Voting Systems, Mass Murder, and the Enigma Machine

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3/22/11

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Der Reichstag

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German Parliamentary Election Results



Figure: SPRING 1924

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German Parliamentary Election Results



Figure: WINTER 1924

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German Parliamentary Election Results



Figure: SPRING 1928

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German Parliamentary Election Results



Figure: FALL 1930

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German Parliamentary Election Results



Figure: SUMMER 1932

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German Parliamentary Election Results



Figure: FALL 1932

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German Parliamentary Election Results



Figure: SPRING 1933

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German Parliamentary Election Results



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"I consider it completely unimportant who in the party will vote, or how; but what is extraordinarily important is this — who will count the votes, and how."

Figure: Joseph Stalin

1932 German Presidential Runoff: Round One

Candidate	# of votes	%
Hindenberg	18,651,497	49.6
Hitler	11,339,446	30.2
Thälmann	4,983,341	13.2
Düsterberg	2,557,729	6.8

No majority; Düsterberg withdraws; a revote is held.

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1932 German Presidential Runoff: Round Two

Candidate	# of votes	%
Hindenberg	19,359,983	53.1
Hitler	13,418,517	36.7
Thälmann	3,706,759	10.1

Hindenberg wins with majority...

but if no Thälmann supporters changed their votes, round 3 would have given Hitler another chance to make up ground.

This an example of tactical voting.

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In US presidential elections, we only require **plurality** (largest percentage) to win a state. This leads to spoiler situations:

Candidate	%	Candidate	%
Clinton	/0	Bush	48.847
Buch	27 15	Gore	48.838
Dusii Dorot	10.01	Nader	1.635
Othor	0.62	Buchanan	0.293
Other	0.05	Other	0.387

Table: Popular Vote, 1992

Table: Florida Results, 2000

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2009 Burlington, VT Mayoral Race: Round One of IRV

1	Montroll	Montroll	Kiss	Kiss	Wright	Wright
2	Kiss	Wright	Montroll	Wright	Kiss	Montroll
3	Wright	Kiss	Wright	Montroll	Montroll	Kiss
#	1621	935	1890	1091	1397	1897
#	25	54	29	81	32	94

Table: A Possible Preference Schedule

Montroll (D) is eliminated despite being the **Condorcet winner**; votes split among Kiss and Wright.

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2009 Burlington, VT Mayoral Race: Round Two of IRV

1	Kiss	Wright
2	Wright	Kiss
#	2981 + 1621	3294 + 935
#	4602	4229

Table: A Possible Preference Schedule

Wright (R) is eliminated despite having plurality; Kiss (P) wins.

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What if Kiss (the winner) had done better?

1	Montroll	Montroll	Kiss	Kiss	Wright	Wright
2	Kiss	Wright	Montroll	Wright	Kiss	Montroll
3	Wright	Kiss	Wright	Montroll	Montroll	Kiss
#	1621	935	1890	1841	647	1897
#	25	54	2981	+ 750	3294	- 750
#	25	54	37	31	25	44

Table: A Possible Preference Schedule

Wright (R) is eliminated; votes split among Kiss and Montroll.

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What if Kiss (the winner) had done better?

1	Montroll	Kiss
2	Kiss	Montroll
#	2554 + 1897	3731 + 647
#	4451	4378

Table: A Possible Preference Schedule

Kiss (P) is eliminated despite doing better; Montroll (D) wins!

This is a violation of **monotonicity**.

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Atrocities

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Who were the Nazis?



 pro-military: regain lost territories and ignore war reparations

Figure: Hitler, Himmler, & others

Who were the Nazis?



Figure: Hitler, Himmler, & others

- pro-military: regain lost territories and ignore war reparations
- used simplified and symbolic propaganda, fear, repetition, vague promises

Who were the Nazis?



Figure: Hitler, Himmler, & others

- pro-military: regain lost territories and ignore war reparations
- used simplified and symbolic propaganda, fear, repetition, vague promises
- anti-Semitic, anti-Roma, anti-Socialist, anti-Gay, ...: deported/arrested/killed

German Flag and Coat: 1918-1933





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Nazi Flag and Insignia: 1933-1945



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Figure: Nazi Postcard

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Figure: Nazi Propaganda Poster

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Figure: Nazi Children's Book

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Moritz Schlick was a German philosopher and physicist interested in the foundations of mathematics.

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Moritz Schlick was a German philosopher and physicist interested in the foundations of mathematics.

He organized the Vienna Circle, a regular gathering of some of the world's most preeminent critical thinkers.

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The Warsaw Cipher Bureau

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Permutations

Plaintext: ab c de f g h i j k l m n op q r s t uvw x y z Ciphertext: EKMFLGDQVZNTOWYHXUSPAIBRCJ

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SAKSP VPAPV YWMVH QLUS subst ituti oncip hers

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Cycle Notation: (aeltphqxru)(bknw)(cmoy)(dfg)(iv)(jz)(s)

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There are many possible substitution ciphers (permutations):

 $26! = 26 \times 25 \times 24 \cdots \times 2 \times 1 = 403291461126605635584000000$



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Languages have patterns: e.g., letters like e, t, a, o, i, n, s, occur often, and there are common 2- and 3-letter combos...

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Languages have patterns: e.g., letters like e, t, a, o, i, n, s, occur often, and there are common 2- and 3-letter combos...

For this reason, the Germans came up with a machine to systematically generate a new permutation for every letter.

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Figure: An Enigma Machine and Diagram

Enigma generates 16,900 permutations for a given setting.



Figure: Enigma Circuit

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Figure: Enigma Circuit

Each component is a permutation, and composing gives

$$S^{-1}N^{-1}M^{-1}L^{-1}RLMNS$$
,

a product of permutations.

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Figure: Enigma Circuit

Each component is a permutation, and composing gives

$$S^{-1}N^{-1}M^{-1}L^{-1}RLMNS,$$

a product of permutations.

Note: composition isn't commutative, so nothing cancels.

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The fast rotor moves forward each keystroke, so if

P = (abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz),

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The fast rotor moves forward each keystroke, so if

P = (abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz),

then the next letter gets permuted by

$$S^{-1}P^{-1}N^{-1}M^{-1}L^{-1}RLMNPS$$

= (LMNPS)⁻¹R(LMNPS)

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then the next letter gets permuted by

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= (LMNPS)⁻¹R(LMNPS)

and the next letter gets permuted by

$$S^{-1}P^{-2}N^{-1}M^{-1}L^{-1}RLMNP^{2}S$$

= (LMNP²S)⁻¹R(LMNP²S)

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The reflector *R* was self-reciprocal:

 $R^2 = 1$ (the permutation sending each letter to itself)

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so every Enigma permutation was also self-reciprocal:

$$(X^{-1}RX)^2 = X^{-1}RXX^{-1}RX = X^{-1}R^2X = X^{-1}X = 1$$

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So if we start with the same setting is used to encrypt a message, we can decrypt by typing it into the keyboard.

Being self-reciprocal is convenient, but it's also a weakness.

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Another weakness is that of "depth," meaning that the setting needed to be changed for every message.

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A groundsetting was used to send 3-letter message settings.

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Figure: Marian Rejewski

...found patterns in in these encrypted message settings and used permutation theory to crack the Enigma.



Figure: Marian Rejewski

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Figure: Cyclometer

...used to determine cycle types by replicating Enigma motors.



Figure: Alan Turing

... built off the work of Rejewski helping to win the war for the Allies, but he was chemically castrated by his own government for being homosexual.



Figure: Alan Turing

... built off the work of Rejewski helping to win the war for the Allies, but he was chemically castrated by his own government for being homosexual.



Figure: Replicated Bombe

...at Bletchley park; these electromechanical machines were used to determine daily settings by linking up Enigma copies in series.