, boolean reversed, int pos) {
        for (int i = 0; i < 26; i++)
            wiring[TO_RIGHT][i] =
                wiring[TO_LEFT][i] = i;
        wiring[TO_LEFT][wiring[TO_RIGHT][i]] = i;
        this.reversed = reversed;
        this.pos = pos;
    }

    void advance() {
        if (reversed) {
            pos = (pos + 1) % 26;
        } else {
            pos = (pos - 1 + 26) % 26;
        }
    }

    int leftToRight(int in) {
        if (!reversed) {
            return
                (wiring[TO_RIGHT][(in+pos)%26] - pos + 26) % 26;
        }
        return
            (pos - wiring[TO_LEFT][(pos-in+26)%26] + 26) % 26;
    }

    int rightToLeft(int in) {
        if (reversed) {
            return
                (wiring[TO_LEFT][(in+pos)%26] - pos + 26) % 26;
        }
        return
            (pos - wiring[TO_RIGHT][(pos-in+26)%26] + 26) % 26;
    }
}

static class IndexRotor {
    private static final int WRINGS[] = {
        {7, 5, 9, 1, 4, 8, 2, 6, 3, 0},
        {3, 8, 1, 0, 5, 9, 2, 7, 6, 4},
        {4, 0, 8, 6, 1, 5, 3, 2, 9, 7},
        {3, 9, 8, 0, 5, 2, 6, 1, 7, 4},
        {6, 4, 9, 7, 1, 3, 5, 2, 8, 0}};
    private int pos;
    IndexRotor(int wiringIndex, int pos) {
        System.arraycopy(WRINGS[wiringIndex], 0,
            wiring, 0, 10);
        this.pos = pos;
    }

    int indexPath(int in) {
        return (wiring[(in + pos) % 10] - pos + 10) % 10;
    }
}

public static void main(String[] args) {
    Sigaba sigaba =
        new Sigaba("ORINZNBAR", "SNONTRBNON",
                  "01234", "ABCDE", "FGHIJ", "01234");
    String out = sigaba.encryptDecrypt(false,
        "AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA");
    System.out.println(
        "The expected FNCAZKXWQKQJRWBDV 'A', out);
    sigaba =
        new Sigaba("ORINZNBAR", "SNONTRBNON",
                  "01234", "ABCDE", "FGHIJ", "01234");
    String in = sigaba.encryptDecrypt(true, out);
    System.out.println(
        "The expected AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA 'A', in);
}
}
```

# Other Projects

Project	Method	Results
<b>ADFGVX</b>	Divide and conquer, hillclimbing, IC and ngrams	600 original Eastern Front German cryptograms, 1918
<b>Sturgeon T52</b>	Divide and conquer, two phases, specialized scoring and monograms Backtracking for known-plaintext attack	Original German cryptograms from 1942
<b>Vatican ciphers</b>	Manual and computerized methods (e.g. simulated annealing)	Homophonic and polyphonic ciphertxts, from 16-18th cent.
<b>WW1 Diplomatic codes</b>	Mostly manual methods	1913-1915 German messages
<b>Enigma - double indicators</b>	Hillclimbing, specialized scoring	5-10 indicators required
<b>Single transposition with long keys</b>	Hillclimbing, two phases, specialized scoring and 4-grams	Key length up to 1000

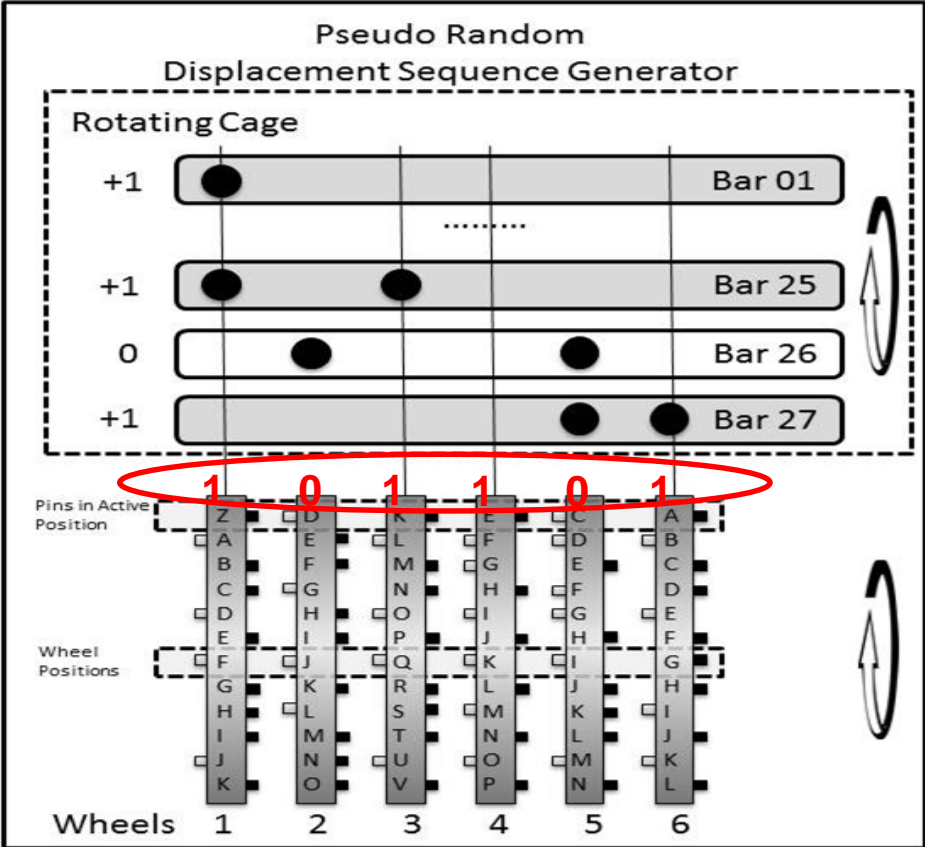
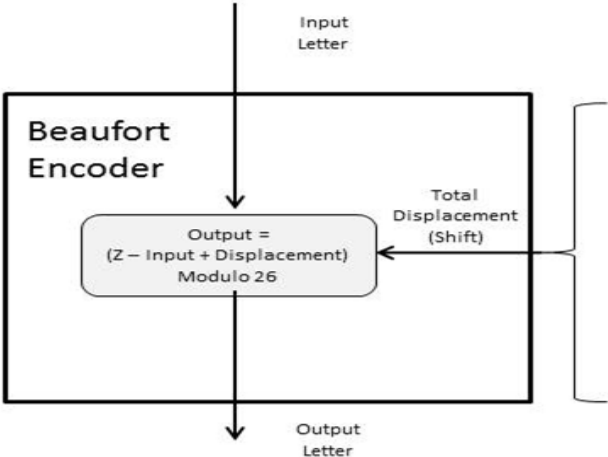


# Thank You

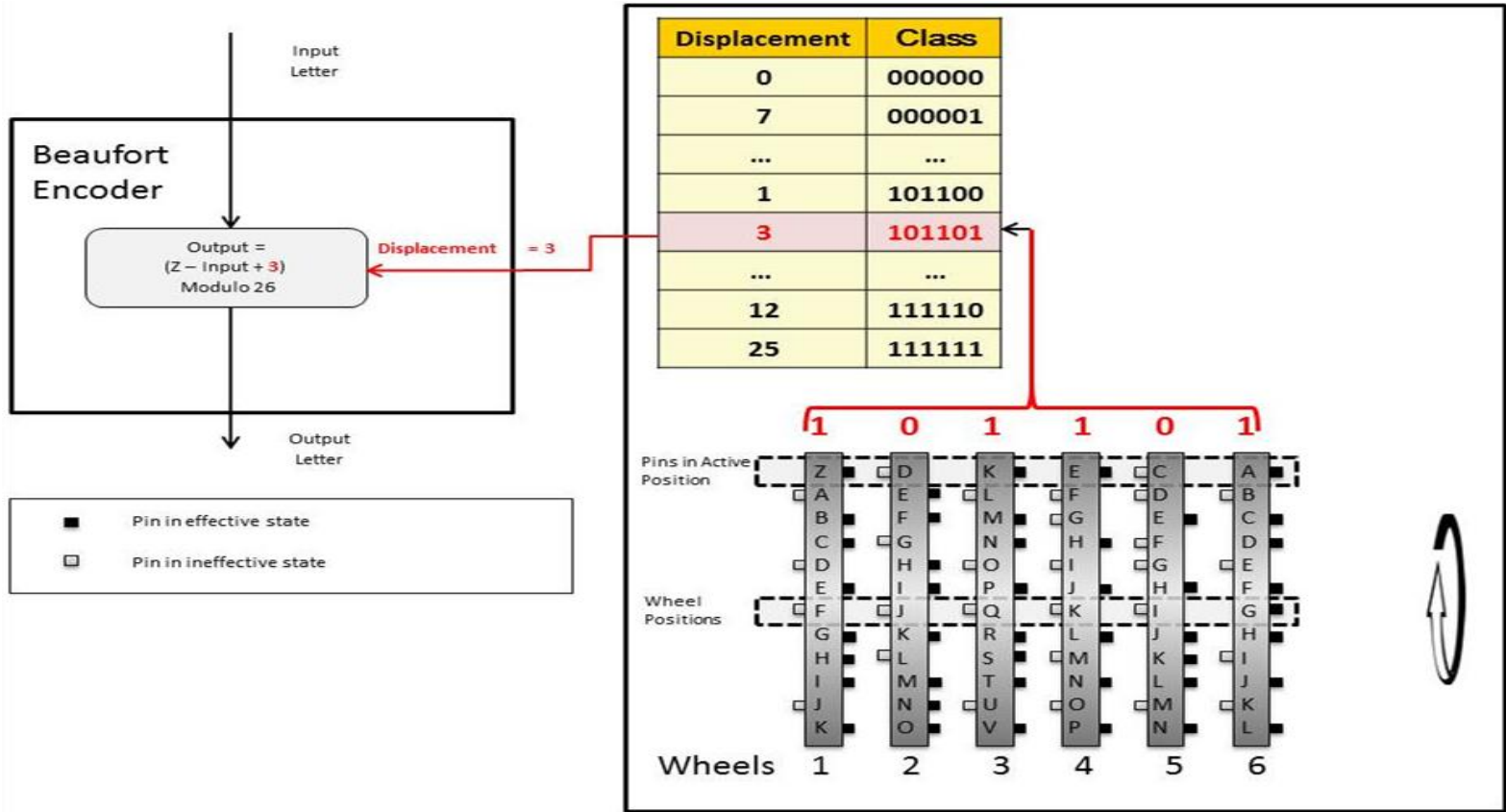
November 1, 2019  
George Lasry, Ph.D.  
[george.lasry@gmail.com](mailto:george.lasry@gmail.com)

- George Lasry, Solving a 40-Letter Playfair Challenge with CrypTool 2, Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Historical Cryptology, HistoCrypt 2019, June 23-26, 2019, Mons, Belgium, [fulltext](#)
- George Lasry, A Practical Meet-in-the-Middle Attack on SIGABA, Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Historical Cryptology, HistoCrypt 2019, June 23-26, 2019, Mons, Belgium, [fulltext](#)
- George Lasry, A Methodology for the Cryptanalysis of Classical Ciphers with Search Metaheuristics, Kassel University Press, Ph.D. Thesis, 2018, [fulltext](#)
- [Full list of publications](#)

# Classes of Active Pins



# Classes of Active Pins



# Classes of Active Pins

Class	Displacement D	Beaufort Encryption $25 - P + D$ Modulo 26
000000	0	25 - P
000001	7	18 - P
...	...	...
101100	1	24 - P
101101	3	22 - P
...	...	...
111110	12	13 - P
111111	25	0 - P



# ADFGVX

	A	D	F	G	V	X
A	C	O	B	X	F	4
D	M	K	3	A	Z	9
F	N	W	L	O	J	D
G	5	S	I	Y	H	U
V	P	1	V	B	6	R
X	E	Q	7	T	2	G

intermediate ciphertext:

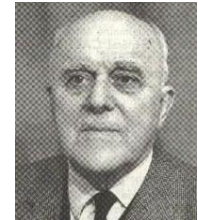
W	E	A	R	E	D	I	S	C	O	V	E	R	E	D
FD	XA	DG	VX	XA	FX	GF	GD	AA	AD	VF	XA	VX	XA	FX
S	A	V	E	Y	O	U	R	S	E	L	F			
GD	DG	VF	XA	GG	AD	GX	VX	GD	XA	FF	AV			

transposition matrix

A	U	T	H	O	R
1	6	5	2	3	4
F	D	X	A	D	G
V	X	X	A	F	X
G	F	G	D	A	A
A	D	V	F	X	A
V	X	X	A	F	X
G	D	D	C	H	F

ciphertext:

F	V	G	A	V	G	X	G	X	A	A	D	F	A	G	G	X	F	D	F
A	X	F	V	A	G	A	G	X	A	A	X	F	D	D	V	X	X	G	V
X	D	G	V	F	D	X	F	D	X	D	A	X	A						



Fritz Nebel  
1891-1967

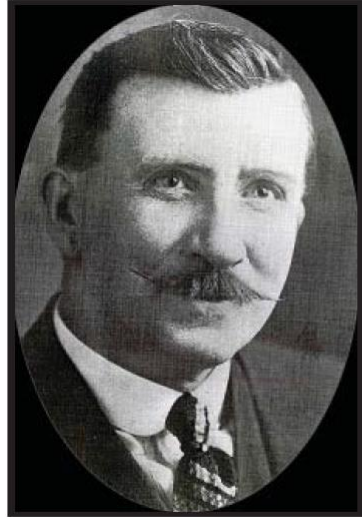


Georges Painvin  
1886-1980

Substitution + Fractionation + Columnar Transposition

# Before SIGABA – Hebern Cipher Machines – 1920s

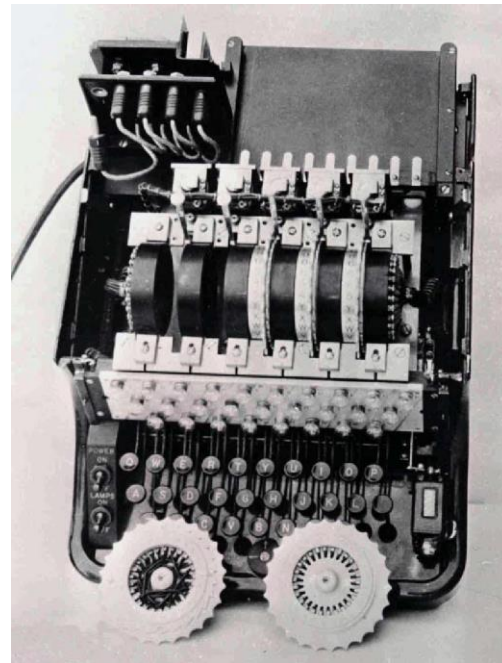
- 5 cipher rotors
- Regular stepping



Edward Hebern and his electromechanical rotor cipher machine

# History of SIGABA – William Friedman's Design

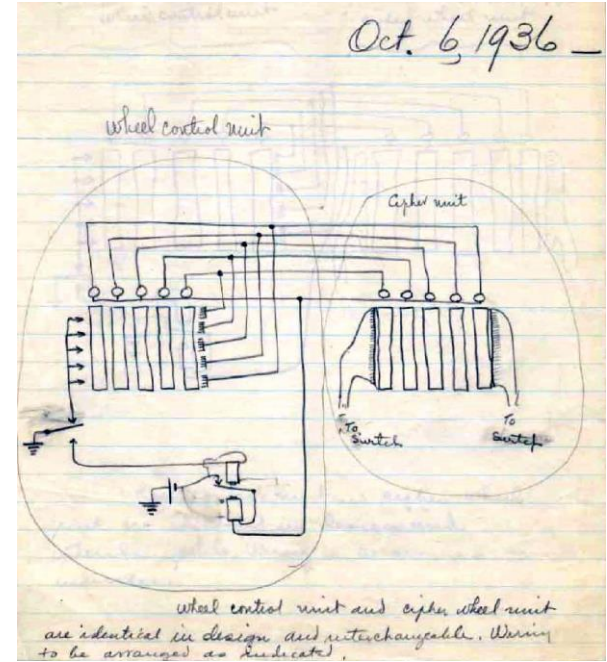
- 5 cipher rotors
- Irregular stepping
  - Punched taps
  - Plugboard





# SIGABA

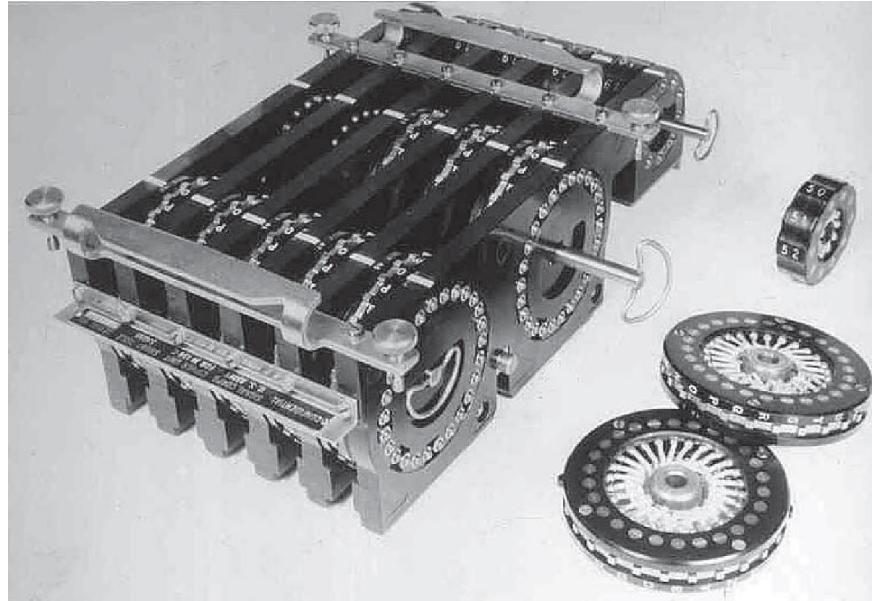
- 5 cipher rotors
- Irregular stepping
  - 5 „control“ rotors
  - Plugboard





# History of SIGABA – Final Design – US Navy

- 5 cipher rotors
- Irregular stepping
  - 5 „control“ rotors
- No plugboard
  - 5 „index“ rotors



# Time-Memory Trade-off

- **Process only 8 known-plaintext symbols**
  - Rotors step up to 7 times
- **Less than 8 - slower**
  - More false positives
- **More than 8 - more memory**
  - More matching sequences
- **Pruning false positives**
  - Use additional known-plaintext symbols
  - Or Index of Coincidence after decrypting ciphertext

(Maps to) Cipher Rotor Settings

Stepping Sequence (Hash Key)	Rotor Selection					Starting Positions
	1	2	3	4	5	
01011 01000 11001 00111 00111 11110 00010	⇒ 8R	0	4R	7	1	HYJNH
	⇒ 1	7R	0	8R	4	TUALM
01111 01100 11100 11001 00010 10101 10001	⇒ 1R	4	8R	7	0	KHJNM
11010 10011 00111 10101 00111 00110 10011	⇒ 0	8R	7R	4	1R	EQAMB