

Homework #1  
CSE 7339 Computer System Security  
Mark D. Hoffman

Name: Bingying Liang  
ID: 48999397

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Please submit under the Homework #1 link on the Assignments page of Canvas. Unless otherwise stated, **PLEASE SHOW ALL WORK** and try to only use classmate assistance as a last ditch effort.

### 1. Question 1 – Auth-what?

Discuss the difference between Authentication and Authorization.

#### **Solution:**

**Authentication:** is the process of verifying the identity of an individual, system, or application. It's essentially answering the question, "Are you who you say you are?"

**Example:** Passwords, Biometrics

**Authorization:** Once authentication is established, authorization is the process of granting or denying access to specific resources based on that identity. It's essentially answering the question, "What are you allowed to do or see?"

**Example:** Access Control Lists/Capabilities; Multilevel security (MLS), security modeling, covert channel, inference control; Firewalls, intrusion detection (IDS)

### 2. Question 2 – What is the plain text of a Substitution Cipher?

- (a) Using a Caesar Cipher with a key of 3 (shift by 3), what is the plaintext if the cipher text is **FUBSWRJUDSKB FDQ EH IXQ**? Work by hand and show all work. HINT: If your solution is nonsense, it is probably incorrect.

#### **Solution:**

Plaintext: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Ciphertext: XYZABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Therefore, "FUBSWRJUDSKB FDQ EH IXQ" → "cryptography can be fun".

- (b) Using any means available (Google is your friend), solve the following Substitution Cipher with an unknown key of a random alphabet:
- i. Find the plaintext if the cipher text is

EXUYGJMJAUVZV ZV RCGWM BZCCZENAG

**Solution:** cryptanalysis is often difficult

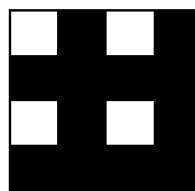
- ii. Explain with enough detail to duplicate your method how you solved this:

**Solution:** Used the website <https://quipqiup.com/>, it can solve simple substitution ciphers often found in newspapers, including puzzles like cryptoquips (in which word boundaries are preserved) and patristocrats (in which word boundaries are not preserved). I chose the "statistics" bottom to help me solve the problem.

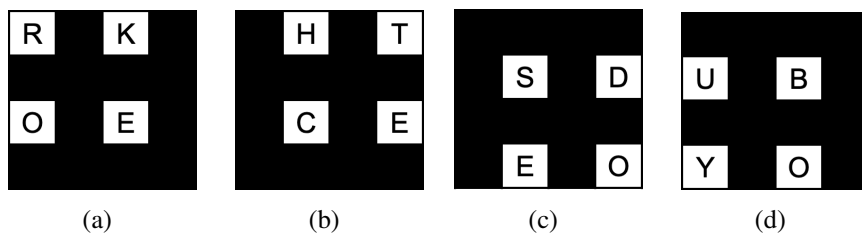
### 3. Question 3 – Transposition ciphers:

- (a) Solve the following Grille cipher using the included cut out. Briefly describe your method of breaking the cipher.

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| R | H | K | T |
| U | S | B | D |
| O | C | E | E |
| Y | E | O | O |



**Solution:**



(a) rotate  $0^\circ$  (b) rotate  $90^\circ$  (c) rotate  $180^\circ$  (d) rotate  $270^\circ$

If the reading order is from ROKE, then (b) will be THEC, (c) ODES, (d) YOUB, and then combine then in order (d)(a)(b)(c), will get “YOUBROKETHECODES”.

- (b) Solve the following Double Transposition cipher. Briefly describe your method of breaking the cipher.

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| O | S | E | D |
| T | C | E | H |
| R | E | K | O |
| Y | B | U | O |

**Solution:**

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| O | D | E | S |
| T | H | E | C |
| R | O | K | E |
| Y | O | U | B |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Y | O | U | B |
| T | H | E | C |
| R | O | K | E |
| O | D | E | S |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Y | O | U | B |
| R | O | K | E |
| T | H | E | C |
| O | D | E | S |

(a)
(b)
(c)

(a) swap col(2, 4) (b) swap row(1,4) (c) swap row(2,3)

|      | col1 | col2 | col3 | col4 |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| row1 | O    | S    | E    | D    |
| row2 | T    | C    | E    | H    |
| row3 | R    | E    | K    | O    |
| row4 | Y    | B    | U    | O    |

→

|      | col1 | col4 | col3 | col2 |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| row4 | Y    | O    | U    | B    |
| row3 | R    | O    | K    | E    |
| row2 | T    | H    | E    | C    |
| row1 | O    | D    | E    | S    |

Therefore, the plaintext is “YOUBROKETHECODES”. The final key is (4,3,2,1) and (1,4,3,2). The website <https://www.boxentriq.com/code-breaking/double-transposition-cipher> also can solve this. “you broke the codes”.

4. **Question 4 - What is the one-time pad for encryption?**

Using the letter encoding below discussed in class (along with one-time pad using XOR), the cipher text, KITLKE was generated using one-time pad.

E = 000 H = 001 I = 010 K = 011 L = 100 R = 101 S = 110 T = 111

(a) What is the one time pad used if the plain text is “thrill”?

**Solution:**

|                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Plaintext:          | t   | h   | r   | i   | l   | l   |
| Encoded Plaintext:  | 111 | 001 | 101 | 010 | 100 | 100 |
| Ciphertext:         | K   | I   | T   | L   | K   | E   |
| Encoded Ciphertext: | 011 | 010 | 111 | 100 | 011 | 000 |
| Encoded Pad:        | 100 | 011 | 010 | 110 | 111 | 100 |
| Pad:                | L   | K   | I   | S   | T   | L   |

Therefore, one time pad is “100 011 010 110 111 100” or “lkistl”

(b) What is the key if the plain text was “tiller”?

**Solution:**

|                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Plaintext:          | t   | i   | l   | l   | e   | r   |
| Encoded Plaintext:  | 111 | 010 | 100 | 100 | 000 | 101 |
| Ciphertext:         | K   | I   | T   | L   | K   | E   |
| Encoded Ciphertext: | 011 | 010 | 111 | 100 | 011 | 000 |
| Encoded Key:        | 100 | 000 | 011 | 000 | 011 | 101 |
| Key:                | L   | E   | K   | E   | K   | R   |

Therefore, key is “100 001 101 010 100 100” or “lekekr”.

5. **Question 5 - Solve the following Null Cipher (you do not need to show work or describe how you solved this, but understanding how the answer is derived is still important):**

BOB RUNS EVERY AFTERNOON. KAREN IS NOT GOING. CARL ONCE DROVE EVERY SUNDAY. IRENE SAW HELEN AND ROBERT DANCE.

**Solution:** Taking the first letter of each word in the message:

BOB RUNS EVERY AFTERNOON. KAREN IS NOT GOING. CARL ONCE DROVE EVERY SUNDAY. IRENE SAW HELEN AND ROBERT DANCE.

Therefore, “BREAKINGCODESISHARD”