

# Authentication and Access Control



**Blase Ur, David Cash, Ben Zhao**  
UChicago CMSC 23200//33250

# Who Am I?

- Ben Zhao
  - Distinguished professor
  - Co-director of SAND Lab
  - Fan of pandas

Or Am I?

How (and why) do we  
authenticate users?

# Why We Authenticate

- Verify that **people** or **things** (e.g., a server) are who they claim to be
- Authentication  $\neq$  Authorization
  - *Authorization* is deciding whether an entity should have access to a given resource
- Terminology:
  - **Principal**: the legitimate owner of an identity
  - **Claimant**: entity attempting to be authenticated as the principal

# Relationships Among Concepts

- How is **authentication** related to **access control**?
- How is the design of **secure systems** related to **authentication**?
- How is **authentication** related to human factors?

# How We Authenticate (1/2)

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- Something you know
  - Password
  - PIN (Personal Identification Number)



# How We Authenticate (1/2)

- Something you know
  - Password
  - PIN (Personal Identification Number)
- Something you have
  - Smart card
  - Private key (of a public-private key pair)
  - Phone (running particular software)

# How We Authenticate (1/2)

- Something you know
  - Password
  - PIN (Personal Identification Number)
- Something you have
  - Smart card
  - Private key (of a public-private key pair)
  - Phone (running particular software)
- Something you are
  - Biometrics (e.g., iris or fingerprint)

# How We Authenticate (2/2)

- Somewhere you are
  - Location-limited channels

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- Someone you know (social authentication)
  - Someone vouches for you
  - You can identify people you should know

# How We Authenticate (2/2)

- Somewhere you are
  - Location-limited channels
- Someone you know (social authentication)
  - Someone vouches for you
  - You can identify people you should know
- Some system vouches for you
  - Single sign-on (e.g., UChicago shib)
  - PKI Certificate Authorities



12345

password

princess

123456789

iloveyou

1234567

12345678

000000

654321

tigger

rockyou

nicole

liverpool

michael

monkey

jessica

soccer

ashley

daniel

lovely

jordan

football

playboy

jasmine

abc123

sunshine

butterfly

superman

basketball

password1

anthony

jesus

mickey

friends

lovenme

elizabeth

brandon

poohbear

666666

qwerty

angel

hello

justin

angels

danielle

secret

barbie

chelsea

pretty

andrew

taylor

andrew

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secret

barbie

chelsea

pretty

# Why Are Passwords So Prevalent?

# Why Are Passwords So Prevalent?

- Easy to use
- Easy to deploy
- Nothing to carry
- No “silver-bullet” alternative



# Attacks on Passwords Are Common

Linked 



SONY®



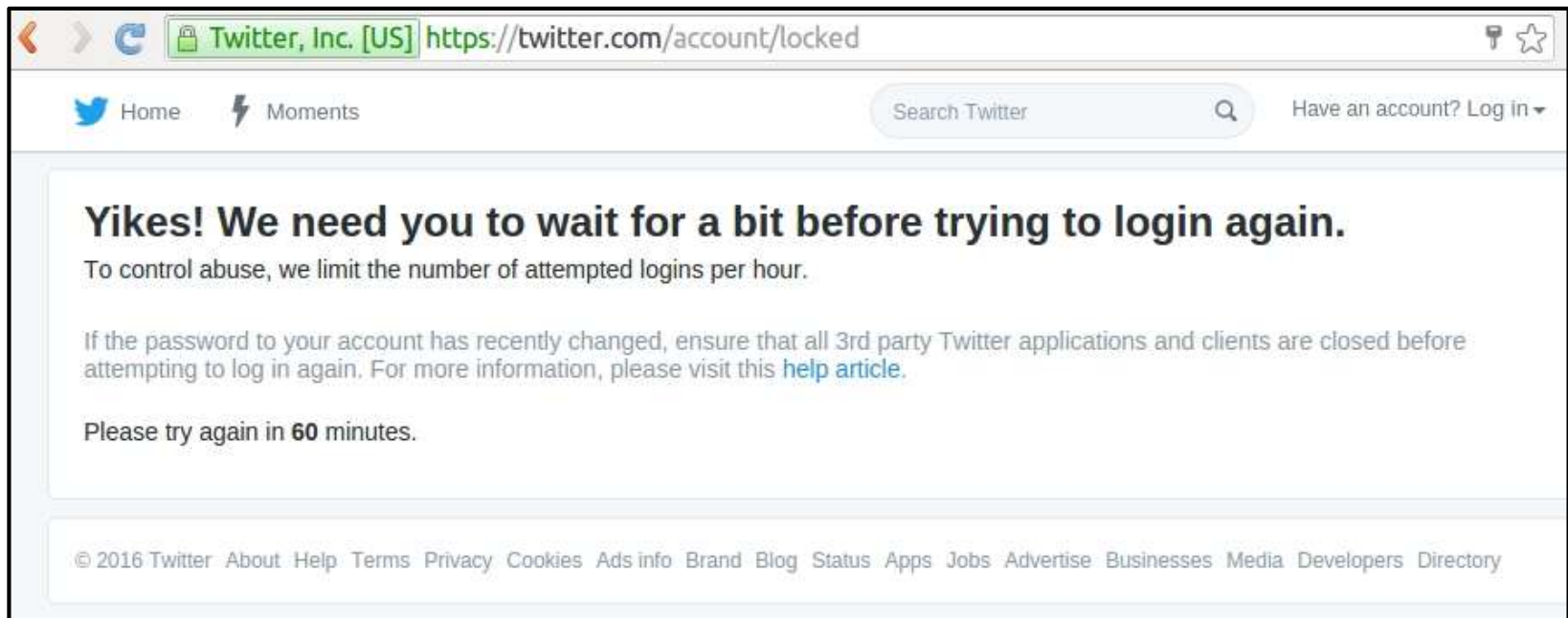
# Attacks Against Passwords

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- Online attack
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# Attacks Against Passwords

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- Offline attack
  - Try to guess passwords from the password store / password database

# Some Breached Companies

LinkedIn



Adobe

SONY



GAWKER

000webhost.com  
better than paid hosting

YAHOO!

STRATFOR  
GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE

# Attacks Against Passwords

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# Attacks Against Passwords

- Online attack
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- Offline attack
  - Try to guess passwords from the password store / password database
- Phishing attack
- Shoulder surfing
- Attack password-protected file / device




# Storing Passwords

- **Hash** and **salt** passwords
- Hash function: one-way function
  - Traditionally designed for efficiency (e.g., MD5)
  - Password-specific hash functions (e.g., bcrypt, scrypt, PBKDF2)

# Storing Passwords

- Salt: random string assigned per-user
  - Combine the password with the salt, then hash it
  - Stored alongside the hashed
  - Prevents the use of rainbow tables

# Data-Driven Statistical Attacks

- (2009) 32 million passwords: 
- (2016) 117 million passwords: 
- (2017) 3 billion passwords: 
- Total: > 5 billions of passwords stolen from > 300 services

# Offline Attack

- Attacker compromises database

- hash(“Blase”) =

- `$2a$04$iHdEgkI681VdDMc3f7edau9phRwORvhYjqWAIb7hb4B5uFJO1g4zi`

- Attacker makes and hashes guesses
- Finds match → try on other sites
  - Password **reuse** is a core problem

# Password Reuse-Based Attacks



## Keep your account secure

Based on our automated security check, your Facebook password matches one that was stolen from another site. We aren't aware of any suspicious activity on your account, but please change your password now to help keep it secure.

[Learn More](#)

[Continue](#)

Maximilian Golla, Miranda Wei, Juliette Hainline, Lydia Filipe, Markus Dürmuth, Elissa Redmiles, Blase Ur. “What was that site doing with my Facebook Password?” Designing Password-Reuse Notifications. In *Proc. CCS*, 2018.

# People Reuse Passwords

Booking.com

R0cky!14



reddit

R0cky!17

淘宝网  
Taobao.com

American Airlines



facebook

R0cky!17



123456

ebay

YouTube

R0ckyStar



Microsoft

Rocky!16



slack

SONY



Google

R0cky!17



Baidu 百度



Dropbox

R0ckyBox

twitter

R0cky!17



PayPal






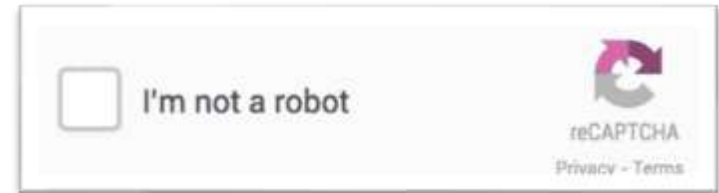
Memory-Hard Hash Function



Email	Argon2i Hash of Password
...	...
jim@mail.com	\$argon2i\$v=19\$m=4096,...
...	...



Rate-Limiting Guessing



Password Strength Meter



Username

Password  
acmccs18

Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Your password could be better.

- Consider inserting digits into the middle, not just at the end [\(Why?\)](#)
- Make your password longer than 8 characters [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider using 1 or more symbols [\(Why?\)](#)

A better choice: \a#D18cmccs

[How to make strong passwords](#)





AcmeCo

Email
...
jim@mail.com
...



LinkedIn

Email
jane@aol.com
jessey@gmx.net
jenny@gmail.com
jim@mail.com
john@hotmail.com
...





Email	SHA-1 Hash of Password
jane@aol.com	7c4a8d09ca3762af61e595209
jessey@gmx.net	5baa61e4c9b93f3f0682250b6
jenny@gmail.com	7c222fb2927d828af22f59213
<b>jim@mail.com</b>	<b>ba93664a90285b9ff18a7a081</b>
john@hotmail.com	b1b3773a05c0ed0176787a4f1
...	...



# Crack All The Things!



```
$> hashcat -m 100 -a0 $TARGET $DICT
123456
Password
R0cky!17
Football!17
CanadaRocks!
```




Email	Cracked SHA-1 Hashes
jane@aol.com	123456
jessey@gmx.net	5baa61e4c9b93f3f0682250b6
jenny@gmail.com	Canada4ever
jim@mail.com	R0cky!17
john@hotmail.com	HikingGuy89
...	...



# Dead On Arrival



Email	Argon2i Hash of Password
...	...
<code>jim@mail.com</code>	<code>\$argon2i\$v=19\$m=4096,...</code>
...	...

A stylized icon of a database, consisting of three stacked cylinders with pink and black horizontal bands.

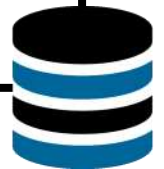
# Dead On Arrival



Email	Argon2i Hash of Password
...	...
<a href="mailto:jim@mail.com">jim@mail.com</a>	\$argon2i\$v=19\$m=4096,...
...	...



Email	Cracked SHA-1 Hashes
<a href="mailto:jane@aol.com">jane@aol.com</a>	123456
<a href="mailto:jessey@gmx.net">jessey@gmx.net</a>	5baa61e4c9b93f3f0682250b6
<a href="mailto:jenny@gmail.com">jenny@gmail.com</a>	Canada4ever
<a href="mailto:jim@mail.com">jim@mail.com</a>	R0cky!17
<a href="mailto:john@hotmail.com">john@hotmail.com</a>	HikingGuy89
...	...



# Dead On Arrival



Email	Cracked
...	...
<a href="mailto:jim@mail.com">jim@mail.com</a>	<a href="#">R0cky!17</a>
...	...



**1 guess is  
enough!**



Email	Cracked SHA-1 Hashes
<a href="mailto:jane@aol.com">jane@aol.com</a>	123456
<a href="mailto:jessey@gmx.net">jessey@gmx.net</a>	5baa61e4c9b93f3f0682250b6
<a href="mailto:jenny@gmail.com">jenny@gmail.com</a>	Canada4ever
<a href="mailto:jim@mail.com">jim@mail.com</a>	<a href="#">R0cky!17</a>
<a href="mailto:john@hotmail.com">john@hotmail.com</a>	HikingGuy89
...	...



# SO, UH, THAT BILLION-ACCOUNT YAHOO BREACH WAS ACTUALLY 3 BILLION

Anatomy of a password disaster: Adobe's giant

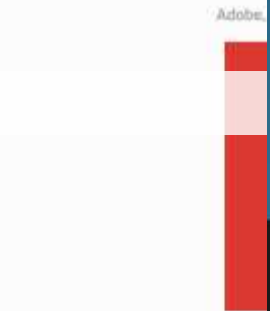
RISK ASSESSMENT —

## How LinkedIn's password sloppiness hurts us all

';-) have i been pwned?

Check if you have an account that has been compromised in a data breach

314	5,555,329,164	80,540	87,820,647
owned website	owned accounts	pastes	paste accounts



ure dumps.

guardian [all sections](#)

### Facebook says 28 million accounts had personal data stolen in recent breach

Hackers were able to access name, birthdate and other data in nearly half of the 30 million accounts that were affected



### You Can Now Look Up Your Terrible 2006 MySpace Password

June 29, 2016 // 11:35 AM EST

Written by  
**LORENZO FRANCESCHI-BICCHIERAI**  
 STAFF WRITER



# Monitoring the Black Market

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `trdealimgn4uvm42g.onion/listing/3600`. The page header includes a navigation bar with links for Home, My RealDeal, Support, and Logout, along with a user profile and balance (BTC 0.0000). Below the header is a search bar with the text "I want to order ..." and a "Go" button. The main content area displays a listing for "LinkedIn 167M" by the user "peace\_of\_mind" (100.0% rating, Level 1 (14)). The listing price is 0.50000 / BTC 5.0000, and it is marked as "In stock." There is a "Postage Option" dropdown menu. To the right of the listing is a "Buy It Now" button with a quantity selector set to 0. Below the listing are buttons for "Favorite" and "Question".

Listing: Listing

trdealimgn4uvm42g.onion/listing/3600

Welcome back, [redacted] 0 0 0 BTC 0.0000 Home My RealDeal Support Logout

TheRealDeal All I want to order ... Go

Home / Information and Fraud / Databases / LinkedIn 167M

**LinkedIn 167M**

By peace\_of\_mind ( 100.0% ) **Level 1 ( 14 )**

**0.50000 / BTC 5.0000**

In stock.

Postage Option

Escrow Yes, escrow by RealDeal is available.

Class Digital

Ships From Worldwide

Qty: 0

**Buy It Now**

Favorite Question



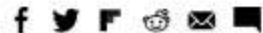
[BEST PRODUCTS](#)[REVIEWS](#)[NEWS](#)[VIDEO](#)[HOW TO](#)[SMART HOME](#)[CARS](#)[DEALS](#)[JOIN / SIGN IN](#)

SECURITY

# Facebook buys black market passwords to keep your account safe

The company's security chief says account safety is about more than just building secure software.

BY KATIE COLLINS | NOVEMBER 9, 2016 12:56 PM PST





# Notification Goals

timely

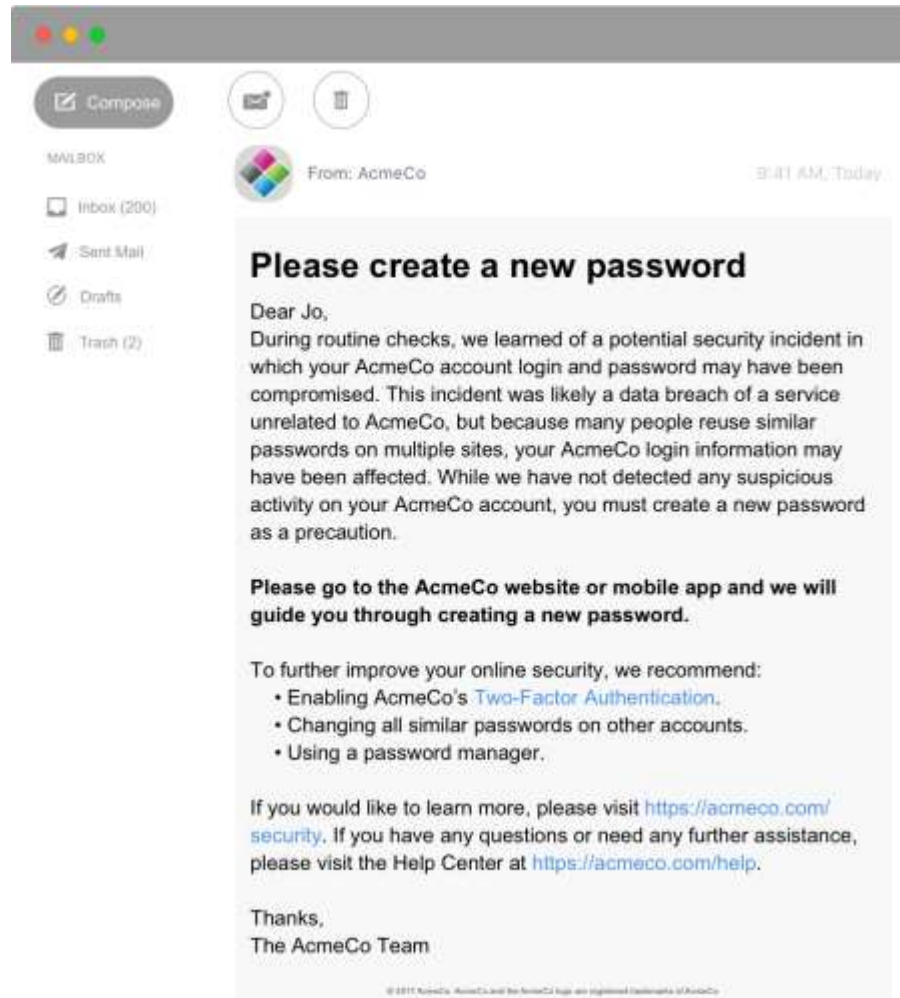
sufficient  
background

secure  
actions

legitimate


trust

# Our Model Password-Reuse Notification

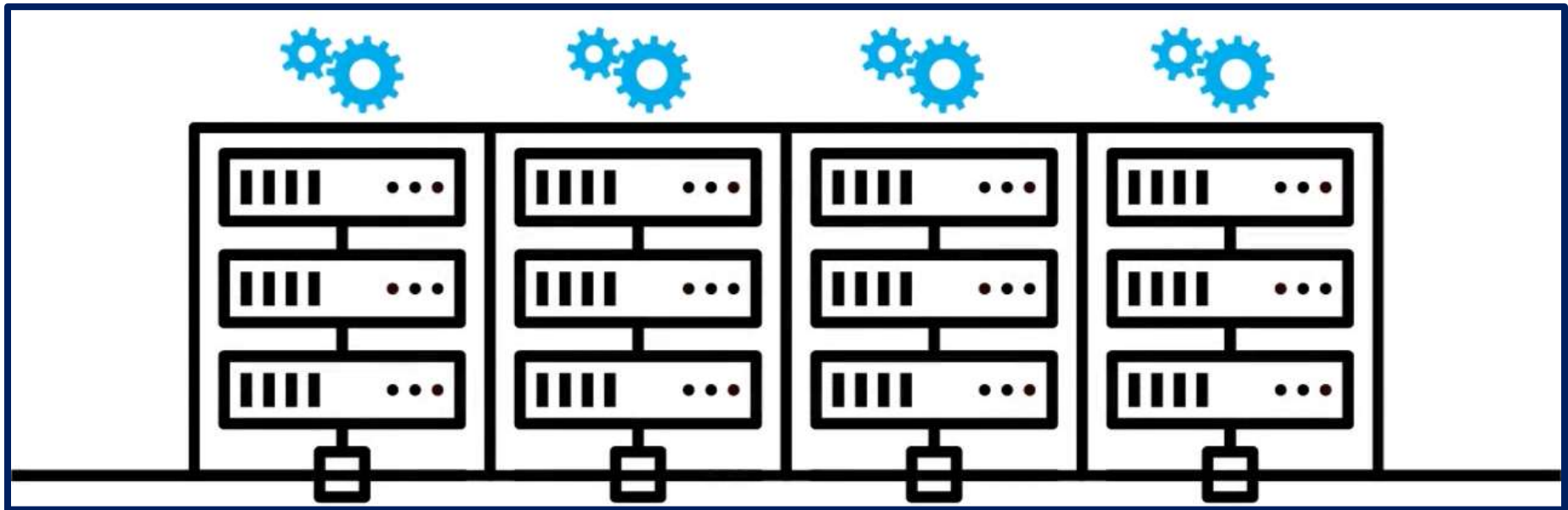


# Understanding Users' Password Behaviors

# Some Ways to Understand Users

- Retrospective analysis of user-created passwords The logo for 'rockyou' is displayed in a light blue and grey font, positioned to the right of the first bullet point.
- Large-scale online studies
- Examine real passwords
- Qualitative studies

# Password Cracking



Blase Ur, Sean M. Segreti, Lujo Bauer, Nicolas Christin, Lorrie Faith Cranor, Saranga Komanduri, Darya Kurilova, Michelle L. Mazurek, William Melicher, Richard Shay. Measuring Real-World Accuracies and Biases in Modeling Password Guessability. In *Proc. USENIX Security Symposium*, 2015.

# Password-Strength Metrics

- Statistical approaches
  - Traditionally: Shannon entropy
  - Recently:  $\alpha$ -guesswork
- Disadvantages for researchers
  - Usually no per-password estimates
  - Huge sample required
  - Not real-world attacks



# Parameterized Guessability

- How many guesses a particular cracking algorithm with particular training data would take to guess a password

j@mesb0nd007!

**Guess # 366,163,847,194**

n (c\$JZX! zKc^bIAX^N

Guess # past cutoff

# Guessability in Practice

# Questions About Guessability

- 1) How does guessability used in research compare to an attack by professionals?
- 2) Would substituting another cracking approach impact research results?

# Approach

# Approach

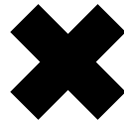
```
password  
iloveyou  
team0123  
...
```

```
Pa$$w0rd  
iLov3you!  
1QaZ2W@x  
...
```

```
passwordpassword  
1234567812345678  
!1@2#3$4%5^6&7*8  
...
```

```
pa$$word1234  
12345678asDF  
!q1q!q1q!q1q  
...
```

4 password sets



5 password-cracking approaches

# Four Password Sets



# Four Password Sets

- **Basic** (3,062): 8+ characters



password

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password

- **Complex** (3,000): 8+ characters, 4 classes

Pa\$\$w0rd

# Four Password Sets

- **Basic** (3,062): 8+ characters

password

- **Complex** (3,000): 8+ characters, 4 classes

Pa\$\$w0rd

- **LongBasic** (2,054): 16+ characters

passwordpassword

# Four Password Sets

- **Basic** (3,062): 8+ characters

```
password
```

- **Complex** (3,000): 8+ characters, 4 classes

```
Pa$$w0rd
```

- **LongBasic** (2,054): 16+ characters

```
passwordpassword
```

- **LongComplex** (990): 12+ characters, 3+ classes

```
pa$$word1234
```

# Five Cracking Approaches

- John the Ripper
- Hashcat
- Markov models
- Probabilistic Context-Free Grammar
- Professionals

# John the Ripper

- Guesses variants of input wordlist



# John the Ripper

- Guesses variants of input wordlist
- Wordlist mode requires:
  - Wordlist (passwords and dictionary entries)
  - Mangling rules



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  - $10^{13}$  guesses



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- Guesses variants of input wordlist
- Wordlist mode requires:
  - Wordlist (passwords and dictionary entries)
  - Mangling rules
- Speed: Fast
  - $10^{13}$  guesses
- “JTR”



# John the Ripper



wordlist

rules



guesses

# John the Ripper



*usenix*  
*security*

}  
wordlist

}  
rules



}  
guesses

# John the Ripper



*usenix*  
*security*

}  
wordlist

[ ]  
[add 1 at end]  
[change e to 3]

}  
rules



}  
guesses

# John the Ripper



*unix*  
*security*

} wordlist

[ ]

[add 1 at end]  
[change e to 3]

} rules

unix  
security

unix1

security1

us3nix

s3curity

} guesses

# John the Ripper



*unix*  
*security*

wordlist

[ ]

[add 1 at end]

[change e to 3]

rules

unix  
security

unix1  
security1

us3nix

s3curity

guesses

# John the Ripper



*unix*  
*security*

}  
wordlist

[ ]  
[add 1 at end]

[change e to 3]

}  
rules

unix  
security

unix1

security1

us3nix

s3curity

}  
guesses



# Hashcat

- Guesses variants of input wordlist



hashcat

advanced  
password  
recovery

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# Hashcat



hashcat  
advanced  
password  
recovery

wordlist

rules



guesses

# Hashcat



hashcat  
advanced  
password  
recovery

*unix*  
*security*

wordlist

[ ]  
[add 1 at end]  
[change e to 3]

rules



guesses

# Hashcat



**usenix**  
security

wordlist

[ ]  
[add 1 at end]  
[change e to 3]

rules

**usenix**  
usenix1  
us3nix  
security  
security1  
s3curity

guesses

# Hashcat



hashcat  
advanced  
password  
recovery

*unix*

*security*

wordlist

unix

unix1

us3nix

*security*

*security1*

*s3curity*

guesses

[ ]

[add 1 at end]

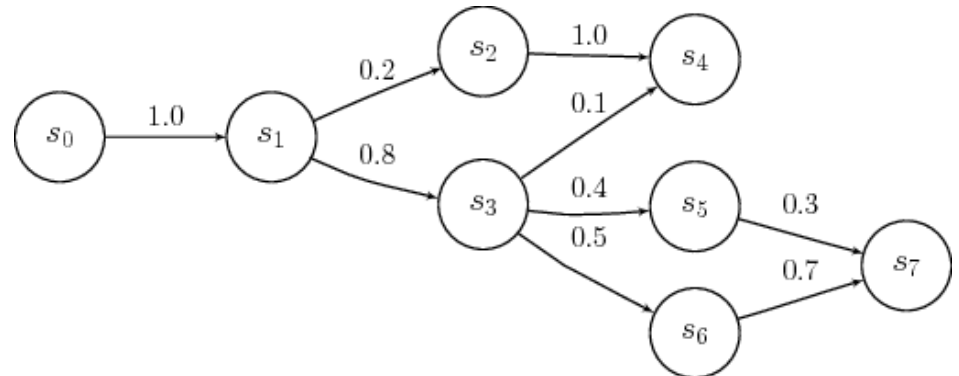
[change e to 3]

rules



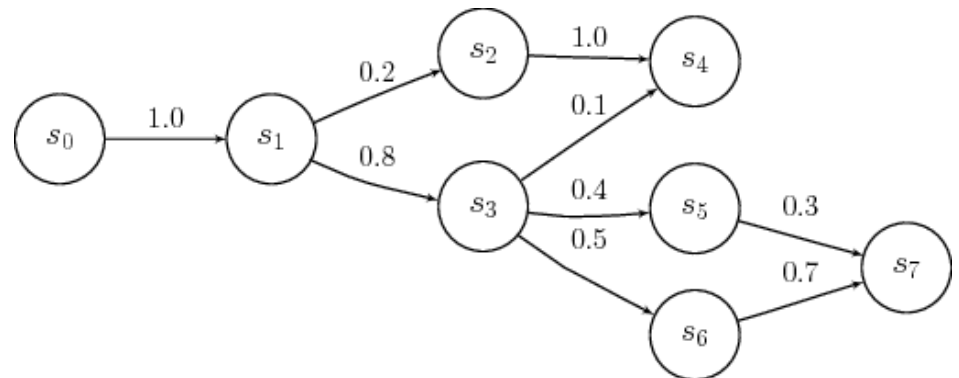
# Markov Models

- Predicts future characters from previous



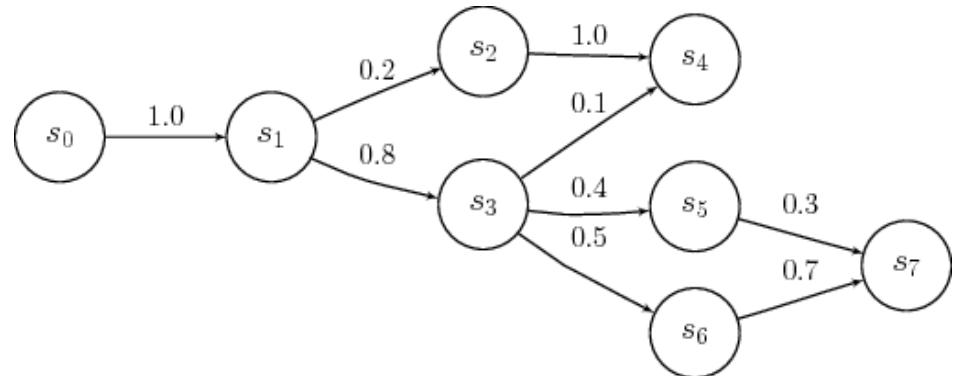
# Markov Models

- Predicts future characters from previous
- Approach requires weighted data:
  - Passwords
  - Dictionaries



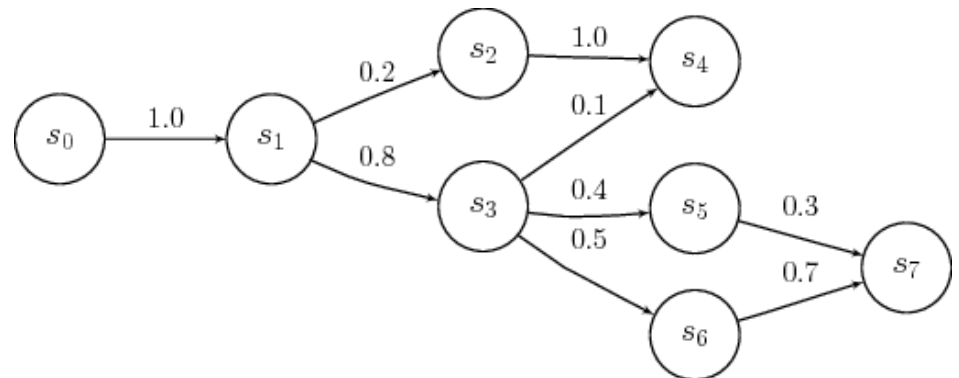
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- Ma et al. IEEE S&P 2014



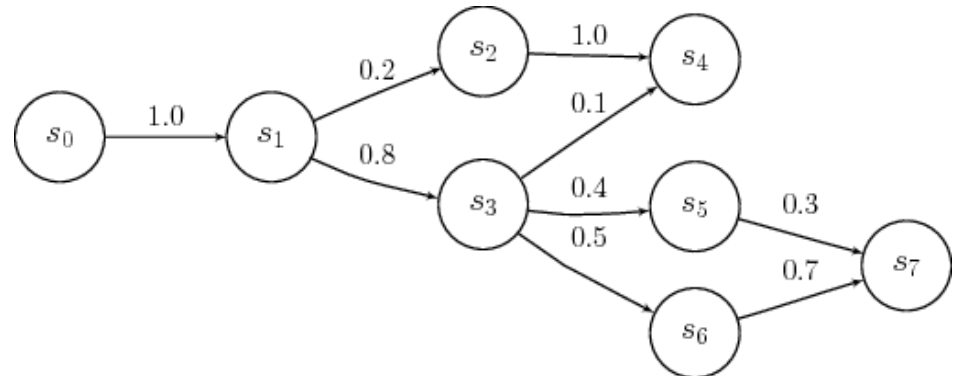
# Markov Models

- Predicts future characters from previous
- Approach requires weighted data:
  - Passwords
  - Dictionaries
- Ma et al. IEEE S&P 2014
- Speed: Slow

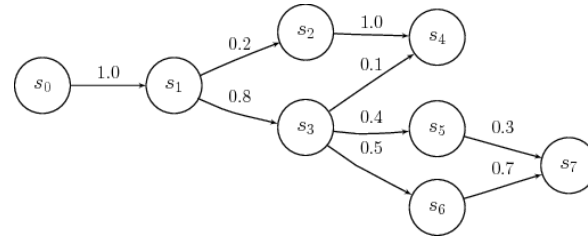


# Markov Models

- Predicts future characters from previous
- Approach requires weighted data:
  - Passwords
  - Dictionaries
- Ma et al. IEEE S&P 2014
- Speed: Slow
  - $10^{10}$  guesses

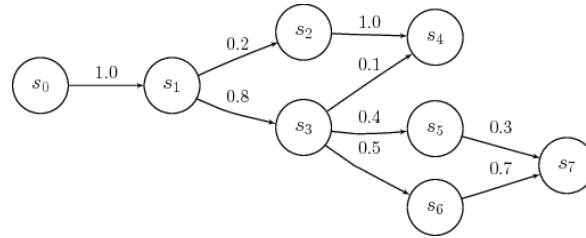


# Markov Models



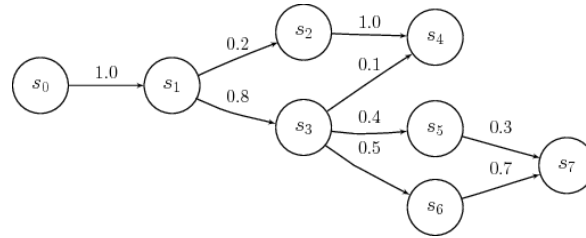
usenixsecurity

# Markov Models



usenixsecurity

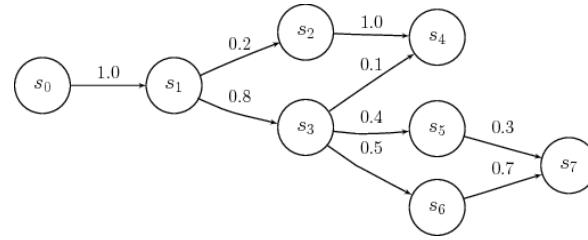
# Markov Models



u s e n i x s e c u r i t y

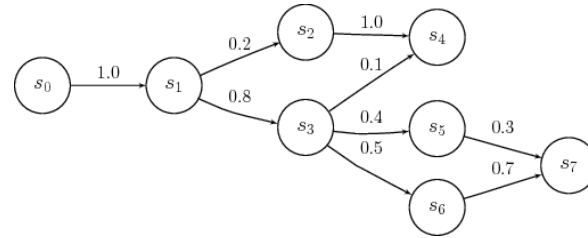


# Markov Models



u s e n i x s e c u r i t y

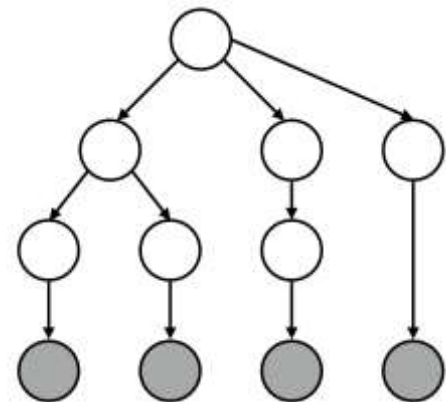
# Markov Models



use*ni*xsecurity

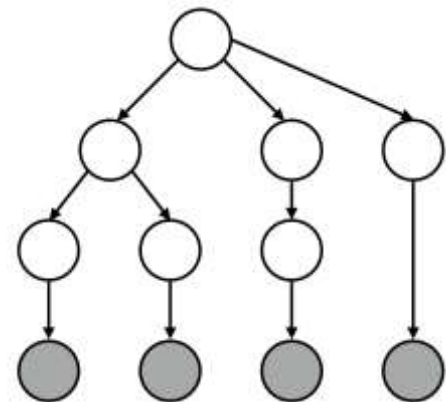
# Probabilistic Context-Free Grammar

- Generate password grammar
  - Structures
  - Terminals



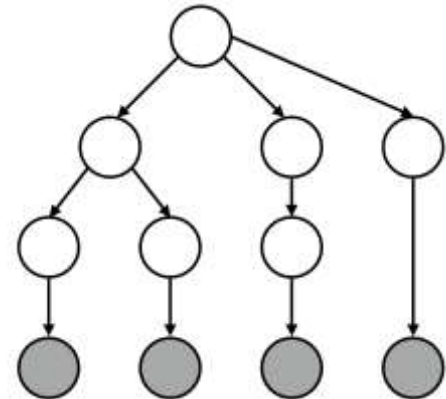
# Probabilistic Context-Free Grammar

- Generate password grammar
  - Structures
  - Terminals
- Kelley et al. IEEE S&P 2012
  - Based on Weir et al. IEEE S&P 2009



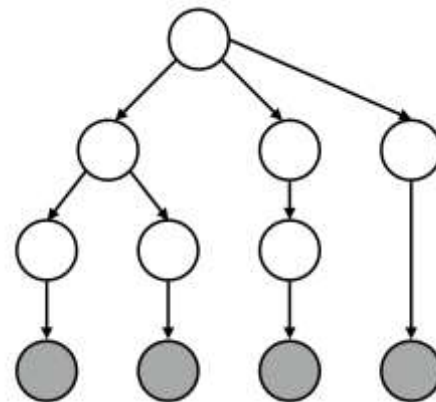
# Probabilistic Context-Free Grammar

- Generate password grammar
  - Structures
  - Terminals
- Kelley et al. IEEE S&P 2012
  - Based on Weir et al. IEEE S&P 2009
- Speed: ~~Slow~~ Medium



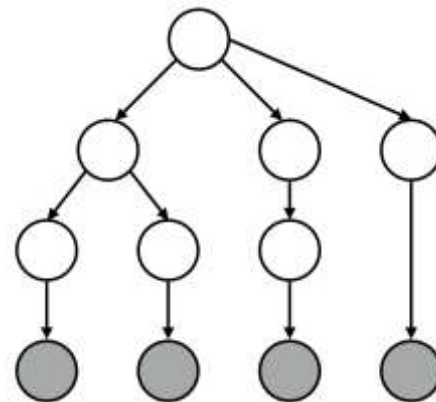
# Probabilistic Context-Free Grammar

- Generate password grammar
  - Structures
  - Terminals
- Kelley et al. IEEE S&P 2012
  - Based on Weir et al. IEEE S&P 2009
- Speed: ~~Slow~~ Medium
  - $10^{14}$  guesses

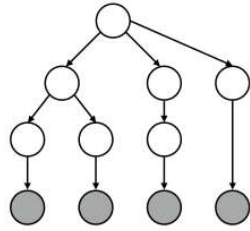


# Probabilistic Context-Free Grammar

- Generate password grammar
  - Structures
  - Terminals
- Kelley et al. IEEE S&P 2012
  - Based on Weir et al. IEEE S&P 2009
- Speed: ~~Slow~~ Medium
  - $10^{14}$  guesses
- “PCFG”



PCFG



*passwordpassword*

*password123*

*usenix3*

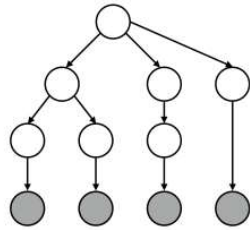
*5security*

*iloveyou*

*nirvana123*



# PCFG



*passwordpassword*

*password*123

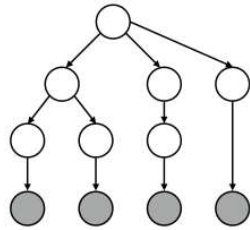
*unix*3

5*security*

*iloveyou*

*nirvana*123

# PCFG



*passwordpassword*

*password*123

*usenix*3

5*security*

*iloveyou*

*nirvana*123

# Professionals (“Pros”)

# Professionals (“Pros”)

- Contracted KoreLogic
  - Password audits for Fortune 500 companies
  - Run DEF CON “Crack Me If You Can”

**KoreLogic**  
SECURITY



# Professionals (“Pros”)

- Contracted KoreLogic
  - Password audits for Fortune 500 companies
  - Run DEF CON “Crack Me If You Can”
- Proprietary wordlists and configurations

**KoreLogic**  
SECURITY



# Professionals (“Pros”)

- Contracted KoreLogic
  - Password audits for Fortune 500 companies
  - Run DEF CON “Crack Me If You Can”
- Proprietary wordlists and configurations
  - $10^{14}$  guesses

**KoreLogic**  
SECURITY



# Professionals (“Pros”)

- Contracted KoreLogic
  - Password audits for Fortune 500 companies
  - Run DEF CON “Crack Me If You Can”
- Proprietary wordlists and configurations
  - $10^{14}$  guesses
  - Manually tuned, updated

**KoreLogic**  
SECURITY



# Approach

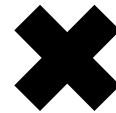
4 password sets

```
password  
iloveyou  
team0123  
...
```

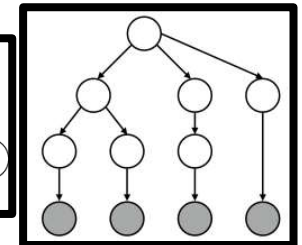
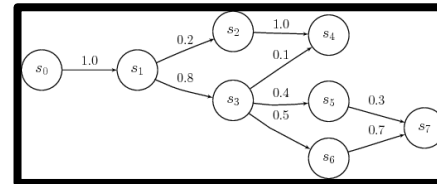
```
passwordpassword  
1234567812345678  
!1@2#3$4%5^6&7*8  
...
```

```
Pa$$w0rd  
iLov3you!  
1QaZ2W@x  
...
```

```
pa$$word1234  
12345678asDF  
!q1q!q1q!q1q  
...
```



5 approaches

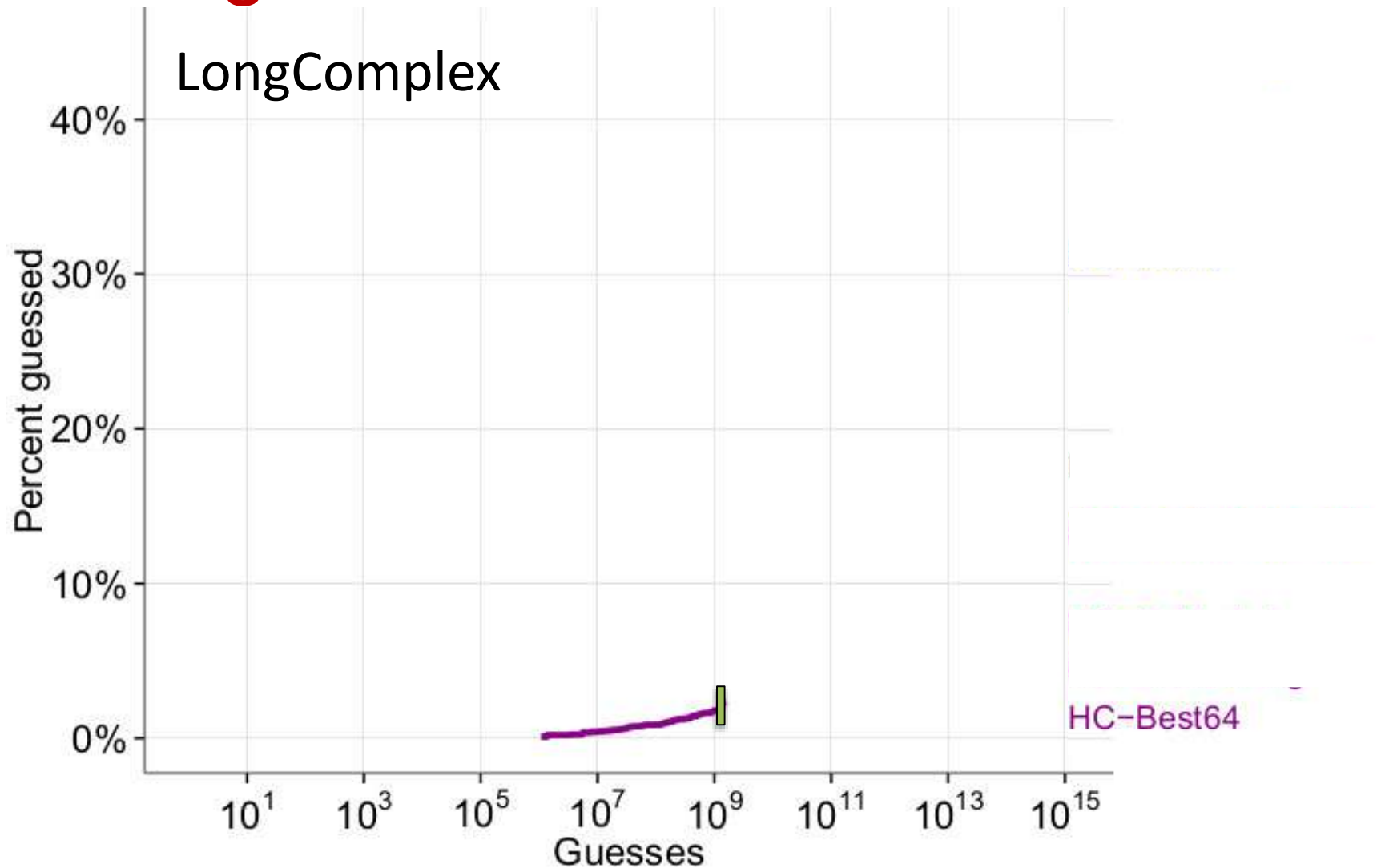




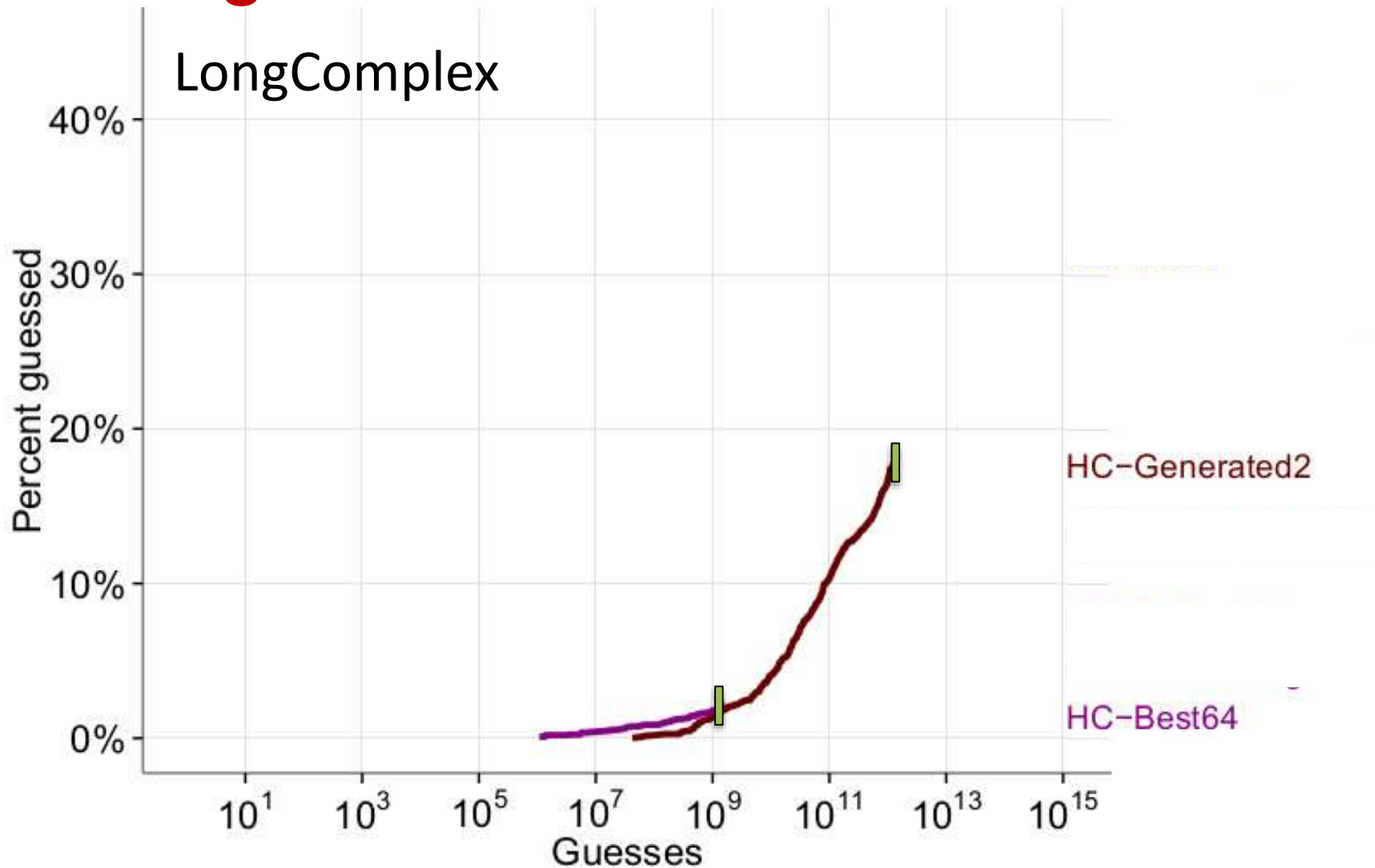
# Outline of Results

- Importance of Configuration
- Comparison of Approaches
- Impact on Research Analyses

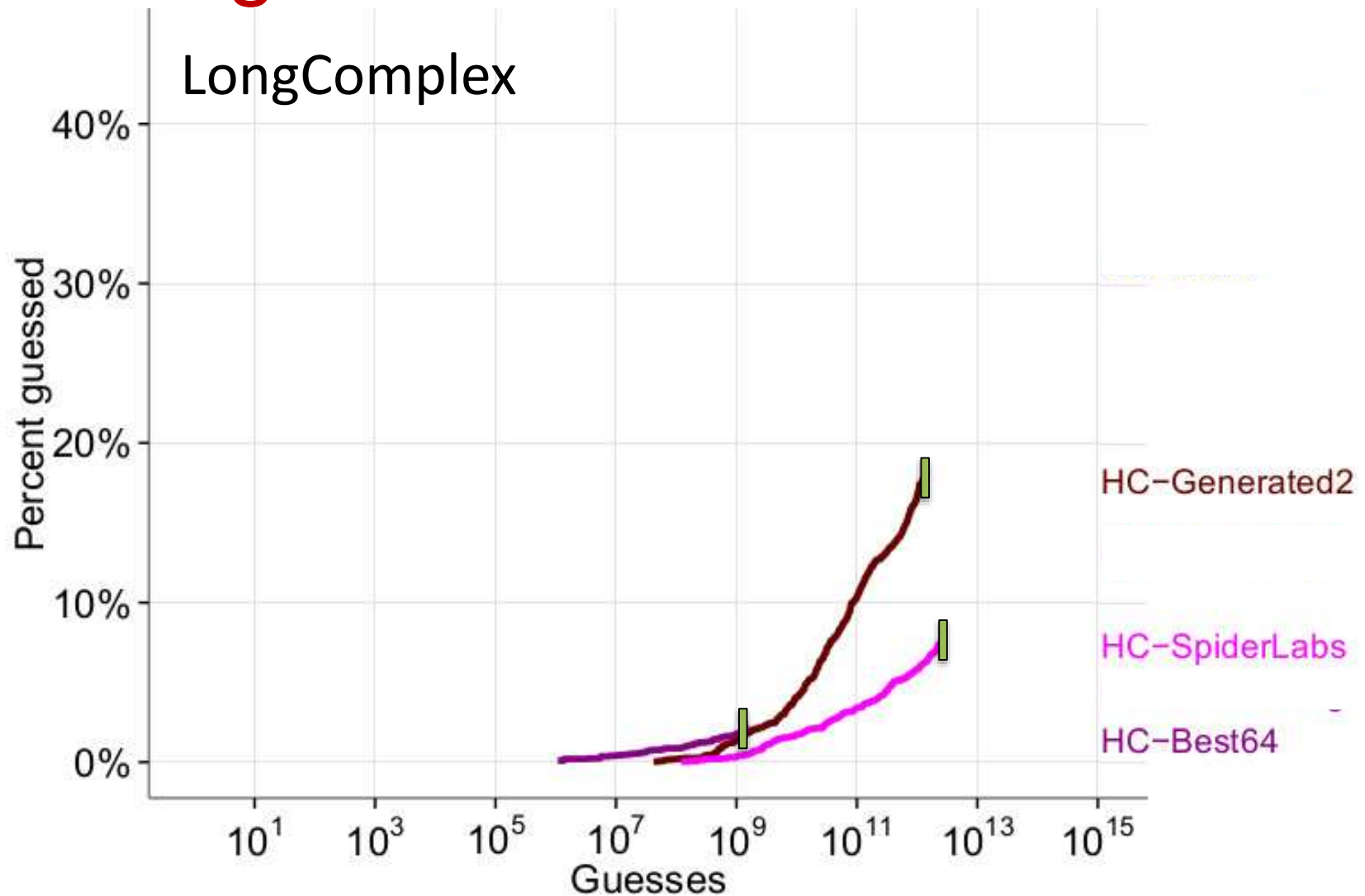
# Configuration Is Crucial



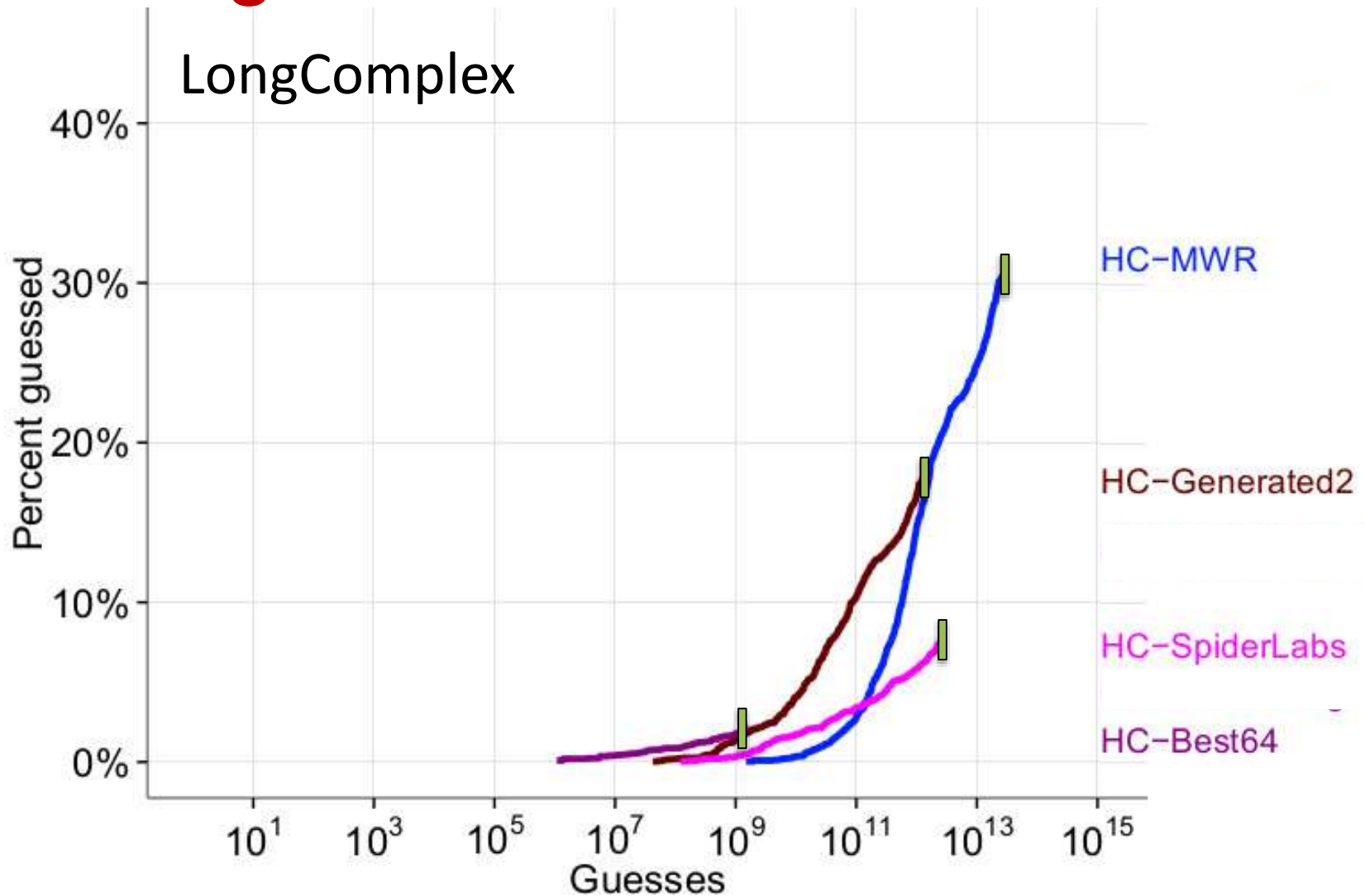
# Configuration Is Crucial



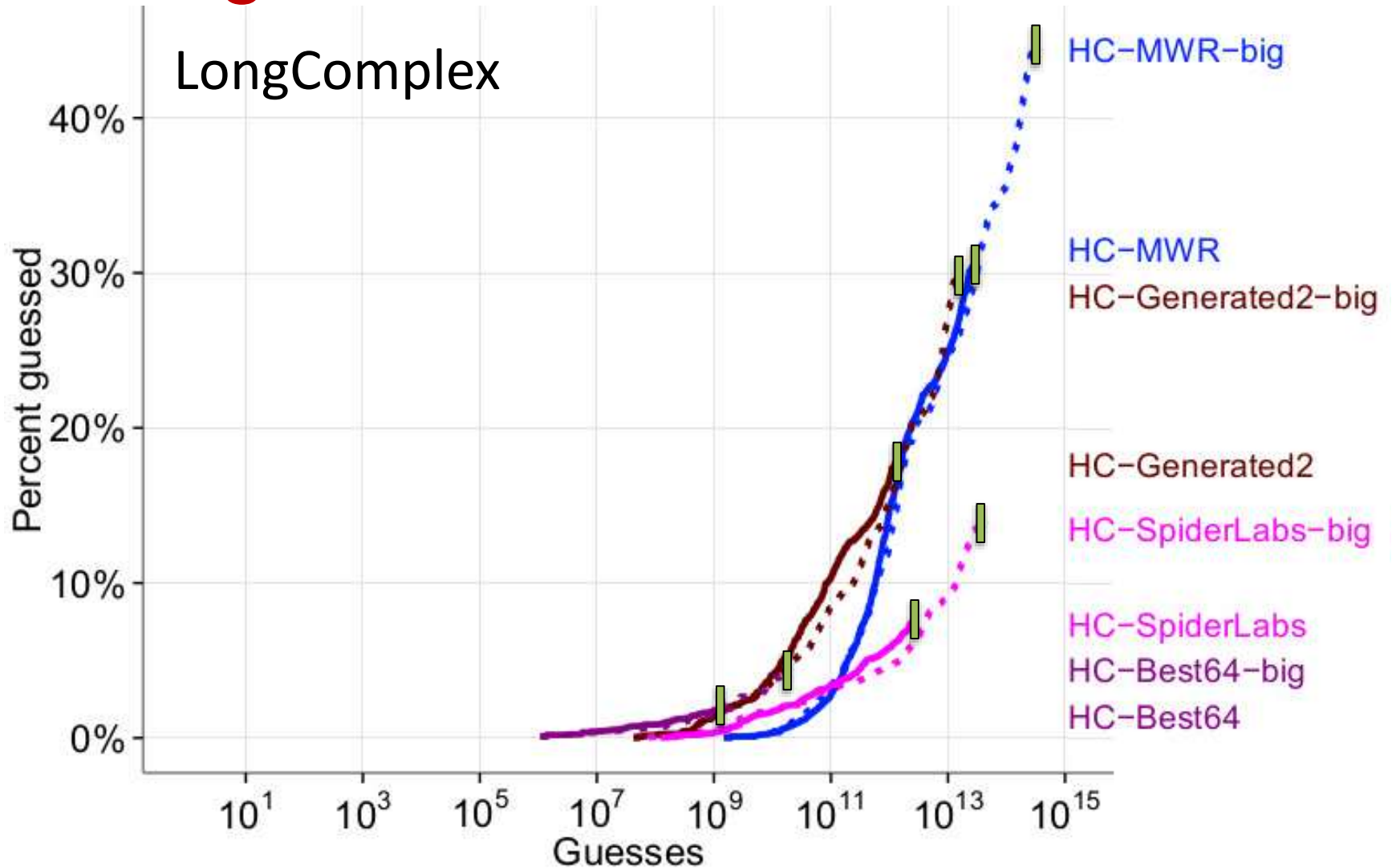
# Configuration Is Crucial



# Configuration Is Crucial



# Configuration Is Crucial



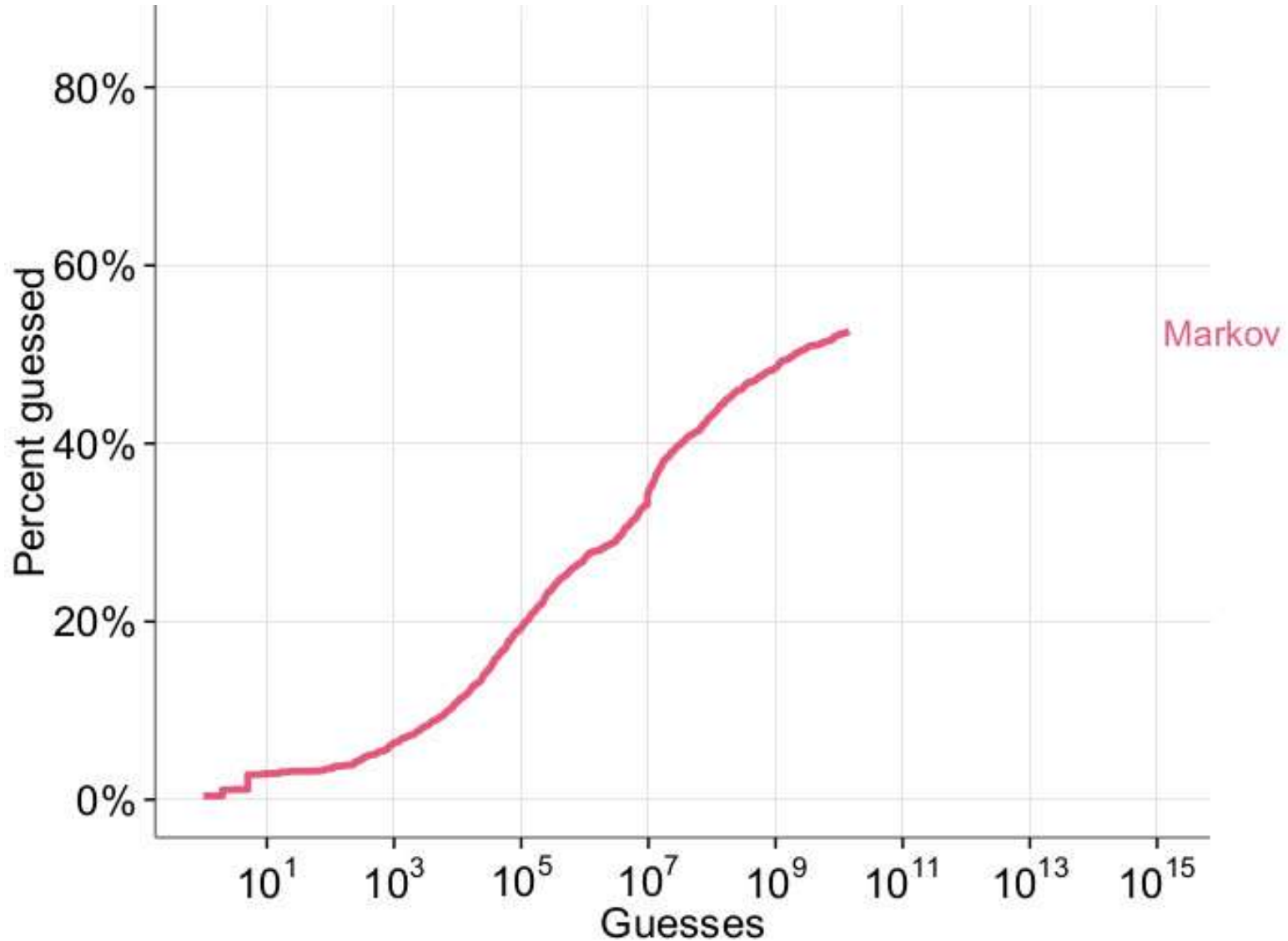
# Outline of Results

- Importance of Configuration
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- Impact on Research Analyses

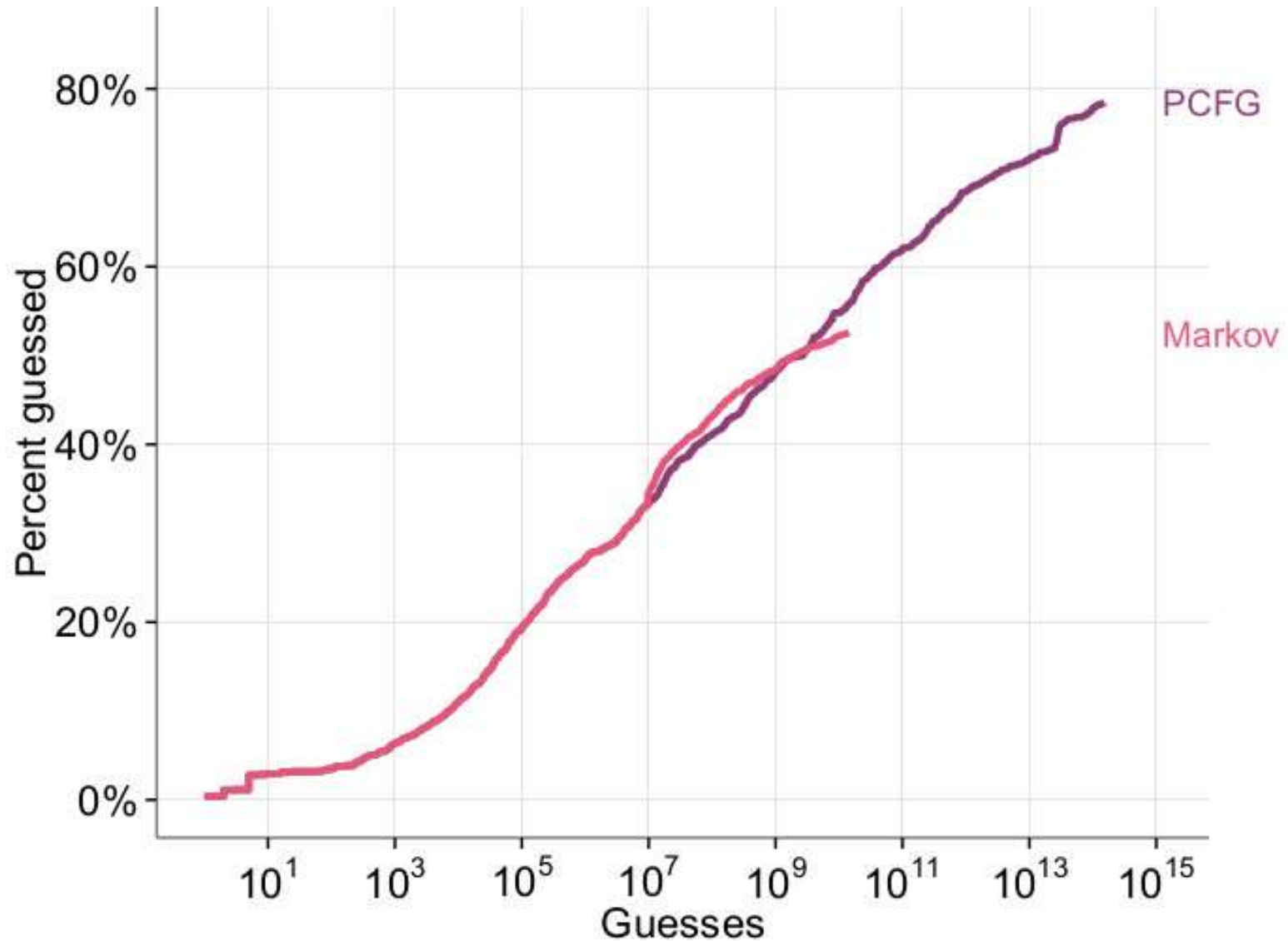
# Comparison for Basic Passwords



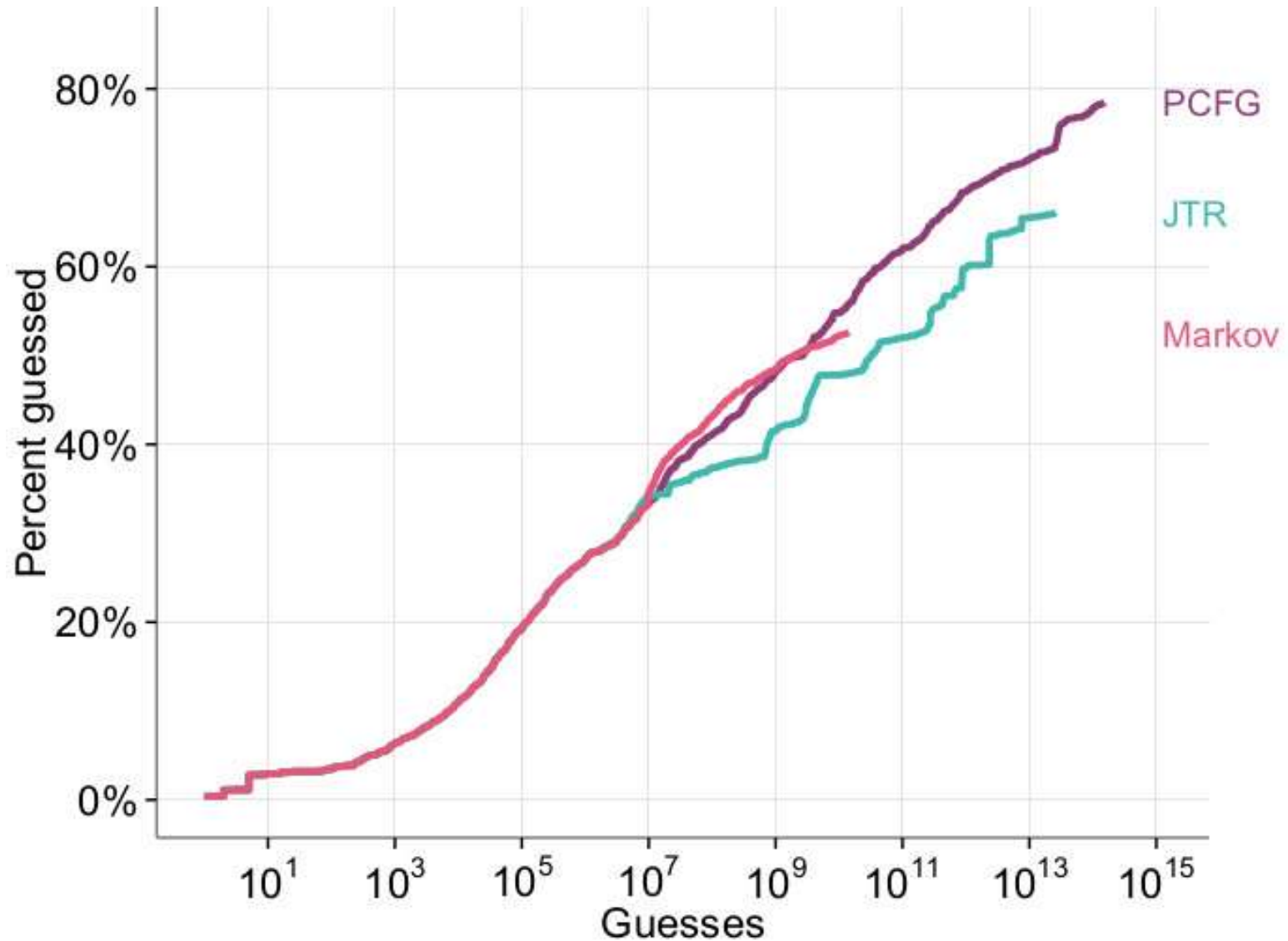
# Comparison for Basic Passwords



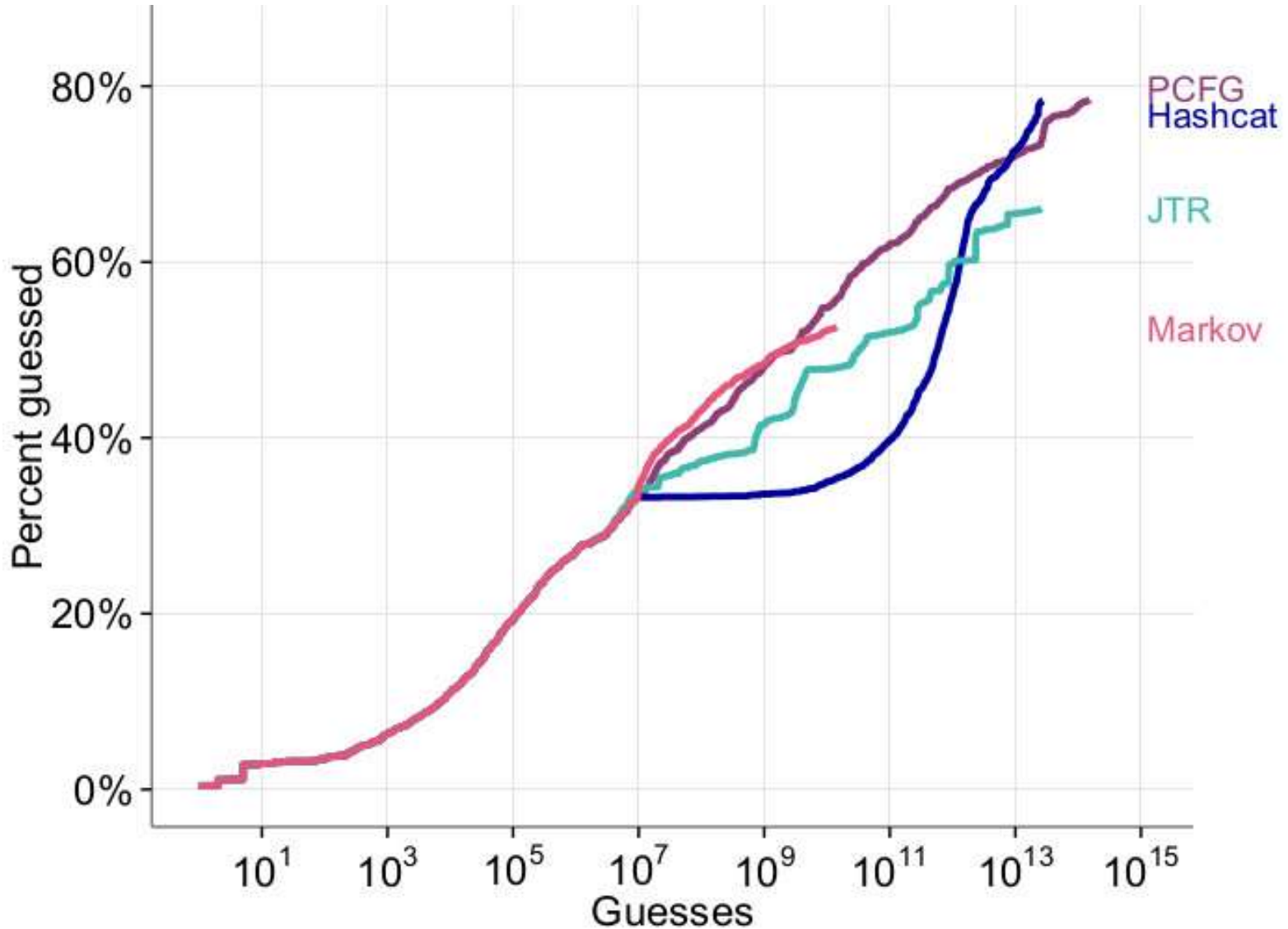
# Comparison for Basic Passwords



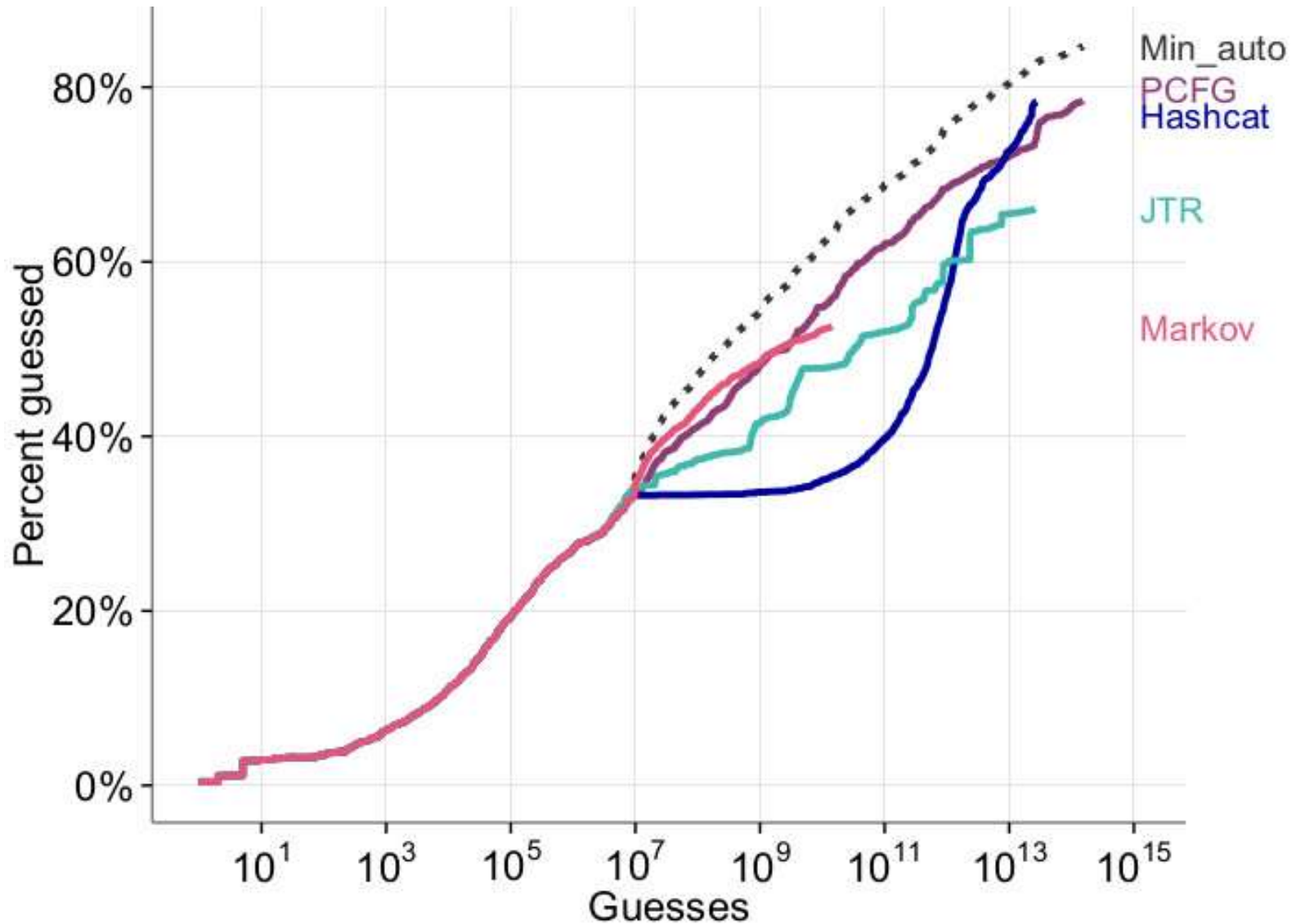
# Comparison for Basic Passwords



# Comparison for Basic Passwords

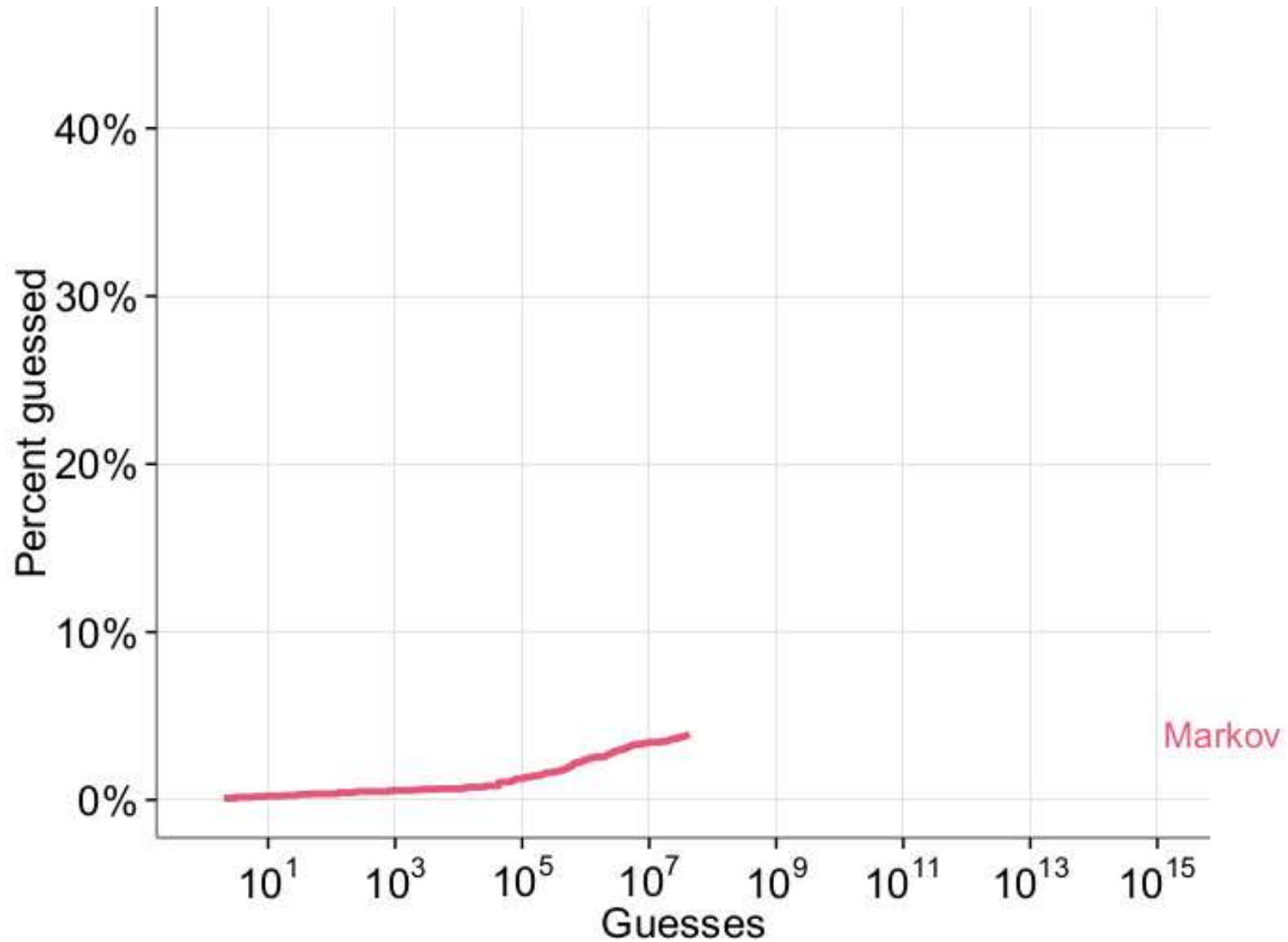


# Comparison for Basic Passwords

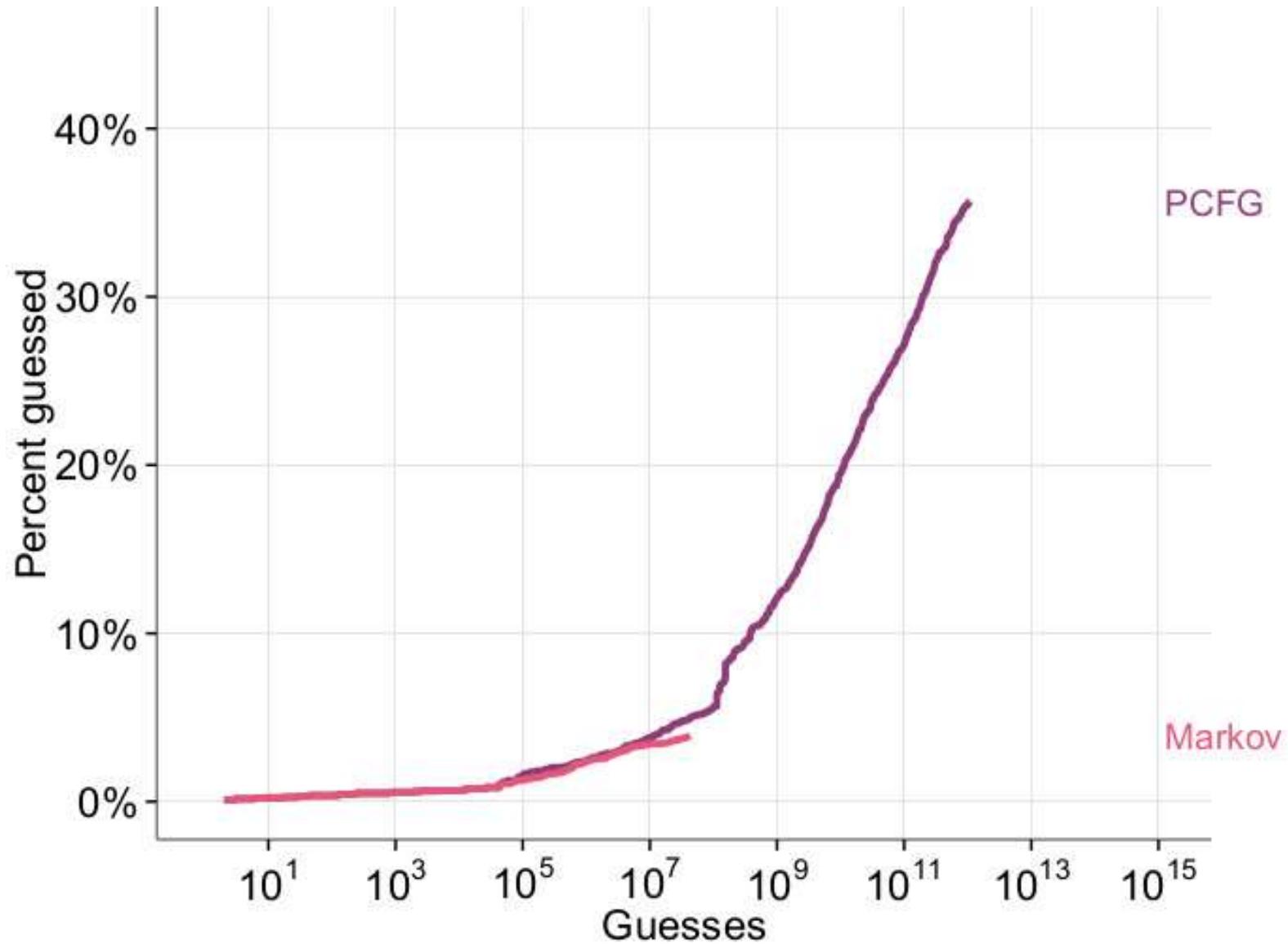


# Comparison for Complex Passwords

# Comparison for Complex Passwords

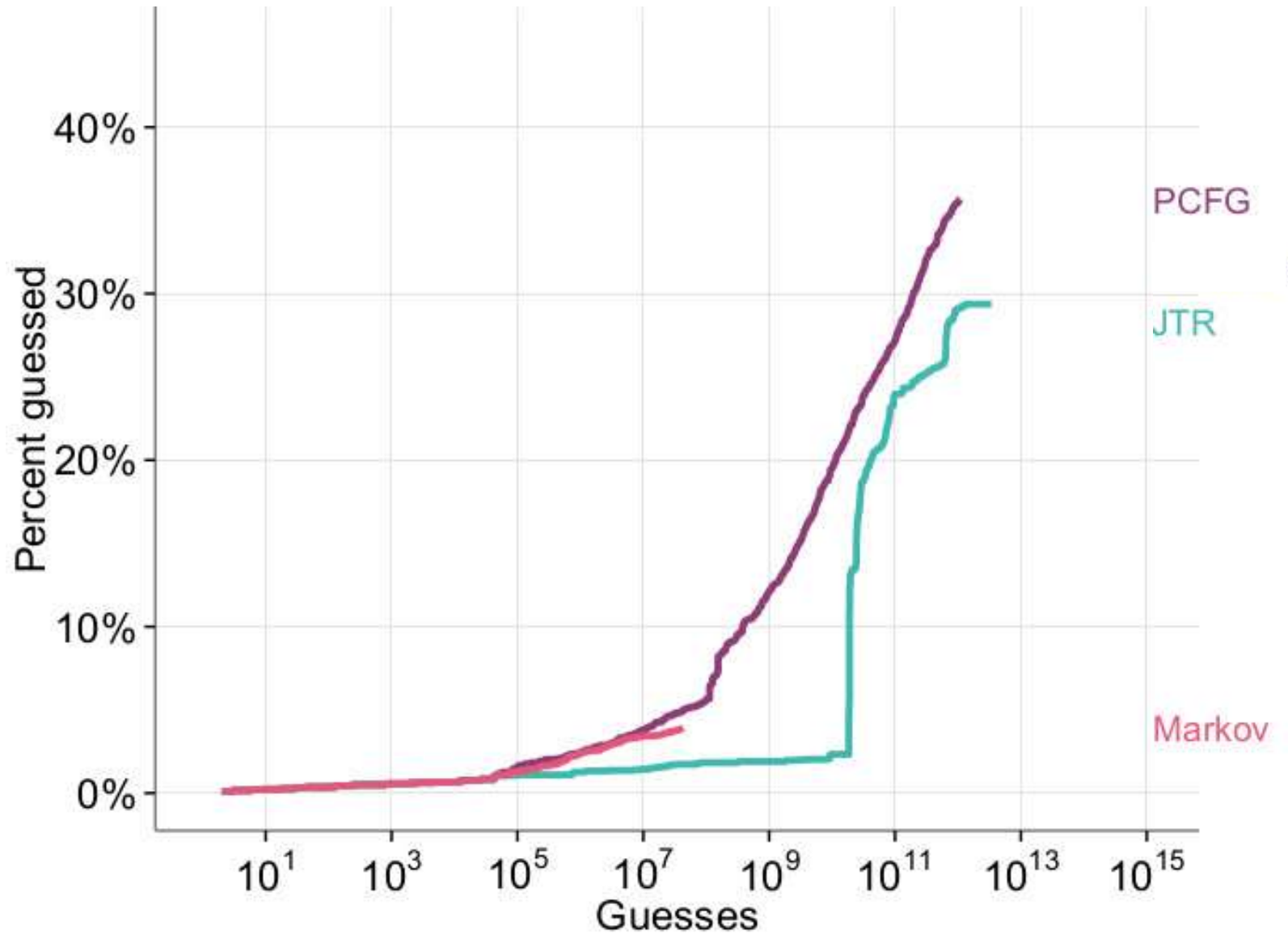


# Comparison for Complex Passwords

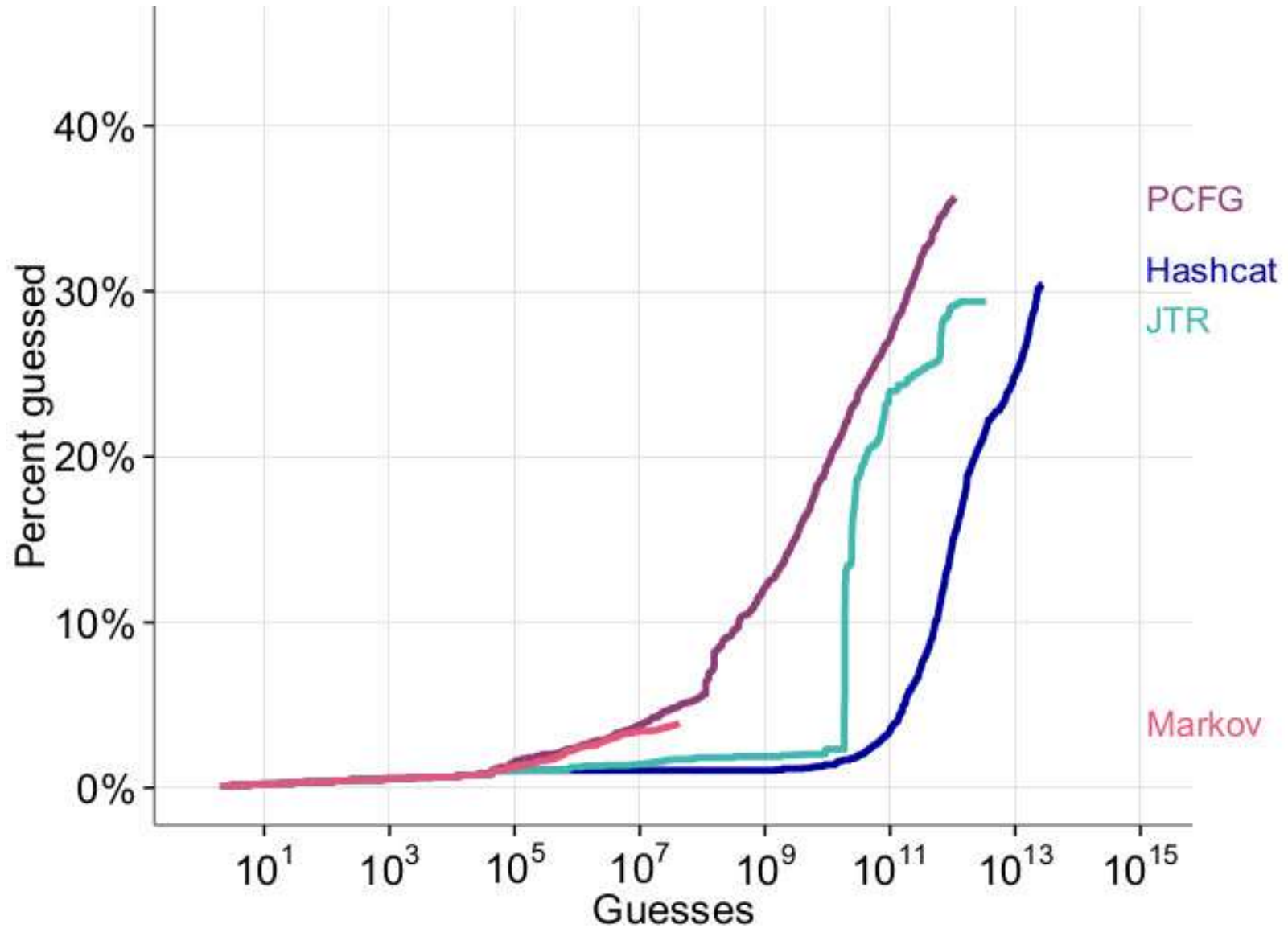




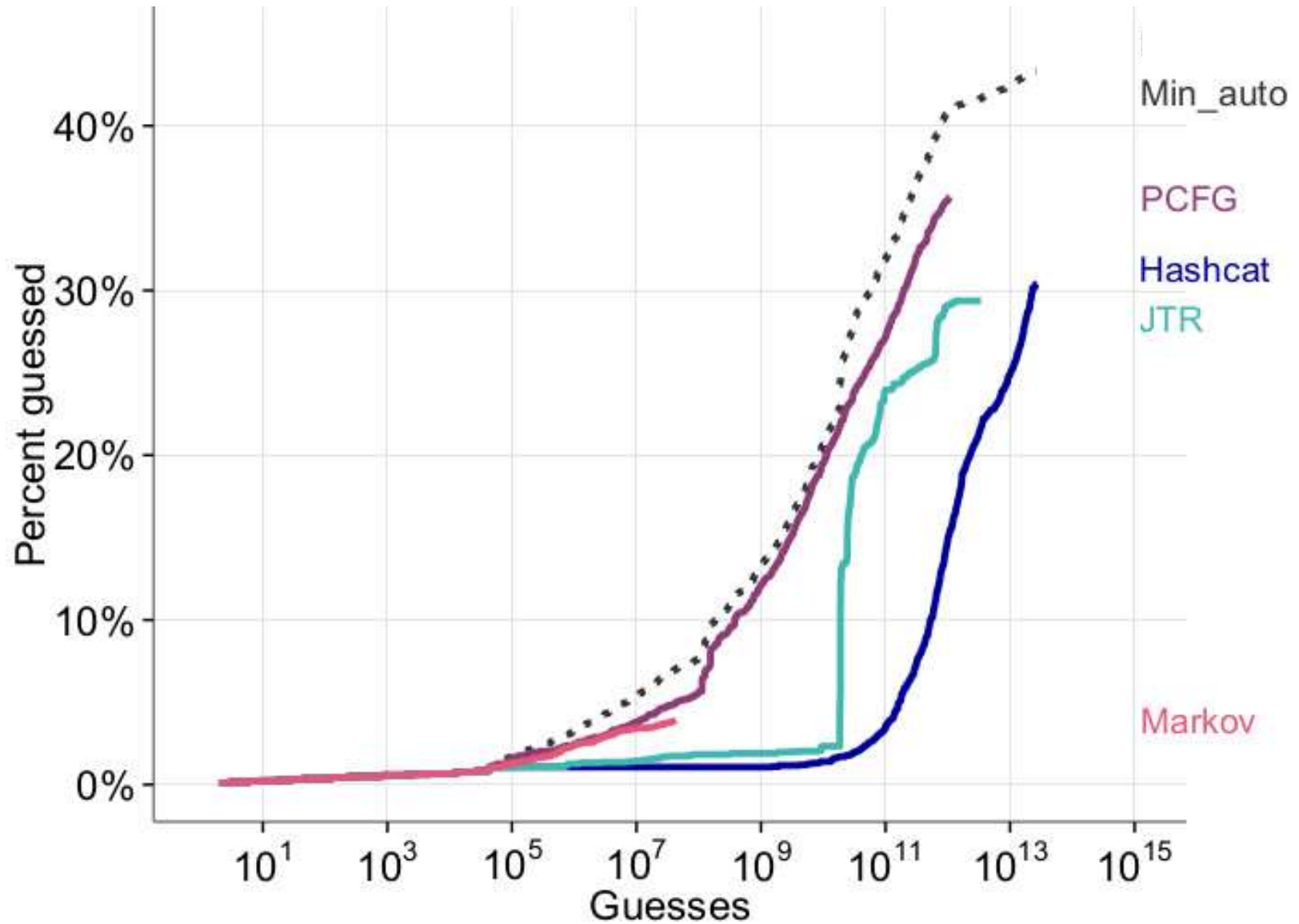
# Comparison for Complex Passwords



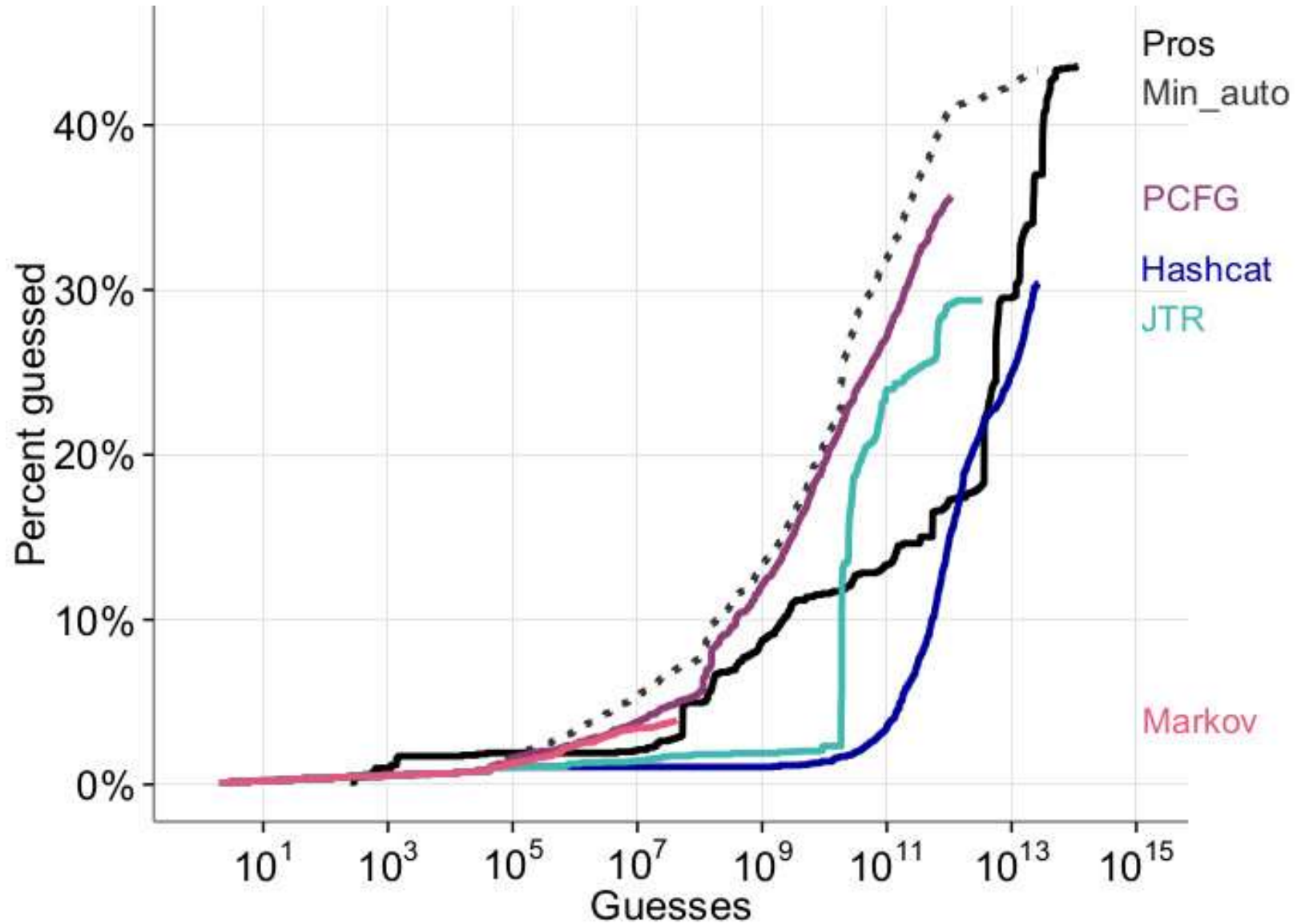
# Comparison for Complex Passwords



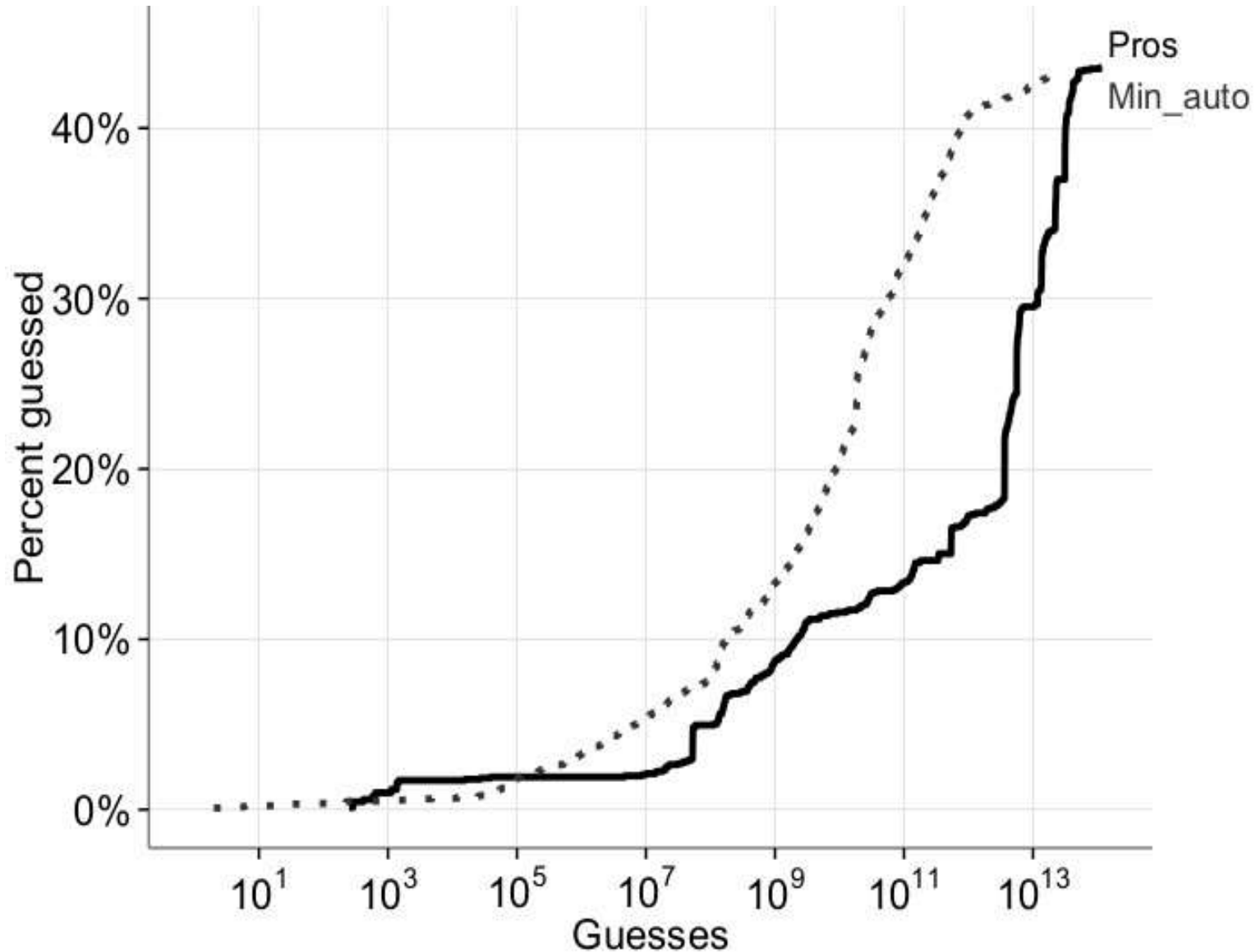
# Comparison for Complex Passwords



# Comparison for Complex Passwords



# Min\_auto Conservative Proxy for Pros



# Per-Password Highly Impacted

P@ssw0rd!

# Per-Password Highly Impacted

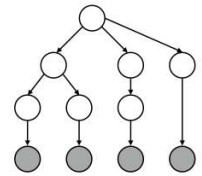
- JTR guess # 801



P@ssw0rd!

# Per-Password Highly Impacted

- JTR guess # 801
- Not guessed in  $10^{14}$  PCFG guesses



P@ssw0rd!

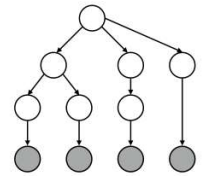


# Per-Password Highly Impacted

- JTR guess # 801



- Not guessed in  $10^{14}$  PCFG guesses



P@ssw0rd!

How Do We Help Users  
Make Better Passwords?

# Problem 1: Bad Advice

## Carnegie Mellon University

### Password Requirements

#### Must Contain

- At least 8-characters.
- At least one uppercase alphabetic character (e.g., A-Z).
- At least one lowercase alphabetic character (e.g., a-z).
- At least one number (e.g., 0-9).
- At least one special character (e.g., [~!@#\$%^&\*()?<>./\_-=]).

#### Cannot Contain

- Known information (i.e., first name, last name, Andrew userID, date of birth, 9-digit Carnegie Mellon ID number, SSN, job title).
- Four or more occurrences of the same character (e.g., aaaa, 2222, a123a345a678a).\*
- A word that is found in a standard **dictionary**.\*  
(after removing non-alpha characters).

*\*This requirement does not apply to Andrew account passwords that are more than 19 characters in length (e.g., passphrase).*

#### Additional Policies

- Last five passwords cannot be used.
- Cannot be changed more than four times in a day.

# Problem 2: Inaccurate Feedback

A password input field with a light blue border. The text "Password1!" is entered. On the right side of the field, there is a green progress bar indicating password strength. This progress bar is highlighted with a red rectangular border.

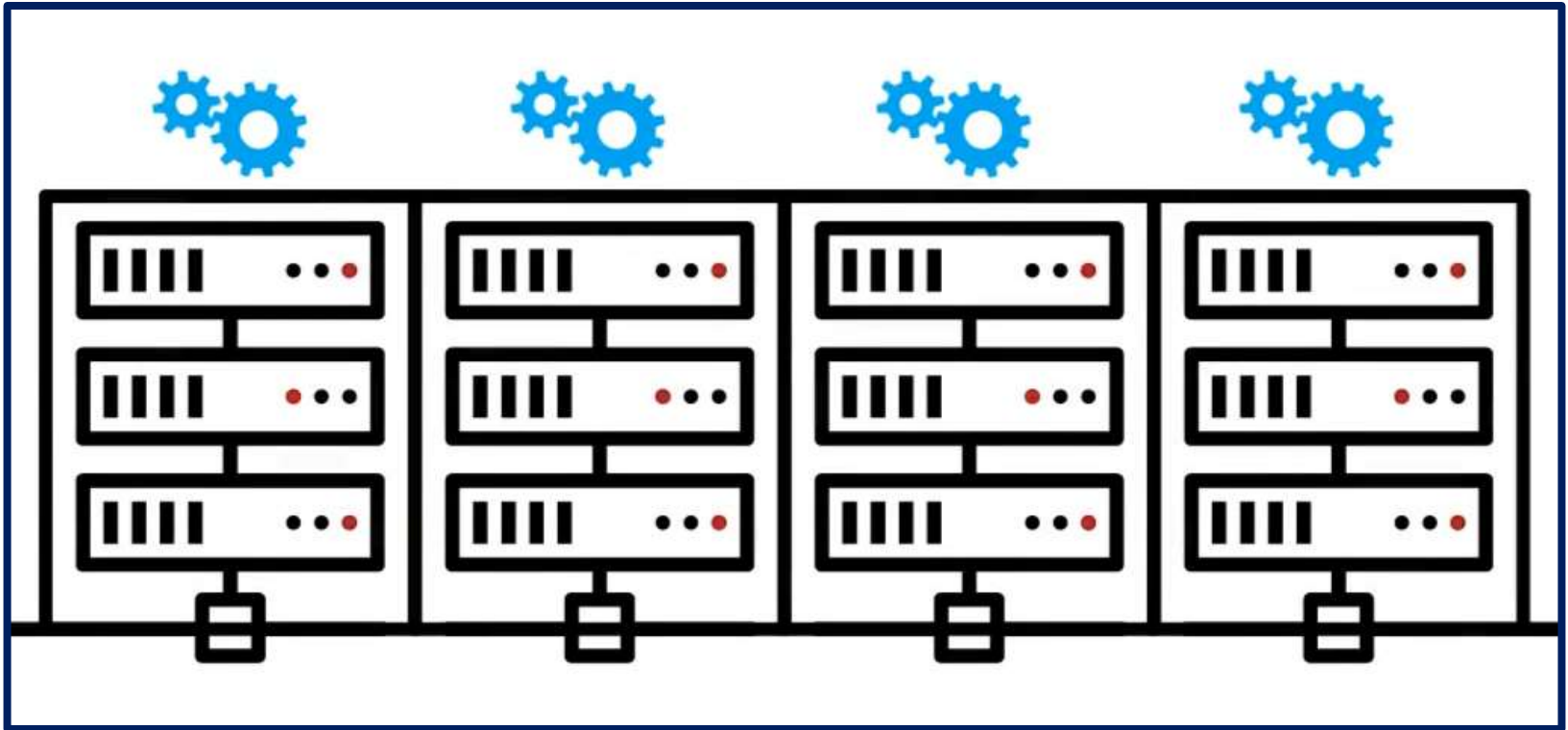
# Problem 3: Unhelpful Feedback

A password input field with a light blue border. The password is obscured by seven black dots. A vertical cursor is positioned at the end of the dots. To the right of the input field is a grey horizontal line, likely a "show/hide" toggle.

✘ Please enter a stronger password.

✘ Please enter a stronger password.

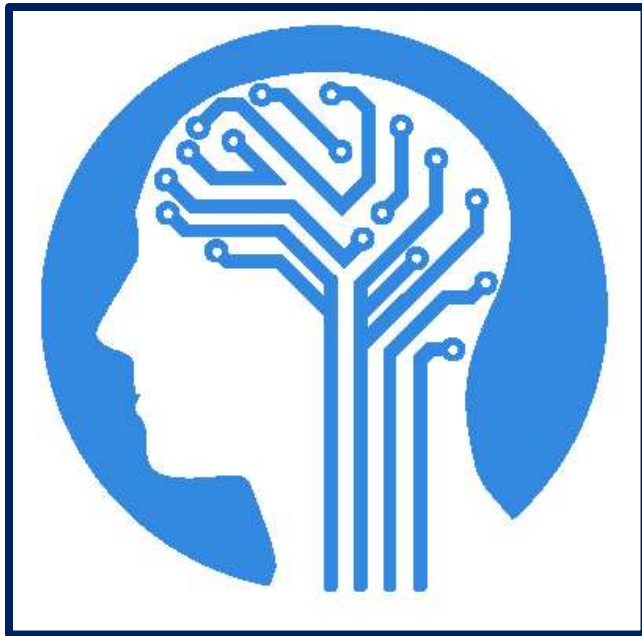
# Better Password Scoring



William Melicher, Blase Ur, Sean M. Segreti, Saranga Komanduri, Lujo Bauer, Nicolas Christin, Lorrie Faith Cranor. Fast, Lean, and Accurate: Modeling Password Guessability Using Neural Networks. In *Proc. USENIX Security Symposium*, 2016.

# Better Password Scoring

- Real-time feedback
- Runs entirely client-side
- Accurately models password guessability



**Recurrent Neural  
Networks (RNNs)**

**LSTM Architecture**

# Generating Passwords



# Generating Passwords

passw  o or maybe 0 or O or ...

# Generating Passwords

passw



Next char is:

A: 3%

B: 1%

C: 0.6%

...

O: 55%

...

Z: 0.01%

0: 20%

1: ...

# Generating Passwords

""

Prob: 100%



Next char is:

A: 3%

B: 2%

C: 5%

...

O: 2%

...

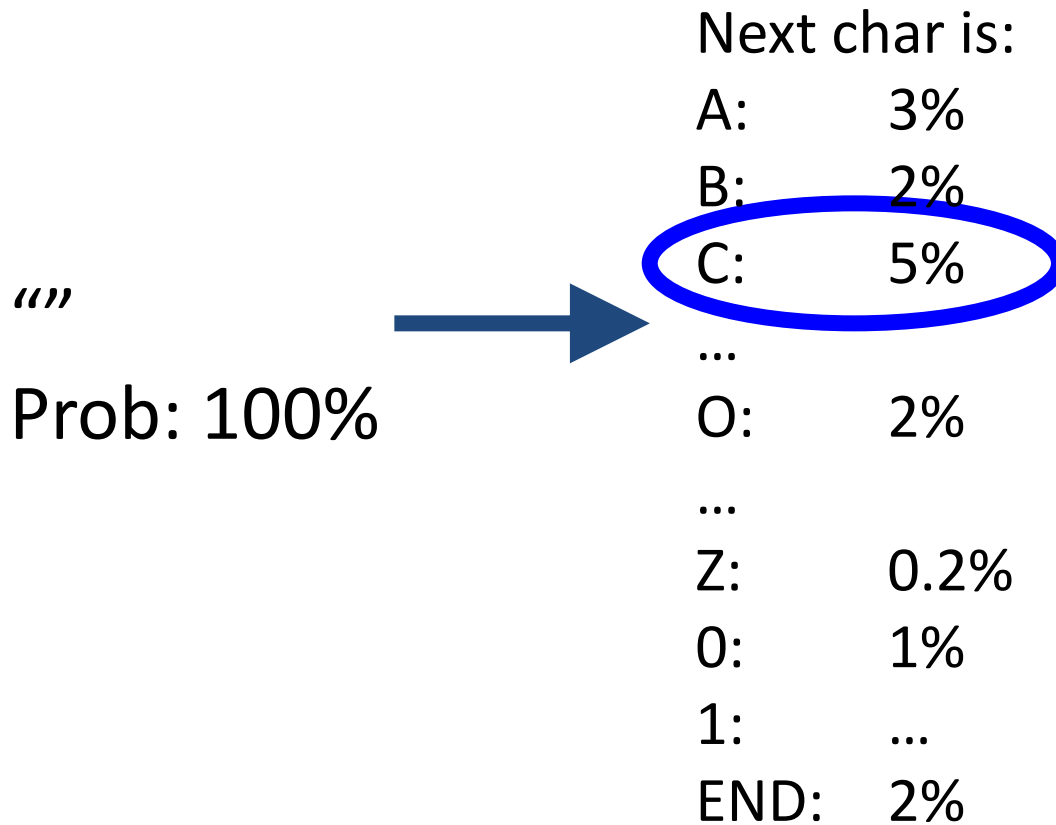
Z: 0.2%

0: 1%

1: ...

END: 2%

# Generating Passwords



# Generating Passwords

“C”

Prob: 5%



# Generating Passwords

“C”  
Prob: 5%



Next char is:

A: 10%

B: 1%

C: 4%

...

O: 8%

...

Z: 0.02%

0: 3%

1: ...

END: 6%

# Generating Passwords

“C”  
Prob: 5%



Next char is:

A: 10%

B: 1%

C: 4%

...

O: 8%

...

Z: 0.02%

0: 3%

1: ...

END: 6%

# Generating Passwords

“CA”

Prob: 0.5%



Next char is:

A: 3%

B: 10%

C: 7%

...

O: 1%

...

Z: 0.03%

0: 2%

1: ...

END: 12%



# Generating Passwords

“CAB”

Prob: 0.05%



Next char is:

A: 3%

B: 10%

C: 7%

...

O: 1%

...

Z: 0.03%

0: 2%

1: ...

END: 3%

# Generating Passwords

“CAB”

Prob: 0.05%



Next char is:

A: 4%

B: 3%

C: 1%

...

O: 2%

...

Z: 0.01%

0: 4%

1: ...

END: 12%

# Generating Passwords

“CAB”

Prob: 0.05%



Next char is:

A: 4%

B: 3%

C: 1%

...

O: 2%

...

Z: 0.01%

0: 4%

1: ...

END: 12%

# Generating Passwords

“CAB”

Prob: 0.006%

# Descending Probability Order

CAB - 0.006%  
CAC - 0.0042%  
ADD1 - 0.002%  
CODE - 0.0013%  
...

# Design Space

- Model size: 3mb (browser) vs. 60mb (GPU)
- Transference learning
  - Novel password-composition policies
- Training data
  - Natural language
- (Many others)

# Key Results

- Neural networks produce better guesses than previous methods
- Larger model not a major advantage
- Browser implementation in Javascript

# Intelligibility (Explanations)





# Building a Data-Driven Meter

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Create Your Password". It includes three input fields: "Username" (empty), "Password" (containing "Mypassword123"), and "Confirm Password" (empty). Below the password field is a "Show Password & Detailed Feedback" checkbox which is checked. A blue "Continue" button is located at the bottom right of the form. A feedback panel on the right side of the form displays the message "Your password is very easy to guess." followed by three bullet points: "Don't use dictionary words (password)", "Capitalize a letter in the middle, rather than the first character", and "Consider inserting digits into the middle, not just at the end". Each bullet point has a "(Why?)" link next to it. At the bottom of the feedback panel, it suggests "A better choice: My123passwoRzd" and provides a link to "How to make strong passwords".

Create Your Password

Username

Password

Mypassword123

Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password

Continue

Your password is very easy to guess.

- Don't use dictionary words (password) [\(Why?\)](#)
- Capitalize a letter in the middle, rather than the first character [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider inserting digits into the middle, not just at the end [\(Why?\)](#)

A better choice: My123passwoRzd

[How to make strong passwords](#)

Blase Ur, Felicia Alfieri, Maung Aung, Lujo Bauer, Nicolas Christin, Jessica Colnago, Lorrie Faith Cranor, Henry Dixon, Pardis Emami Naeini, Hana Habib, Noah Johnson, William Melicher. Development and Evaluation of a Data-Driven Password Meter. In *Proc. CHI*, 2017.







# Provide Intelligent Explanations

Unic0rns

Don't use simple transformations of words or phrases (**unicorns** → **Unic0rns**)

Capitalize a letter in the middle, rather than the first character

- 21 characteristics
- Weightings determined with regression



# Main Screen...

## Create Your Password

Username  
blase

Password  
.....

Show Password

[Continue](#)

Don't reuse a password from another account! [\(Why?\)](#)

Your password must:

- Contain 12+ characters
- Use 3+ of the following: uppercase letters; lowercase letters; digits; symbols

[How to make strong passwords](#)

# ...Shows Requirements

The image shows a web form titled "Create Your Password". It has two input fields: "Username" with the value "blase" and "Password" with masked characters ".....". Below the password field is a "Show Password" checkbox and a "Continue" button. A grey tooltip box is open, containing the text "Don't reuse a password from another account! (Why?)". A red rectangle highlights a section of the tooltip that lists password requirements: "Your password must:" followed by two items: "Contain 12+ characters" (with an unchecked checkbox) and "Use 3+ of the following: uppercase letters; lowercase letters; digits; symbols" (with a checked green checkmark). At the bottom of the tooltip is a link "How to make strong passwords".

Create Your Password

Username  
blase

Password  
.....

Show Password

Continue

Don't reuse a password from another account! [\(Why?\)](#)

Your password must:

- Contain 12+ characters
- Use 3+ of the following: uppercase letters; lowercase letters; digits; symbols

[How to make strong passwords](#)



# ...Emphasizes Avoiding Reuse

The image shows a web form titled "Create Your Password". It has two input fields: "Username" with the value "blase" and "Password" with masked characters ".....". Below the password field is a "Show Password" checkbox and a blue "Continue" button. A red-bordered callout box points to the password field with the text "Don't reuse a password from another account! (Why?)". Below this callout is a section titled "Your password must:" containing two items: an unchecked checkbox for "Contain 12+ characters" and a checked green checkmark for "Use 3+ of the following: uppercase letters; lowercase letters; digits; symbols". At the bottom of the callout is a blue link "How to make strong passwords".

Create Your Password

Username  
blase

Password  
.....

Show Password

Continue

Don't reuse a password from another account! [\(Why?\)](#)

Your password must:

- Contain 12+ characters
- ✓ Use 3+ of the following: uppercase letters; lowercase letters; digits; symbols

[How to make strong passwords](#)

# ...Provides Abstract Advice

**Create Your Password**

Username  
blase

Password  
.....

Show Password

[Continue](#)

Don't reuse a password from another account! [\(Why?\)](#)

Your password must:

- Contain 12+ characters
- Use 3+ of the following: uppercase letters; lowercase letters; digits; symbols

[How to make strong passwords](#)

# After Requirements Are Met...

## Create Your Password

Username  
blase

Password  
.....  


Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password

[Continue](#)

**Your password could be better.**

- Don't use dictionary words or words used on Wikipedia [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider inserting digits into the middle [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider making your password longer [\(Why?\)](#)

[See Your Password With Our Improvements](#)

[How to make strong passwords](#)

# ...Displays Score Visually

## Create Your Password

Username  
blase

Password  
.....

**Progress Bar:** [Yellow bar indicating score]

Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password

[Continue](#)

**Your password could be better.**

- Don't use dictionary words or words used on Wikipedia [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider inserting digits into the middle [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider making your password longer [\(Why?\)](#)


[See Your Password With Our Improvements](#)

[How to make strong passwords](#)

# ...Provides Text Feedback

## Create Your Password

Username  
blase

Password  
.....  


Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password

[Continue](#)

**Your password could be better.**

- Don't use dictionary words or words used on Wikipedia [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider inserting digits into the middle [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider making your password longer [\(Why?\)](#)

[See Your Password With Our Improvements](#)

[How to make strong passwords](#)

# ...Gives Detail (Password Shown)

## Create Your Password

Username  
blase

Password  
CryptoUnicorn3|  
 Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password

Your password could be better.

- Don't use dictionary words (Unicorn) or words used on Wikipedia (Crypto) [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider inserting digits into the middle, not just at the end [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider making your password longer than 14 characters [\(Why?\)](#)

A better choice: C3ryptoUniCORN@

[How to make strong passwords](#)

# ...Offers Explanations

## Create Your Password

Username  
blase

Password  
CryptoUnicorn3|  
 Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password

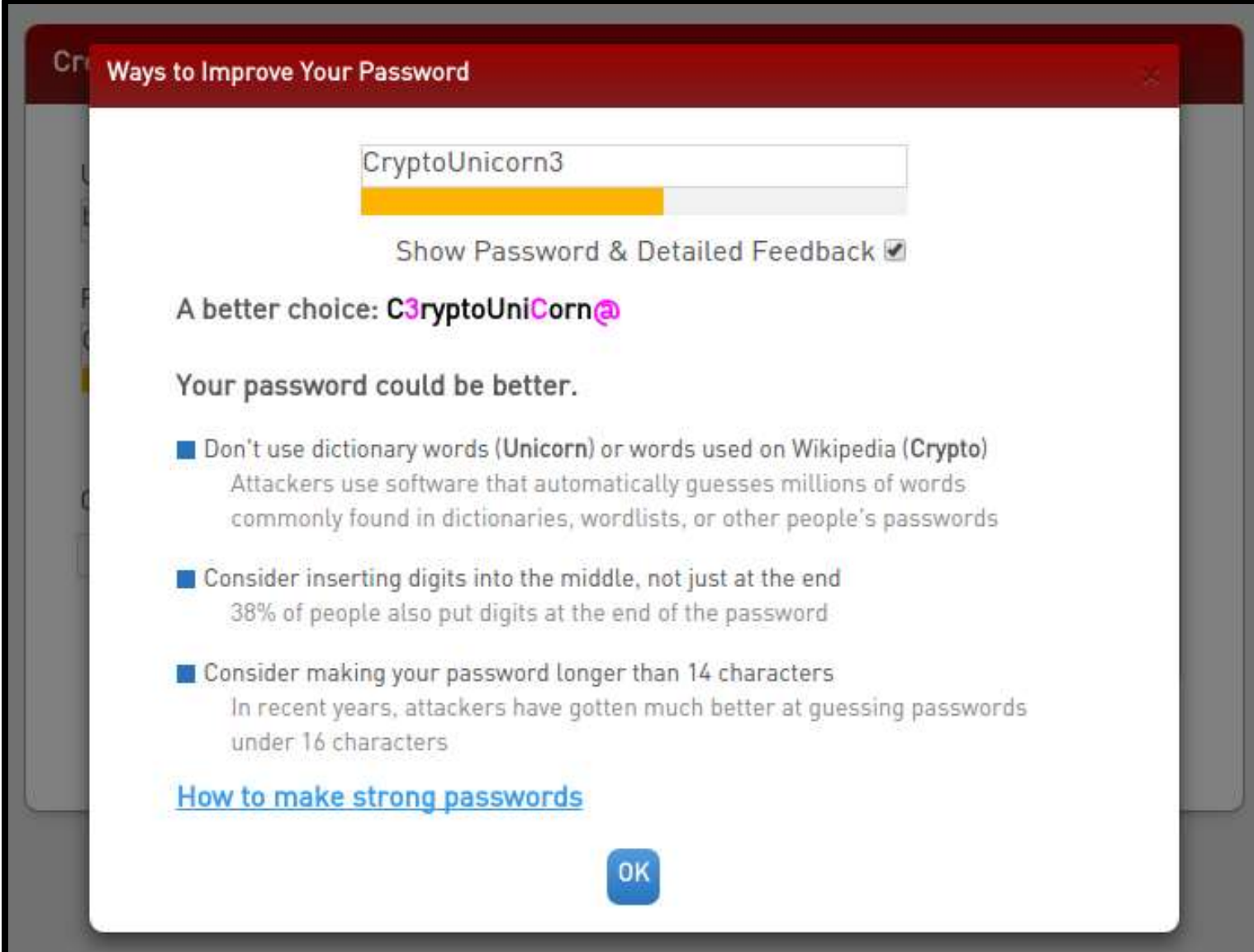
[Continue](#)

Your password could be better.

- Don't use dictionary words (**Unicorn**) or words used on Wikipedia (**Crypto**) [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider inserting digits into the middle, not just at the end [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider making your password longer than 14 characters [\(Why?\)](#)

A better choice: **C3**ryptoUni**C**orn@  
[How to make strong passwords](#)

# Explanations Shown in Modal



The image shows a modal window titled "Ways to Improve Your Password" with a red header bar. At the top, there is a text input field containing the password "CryptoUnicorn3". Below the input field is a progress bar that is partially filled with yellow. Underneath the progress bar is a checkbox labeled "Show Password & Detailed Feedback" which is checked. The main content of the modal includes a suggested password "A better choice: C3ryptoUniC0rn@" where the characters are color-coded. Below this is the text "Your password could be better." followed by a list of three bullet points providing feedback on the current password's weaknesses. At the bottom of the modal is a blue "OK" button.

Ways to Improve Your Password

CryptoUnicorn3

Show Password & Detailed Feedback

A better choice: C3ryptoUniC0rn@

Your password could be better.

- Don't use dictionary words (**Unicorn**) or words used on Wikipedia (**Crypto**)  
Attackers use software that automatically guesses millions of words commonly found in dictionaries, wordlists, or other people's passwords
- Consider inserting digits into the middle, not just at the end  
38% of people also put digits at the end of the password
- Consider making your password longer than 14 characters  
In recent years, attackers have gotten much better at guessing passwords under 16 characters

[How to make strong passwords](#)

OK





# Evaluation

- 2-part online study
  - 1) Create password; survey; recall password  
(48 hours later, send automated email)
  - 2) Recall password; survey
- 4,509 Mechanical Turk participants
  - Between-subjects
  - Full-factorial design along three dimensions

# Dimension 1: Composition Policy

- 8+ characters (1class8)

password

- 12+ characters, 3+ classes (3class12)

Password1234

# Dimension 2: Stringency



- Low
- Medium
- High

# Dimension 2: Stringency



- Low  $10^4$  guesses
- Medium  $10^6$  guesses
- High  $10^8$  guesses

# Dimension 2: Stringency



- Low  $10^4$  guesses  $10^8$  guesses
- Medium  $10^6$  guesses  $10^{12}$  guesses
- High  $10^8$  guesses  $10^{16}$  guesses

# Dimension 3: Feedback

# No Feedback

## Create Your Password

Username

Password

Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password



# Bar Only

## Create Your Password

Username  
blase

Password  
.....

**Progress Bar**

Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password

Continue

# Public (Non-Sensitive) Feedback

## Create Your Password

Username  
blase

Password  
.....  
 Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password

**Your password could be better.**

- Don't use dictionary words or words used on Wikipedia [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider inserting digits into the middle [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider making your password longer [\(Why?\)](#)

[How to make strong passwords](#)

# Standard Feedback

## Create Your Password

Username  
blase

Password  
CryptoUnicorn3|

Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password

[Continue](#)

Your password could be better.

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A better choice: **C3**ryptoUni**C**orn@

[How to make strong passwords](#)

# Standard Feedback

## Create Your Password

Username  
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Password  
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Show Password & Detailed Feedback

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**A better choice: C3ryptoUniCorn@**

[How to make strong passwords](#)

# Standard Feedback

**Create Your Password**

Username  
blase

Password

Confirm Password

[Continue](#)

Your password could be better.

- Don't use dictionary words (Unicorn) or words used on Wikipedia (Crypto) [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider making your password longer than 14 characters [\(Why?\)](#)

**A better choice: C3ryptoUniCorn@**

[How to make strong passwords](#)

# Standard, No Suggested Improvement

## Create Your Password

Username  
blase

Password  
CryptoUnicorn3|

Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password

[Continue](#)

Your password could be better.

- Don't use dictionary words (**Unicorn**) or words used on Wikipedia (**Crypto**) [\(Why?\)](#)
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[How to make strong passwords](#)

# Standard, No Bar

## Create Your Password

Username  
blase

Password  
CryptoUnicorn3|

Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password

[Continue](#)

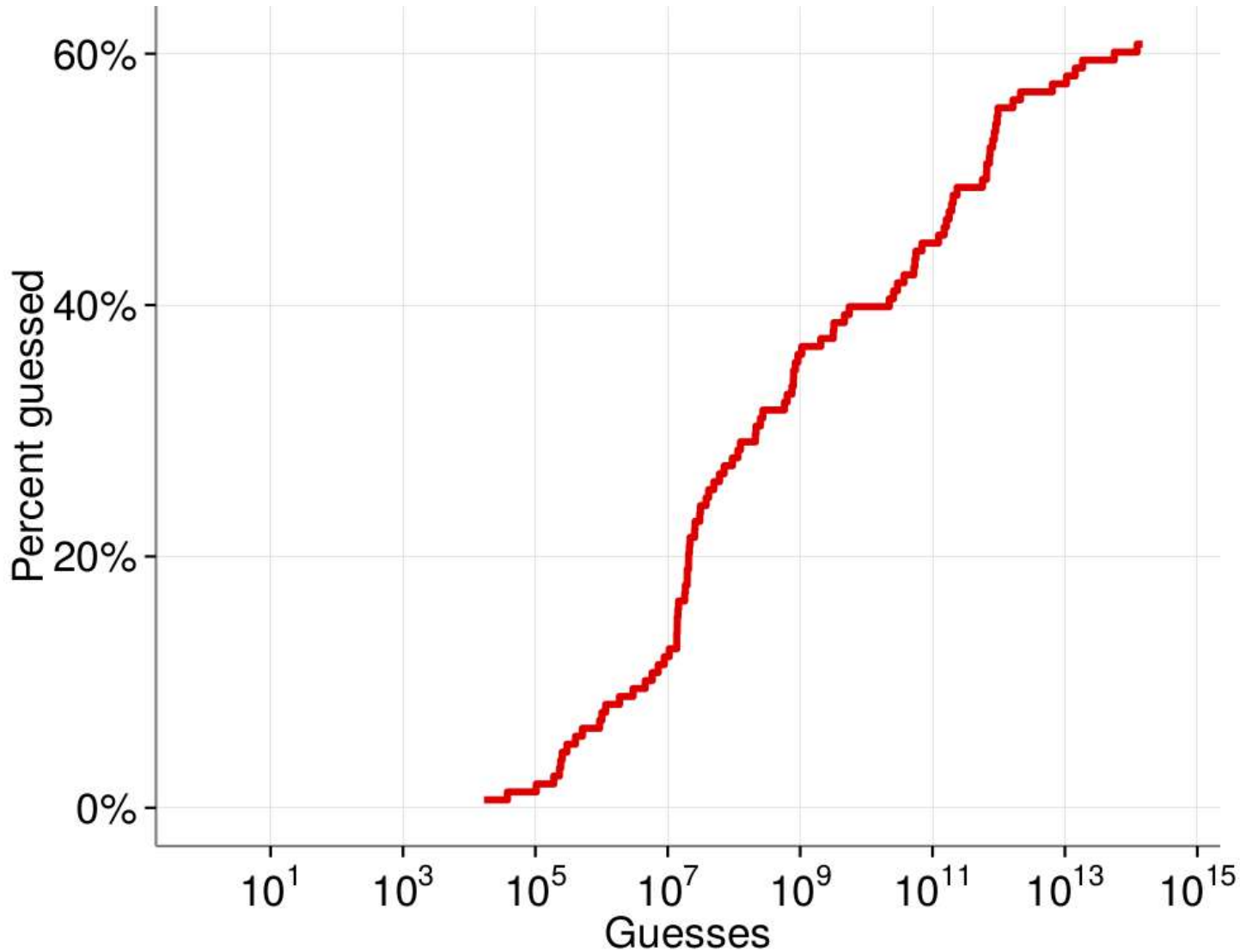
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A better choice: **C3**ryptoUni**C**orn@

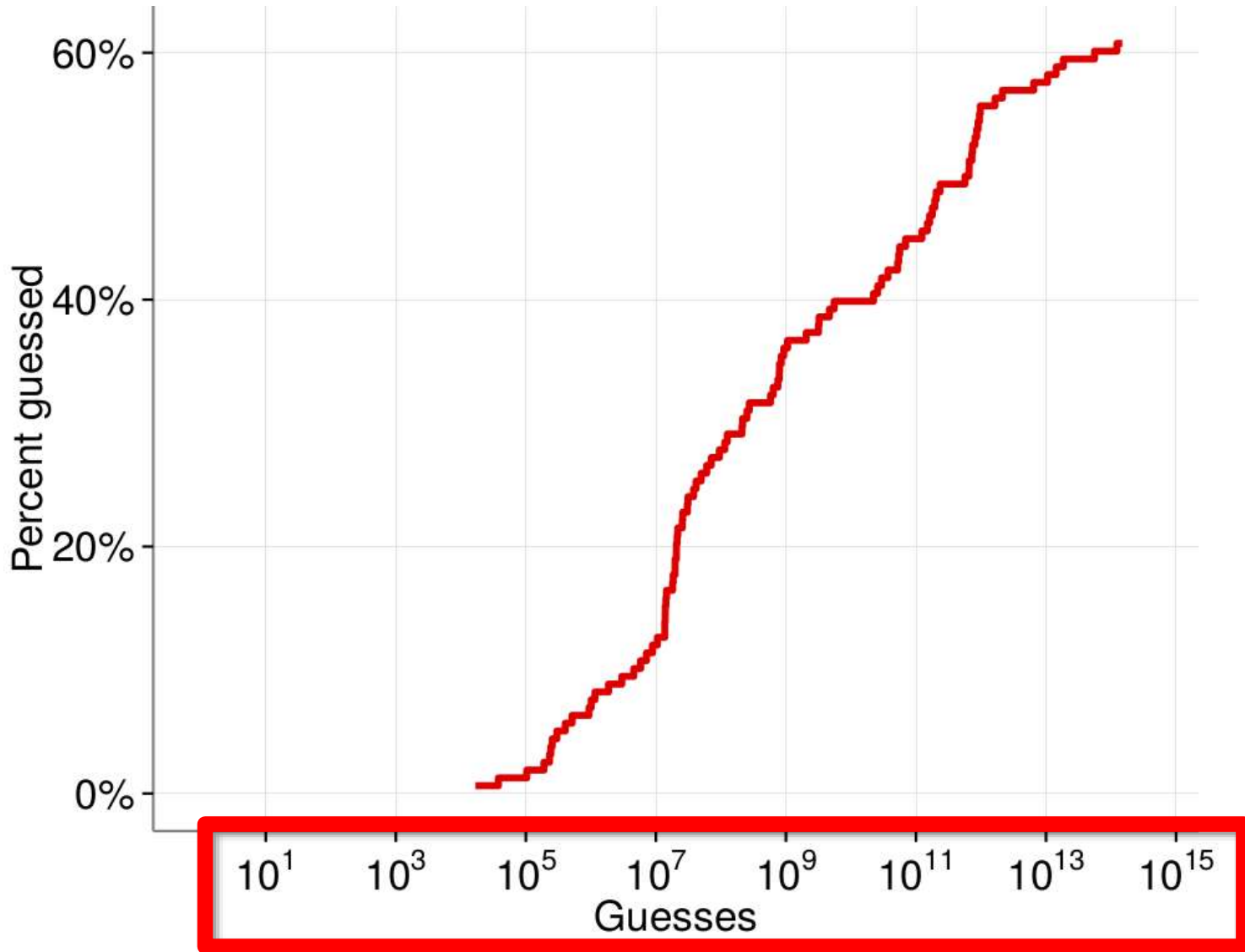
[How to make strong passwords](#)

# Measure Password Guessability

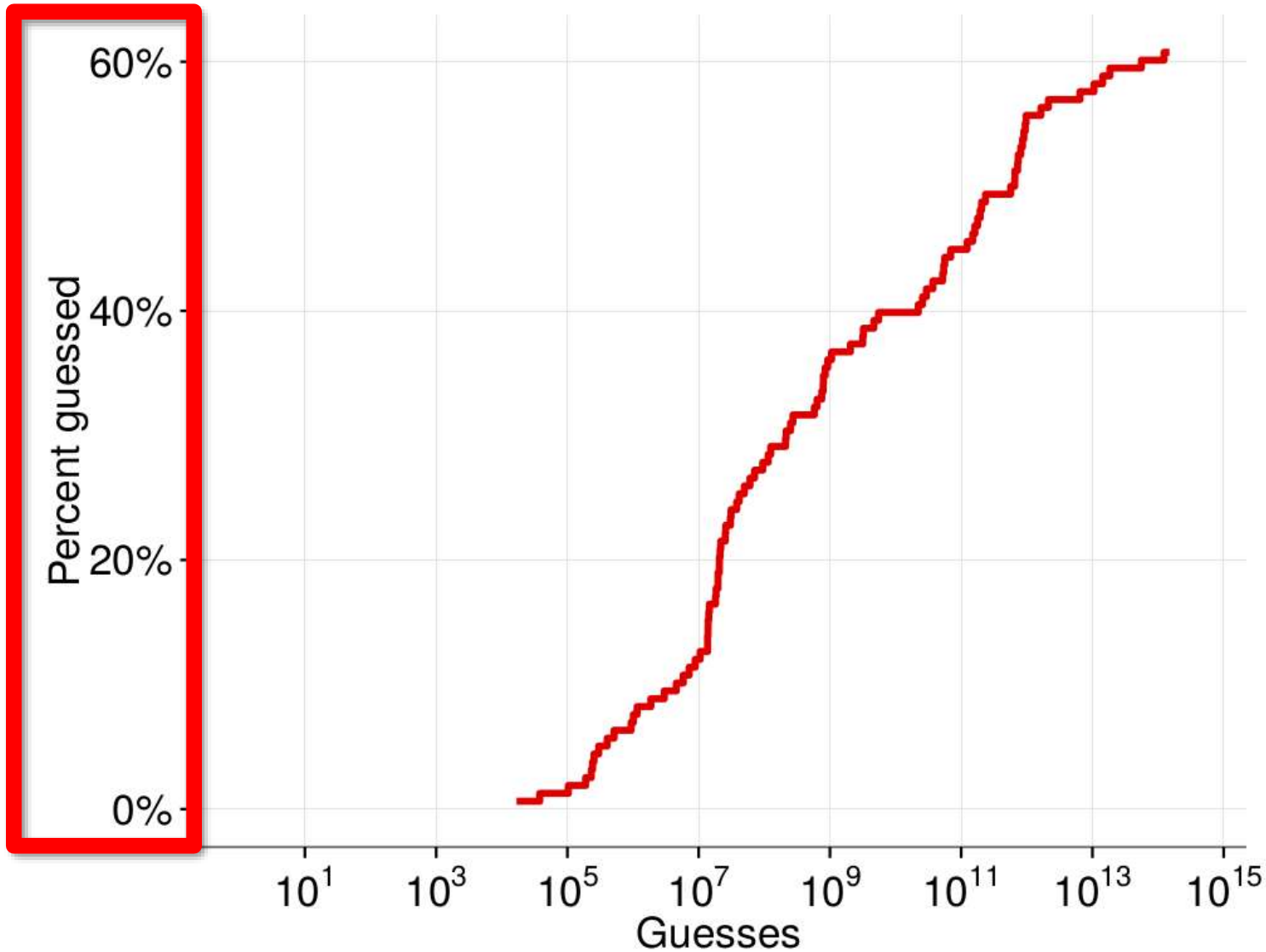




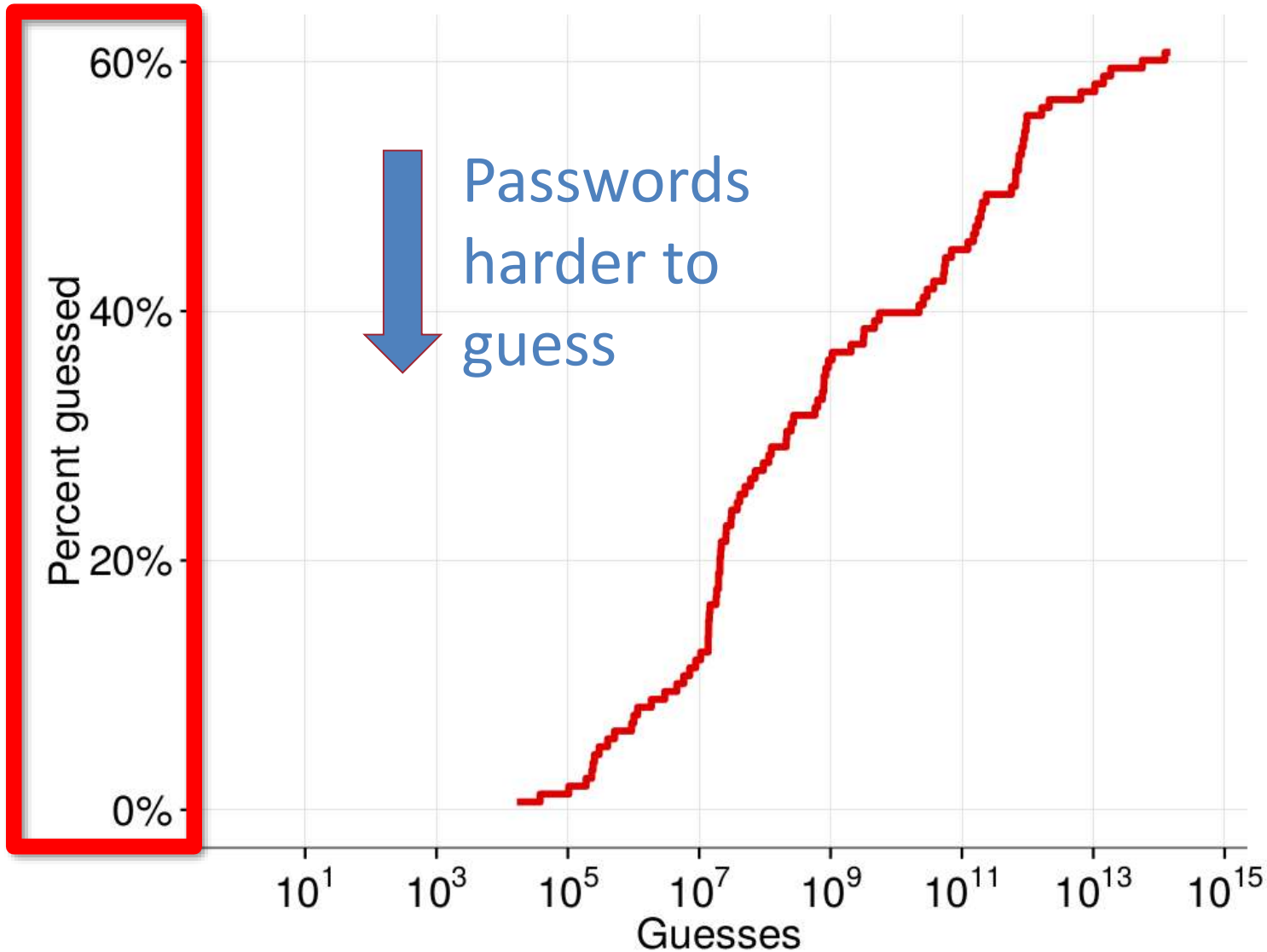
# Measure Password Guessability



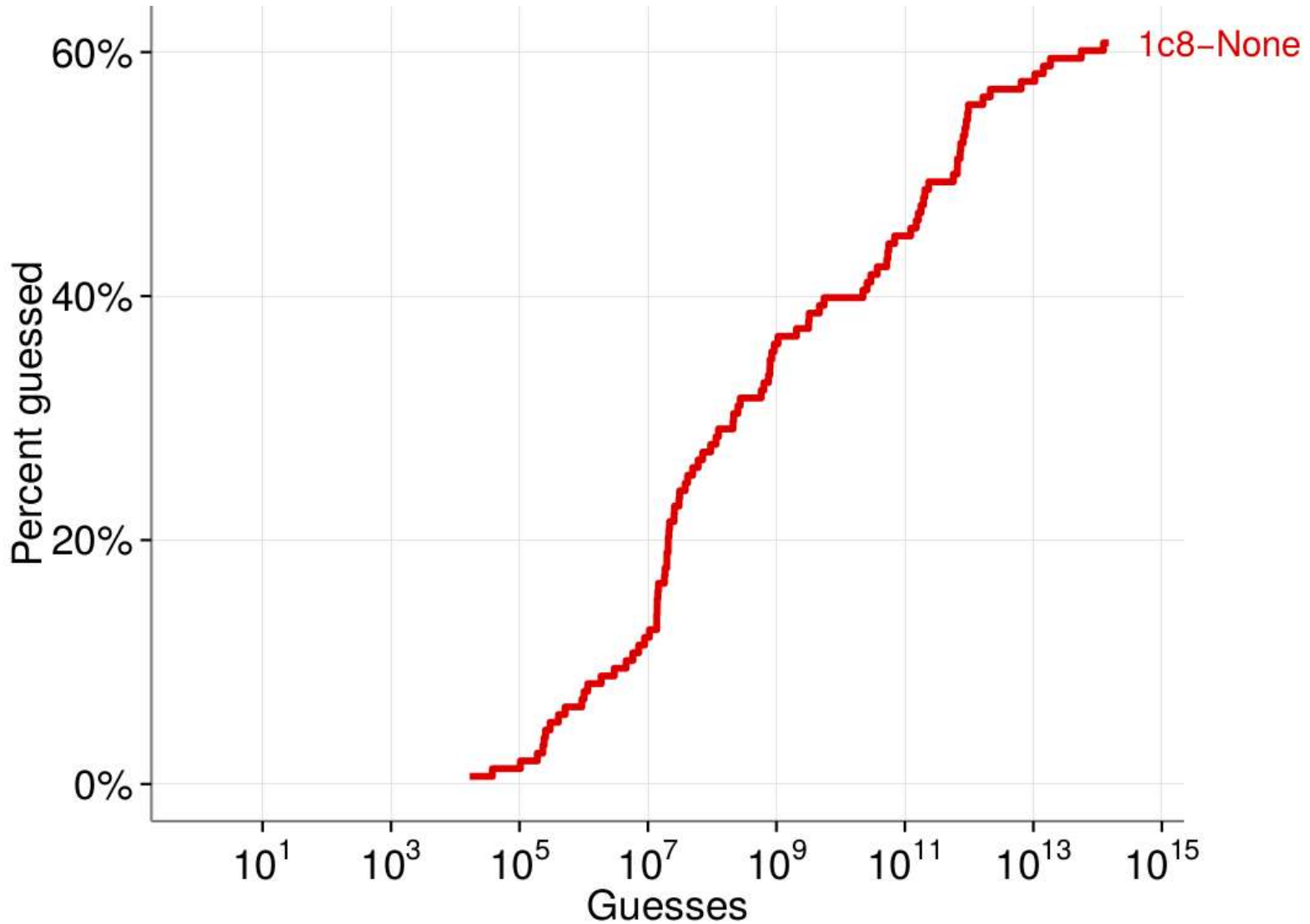
# Measure Password Guessability



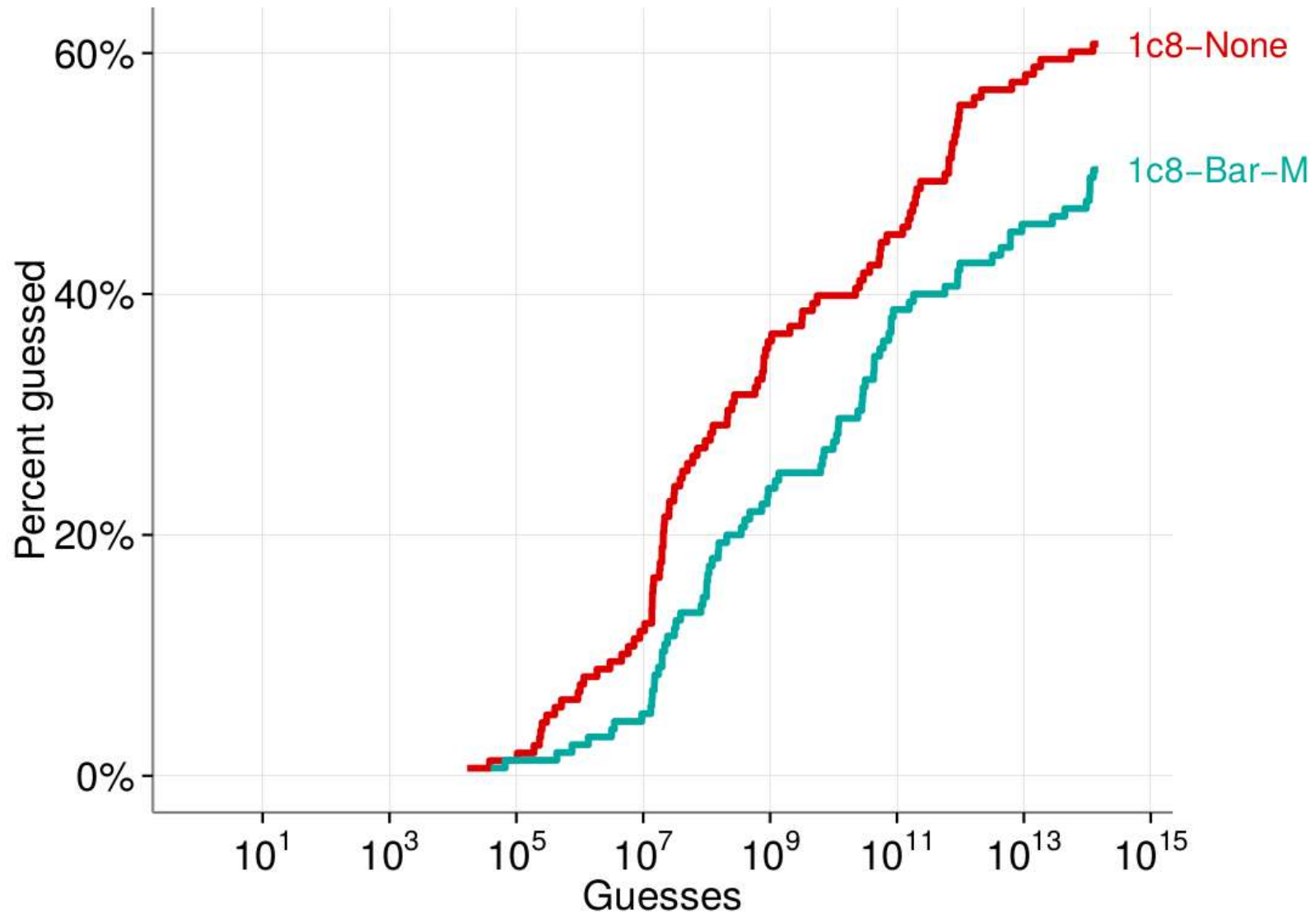
# Measure Password Guessability



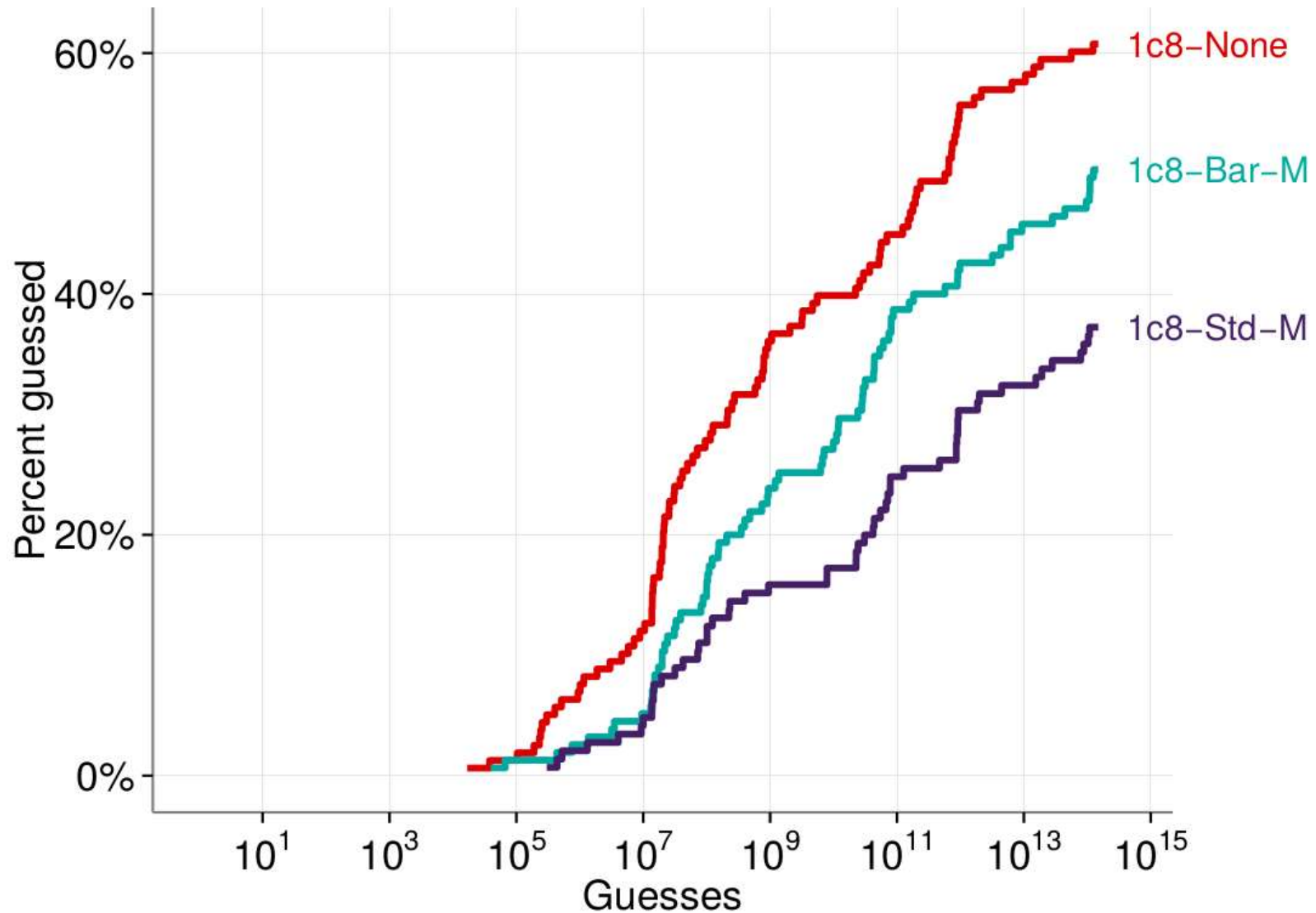
# Measure Password Guessability



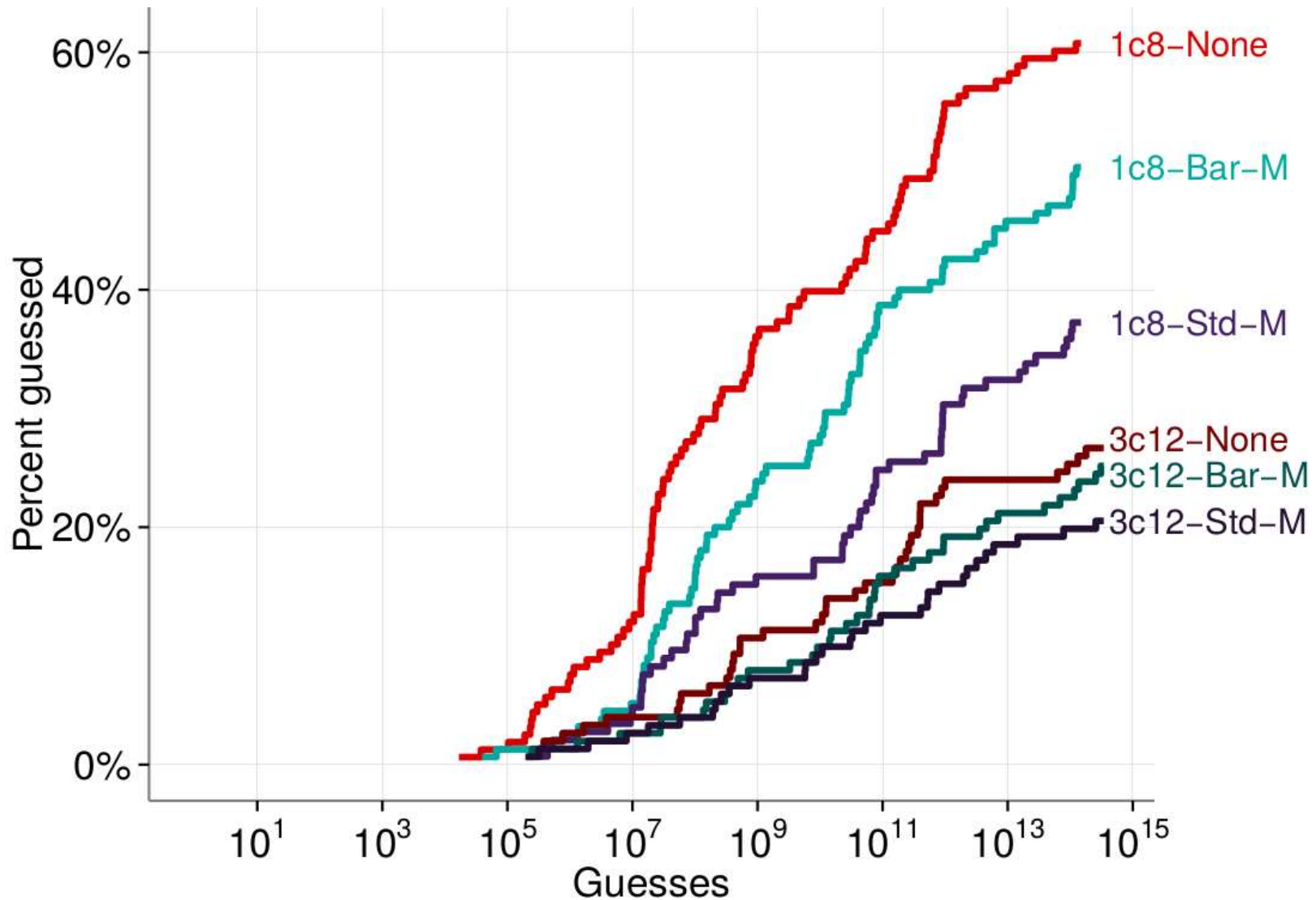
# Feedback → More Secure Passwords



# Feedback → More Secure Passwords



# Feedback → More Secure Passwords



# Usability Results

- Feedback did not significantly impact password memorability
- More feedback → more difficult, annoying
- All features had value for some participants



# Feedback → More Secure Passwords

[https://github.com/cupslab/password\\_meter](https://github.com/cupslab/password_meter)

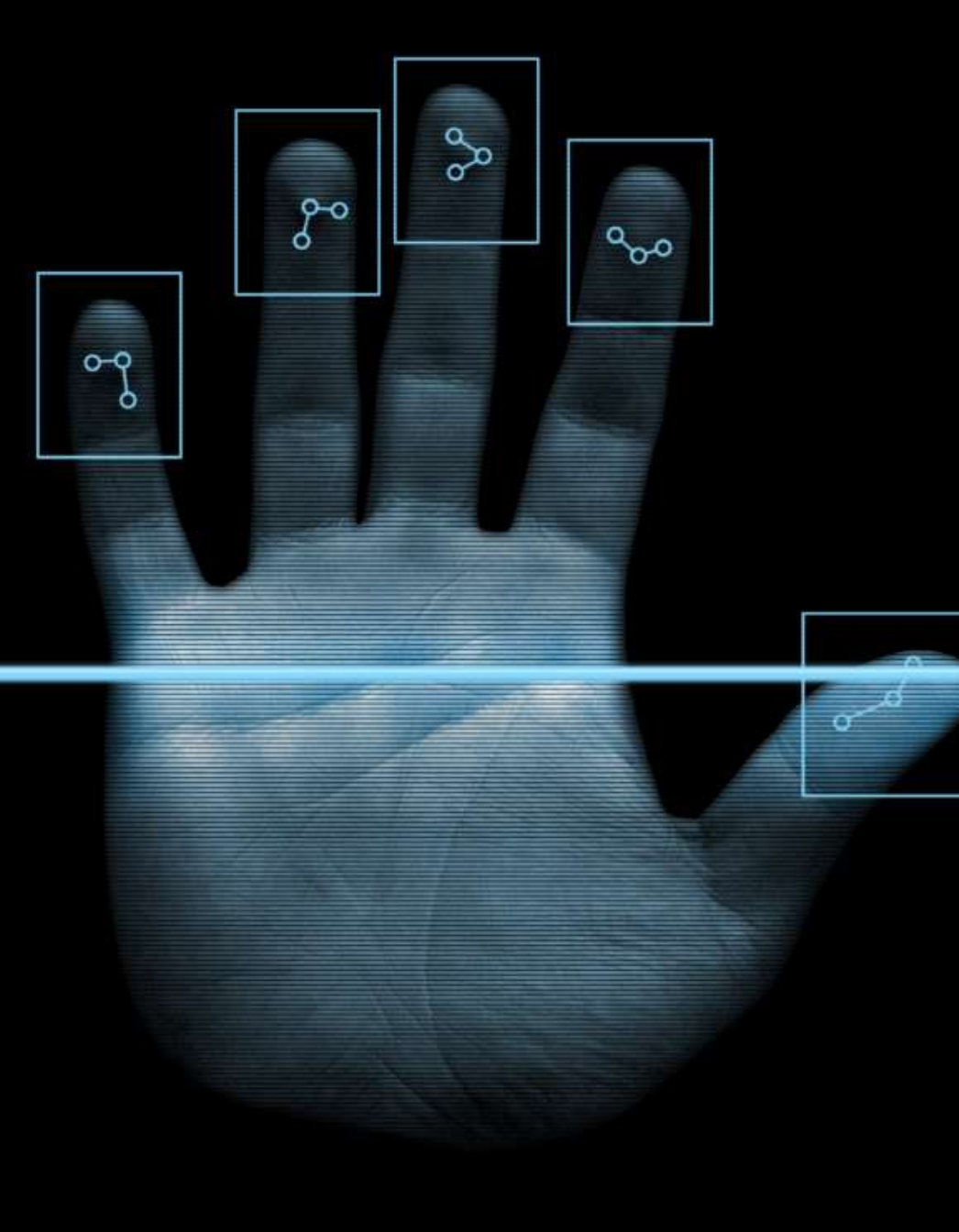
- Help us improve the meter
- Demo: <https://cups.cs.cmu.edu/meter>

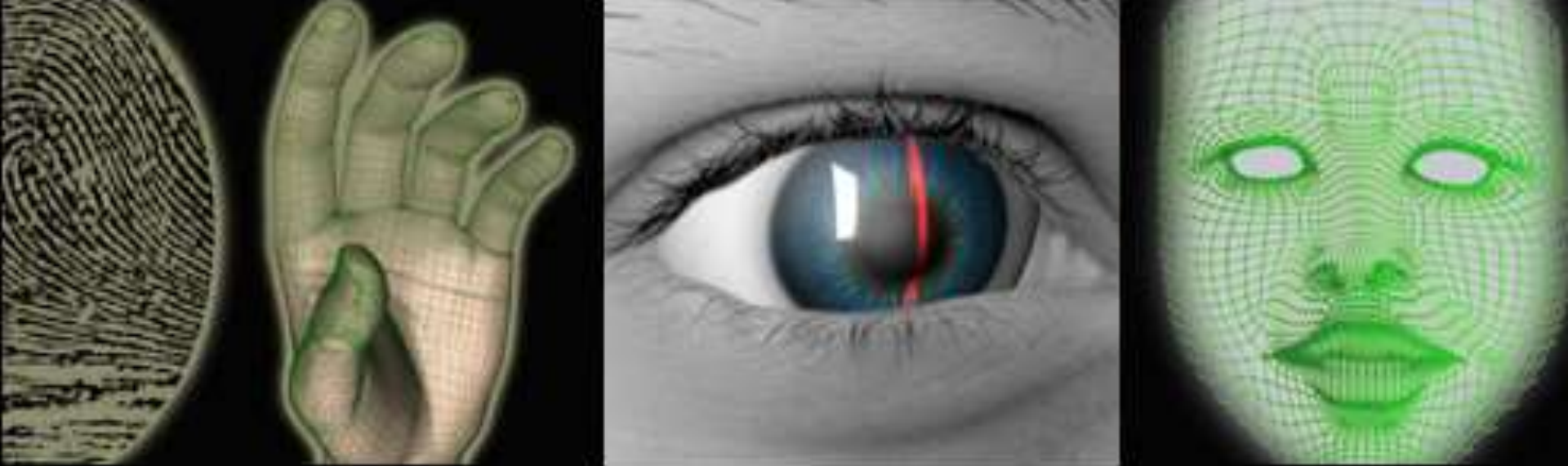
What about  
Biometrics?





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# Biometrics

- Fingerprint
- Iris scans or retina scans
- Face recognition
- Finger/hand geometry
- Voice or speech recognition
- The way you type
- (Many others)

# Practical Challenges for Biometrics

- Immutable (can't be changed)
- Potentially sensitive data
- High equipment costs
- Sensitive to changes in the environment
- Biometrics can change over time

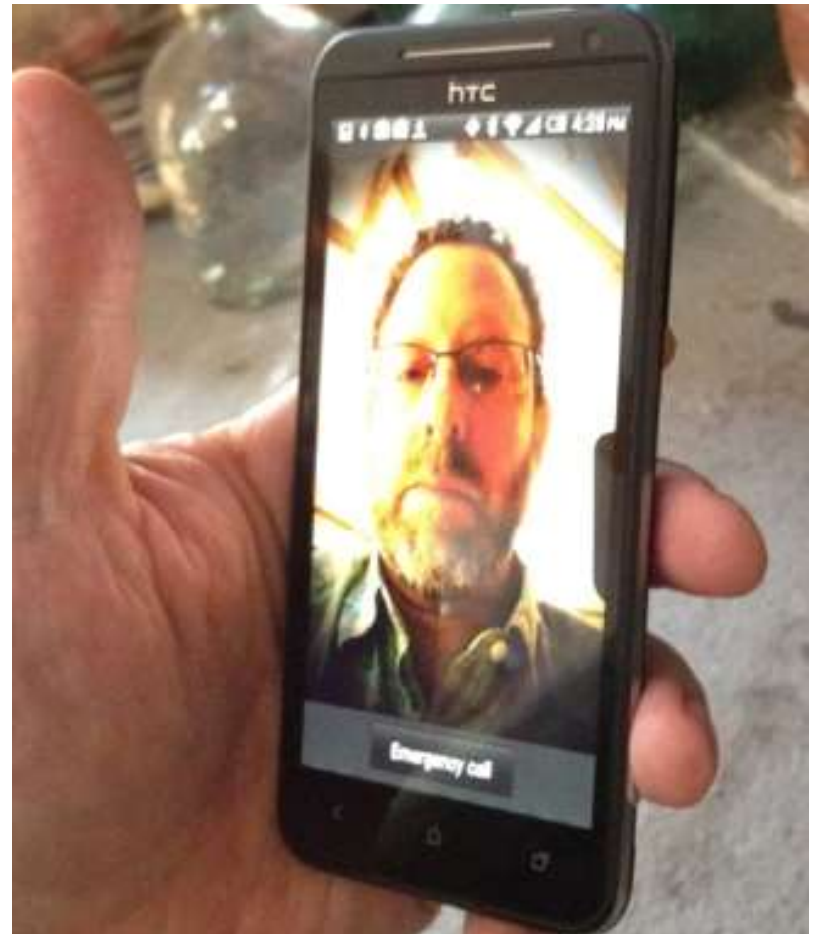




# iPhone 5S Touch ID



# Android 4.0 Face Unlock



# Smartphone Biometrics

# Smartphone Biometrics

- Purpose is to reduce the number of times a user must enter his/her password

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# Smartphone Biometrics

- Purpose is to reduce the number of times a user must enter his/her password
- Falls back to the password
- Face recognition can be tricked by a photo
- Fingerprint recognition can be tricked by a gummy mold
- Users find fingerprint unlock convenient, but do not particularly like face unlock

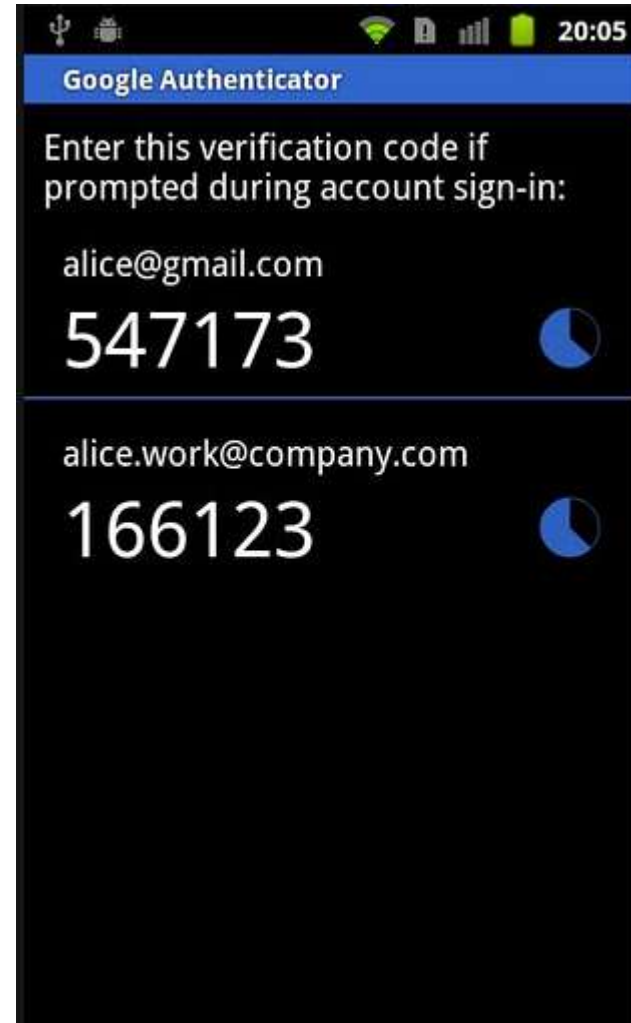
# Practical Authentication



# Single Sign-On



# Two-Factor Auth



# Physical Tokens

- Codes based on a cryptographic key
  - Token manufacturer also knows the key
- What if there is a breach?



# Resetting Accounts

- I forgot my password!
- Send an email?
- Security questions?
- In-person verification?
- Other steps?
- (No backup)

# Password Managers

- Trust all passwords to a single master password
  - Also trust software

**LastPass** 



**1Password**

# Conclusions

- Authentication is really hard!
  - Hard for system administrators
  - Hard for users
- Unfortunately, authentication is necessary

# Access Control

- Access control lists
  - Owner, Group, Other
  - chown
  - chmod
- Role-based access control
- Attribute-based access control
- Context-based access control

# Access Control

- Role-based access control
  - Authorization based on role (e.g., “Uchicago student”)
- Attribute-based access control
  - Authorization based on attribute(s) (e.g., “Over 7 feet tall”)
- Context-based access control
  - Authorization decision depends on the context (e.g., time of day)



# Access Control in the Internet of Things

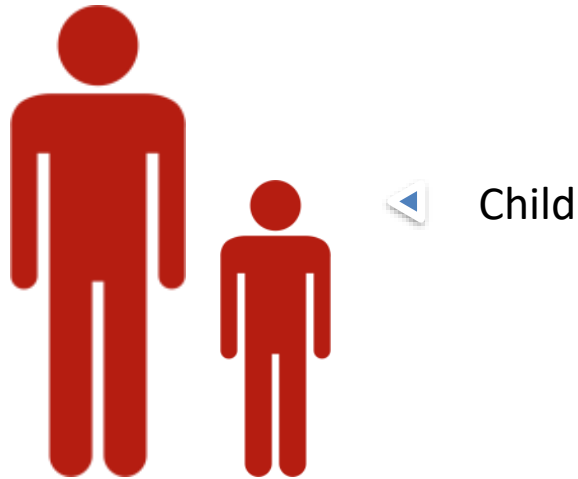
Weijia He, Maximilian Golla, Roshni Padhi, Jordan Ofek, Markus Dürmuth, Earlence Fernandes, Blase Ur. Rethinking Access Control and Authentication for the Home Internet of Things (IoT). In *Proc. USENIX Security*, 2018.

# Factor: Time of Day



“I would not want anyone trying to use the mower at night. The neighbors would most likely get mad.”

# Factor: People Around



“They would be allowed to use it whenever I am home with them.”

# Factor: Location of User



“Why do you need to use it if you aren’t close?”

# Factor: Location of Device



“If it is used in the bedroom then it would matter who has access.”

# Factor: Explicit Permission

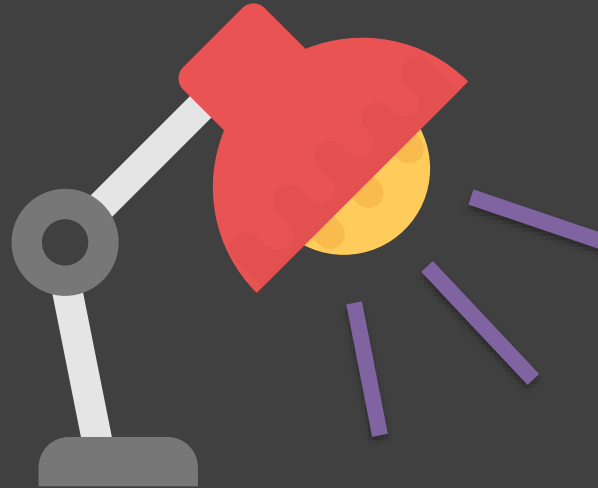


“When they are authorized by the owner.”

# Factor: Consequences



# Factor: Responsible Usage



“They shouldn't use the lights if they are using them too frequently.”

Icon made by Freepik from [www.flaticon.com](http://www.flaticon.com)

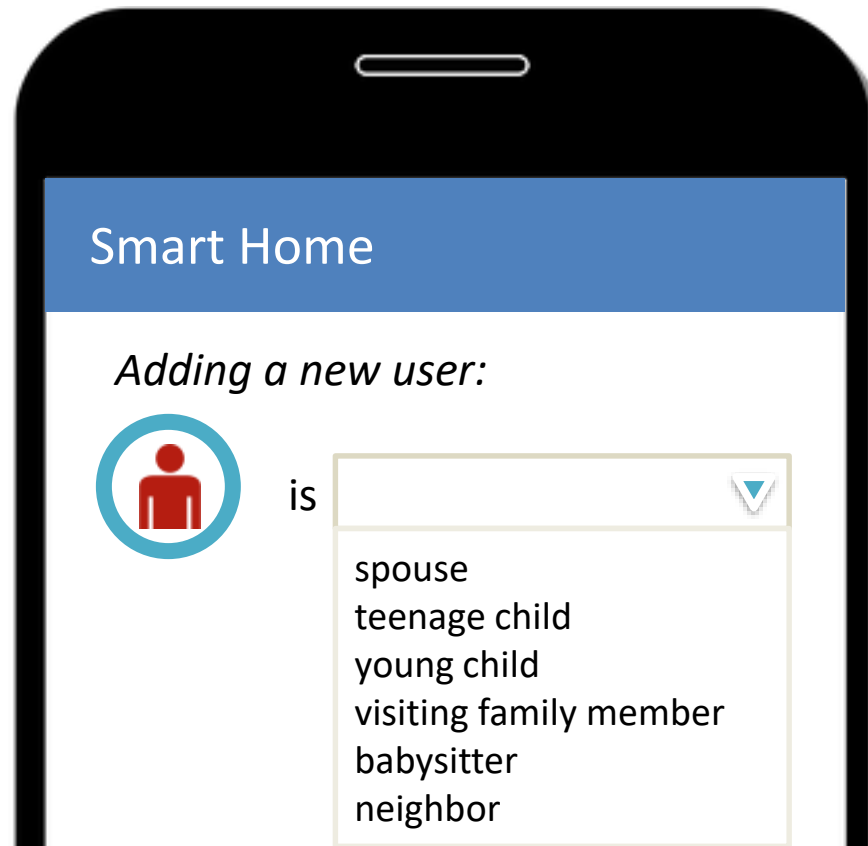


# Design Implications For Contextual Access Control

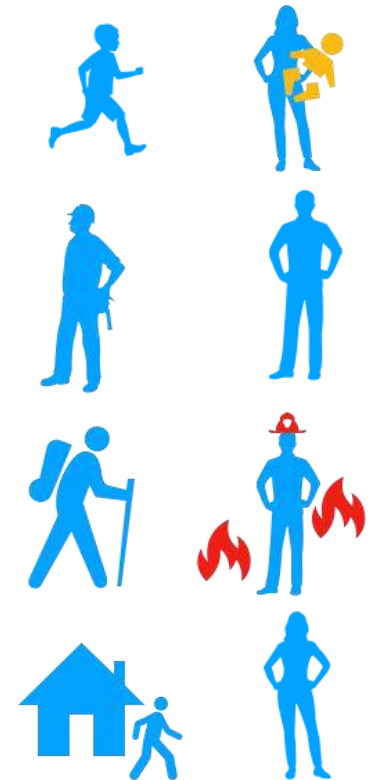
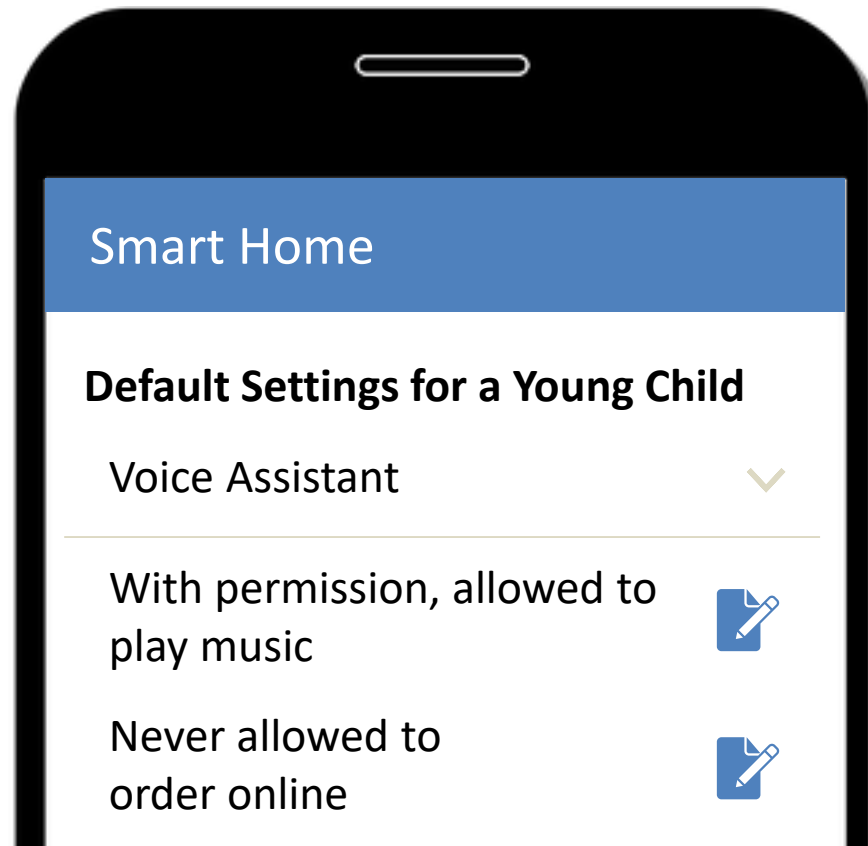
# Current: Guest vs. Owner



# Future: Designing for Relationships



# Future: Relationships and Capabilities



# Current: Full or Temporary Access

**Set Access Time**

Start Date Thu, 19 July 2018

Start Time 06:00 PM

8	58	
9	59	
10	00	AM
11	01	PM
12	02	

End Date Thu, 19 July 2018

End Time 06:00 PM

OK Cancel

10:12 AM 100%

← **ADD SCHEDULE** ✓

Set individual date and time to allow users to access the door temporarily.

Jane 19 to 21 July

ACCESS TIME USERS

**Thu, 19 Jul 2018 02:00 PM to Sat, 21 Jul 2018 12:00 PM**

# Future: Contextual Factors

