

# Modeling Differences

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# Modeling Differences: the problem

- **I know a user's password is alice123! and the user has changed this password. How do I make use of this information to crack the new password?**
- Try developing a conditional probability distribution. But, we do not have much data? And how does this help in defining a grammar?
- Try using Edit distance (Levenshtein distance) to find passwords close to the seed password. But how close is close?
- Try using transformational approach (s/1/2/, s/1/11/) where we use a set of regular expressions. Simple transformation seem ok but where do we draw the boundary?

# Targeted Attack

- Integrating the information about the target into the probabilistic context-free grammar
- What if we are attacking a specific target that we have some information about
  1. Only one old password of the user is accessible
  2. Two or more successive passwords are available

# Data Collection

- At least a pair of old and new passwords
- More data can help us in defining the transformations by understanding how people change their passwords.
- It could also allow us to use conditional probabilities.
- Used survey questionnaire to collect passwords



Please read the terms of the **Consent Form** carefully.

By checking I Agree below and creating an account, you confirm that you have read the above information, you have asked any questions you may have had and have received answers, and you consent to participate in the study.

### Create an Account

Please create an account for use in this study. Use your FSU email address for your username. Assume you are creating an email account and you want your password to be strong enough. Try to create your password in a manner that you would normally do. You should take whatever steps you normally take to remember and protect your password. **DO NOT** provide passwords that you currently use for another service. All passwords will be saved and analyzed. **DO NOT** use this password elsewhere.

Email Address

your@my.fsu.edu email

I agree to the terms and conditions stated above.

New Password

Minimum of 8 characters

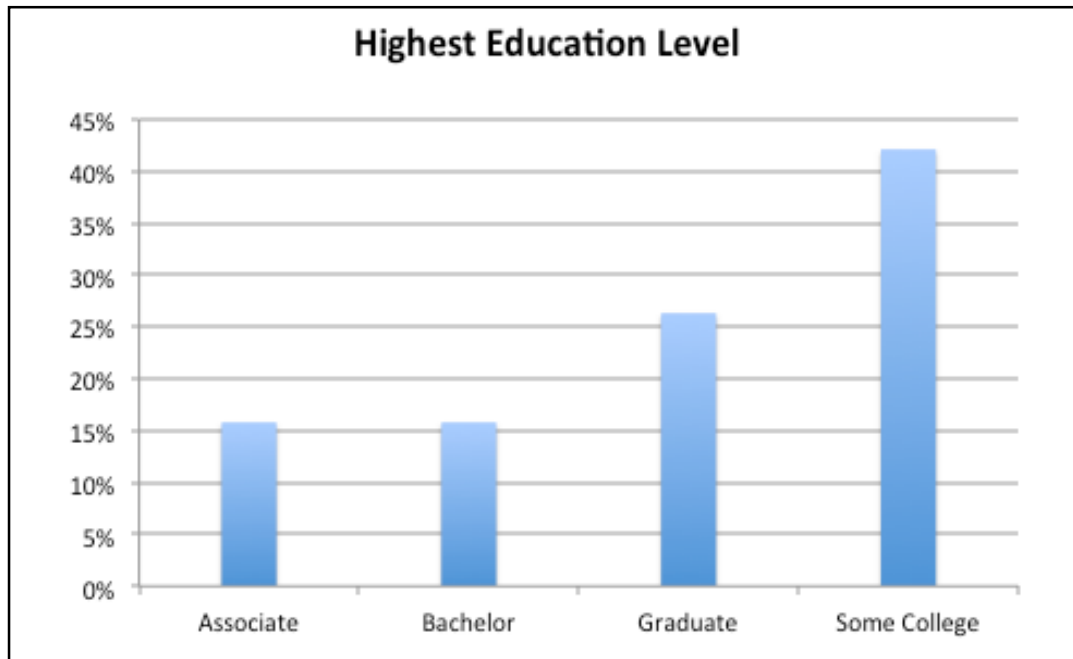
Confirm

Confirm Password

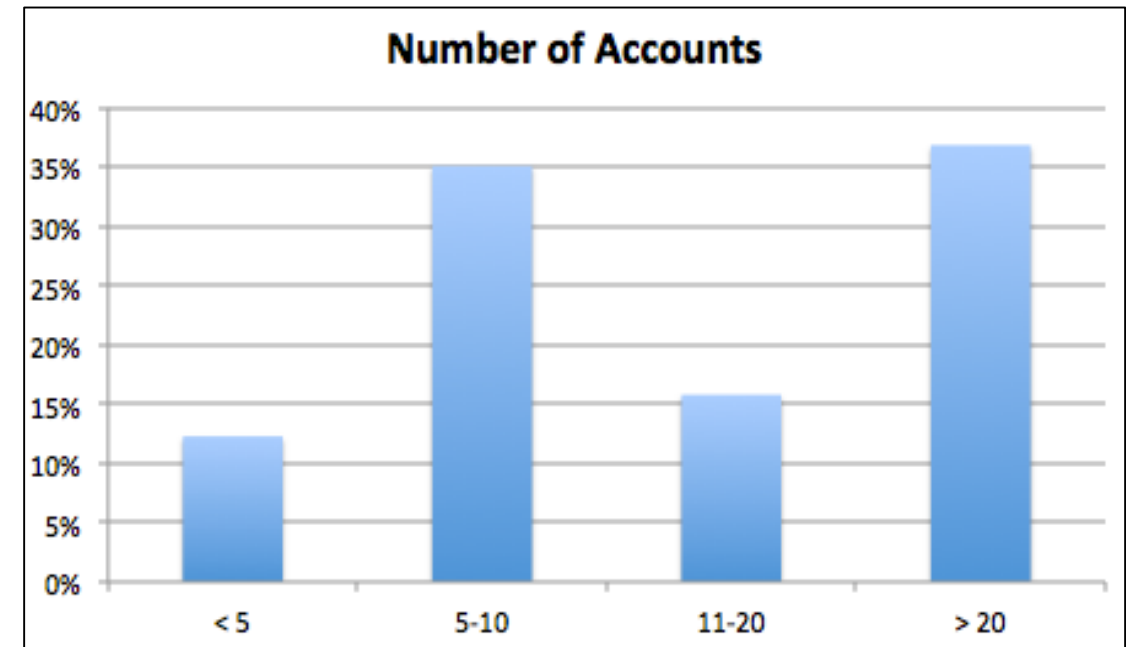
Create Account

# Survey Result

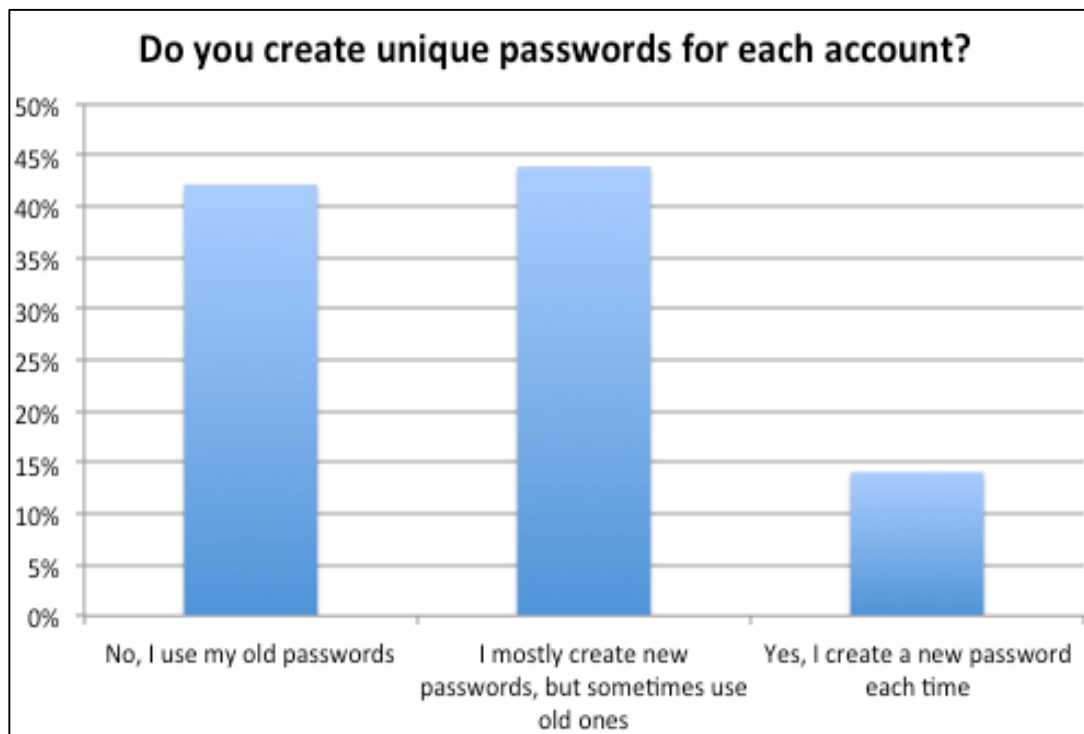
### Highest Education Level



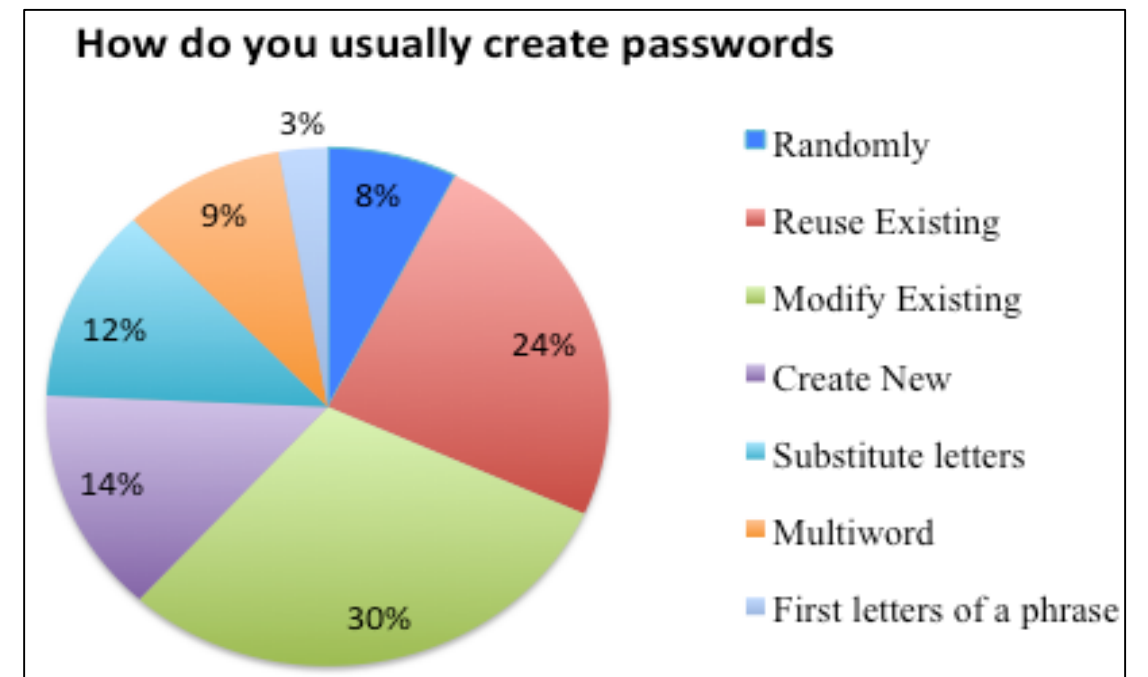
### Number of Accounts



### Do you create unique passwords for each account?



### How do you usually create passwords



# Distance Function

- ***Operations on the Base Structure:***

- Insertion
  - There is no insertion of  $K_1$  or  $X_1$  or  $R_1$
- Deletion
- Transposition

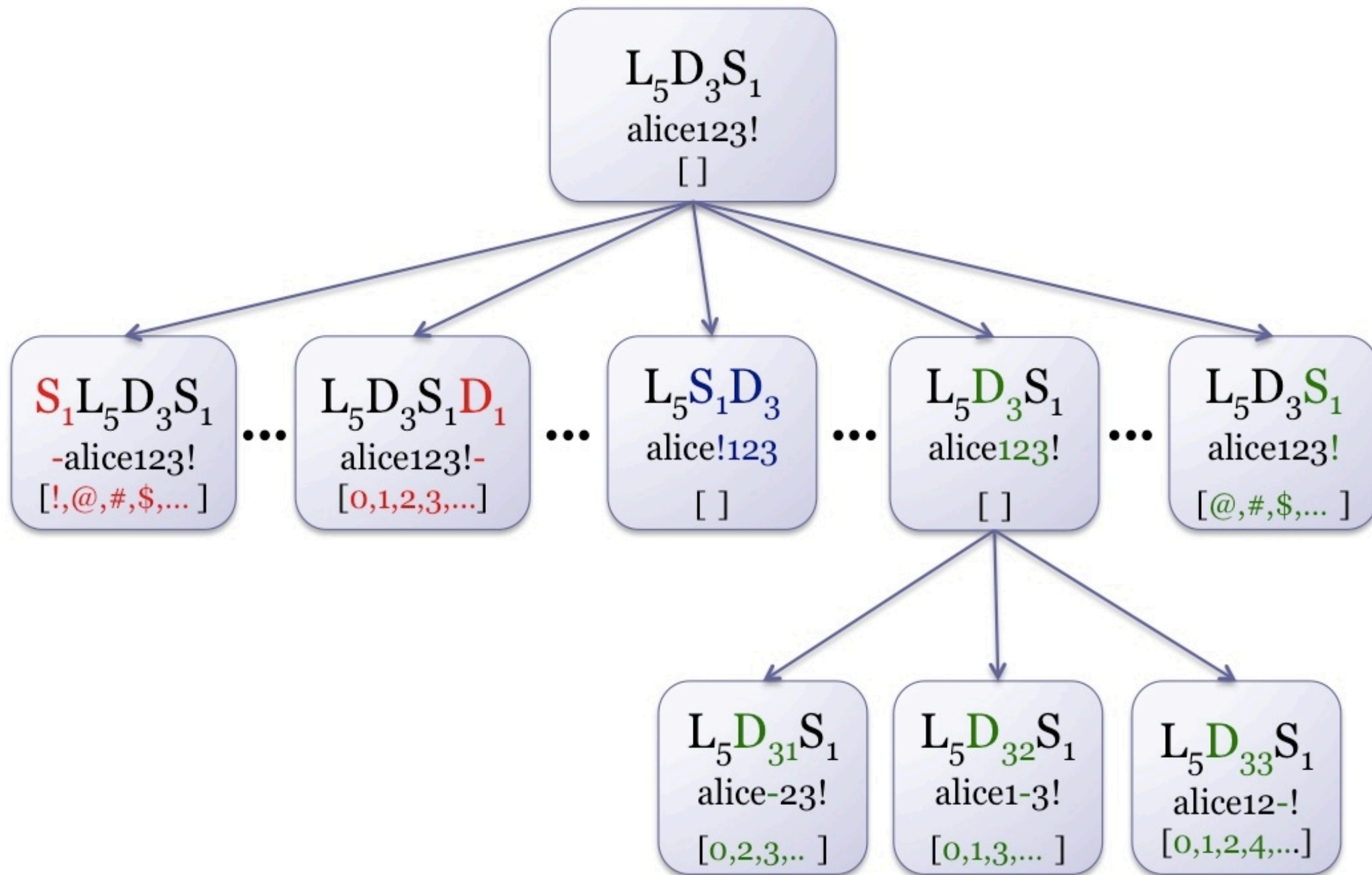
$L_5 D_3 S_1$   
 $L_5 S_1 D_3 S_1$

$L_5 D_3 S_4$   
 $D_3 L_5 S_1$

- ***Operations on the component***

- Insertion
- Deletion
- Substitution

$D_3$ : 123  
1234  
423  
129



Levenshtein Distance 1 Algorithm



# Distance Function

- **Mult words**

- Insertion

X8: star,wars

star  $S_1$  wars

star  $D_1$  wars

- Deletion of each word

thebigdog!

thedog!, bigdog!

- Transposition

john,marry,bob

marry,john,bob

john,bob,marry

bob, marry, john

# Generate Similar Password Guesses

- Generate all possible passwords within some edit distance from the old password.
- This process results in a grammar called Egrammar (Edit distance Grammar)

# EGrammar for “alice123!”

Base structure	D <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	D <sub>3</sub>		D <sub>4</sub>		S <sub>1</sub>		S <sub>2</sub>			C <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>5</sub>
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	0	12	120	153	0123	1233	@		)!	!_	!!	L	LLLLL
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub>	1	13	121	163	1123	1243	!	\	^!	!]	<!	U	LLLLU
L <sub>5</sub> S <sub>1</sub> D <sub>3</sub>	2	23	122	173	2123	1253	?	.	!-	!=	@!		LLLUL
S <sub>1</sub> L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	3		123	183	3123	1263	/	_	!:	!^	!#		LLULL
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	4		124	193	4123	1273	}	#	=!	!!	!"		LULLL
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>4</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	5		125	023	5123	1283	:	\$	!{	!(	!,		ULLLL
L <sub>5</sub> S <sub>1</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	6		126	223	6123	1293	+	]	_!	:!	#!		
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>1</sub> L <sub>1</sub>	7		127	323	7123	1230	{	~	.!	!\$	!%		
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub> L <sub>1</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	8		128	423	8123	1231	*	>	{!	[!	!/'		
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>1</sub> D <sub>1</sub>	9		129	523	9123	1232	<	,	!"	!}	!)		
L <sub>5</sub> S <sub>1</sub>			103	623	1023	1234	(	=	!"	![	\$!		
D <sub>3</sub> L <sub>5</sub> S <sub>1</sub>			113	723	1223	1235	%	^	(!	!+	!'		
D <sub>1</sub> L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>1</sub>			133	823	1323	1236	"	'	!"	+!	!.		
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>2</sub> S <sub>1</sub>			143	923	1423	1237	)	;	?!	!~	&!		
					1523	1238	`	[	%!	!<	!!		
					1623	1239	-	&	*!	~!	!\		
					1723				!?	!*	]!		
					1823				!;	-!	}!		
					1923				!&	\!	/!		
					1203				,!	"!	:!		
					1213				!>	!@	>!		

# Determining Password Changes

- If we have two previous passwords of the user, we can determine changes made between the passwords
- Predict the new password based on previous changes

# Distance Matrix:

“alice123!\$”

“12alice\$!”

		<b>a</b>	<b>l</b>	<b>i</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>!</b>	<b>\$</b>
	<b>0</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>1</b>	1	1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9
<b>2</b>	2	2	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8
<b>a</b>	3	2	3	3	4	5	6	6	6	7	8
<b>l</b>	4	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	7	7	8
<b>i</b>	5	4	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8
<b>c</b>	6	5	4	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>e</b>	7	6	5	4	3	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>\$</b>	8	7	6	5	4	3	3	4	5	6	6
<b>!</b>	9	8	7	6	5	4	4	4	5	5	6

# Calculating Damerau-Levenshtein Edit Distance

“alice123!\$”

“12alice\$!”

		a	l	i	c	e	1	2	3	!	\$
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9
2	2	2	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8
a	3	2	3	3	4	5	6	6	6	7	8
l	4	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	7	7	8
i	5	4	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8
c	6	5	4	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
e	7	6	5	4	3	2	3	4	5	6	7
\$	8	7	6	5	4	3	3	4	5	6	6
!	9	8	7	6	5	4	4	4	5	5	6

The diagram illustrates the calculation of the Damerau-Levenshtein edit distance between the strings "alice123!\$" and "12alice\$!". The grid shows the edit distance for each character pair. Arrows indicate the path from the top-left cell (0,0) to the bottom-right cell (6,6), which is circled in red. The path is labeled with 'i' (insertion), 'n' (neighborhood swap), 'd' (deletion), and 't' (transposition).

# Hierarchical algorithm

## Simple base structures

alice123!\$            →    LDS  
12alice\$!            →    DLS

		L	D	S
	0	1	2	3
D	1	1 <sup>t</sup>	1	2
L	2	1	1 <sup>n</sup>	2
S	3	2	2	1

**Level 1 edit distance = 1**

Transpose back: 123alice!\$ ,  
12alice\$!

		1	2	3	a	l	i	c	e	!	\$
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	2	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
a	3	2	1	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
l	4	3	2	2	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
i	5	4	3	3	3	2	1	2	3	4	5
c	6	5	4	4	4	3	2	1	2	3	4
e	7	6	5	5	5	4	3	2	1	2	3
\$	8	7	6	6	6	5	4	3	2	2	2
!	9	8	7	7	7	6	5	4	3	2	2

Level 2 edit distance = 2



# Determining Password Changes

- Total edit distance = level1 + level2  
= 1 + 2 = 3

alice123!\$ → 12alice\$!

1. Transposition D and L components

123alice!\$

2. Remove 3 from  $D_3$

12alice!\$

3. Transpose inside  $S_2$


12alice\$!

# Creating Targeted Grammar

- Get the information from Levenshtein edit distance
  - Increment / decrement a number by 1:
    - Example: old passwords: (alice125, alice126), we add  $[127, L_5D_3]$  to TGrammar
  - Insertion of the same digit:
    - Example: old passwords: (alice, alice5), we add  $[55, L_5D_2]$  to TGrammar.
- Capitalization of alpha strings

Florida State's Targeted Probabilistic Password Cracker

File Edit



ECIT Lab  
Dept. of Computer Science  
Florida state University

Enter your password:

Enter next password [optional]:

Please enter your initial grammar:

Enter relevant names  Enter relevant numbers

E\_distance grammar weight

Target grammar weight

Initial grammar weight

Street  City  State  Zip code  Date mm/dd/yyyy

Results/Error:

# How should I generate guesses?

- Use the edit 1 grammar. But I want to generate other guesses also. After all, the user might not have made small changes and might even have chosen a totally different password!
- This led us to the idea of merging probabilistic context free grammars. We can actually combine two different grammars and by extension any number of grammars!

# The *Merge* of two grammars

- Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two probabilistic context-free grammars based on our structures of base structures and component structures. We construct a new grammar  $G_3$  that we define as the *merge* of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  and we represent it as:

$$G_3 = \alpha G_1 + (1 - \alpha) G_2 \quad \text{where } 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$$

- Consider a grammar rule  $R$  in  $G_1$  or  $G_2$ . Let the probability of  $R$  in  $G_1$  be  $r_1$  and the probability of  $R$  in  $G_2$  be  $r_2$ . (Note that if  $R$  is not in a grammar its probability is viewed as 0.) Then the probability  $r_3$  of  $R$  in  $G_3$  is:

$$r_3 = \alpha r_1 + (1 - \alpha) r_2$$

L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	0.25
L <sub>5</sub> S <sub>1</sub> D <sub>3</sub>	0.25
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>4</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	0.25
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	0.25
123	0.25
124	0.25
125	0.25
133	0.25
12	0.5
13	0.5
1234	0.5
1235	0.5
!	0.2
@	0.2
#	0.2
\$	0.2
%	0.2
!!	0.33
!#	0.33
!@	0.33

+

L <sub>4</sub> D <sub>2</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	0.5
L <sub>3</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	0.3
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	0.07
L <sub>6</sub> D <sub>4</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	0.05
L <sub>8</sub> D <sub>2</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	0.05
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	0.03
999	0.6
111	0.3
123	0.1
88	0.5
11	0.5
5656	0.5
1234	0.3
0909	0.2
!	0.4
)	0.3
?	0.2
%	0.1
!!	0.3
##	0.3
\$#	0.2
!#	0.2

=

L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	0.214
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	0.206
L <sub>5</sub> D <sub>4</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	0.2
L <sub>5</sub> S <sub>1</sub> D <sub>3</sub>	0.2
L <sub>4</sub> D <sub>2</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	0.1
L <sub>3</sub> D <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	0.06
L <sub>6</sub> D <sub>4</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	0.01
L <sub>8</sub> D <sub>2</sub> S <sub>1</sub>	0.01
123	0.22
124	0.2
125	0.2
133	0.2
999	0.12
111	0.06
12	0.4
13	0.4
88	0.1
11	0.1
1234	0.46
1235	0.4
5656	0.1
0909	0.04
!	0.24
%	0.18
#	0.16
\$	0.16
@	0.16
)	0.06
?	0.04
!!	0.324
!#	0.304
!@	0.264
##	0.06
\$#	0.04

**Edit 1 Grammar**  
**W<sub>1</sub> = 0.8**

**Initial Grammar**  
**W<sub>2</sub> = 0.2**

Input password:  
pluto1995

pluto1995  
Pluto1995  
plutO1995  
plUto1995  
pluTo1995  
pLuto1995  
1995pluto  
1995  
pluto1985  
pluto1990  
pluto1975  
pluto1991  
pluto1994  
pluto1993  
pluto1992  
pluto1999  
pluto1996  
pluto1998  
pluto1965  
pluto1997  
pluto1955  
pluto1945  
pluto1935  
pluto1925  
pluto1295  
pluto1905

pluto1915  
pluto5995  
pluto1395  
pluto1195  
pluto1095  
pluto4995  
pluto1795  
pluto9995  
pluto8995  
pluto0995  
pluto2995  
pluto1695  
pluto1595  
pluto1495  
pluto1895  
pluto7995  
pluto3995  
pluto6995  
pluto1995e  
pluto1995r  
pluto1995s  
qwerty  
pluto1995E  
pluto1995R  
pluto1995S  
lpluto1995

1995Pluto  
1995plutO  
1995plUto  
1995pluTo  
1995pLuto  
2pluto1995  
3pluto1995  
4pluto1995  
7pluto1995  
0pluto1995  
5pluto1995  
8pluto1995  
9pluto1995  
6pluto1995  
pluto1234  
1q2w3e4r  
pluto!1995  
123456  
pluto1995!  
!pluto1995  
pluto@1995  
pluto1995@  
@pluto1995  
pluto2008  
pluto2009  
pluto\_1995

# Testing Result

Old password	New Password	#of Guesses Targeted Attack	# of Guesses Regular Attack	Grammar
tharaborithor	thorborithara	--	--	--
Simba144!	@Simba2523	734,505,973	--	MGrammar
\$unG1@\$220	\$unG1@\$110	4,070	--	MGrammar
research!	Research!	554	5,059,949,503	EGrammar
starWars@123	star#Ecit@123	2,227,558	--	EGrammar
thebigblackdogjumps	blackdogmoretime	--	--	--
Ahk@1453	Ahk#1453	12,026	--	EGrammar
qpalzm73	qpalzm73*	1,810	--	EGrammar
pluto1995	boonepluto	--	--	--
caramba10	caramba12	14	11,424,542	MGrammar
Elvis1993!	Professional1993!2	--	--	--
Pepper88	peppergator88	128,197,109	2,563,504,751	Mgrammar



# Testing Result

Old password	New Password	#of Guesses Targeted Attack	# of Guesses Regular Attack	Grammar
ganxiedajiA1!!	1ganxiedajiA	7,794	--	Mgrammar
88dolphins!	55dolphins!	38,503	--	MGrammar
kannj2013!	kannj2013	97	--	EGrammar
!FSU\$qr335	!FSU\$qr335mcddt	--	--	--
vballgrl77	schatzima	--	--	--
nickc1007	corkn1007	--	--	--
sunflower12	sunflower13	202	119,336,969	EGrammar
meg51899	Meg51899*	5,381	--	EGrammar
Research1	research11	206	23,728,452	EGrammar
Gleek1993	Gleek1985	9,661	1,994,709,669	MGrammar
Oaklea0441	Oaklea0112	91,014	--	MGrammar

Old password1	Old password2	New password	Number of Guesses made to crack	Merged Or Edit distance grammar
russell	-	RUSSELL	1	Edit distance
russell1	-	russell	1	Edit distance
abc2009	-	pm2009	4,334,388	Merged
maverick	-	maverick7	118	Edit distance
dreamhope	-	hopehope	-	Merged
hopeful	-	hopeful1	14	Edit distance
starwars	-	starwars1	17	Edit distance
sweetie	-	sweetie1	20	Edit distance
krishna	-	krishnap	-	Merged
hope77	-	hope22	2,111	Merged
bland0608	-	plat0608	136,066,042	Merged
milena	-	Milena	4	Edit distance
milena	-	milene	-	Edit distance
bluemoon1	bluemoon2	bluemoon3	1	Edit distance
moonlight	-	redmoonlight	-	Merged
1writer	-	writer	1	Edit distance
1blackcat	-	blackcat	1	Edit distance
starwars	starwars5	starwars55	1	Edit distance
sweety	-	SWEETY	308	Merged
groove5721	-	Katie5721	-	Merged
171995	-	may171995	47,881,797	Merged
skymoon7	-	moon7sky	-	Merged
chomsky\$po	-	po\$chomsky	-	Merged
gamegreen	-	greendoc	-	Merged
d30023286	-	30023286	1	Edit distance
081983lori	-	081983	1	Edit distance
243currier	-	24378443	-	Merged
19632439	-	19632007	-	Merged
blackhawk	-	black7out	-	Merged

# Thanks!

## Questions/Comments?

