

# Cryptography: Vigenère and Kasiski

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- ▶ The Vigenère cipher was developed and was thought to tackle these problems.

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- ▶ Instead of a *monoalphabetic* cipher, a **polyalphabetic** cipher was designed.
- ▶ The use of polyalphabetic ciphers is thought to have originated with Leon Battista Alberti in 1467.



## Vigenère Cipher



- ▶ Attributed to Blaise de Vigenère, it was known as 'le chiffre indéchiffrable': the unbreakable cipher. As it turns out, de Vigenère's original cipher was actually more secure than that which came to bear his name.
- ▶ Used for many centuries, this was the state of the art, and truly thought to be unbreakable.

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- ▶ The alphabets form a square: the Vigenère square, or *tabula recta*.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
B	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A
C	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B
D	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C
E	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D
F	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E
G	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F
H	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
I	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
J	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
K	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
L	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
M	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
N	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
O	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
P	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Q	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
R	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
S	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
T	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S
U	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
V	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
W	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
X	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
Y	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
Z	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y

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- ▶ Can also be thought of in terms of modular arithmetic:

<b>keyword</b>	2	14	3	4	18	2	14	3	4	18	2	14	3
<b>plaintext</b>	8	13	21	0	3	4	0	19	3	0	22	13	14
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- ▶ Encryption is achieved by performing the addition

$$c_i = m_i + k_i \bmod 26,$$

where  $m_i$  is the  $i$ th letter of the message and  $k_i$  is the  $i$ th letter of the keyword repeated over and over again.

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- ▶ The plaintext `invade at dawn on friday` has become the ciphertext  
`KBYE`**V**`GOW`**H**`SYBR`**R**`XTW`**G**`EQ`.

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- ▶ A few people were involved in the cracking of this cipher, including quite a famous name in computing history.

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  - ▶ **A**NYVG**Y**STYN**R**PLWH. . .
  - ▶ These letters must have used the same row of the Vigenère square.

## Breaking Vigenère

ZSHRSNAYEHVRHIUIZZQZXHWEFLXPOJFCXEFJAJMLSEURXXSVZXAGSEFYKCHYMXMLWJISKPRN  
MWUIWESATXQYQHDISEXCTRRTXSLIZPNCBRHVXPBKSEOILKFVMXXVHYMRFEBJMRWCSKMWFSFK  
MPTWVZESPRHYMXTWAVZFNWWVPXAIAJQPOIGRNSNXHYQMKZOIUSNWQFZGXVBJFLXCKVDILGFL  
FMGMGVPEGHGKGBIRGQVAEDJMPFSGKMWGEFIAAECOJMQTRKZFLTQWTDLSLGGCQQBKVKEGKYHZ  
ZMLIHYQXKEBJUIGXQIQEMYFVEXAEHJIEKQOEPQNPBZBPRMBRPVHTCWIEMIFNUXAMBWURBXST  
AQIPOTQRVCAVZAXRHKAEGHTIASOIFKTMLKZFNITFCLFXAIWIXMMXZVMJYEWIEWXVSEQMGXVV  
UVTWGLDEGGSFRXAIWIIQIMFVAZXVARFXXVWUKUWISGJUFEIHXYMXMLSZZJNWCIUENRRVDXAIASZ  
OVHWQFBIWSHYQWTQSEASGIURHITXVFGKAXHFFLXSZUQVPSFCPWHJGGMGXEGJAYKGSJAJAYAR  
ZHTRUVDKXVFGKAXCWLXQCEXCMSRZEQBWGKTIBHSRAJEMTVGTHRHYQQTWDBSLWWSXIHVWD  
BVHFOSXIBXWJOYKMCLEHXVSTMPPEWCDQSYXVVYIGXOCTEUMHJAJMLCJQHXTTOIFIWHOPEEMQCJ  
FXXVFVEXKMOCYIGJOEOMXHHYQVXQWXTXUICKTIKQSEGTHRARDWIIFYMTLMBWQVBSFKAXAIAJ  
QPOIGRZHKIOUKXHASCOSFIODUWLMCEMVRIBKQVIVWJQCXXOTDSLWHYQKNPTFRWIEQVYMGHGK  
TEMEFVFSHYFDURWWOJAYKWOIQXHXVFEIHJHYQFXEGKEXAEHGQVBWVZZXXPZVOXLZOJFEGHQF  
APTRRLZWRQDRFLXXWTDIZEFUQHMLWJQEKKVNUXAIBMUSNWSPQWTRRJXSPPMRZHLYFVXCWVSN  
FLXMFGXEGWOXMMGWHLE

- Assume we know the key length:  $k = 6$ . We'll look into how to figure this out later.



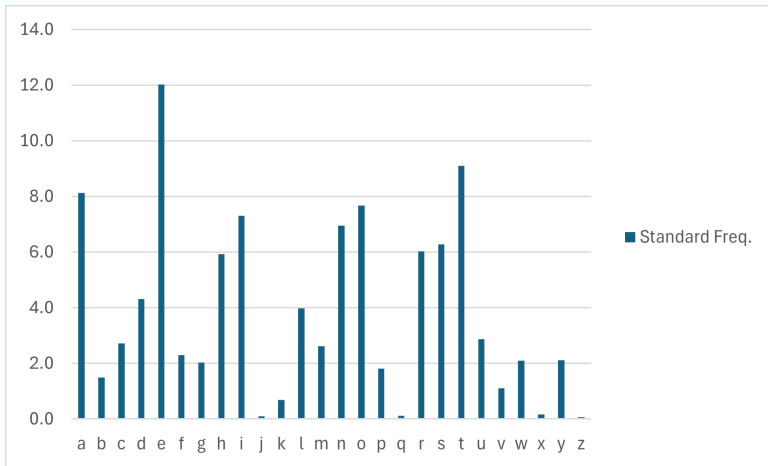
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AQIPOTQRVCAVZAXRHKAEGHTIASOIFKTMLKZFNITFCLFXAIWIXMMXZVMJYEWIEWXVSEQMGXVV  
UVTWGLDEGGSFRXAIWIQQIMFVAZXVARFXXVWKUWISGJUFEIHYMXMLSZZJNWCIUENRRVDXAIAZ  
OVHWQFBIWSHYQWTQSEASGIURHITXVFGKAXHFFLXSZUQVPSFCPWHJGGMGXEGJAYKGSJAJAYAR  
ZHTRUVD SKXVFGKAXCWFLXQCEXCMSRZEQBWGKTIBHSRAJEMTVGTHRHYQQTWDBSLWWSXIHVWD  
BVHFOSXIBXWJOYKMCLEXHVSTMPEWCDQSYXVVYIGXOCTEUMHJAJMLCJQHXTOIIFIWHOPEEMQCJ  
FXXVFEVEXKMOCYIGJOEOMXHHYQVXQWXTXUICKTIKQSEGTHRARDWIIFYMTLMBWQVBSFKAXAIAJ  
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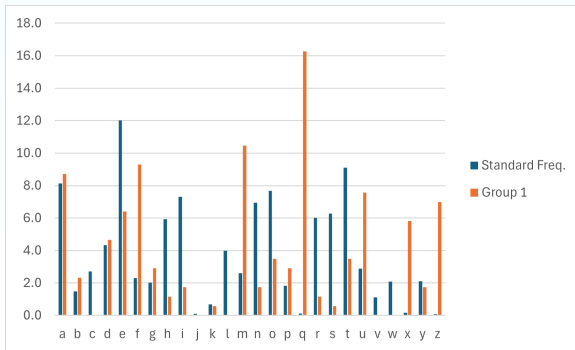
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MWUIWESATXQYQHDISEXCTRRTXSLIZPNCBRHVXPBKSEOILKFVMXXVHYMRFEBJMRWCSKMWFSFK  
MPTWVZESPRHYMXTWAVZFNWWVPXAIAJQPOIGRNSNXHYQMKZOIUSNWQFZGXVBJFLXCKVDILGFL  
FMGMGPVEGHHGKGHBIRGQVAEDJMPFSGKMWGEFIAAECOJMQTRKZFLTQWTDLSLGCQQBKVKEGKYHZ  
ZMLIHYQXKEBJUIGXQIQEMYFVEXAEHJIEKQOEPQNPBZBPRMBRPVHTCWIEMIFNUXAMBWURBXST  
AQIPOTQRVCAVZAXRHKAEGHTIASOIFKTMLKZFNITFCLFXAIWIXMMXZVMJYEWIEWXVSEQMGXVV  
UVTWGLDEGGSFRXAIWIIQIMFVAZXVARFXXVWKUWISGJUFEIHXYMXMLSZZJNWCIEUNRRVDXAIAS  
OVHWQFBIWSHYQWTQSEASGIURHITXVFGKAXHFFLXSZUQVPSFCPWJGGMGXEGJAYKGSJAJAYAR  
ZHTRUVD SKXVFGKAXCWFLXQCEXCMSRZEQBWGKTIBHSRAJEMTVGTHRHYQQTWWDBSLWWSXIHVWD  
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FXXVFVEXKMOCYIGJOEOMXHHYQVXQWXTXUICKTIKQSEGTHRARDWIIFYMTLMBWQVBSFKAXAIAJ  
QPOIGRZHKIOUKXHASCO SFIODUWLMCEMVRIBKQVIVWJQCXXOTDSLWHYQKNPTFRWIEQVYMGHGK  
TEMEFVFSHYFDURWWOJAYKWOIQXHXVFEIHJHYQFXEGKEXAEHGQVBWVZZXXPZVOXLZOJFEGHQF  
APTRRLZWRQDRFLXXWTDIZEFUQHMLWJQEKXVNUXAIBMUSNWSPQWTRRJXSPPMRZHLYFVXCWVSN  
FLXMGXEGWOXM MGWHLE

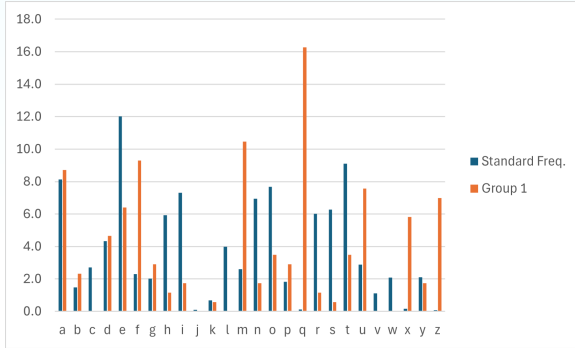
# Patterns in the Standard Frequencies



# Letter Group 1

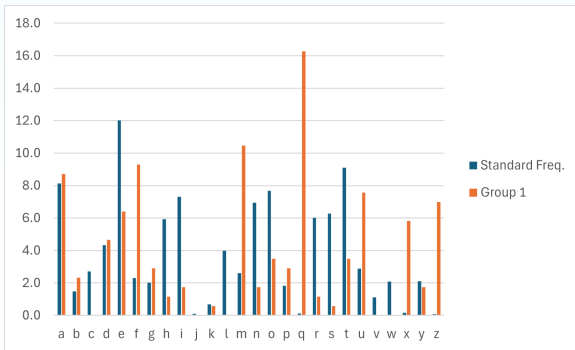


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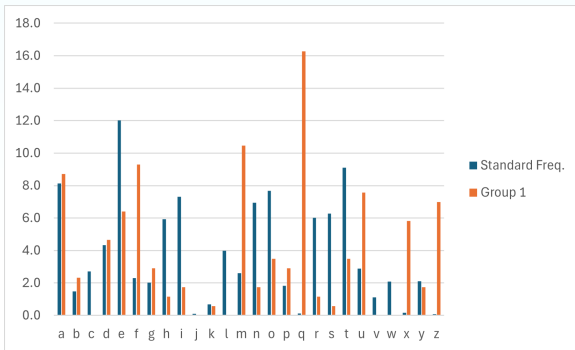
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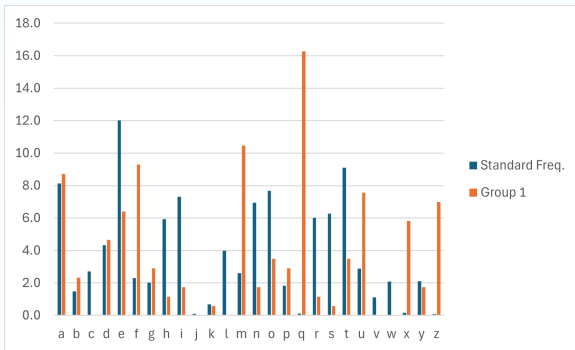
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- ▶ There is a gap of 4 letters from a to e, with e having the higher frequency.

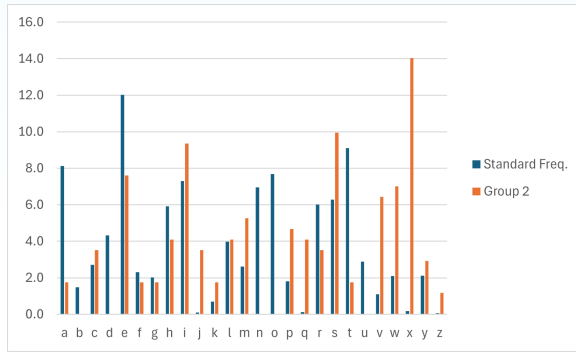
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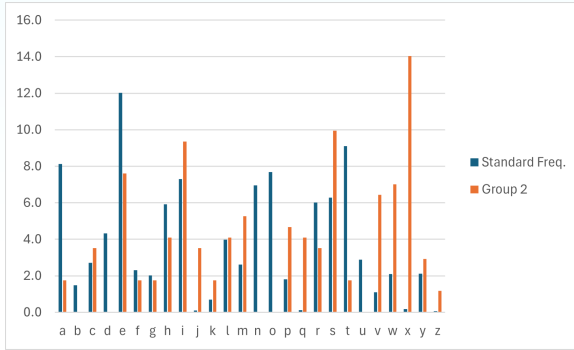
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- ▶ We can find this same gap, or other patterns, and deduce that the likely shift is a to m: shift value 12.



## Letter Group 2

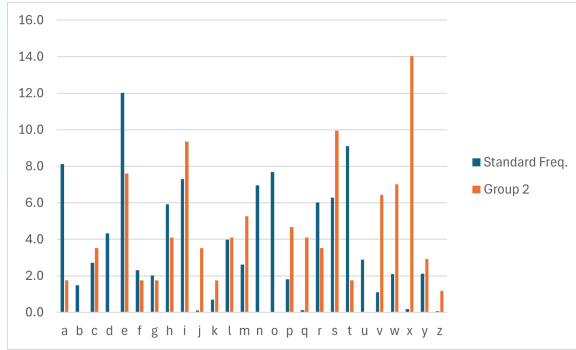


## Letter Group 2



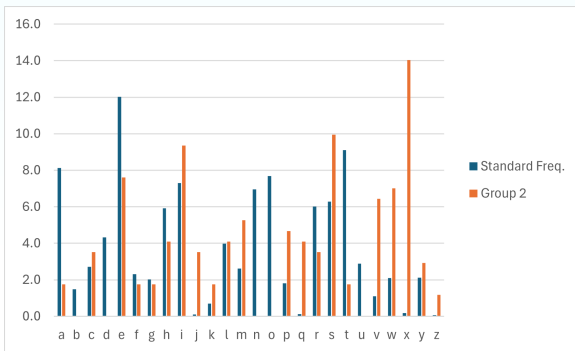
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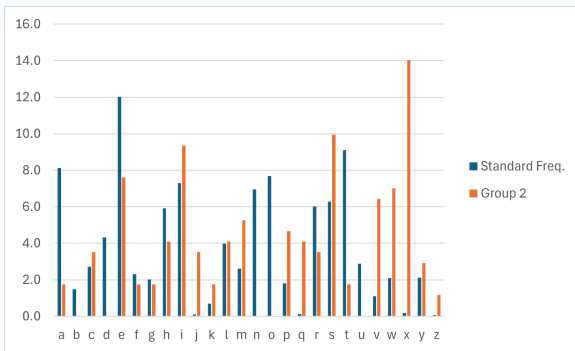
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- ▶ There looks to be a gap like before from s to x, but the gap is 5 so can't be the gap from a to e.
- ▶ Instead we can choose the gap e to i and deduce that the likely shift is a to e: shift value 4.

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- ▶ So the keyword appears to be meteor and we can then attempt to decrypt the text.



noonewouldhavebelievedinthelastyearsofthenineteenthcenturythatthisworldwasbeingwatchedkeenlyandcloselybyintelligencesgreaterthanmansandyetasmortalashithatasmenbusiedthemselvesabouttheirvariousconcernstheywerescrutinisedandstudiedperhapsalmostas narrowlyasamanwithamicroscopemightscrutinisethetransientcreaturesthat swarmandmultiplyinadropofwaterwithinfinitecomplacencymenwenttoandfroovert heglobeabouttheirlittleaffairssereneintheirassuranceoftheirempireovermatteritispossiblethattheinfusoriaunderthemicroscopedothesamenoonegaveathoughttotheolderworldsof spaceasourcesofhumandangerorthoughtofthemonlytodismiss theideaoflifeupontheasimpossibleorimprobableitiscurioustorecallsomeofthementalhabitsofthosedeparted daysatmostterrestrialmenfanciedtheremightbeothermenuponmarsperhapsinferiortotheelvesandreadytowelcomeamissionaryenterpriseyetacrossthegulfof spacemindsthat areourmindsasoursaretotothoseofthebeasts thatperishintellectsvastandcoolandunsympatheticregardedthisearthwithenviouseyesandslowlyandsurelydrewtheirplansagainstus

noone would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than mans and yet as mortal as his own that as men busied themselves about their various concerns they were scrutinised and studied perhaps almost as narrowly as a man with a microscope might scrutinise the transient creatures that swarm and multiply in a drop of water with infinite complacency men went to and fro over this globe about their little affairs serene in their assurance of their empire over matter it is possible that the infusoria under the microscope do the same noone gave a thought to the older worlds of space as sources of human danger or thought of them only to dismiss the idea of life upon them as impossible or improbable it is curious to recall some of the mental habits of those departed days at most terrestrial men fancied there might be other men upon mars perhaps inferior to themselves and ready to welcome a missionary enterprise yet across the gulf of space minds that are to our minds as ours are to those of the beasts that perish intellects vast and cool and unsympathetic regarded this earth with envious eyes and slowly and surely drew their plans against us

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- ▶ This forms the basis of a **Kasiski attack**.
- ▶ Longer messages are more likely to yield to such an attack as there will be more repeated segments.

## Breaking Vigenère

ZSHRSNAYEHVRHIUIZZQZXHWEFLXPOJFCXEFJAJMLSEURXXSVZXAGSEFYKCHYMXMLWJISKPRN  
MWUIWESATXQYQHDISEXCTRRTXSLIZPNCBRHVXPBKSEOILKFVMXXVHYMRFEBJMRWCSKMWFSEFK  
MPTWVZESPRHYMXTWAVZFNWWVPXAIAJQPOIGRNSNXHYQMKZOIUSNWQFZGXVBJFLXCKVDILGFL  
FMGMGVPEGHGKGHBIRGQVAEDJMPFSGKMWGEFIAAECOJMQTRKZFLTQWTDLSGCGQQBKVKEGKYHZ  
ZMLIHYQXKEBJUIGXQIQEMYFVEXAEHJIEKQOEPQNPBZBPRMBRPVHTCWIEMIFNUXAMBWURBXST  
AQIPOTQRVCAVZAXRHKAEGHTIASOIFKTMLKZFNITFCLFXAIWIXMMXZVMJYEWIEWXVSEQMGXVV  
UVTWGLDEGGSFRXAIWIIQQIMFVAZXVARFXXVWKUWISGJUFEIHXYMXMLSZZJNWCIUENRRVDXAIAX  
OVHWQFBIWSHYQWTQSEASGIURHITXVFGKAXHFFLXSZUQVPSFCPWHJGGMGXEGJAYKGSJAJAYAR  
ZHTRUVDSKXVFGKAXCWFLXQCEXCMSRZEQBWGKTIBHSRAJEMTVGTHRHYQQTWDBSLWWSXIHVWD  
BVHFOSXIBXWJOYKMCLEXHVSTMPPEWCDQSYXVVYIGXOCTEUMHJAJMLCJQHXTTOIFIWHOPEEMQCJ  
FXXVFVEXKMOCYIGJOEOMXHHYQVXQWXTXUICKTIKQSEGTHRARDWIIFYMTLMBWQVBSFKAXAIAJ  
QPOIGRZHKIOUKXHASCOSFIODUWLMCEMVRIBKQVIVWJQCXXOTDSLWHYQKNPTFRWIEQVYMGHGK  
TEMEFVFSHYFDURWWOJAYKWOIQXHXVFEIHJHYQFXEGKEXAEHGQVBWVZZXXPZVOXLZOJFEGHQF  
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MWUIWESATXQYQHDISEXCTRRTXSLIZPNCBRHVXPBKSEOILKFVMXXVHYMRFEBJMRWCSKMWFSFK  
MPTWVZESPRHYMXTWAVZFNWWVPXAIAJQPOIGRNSNXHYQMKZOIUSNWQFZGXVBJFLXCKVDILGFL  
FMGMGVPEGHGKGBIRGQVAEDJMPFSGKMWGEFIAAECOJMQTRKZFLTQWTDLSGCGQQBKVKEGKYHZ  
ZMLIHYQXKEBJUIGXQIQEMYFVEXAEHJIEKQOEPQNPBZBPRMBRPVHTCWIEMIFNUXAMBWURBXST  
AQIPOTQRVCAVZAXRHKAEGHTIASOIFKTMLKZFNITFCLFXAIWIXMMXZVMJYEWIEWXVSEQMGXVV  
UVTWGLDEGGSFRXAIWIIQQIMFVAZXVARFXXVWKUWISGJUFEIHXYMXMLSZZJNWCIUENRRVDXAIAX  
OVHWQFBIWSHYQWTQSEASGIURHITXVFGKAXHFFLXSZUQVPSFCPWHJGGMGXEGJAYKGSJAJAYAR  
ZHTRUVDKXVFGKAXCWFLXQCEXCMSRZEQBWGKTIBHSRAJEMTVGTHRHYQQTWDBSLWWSXIHVWD  
BVHFOSXIBXWJOYKMCLEXHVSTMPPEWCDQSYXVVYIGXOCTEUMHJAJMLCJQHXTTOIFIWHOPEEMQCJ  
FXXVFVEXKMOCYIGJOEOMXHHYQVXQWXTXUICKTIKQSEGTHRARDWIIFYMTLMBWQVBSFKAXAIAJ  
QPOIGRZHKIOUKXHASCSFIODUWLMCEMVRIBKQVIVWJQCXXOTDSLWHYQKNPTFRWIEQVYMGHGK  
TEMEFVFSHYFDURWWOJAYKWOIQXHXVFEIHJHYQFXEGKEXAEHGQVBWVZZXXPZVOXLZOJFEGHQF  
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MPTWVZESPRHYMXTWAVZFNWWVPXAIAJQPOIGRNSNXHYQMKZOIUSNWQFZGXVBJFLXCKVDILGFL  
FMGMGVPEGHGKGBIRGQVAEDJMPFSGKMWGEFIAAECOJMQTRKZFLTQWTDLSGCGQQBKVKEGKYHZ  
ZMLIHYQXKEBJUIGXQIQEMYFVEXAEHJIEKQOEPQNPBZBPRMBRPVHTCWIEMIFNUXAMBWURBXST  
AQIPOTQRVCAVZAXRHKAEGHTIASOIFKTMLKZFNITFCLFXAIWIXMMXZVMJYEWIEWXVSEQMGXVV  
UVTWGLDEGGSFRXAIWIIQQIMFVAZXVARFXXVWKUWISGJUFEIHYMXMLSZZJNWCIUENRRVDXAIAZ  
OVHWQFBIWSHYQWTQSEASGIURHITXVFGKAXHFFLXSZUQVPSFCPWHJGGMGXEGJAYKGSJAJAYAR  
ZHTRUVDSKXVFGKAXCWFLXQCEXCMSRZEQBWGKTIBHSRAJEMTVGTHRHYQQTWDBSLWWSXIHVWD  
BVHFOSXIBXWJOYKMCLEXHVSTMPPEWCDQSYXVVYIGXOCTEUMHJAJMLCJQHXTOIFIWHOPEEMQCJ  
FXXVFVEXKMOCYIGJOEOMXHHYQVXQWXTXUICKTIKQSEGTHRARDWIIFYMTLMBWQVBSFKAXAIAJ  
QPOIGRZHKIOUKXHASCOSFIODUWLMCEMVRIBKQVIVWJQCXXOTDSLWHYQKNPTFRWIEQVYMGHGK  
TEMEFVFSHYFDURWWOJAYKWOIQXHXVFEIHJHYQFXEGKEXAEHGQVBWVZZXXPZVOXLZOJFEGHQF  
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[illegible]

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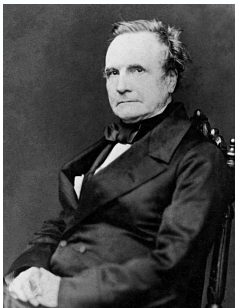
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- ▶ Key lengths of 2, 3 or 4 are quite short, so we rule them out. (We may have to come back to them.) The key length is likely to be 6 and as we found out, the actual keyword was meteor.

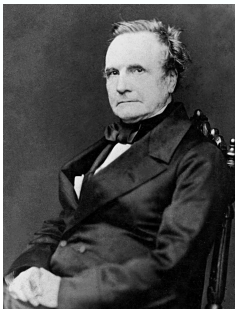
## Who broke the unbreakable cipher?

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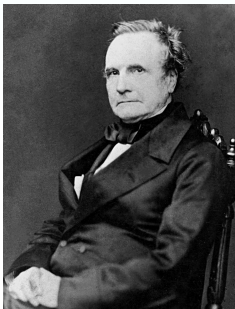


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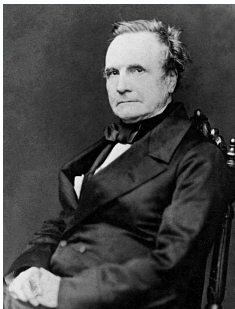
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- ▶ German cryptographer and archaeologist Friedrich Kasiski attacked the problem in 1863.
- ▶ But Charles Babbage had cracked it in 1854. The British government wanted to keep it secret in the Crimean War.
- ▶ We know Babbage better as being the originator of the programmable computer, having designed the Analytical and Differences Engines.

# Tutorials

In the tutorial this week we will:

- ▶ Create a spreadsheet to perform Vigenère encryption.
- ▶ Use a premade spreadsheet to perform a Kasiski-style attack on Vigenère encryption.