

Experiment No 1

Aim : Breaking shift cipher and Mono Alphabetic Substitution cipher using Frequency analysis method.

Lab Outcome :

LO1: Illustrate symmetric cryptography by implementing classical ciphers.

Theory :

1. Shift Cipher:

Shift cipher, also known as Caesar cipher, is a type of substitution cipher where each letter in the plaintext is shifted a certain number of positions down the alphabet. It is one of the simplest and oldest encryption techniques.

Encryption Process:

- Each letter in the plaintext is replaced with the corresponding letter in the shifted alphabet. - The shift value 'k' determines how many positions each letter is moved. For example, with a shift of 3, 'A' becomes 'D', 'B' becomes 'E', and so on.
- Non-alphabetic characters, such as spaces or punctuation, are left unchanged in the ciphertext.
- The encryption formula is: $E(x) = (x + k) \bmod 26$, where 'x' is the numerical value of the letter and 'k' is the shift value.

Decryption Process:

- To decrypt the ciphertext, the receiver knows the shift value 'k' and simply shifts each letter backward in the alphabet. - The decryption formula is: $D(x) = (x - k) \bmod 26$.

Brute Force Attack on Shift Cipher:

Since there are only 25 possible shift values (excluding no shift or 0 shift), a brute force attack is feasible. The attacker can quickly try all combinations of shifts to decrypt the ciphertext and find the correct plaintext. Shift ciphers are not considered secure due to their vulnerability to brute force attacks.

2. Monoalphabetic Cipher:

A monoalphabetic cipher is a type of substitution cipher where each letter in the plaintext is replaced by the same corresponding letter in the ciphertext. The substitution remains constant throughout the encryption process.

Encryption Process:

- Each letter in the plaintext is replaced with a corresponding letter from the key. The key is a fixed 26-letter substitution table, where each letter in the alphabet is mapped to its respective substitution.
- For example, 'A' is replaced with the first letter of the key, 'B' with the second letter, and so on.
- Non-alphabetic characters are left unchanged in the ciphertext.

Decryption Process:

- To decrypt the ciphertext, the receiver uses the same key to look up the corresponding plaintext letters for each letter in the ciphertext.

Brute Force Attack on Monoalphabetic Cipher:

A brute force attack on a monoalphabetic cipher is not practical because there are $26!$ (factorial) possible key combinations. This makes it computationally infeasible to try all combinations and decrypt the message.

Frequency Analysis Attack on Monoalphabetic Cipher:

Frequency analysis is a powerful technique to break monoalphabetic ciphers. It exploits the fact that certain letters or groups of letters occur more frequently in the plaintext. For example, in English, the letter 'E' is the most common. By analyzing the frequency of letters in the ciphertext and comparing it with the expected frequency distribution in the English language, the attacker can deduce the key and decrypt the message.

Output:

1. Shift Cipher

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SUBJECT : CNS LAB

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cse29-iiith.vlabs.ac.in/exp/shift-cipher/simulation.html

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Breaking the Shift Cipher

PART III

Plaintext:
attack at dawn shift: 7

v Encrypt v ^ Decrypt ^

Ciphertext
haahjc ha khdu

PART IV

Enter your solution Plaintext and shift key here:
attack at dawn Key 7

Check my answer!

CORRECT!!

29°C Mostly cloudy 13:15 30-07-2023

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Breaking the Shift Cipher

PART III

Plaintext:
the porcupine is under the sheets shift: 3

v Encrypt v ^ Decrypt ^

Ciphertext
wkh srufxslgh lv xgghu wkh vkhhwv

PART IV

Enter your solution Plaintext and shift key here:
the porcupine is under the sheets Key 3

Check my answer!

CORRECT!!

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Breaking the Shift Cipher

PART III

Plaintext:
this is the forest primeval shift: 5

Encrypt Decrypt

Ciphertext
ymnx nx ymi ktwixy uwnrjafq

PART IV

Enter your solution Plaintext and shift key here:
this is the forest primeval Key: 5

Check my answer!

CORRECT!!

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Breaking the Shift Cipher

PART III

Plaintext:
the quality of mercy is not strained shift: 11

Encrypt Decrypt

Ciphertext
esp bflwtei zg xpcni td yze decltppo

PART IV

Enter your solution Plaintext and shift key here:
the quality of mercy is not strained Key: 11

Check my answer!

CORRECT!!

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2. Substitution Cipher

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `cse29-iiith.vlabs.ac.in/exp/substitution-cipher/simulation.html`. The page title is "Breaking the Mono-alphabetic Substitution Cipher". The interface includes a sidebar with a menu icon and the Virtual Labs logo. The main content area has the following text:

Modify the text above (in scratchpad):

This is case *insensitive* function and replaces only cipher text (lower case) by plain text (upper case):

Replace cipher character by plaintext character Modify

Use the following function to undo any unwanted exchange by giving an uppercase character and a lower case. This is a case sensitive function:

Replace character by character Replace these exact characters

Your replacement history:

You replaced r by E You replaced v by T You replaced k by H You replaced b by Y You replaced c by B You replaced d by C You replaced e by O You replaced f by M You replaced h by R You replaced i by U You replaced k by H You replaced l by F You replaced m by Z You replaced n by S You replaced o by K You replaced p by G You replaced d by Q You replaced r by E You replaced s by V You replaced t by N You replaced u by L You replaced v by T You replaced w by I You replaced x by A You replaced y by P You replaced g by W You replaced q by D

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 30-07-2023 and time as 15:09.

The screenshot shows the same web browser window, but the main content area now displays the solution key. The text reads:

PART III

Enter your solution plaintext here:

CHAPTER 1 - DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE: ALICE IS BORED SITTING ON THE RIVERBANK WITH HER SISTER, WHEN SHE NOTICES A TALKING, CLOTHED WHITE RABBIT WITH A POCKET WATCH RUN PAST. SHE FOLLOWS IT DOWN A RABBIT HOLE WHEN SUDDENLY SHE FALLS A LONG WAY TO A CURIOUS HALL WITH MANY LOCKED DOORS OF ALL SIZES. SHE FINDS A SMALL KEY TO A DOOR TOO SMALL FOR HER

Solution Key =

Check Answer!

CORRECT!!

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 30-07-2023 and time as 15:09.

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Breaking the Mono-alphabetic Substitution Cipher

This is case insensitive function and replaces only cipher text (lower case) by plain text (upper case):

Replace cipher character by plaintext character Modify

Use the following function to undo any unwanted exchange by giving an uppercase character and a lower case. This is a case sensitive function:

Replace character by character Replace these exact characters

Your replacement history:

You replaced a by A You replaced r by B You replaced i by C You replaced u by D You replaced x by E You replaced n by F You replaced m by G You replaced e by H You replaced b by I You replaced q by J You replaced g by K You replaced w by L You replaced d by M You replaced f by N You replaced l by O You replaced o by P You replaced y by Q You replaced p by R You replaced z by S You replaced j by T You replaced k by U You replaced c by V You replaced h by W You replaced v by X You replaced t by Y You replaced s by Z

29°C Mostly cloudy

Q Search

ENG IN 15:31 30-07-2023

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Breaking the Mono-alphabetic Substitution Cipher

PART III

Enter your solution plaintext here:

ALICE COMES UPON A MUSHROOM AND SITTING ON IT IS A BLUE CATERPILLAR SMOKING A HOOKAH. THE CATERPILLAR QUESTIONS ALICE AND SHE ADMITS TO HER CURRENT IDENTITY CRISIS, COMPOUNDED BY HER INABILITY TO REMEMBER A POEM. BEFORE CRAWLING AWAY, THE CATERPILLAR TELLS ALICE THAT ONE SIDE OF THE MUSHROOM WILL MAKE HER TALLER AND THE OTHER SIDE WILL MAKE HER

Solution Key =

Check Answer!

CORRECT!!

29°C Mostly cloudy

Q Search

ENG IN 15:32 30-07-2023

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The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `cse29-iiith.vlabs.ac.in/exp/substitution-cipher/simulation.html`. The page title is "Breaking the Mono-alphabetic Substitution Cipher". The interface includes a "Solution Key" input field containing `ariuxnmebsgwdfloypzjkchvtq`, a "Check Answer!" button, and a "CORRECT!!" message. Below this, the "PART IV" section contains a "Plaintext" input field with the text "ALICE COMES UPON A MUSHROOM AND SITTING ON IT IS A BLUE CATERPILLAR SMOKING A HOOKAH. THE CATERPILLAR". A "key" input field also contains `ariuxnmebsgwdfloypzjkchvtq`, with a "Generate Random Key" button. There are "Encrypt" and "Decrypt" buttons, and a checkbox for "Remove Punctuation". The "Ciphertext" output field displays the encrypted text: "awbix ildxz kolf a dkzeplld afu zbjjbfm lf bj bz a rwx iaixpobwvap zdlgbfm a ellgae. jex iaixpobwvap". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 30-07-2023 and the time as 15:34.

CONCLUSION:

Shift ciphers are simple and easy to implement, but they are not secure against brute force attacks due to the limited number of possible keys. On the other hand, monoalphabetic ciphers are more secure against brute force attacks due to the large number of potential keys, but they are vulnerable to frequency analysis attacks. To achieve stronger encryption, more complex encryption techniques like polyalphabetic ciphers or modern encryption algorithms should be used.