

Fuzzy Math (Hard Solution)

Solvers are presented with a series of equations, each one featuring words where the letters are overstruck. Examining the words shows that each adjacent pair of letters is superimposed. There are 26 * 25 / 2 = 325 ways to superimpose two different letters, and the flavortext suggests base conversion. In fact, this is base 325 arithmetic, where an AB combination equals 0, AC equals 1, BC equals 25, and so on.

Using this revelation to evaluate the final example, we get four pairs of letters: QS, IU, DI, and KN. Putting these in a reasonable order to get a phrase out spells the answer SQUID INK.