



SIGABA CSP-889 – PART 1

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SIGABA Encryption Machine



Figure: SIGABA at the National Cryptological Museum – Fort Meade, USA – Source: Wikipedia

Introduction (1/2)

The SIGABA is an electromechanical encryption device used by the US during WWII and in the 1950s. Also known as ECM Mark II, Converter M-134, as well as CSP-888/889, the SIGABA was considered highly secure, and was employed for strategic communications, such as between Churchill and Roosevelt.

The model CSP-888/889 (Navy name) was later adjusted and then called CSP-2900. This series of challenges deals with the unmodified version CSP-889. Soon there will be a series of challenges for the modified version CSP-2900.

Introduction (2/2)

The SIGABA encrypts and decrypts with a set of five rotors, and implements irregular stepping, with two additional sets of rotors generating a pseudo-random stepping sequence. Its full keyspace, as used during WWII, was in the order of $2^{95.6}$. It is believed that the German codebreaking services were not able to make any inroads into the cryptanalysis of SIGABA.

A functional description of the SIGABA is given in the additional zip file, as well as a simulator, and a method for cryptanalysis.

Challenge (1/2)

This challenge is part of a series of challenges with SIGABA CSP-889. In this challenge, you need to recover the plaintext from a ciphertext (320 characters) and a known-plaintext fragment (120 characters). The rotor selection, order, and orientation, as well as the starting position of the rotors are unknown.

The solution to this challenge is described in the (unknown) plaintext. Please enter the solution without any spaces.

Challenge (2/2)

The ciphertext:

KSSAWHJMFJADCASNMCPMBYWILPHZATXAUESMVPRNUEVWZNVPKZNMJ
ANFZBJQUXELSYLVEKTRNODXKKZAQEPFFTMMWTNOXRQUAZGCWPTUVV
SHLZYCTBEAPHGDIYFLOQFERCANUMDRTOCJRUTROFGVUCCKGYEKSE
JSFXQRIAUUGMVMHATICHBDBBFMUGZLN XUWGPFRCA YMDVMAKYGBOLK
QJVMDBESCIVHXYPORBRHTKDLJTPILEEVQXHIWZBJELACQKKDZUTM
JECTFYSCJFMOGTTLEPUCTUWVJNJ TZJPHLWBFYDZVWNJMBEMVDDVZ
SV

The plaintext starts as follows:

THEOPERATIONSOFA CIPHERUSUALLYDEPENDONAPIECE OFAUXILIAR
YINFORMATION CALLEDAKEYTHE ENCRYPTINGPROCEDUREISVARIEDD
EPENDINGONKEYS

Additional Files

The attached zip file includes:

1. Sigaba.java + Sigaba.jar
 - ➡ Java source code and according executable of a simulator, used to create the challenges
2. README.txt
 - ➡ text file with instructions to run the simulator
3. sigaba_funcational.pdf
 - ➡ a paper describing the device