



Mahavir Education Trust's  
**SHAH & ANCHOR KUTCHHI ENGINEERING  
COLLEGE**  
Chembur, Mumbai - 400 088  
**UG Program in Information Technology**

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## EXPERIMENT - 01

AIM : Monoalphabetic Substitution Cipher using Frequency Analysis Method

### ❖ BREAKING THE SHIFT CIPHER :

#### 1. Brute-Force Attack:

- Try all 26 possible shifts.
- Check for readable output with each shift.

#### 2. Frequency Analysis:

- Compare letter frequencies in the ciphertext to common letters (e.g., 'E', 'T') in English to estimate the shift.

#### 3. Known Plaintext:

- If you know part of the plaintext, use it to calculate the shift.

#### 4. Pattern Matching:

- Look for common patterns (like "TH", "ING") to help identify the shift.

#### 5. Tools:

- Use online tools to automate decryption via brute-force or frequency analysis.

Ciphertext	Key	Plaintext	Performance (Virtual Lab)
haahjr ha khdu	7	attack at dawn	<p><b>PART III</b></p> <p>Plaintext: attack at dawn</p> <p>shift: 7 ▼</p> <p>▼ Encrypt ▼   ^ Decrypt ^</p> <p>Ciphertext haahjr ha khdu</p> <hr/> <p><b>PART IV</b></p> <p>Enter your solution Plaintext and shift key here: attack at dawn</p> <p>Key 7 ▼</p> <p>Check my answer!</p> <p>CORRECT !!</p>

wkh sruxslqh lv xqghu wkh vkhhwv	3	the porcupine is under the sheets	<p><b>PART III</b></p> <p>Plaintext: the porcupine is under the sheets</p> <p>shift: 3</p> <p>▼ Encrypt ▼   ▲ Decrypt ▲</p> <p>Ciphertext wkh srufxslqh lv xqghu wkh vkhhwv</p> <hr/> <p><b>PART IV</b></p> <p>Enter your solution Plaintext and shift key here: the porcupine is under the sheets</p> <p>Key 3</p> <p>Check my answer!</p> <p>CORRECT!!</p>
wkh txlfn eurzo ira mxpsv rhyhu wkh odcg grj	3	the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog	<p><b>PART III</b></p> <p>Plaintext: the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog</p> <p>shift: 3</p> <p>▼ Encrypt ▼   ▲ Decrypt ▲</p> <p>Ciphertext wkh txlfn eurzo ira mxpsv rhyhu wkh odcg grj</p> <hr/> <p><b>PART IV</b></p> <p>Enter your solution Plaintext and shift key here: the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog</p> <p>Key 3</p> <p>Check my answer!</p> <p>CORRECT!!</p>
ymnx nx ktwjxy uwnrjafq	5	this is the forest primeval	<p><b>PART III</b></p> <p>Plaintext: this is the forest primeval</p> <p>shift: 5</p> <p>▼ Encrypt ▼   ▲ Decrypt ▲</p> <p>Ciphertext ymnx nx vmi ktwixy uwnrjafq</p> <hr/> <p><b>PART IV</b></p> <p>Enter your solution Plaintext and shift key here: this is the forest primeval</p> <p>Key 5</p> <p>Check my answer!</p> <p>CORRECT!!</p>

esp bflwtej zq xpcnj td yze decltypo	11	the quality of mercy is not strained	<p><b>PART III</b></p> <p>Plaintext: the quality of mercy is not strained shift: 11 ▼</p> <p>▼ Encrypt ▼ ^ Decrypt ^</p> <p>Ciphertext esp bflwtej zq xpcnj td yze decltypo</p> <hr/> <p><b>PART IV</b></p> <p>Enter your solution Plaintext and shift key here: the quality of mercy is not strained Key 11 ▼</p> <p>Check my answer!</p> <p>CORRECT !!</p>
owlzwhwghdw gxlzwmfalwykl slwk	18	Wethepeopl eoftheunited states	<p><b>PART III</b></p> <p>Plaintext: wethepeopleoftheunitedstates shift: 18 ▼</p> <p>▼ Encrypt ▼ ^ Decrypt ^</p> <p>Ciphertext owlzwhwghdwgxlzwmfalwyklslwk</p> <hr/> <p><b>PART IV</b></p> <p>Enter your solution Plaintext and shift key here: wethepeopleoftheunitedstates Key 18 ▼</p> <p>Check my answer!</p> <p>CORRECT !!</p>

### ❖ BREAKING THE MONO-ALPHABETIC SUBSTITUTION CIPHER :

- Frequency Analysis:**
  - Compare letter frequencies in the ciphertext to the standard letter frequency in English. Common letters like 'E', 'T', 'A' help identify substitutions.
- Identify Common Words:**
  - Look for common short words like "the", "and", or "is". Substituting letters based on these guesses helps crack other parts of the text.
- Pattern Matching:**
  - Use letter patterns in common words (e.g., 'TH', 'ING') to guide letter substitutions.
- Trial and Error:**
  - Gradually replace letters based on frequency and pattern guesses, then check for readable text.
- Use Tools:**
  - Software tools can automate frequency analysis and pattern recognition to speed up the decryption process.

## PART I

Decrypt the following cipher text. A tool to stimulate the Mono-alphabetic Substitution cipher is provided beneath for your assistance .

Here is the table of frequencies of English alphabets for your reference:

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
8.167	1.49	2.782	4.253	12.702	2.228	2.015	6.094	6.966	0.153	0.772	4.025	2.406
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
6.749	7.507	1.929	0.095	5.987	6.327	9.056	2.758	0.978	2.360	0.150	1.974	0.074

dkxyvrh 1 - qegt vkr hxccwv keur: xuwr wn cehq nvvvutp et vkr hwsrhcxto gvvk krh nwnvrh, gkrt nkr tevvdn x vxuowtp, duevkrq gkvvr hxccwv gvvk x yedorv gxvdk hit yxnv. nkr leuegn wv qegt x hxccwv keur gkrt niqqtub nkr lxuun x uetp gxb ve x dihwain kxuu gvvk fxtb uedorq qeehn el xuu nmmrn. nkr lvtqn x nfxuu orb ve x qeeh vee nfxuu leh krh ve luv, civ vkheipk gkvdk nkr nrrn xt xvvhxdvusr pxhqrt. nkr vkrt qundesrhn x cevvr uxcruurq 'qhuto fr', vkr detvrtvn el gkvdk dxinn krh ve nkhwto vee nfxuu ve hrxdk vkr orb. x dxor gvvk 'rxv fr' et wv dxinn krh ve pheg ve nidk x vhrftrqein nmmr krh krqx kvvn vkr druuwtp.

Next Ciphertext

Calculate Frequencies in ciphertext

Ciphertext Frequencies:

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
0.000	1.037	2.282	3.942	8.091	1.452	3.112	5.602	2.075	0.000	8.506	1.452	0.415
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
7.469	1.867	1.452	3.32	11.618	0.622	4.979	5.602	9.959	6.639	7.884	0.622	0.000

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## PART II

Note that the cipher text is in lower case and when you replace any character, the final character of replacement, i.e., plaintext is changed to upper case automatically in the following scratchpad.

Scratchpad:

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 TO FIT, BUT THROUGH WHICH SHE SEES AN ATTRACTIVE GARDEN. SHE THEN DISCOVERS A BOTTLE LABELLED 'DRINK ME', THE CONTENTS OF WHICH CAUSE HER TO SHRINK TOO SMALL TO REACH THE KEY. A CAKE WITH 'EAT ME' ON IT CAUSES HER TO GROW TO SUCH A TREMENDOUS SIZE HER HEAD HITS THE CEILING.

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

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

### Replacement History :

CIPHERTEXT ALPHABET	PLAINTEXT ALPHABET
a	X
b	Y
c	B
d	C
e	O
f	M
g	W
h	R
i	U
j	Q
k	H
l	F
m	Z
n	S
o	K

p	G
q	D
r	E
s	V
t	N
u	L
v	T
w	I
x	A
y	P
z	J

### **PART III**

Enter the replacement history as your key and verify your answer

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 =

CORRECT!!

**CONCLUSION :**

Both ciphers can be broken using analysis and logical techniques. The Shift Cipher, being simpler, can be easily cracked through brute-force, frequency analysis, or known plaintext methods. The Mono-Alphabetic Substitution Cipher, though more complex, can still be deciphered using frequency analysis, word patterns, and gradual substitutions. In both cases, the use of software tools can greatly speed up the decryption process. Thus, while different in complexity, both ciphers can be systematically broken using analytical approaches.