Introduction to Cryptography

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Cryptography

- = "Secret writing" throughout most of its history.
  - More precisely, "writing" with a hidden meaning - as opposed to steganography where the existence of the "writing" itself is hidden.
- The idea is to make a message unintelligble except to the intended receiver.

- Up until the 1970's, the typical pattern was ([1])
  - Somebody creates a cipher.
  - They claim (or assume) the cipher is unbreakable.
  - Their enemy breaks the cipher using cryptanalysis.

Two Periods: BDH and ADH

- BDH - Before Diffie-Hellman < 1976
- ADH - After Diffie-Hellman > 1976

Two big changes in 1976

- Selection of Data Encryption Standard (DES) block cipher.
- Public-key cryptography - Diffie-Hellman.

BDH: Symmetric Cryptography

- A symmetric cipher uses the same key for encryption and decryption.
- Two main types:
  - Stream cipher.
  - Block cipher.
- Prior to 1970's, most ciphers were stream ciphers.
- A symmetric cipher consists of three algorithms - G, E and D:
  - G generates a secret key k.
  - E takes key k and plaintext m and ouputs a ciphertext c i.e. $c = E(k, m)$.
  - D takes a key k and a ciphertext c and ouputs a plaintext m i.e. $m = D(k, c)$.

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- H gives the average number of bits of information contained in some message, which we call the amount of *entropy*.

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  - Then the unicity distance is the length of ciphertext U such that $k \cdot \frac{s}{p} = 1$.

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  - The value $D = n - H(M)$ is the redundancy of the plaintext.

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  $$H(M) = H(M \mid C)$$
  where $H(M|C)$ is the *conditional entropy* of M given a ciphertext from C.
  - Put another way, for all plaintexts $m \in M$ and all ciphertexts $c \in C$, we have
  $$\Pr(m) = \Pr(m \mid c)$$

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- Example: using addition modulo 2 (XOR) when encrypting a binary message.

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  - Can be achieved via the technique of permutation (aka transposition).

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  - The unicity distance is $U = H(K)/(n - H(M)) = \log_2 26!/(\log_2 26 - 1.5) \approx 28$.

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- In English, the most frequently occuring letters are (in order) E, T, A, O, I, N, S, H, R, D, L, U...
- So given a ciphertext generated from an English plaintext, the most frequently occuring character likely corresponds to E etc.

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- The main idea is to change the substitution alphabet with each plaintext character, so the first letter is encrypted according to one alphabet, the second according to a different alphabet and so on (note the alphabets may repeat after a certain period).

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- Encrypting the text "HELLO" with keyword "BLAZE" yields the ciphertext "IPLKS".

Viginère Cipher - 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

Source: Wikipedia

Transposition

- Idea: rearrange the plaintext (change the order) to produce the ciphertext.
- The positions of the plaintext characters are shifted.
- Also known as *permutation*.
- Examples:
  - Rail Fence
  - Route Cipher
  - Columnar Transposition

Example: Columnar Transposition

- Write plaintext along rows whose length is determined by the key
- Example (here X denotes a null character):

T	H	E	R	E
M	U	S	T	B
E	S	O	M	E
K	I	N	D	O
F	W	A	Y	O
U	T	O	F	H
E	R	E	X	X

- Suppose the key specifies the row length as 5 and the order of columns to write out as 4, 2, 5, 1, 3.
- Then we get the ciphertext by writing out the columns in the specified order:
    - we obtain: RTMDYFXHUSTWTREBEOOHXTMEKFUEESONAOE

Example: Columnar Transposition (Cont'd)

- The key could be alternatively given as a keyword such as TOWER
  - the length of the keyword represents the row length.
  - the alphabetical order of the letters in the keyword gives the order of the columns to be written out.

References

Barak, B.:
Cos 433: Cryptography.
www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/fall07/cos433/.../lec1-intro.ppt (2007)