

1. Consider the shift cipher, and the distribution $\Pr[M = \text{'one'}] = \frac{1}{2}$, $\Pr[M = \text{'ten'}] = \frac{1}{2}$

What is the probability that $C = \text{'rqh'}$?

The only way this ciphertext can occur is if $M = \text{one}$ and $K = 3$

Hence, the probability $\Pr[C = \text{rqh}] = \Pr[M = \text{one}] * \Pr[K = 3] = \frac{1}{2} * \frac{1}{26} = \frac{1}{52}$

2. Define a version of the Vigen'ere cipher with an n -letter key working only on ciphertexts of n letters. Show that this cipher is perfectly secret.

The Vigen'ere cipher we define here requires the message to be n -letter, so ciphertext is also n -letter. For each letter in the message, there are 26 choices with equal possibility $1/26$. When it comes to n -letter, there will have 26^n different message. For n -letter key, we require each letter occurs with the possibility $1/26$. Then we can conclude this version of the Vigen'ere cipher is perfectly secret.

Here is the proof:

What we assume: assume a_i is any letter from the set A with 26 letters, $a_i \in A, 1 \leq i \leq 26$. For every message $m = m_1 \cdots m_n, m \in M$, we have $\Pr[m_k = a_i] = 1/26, 1 \leq k \leq n, \Pr[M = m] = 1/26^n$, and for every key $k = k_1 \cdots k_n, k \in K$, we have $\Pr[k_z = a_i] = 1/26, 1 \leq z \leq n$.

Proof:

For every character m_i , it could be a letter $a_i, 0 \leq i < 26$ with equal probability $1/26$. As the k_i can be a letter a_j with equal probability $1/26$ as well, so the encrypted character c_i can be

When $m_1 = a_{26}, k_1 = a_2$, then the encrypted character $c_1 = a_1$, the probability is $\Pr[m_1 = a_{26} \wedge k_1 = a_2] = \Pr[m_1 = a_{26}] * \Pr[k_1 = a_2] = 1/26^2$

When $m_1 = a_{25}, k_1 = a_3$, then the encrypted character $c_1 = a_1$, the probability is $\Pr[m_1 = a_{25} \wedge k_1 = a_3] = \Pr[m_1 = a_{25}] * \Pr[k_1 = a_3] = 1/26^2$

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When $m_1 = a_1, k_1 = a_1$, then the encrypted character $c_1 = a_1$, the probability is $\Pr[m_1 = a_1 \wedge k_1 = a_1] = \Pr[m_1 = a_1] * \Pr[k_1 = a_1] = 1/26^2$

Here we can see, when $c_1 = a_1$, there are 26 distinct pair (m_1, k_1) to get that, so $\Pr[c = a_1 | m_1 = a_i] = \Pr[k_1 = a_j] = 1/26$

We have $\Pr[m_1 = a_i | c_1 = a_1] = \frac{\Pr[c=a_1|m_1=a_i]*\Pr[m_1=a_i]}{\Pr[c=c_1]} = \frac{1/26*1/26}{1/26} = 1/26$

Similarly, $\Pr[m_1 = a_i | c_1 = a_j] = \frac{\Pr[c=a_j|m_1=a_i]*\Pr[m_1=a_i]}{\Pr[c=c_j]} = \frac{1/26*1/26}{1/26} = 1/26$

As characters in the message and ciphertext are independent, so

$Pr[M = m|C = c] = Pr[m_1 = a_i|c_1 = a_j] * \dots * Pr[m_n = a_i|c_n = a_j] = 1/26^n$. Because $Pr[M = m] = 1/26^n$, so now we have $Pr[M = m|C = c] = Pr[M = m]$, the cipher is perfectly secret.