Plan of Talk

- In this lecture, I will introduce
  - Basics Symmetric key Cryptography terminology
  - Main Security Requirements
  - Classical cipher techniques
  - Cryptanalysis framework
  - Cryptanalysis of Classical ciphers

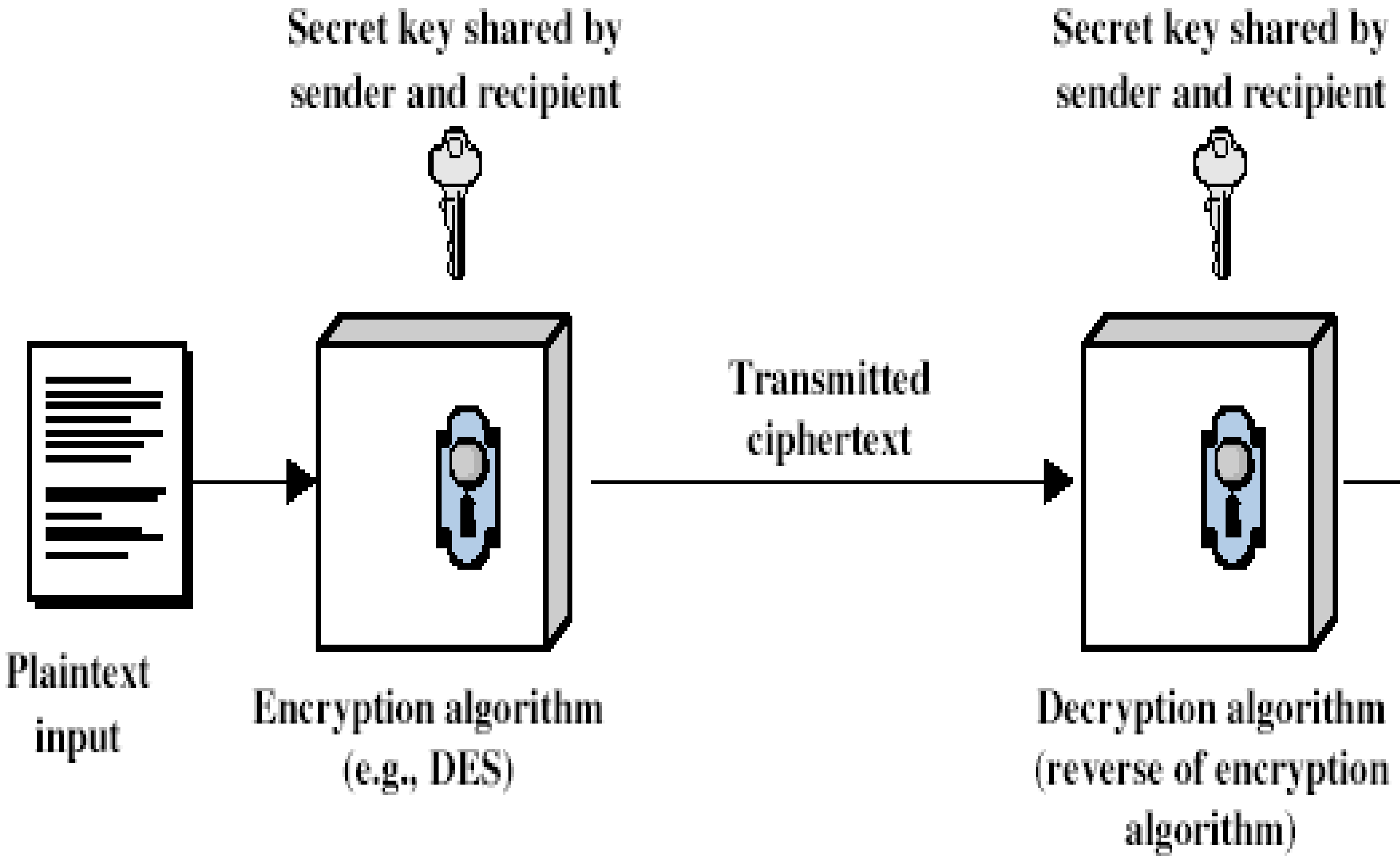
Symmetric Encryption

- Referred to as conventional / private-key / single-key
- Main assumption: Sender and recipient share a common key
- All classical encryption algorithms are private-key
- It was the only type prior to invention of public-key in 1970's
- and by far most widely used

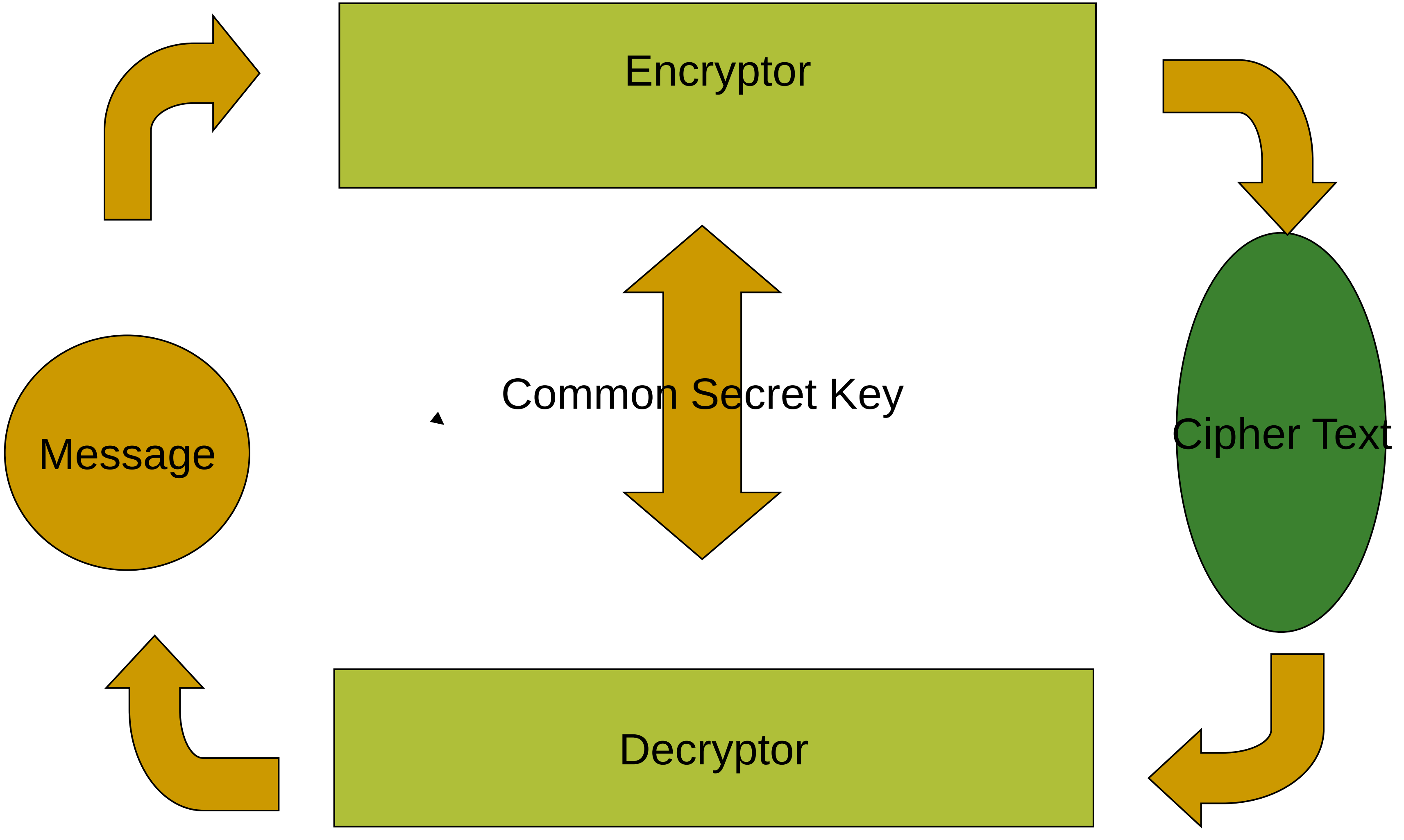
Some Basic Terminology

- **plaintext** - original message
- **ciphertext** - coded message
- **cipher** - algorithm for transforming plaintext to ciphertext
- **key** - info used in cipher known only to sender/receiver
- **encipher (encrypt)** - converting plaintext to ciphertext
- **decipher (decrypt)** - recovering plaintext from ciphertext
- **cryptography** - study of encryption principles/methods
- **cryptanalysis (codebreaking)** - study of principles/ methods of deciphering ciphertext *without* knowing key
- **cryptology** - field of both cryptography and cryptanalysis

Symmetric Cipher Model



Symmetric Key Cryptography



Block diagram of a Symmetric Key System: Logical view

Requirements

- Two requirements for secure use of symmetric encryption:
  - a strong encryption algorithm
  - a secret key known only to sender / receiver
- In terms of functions we have:

  $Y = \mathrm{E}_K(X)$

  $X = \mathrm{D}_K(Y)$
- Main assumptions: encryption algorithm is known
- Implies a secure channel to distribute key

Cryptography

- characterize cryptographic system by:
  - type of encryption operations used
    - substitution / transposition / product
  - number of keys used
    - single-key or private / two-key or public
  - way in which plaintext is processed
    - block / stream

Cryptanalysis

- Objective to recover key not just message
- General approaches:
  - cryptanalytic attack
  - brute-force attack

Cryptanalytic Attacks

- **ciphertext only**
  - only know algorithm & ciphertext, is statistical, know or can identify plaintext
- **known plaintext**
  - know/suspect plaintext & ciphertext
- **chosen plaintext**
  - select plaintext and obtain ciphertext
- **chosen ciphertext**
  - select ciphertext and obtain plaintext
- **chosen text**
  - select plaintext or ciphertext to en/decrypt

More Definitions

- **unconditional security**
  - no matter how much computer power or time is available, the cipher cannot be broken since the ciphertext provides insufficient information to uniquely determine the corresponding plaintext
- **computational security**
  - given limited computing resources (eg time needed for calculations is greater than age of universe), the cipher cannot be broken

Brute Force Search

- always possible to simply try every key
- most basic attack, proportional to key size
- assume either know / recognise plaintext

Key Size (bits)	Number of Alternative Keys	Time required at 1 decryption/µs	Time required at 10^6 decryptions/µs
32	$2^{32} = 4.3 \times 10^9$	2^{31} µs = 35.8 minutes	2.15 milliseconds
56	$2^{56} = 7.2 \times 10^{16}$	2^{55} µs = 1142 years	10.01 hours
128	$2^{128} = 3.4 \times 10^{38}$	2^{127} µs = 5.4×10^{24} years	5.4×10^{18} years
168	$2^{168} = 3.7 \times 10^{50}$	2^{167} µs = 5.9×10^{36} years	5.9×10^{30} years
26 characters (permutation)	$26! = 4 \times 10^{26}$	2×10^{26} µs = 6.4×10^{12} years	6.4×10^6 years

Classical Substitution Ciphers

- where letters of plaintext are replaced by other letters or by numbers or symbols
- or if plaintext is viewed as a sequence of bits, then substitution involves replacing plaintext bit patterns with ciphertext bit patterns

Caesar Cipher

- earliest known substitution cipher
- by Julius Caesar
- first attested use in military affairs
- replaces each letter by 3rd letter on
- example:

  PHHW PH DIWHU WKH WRJD SDUWB

Caesar Cipher

- can define transformation as:

  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

  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

- mathematically give each letter a number

  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

  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

- then have Caesar cipher as:

  $c = \mathrm{E}(p) = (p + k) \bmod (26)$

  $p = \mathrm{D}(c) = (c - k) \bmod (26)$

Cryptanalysis of Caesar Cipher

- only have 26 possible ciphers
  - A maps to A,B,..Z
- could simply try each in turn
- a **brute force search**
- given ciphertext, just try all shifts of letters
- do need to recognize when have plaintext
- eg. break ciphertext "GCUA VQ DTGCM"

Monoalphabetic Cipher

- rather than just shifting the alphabet
- could shuffle (jumble) the letters arbitrarily
- each plaintext letter maps to a different random ciphertext letter
- hence key is 26 letters long

Plain: abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
Cipher: DKVQFIBJWPESCXHTMYAUOLRGZN

Plaintext: ifwewishtoreplaceletters
Ciphertext: WIRFRWAJUHYFTSDVFSFUUFYA

Monoalphabetic Cipher Security

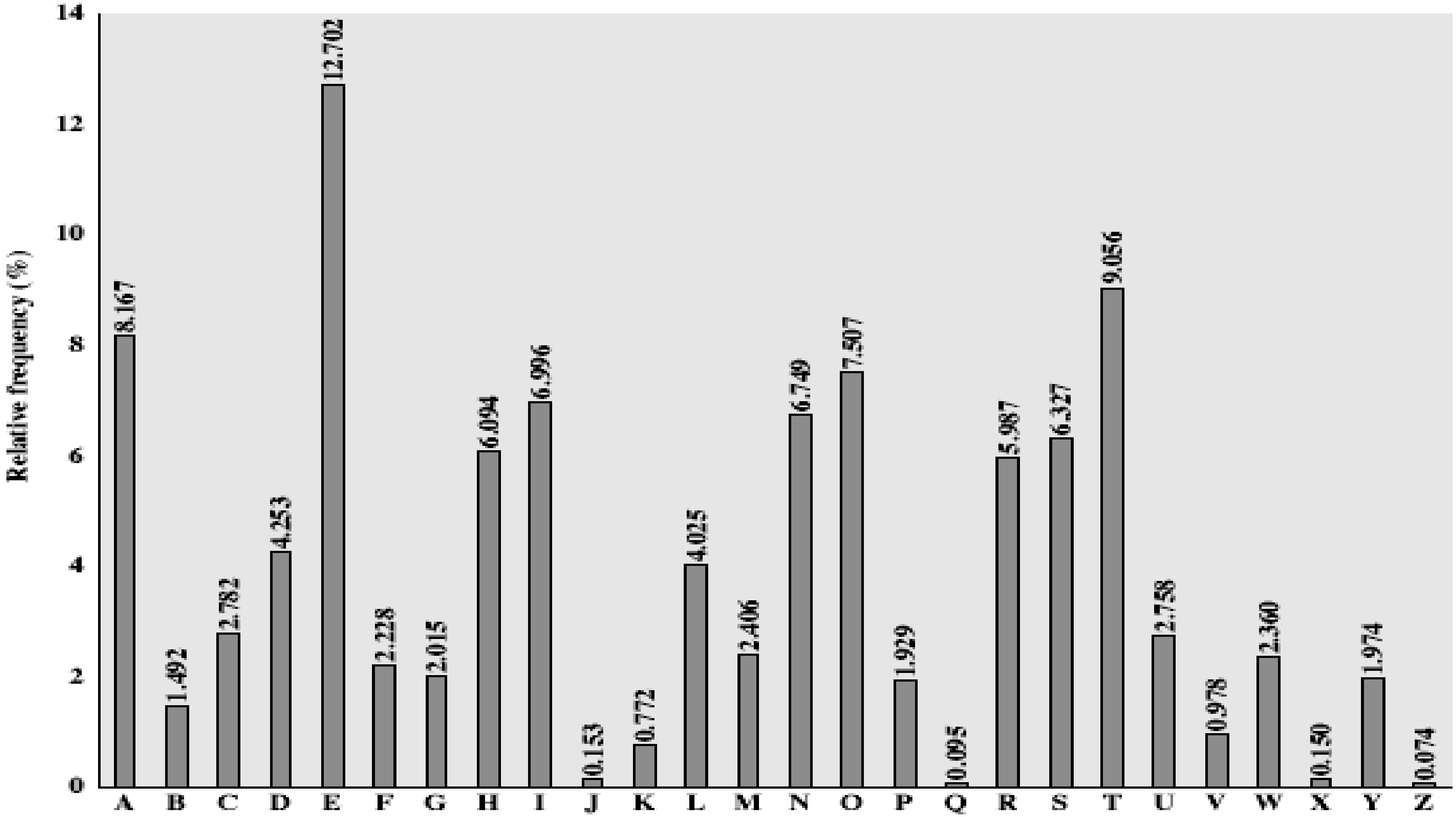
- now have a total of 26! = 4 x 1026 keys
- with so many keys, might think is secure
- Is it Secure?

- but would be **!!!WRONG!!!**
- problem is language characteristics

Language Redundancy and Cryptanalysis

- human languages are **redundant**
- eg "th lrd s m shphrd shll nt wnt"
- letters are not equally commonly used
- in English E is by far the most common letter
  - followed by T,R,N,I,O,A,S
- other letters like Z,J,K,Q,X are fairly rare
- have tables of single, double & triple letter frequencies for various languages

English Letter Frequencies



Use in Cryptanalysis

- key concept - monoalphabetic substitution ciphers do not change relative letter frequencies
- discovered by Arabian scientists in 9^{th} century
- calculate letter frequencies for ciphertext
- compare counts/plots against known values
- if caesar cipher look for common peaks/troughs
  - peaks at: A-E-I triple, NO pair, RST triple
  - troughs at: JK, X-Z
- for monoalphabetic must identify each letter
  - tables of common double/triple letters help

Example Cryptanalysis

- given ciphertext:

  UZQSOVUOHXMOPVGPOZPEVSGZWSZOPFPESXUDBMETSXAIZ
  VUEPHZHMDZSHZOWSFPAPPDTSVPQUZWYMXUZUHSX
  EPYEPOPDZSZUFPOMBZWPFUPZHMDJUDTMOHMQ
- count relative letter frequencies (see text)
- guess P & Z are e and t
- guess ZW is th and hence ZWP is the
- proceeding with trial and error finally get:

  it was disclosed yesterday that several informal but
  direct contacts have been made with political
  representatives of the viet cong in moscow

Polyalphabetic Ciphers

- **Polyalphabetic substitution ciphers**
- Improve security using multiple cipher alphabets
- Make cryptanalysis harder with more alphabets to guess and flatter frequency distribution
- Use a key to select which alphabet is used for each letter of the message
- use each alphabet in turn
- repeat from start after end of key is reached

Vigenère Cipher

- simplest polyalphabetic substitution cipher
- effectively multiple caesar ciphers
- key is multiple letters long $K = k_1\ k_2\ \dots\ k_d$
- i^{th} letter specifies i^{th} alphabet to use
- use each alphabet in turn
- repeat from start after d letters in message
- decryption simply works in reverse

Example of Vigenère Cipher

- write the plaintext out
- write the keyword repeated above it
- use each key letter as a caesar cipher key
- encrypt the corresponding plaintext letter
- eg using keyword *deceptive*

key: deceptivedeceptivedeceptive

plaintext: wearediscoveredsaveyourself

ciphertext:ZICVTWQNGRZGVTWAVZHCQYGLMGJ

Security of Vigenère Ciphers

- have multiple ciphertext letters for each plaintext letter
- hence letter frequencies are obscured
- but not totally lost
- start with letter frequencies
  - see if look monoalphabetic or not
- if not, then need to determine number of alphabets, since then can attach each

Kasiski Method

- method developed by Babbage / Kasiski
- repetitions in ciphertext give clues to period
- so find same plaintext an exact period apart
- which results in the same ciphertext
- of course, could also be random fluke
- eg repeated “VTW” in previous example
- suggests size of 3 or 9
- then attack each monoalphabetic cipher individually using same techniques as before

One-Time Pad

- if a truly random key as long as the message is used, the cipher will be secure called a One-Time pad
- is unbreakable since ciphertext bears no statistical relationship to the plaintext
- since for **any plaintext** & **any ciphertext** there exists a key mapping one to other
- can only use the key **once** though
- problems in generation & safe distribution of key

Transposition Ciphers

- now consider classical **transposition** or **permutation** ciphers
- these hide the message by rearranging the letter order
- without altering the actual letters used
- can recognise these since have the same frequency distribution as the original text

Rail Fence cipher

- write message letters out diagonally over a number of rows
- then read off cipher row by row
- eg. write message out as:

```
m e m a t r h t g p r y
 e t e f e t e o a a t
```

- giving ciphertext

```
MEMATRHTGPRYETEFETEOAAT
```

Row Transposition Ciphers

- a more complex transposition
- write letters of message out in rows over a specified number of columns
- then reorder the columns according to some key before reading off the rows

Key: 3 4 2 1 5 6 7

Plaintext: a t t a c k p
o s t p o n e
d u n t i l t
w o a m x y z

Ciphertext: TTNA APTMTSUOAODWCOIXKNLYPETZ

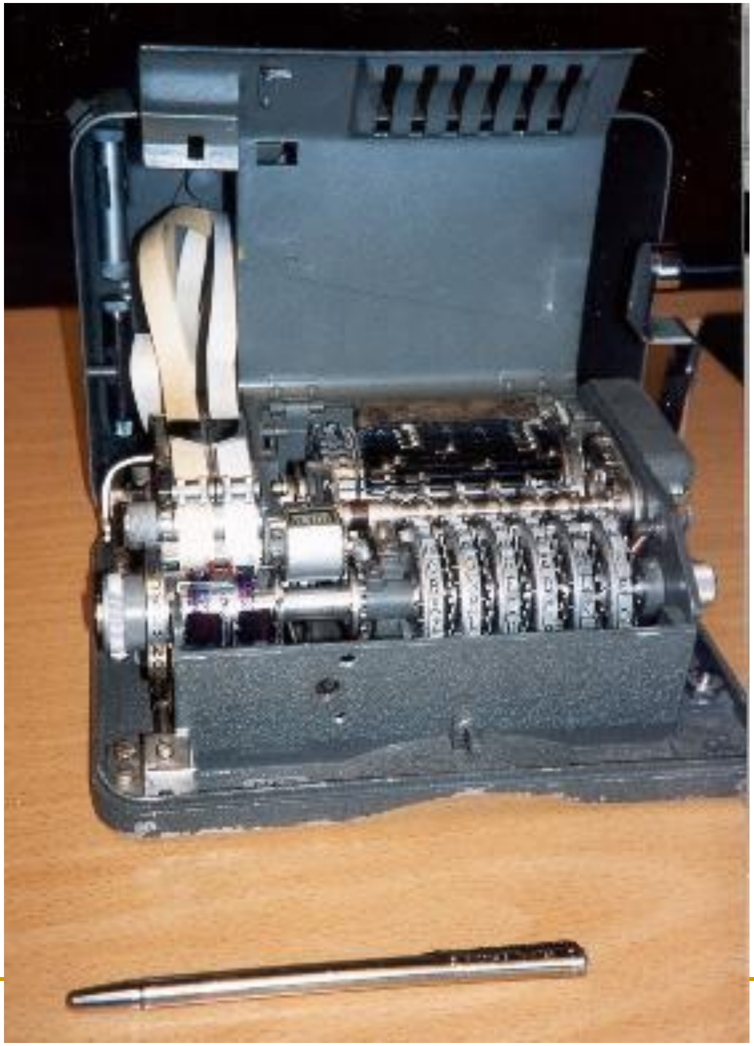
Product Ciphers

- ciphers using substitutions or transpositions are not secure because of language characteristics
- hence consider using several ciphers in succession to make harder, but:
  - two substitutions make a more complex substitution
  - two transpositions make more complex transposition
  - but a substitution followed by a transposition makes a new much harder cipher
- this is bridge from classical to modern ciphers

Rotor Machines

- before modern ciphers, rotor machines were most common complex ciphers in use
- widely used in WW2
  - German Enigma, Allied Hagelin, Japanese Purple
- implemented a very complex, varying substitution cipher
- used a series of cylinders, each giving one substitution, which rotated and changed after each letter was encrypted
- with 3 cylinders have 26^3=17576 alphabets

Hagelin Rotor Machine



Steganography

- an alternative to encryption
- hides existence of message
  - using only a subset of letters/words in a longer message marked in some way
  - using invisible ink
  - hiding in LSB in graphic image or sound file
- has drawbacks
  - high overhead to hide relatively few info bits

Summary

- We have considered:
  - classical cipher techniques and terminology
  - monoalphabetic substitution ciphers
  - cryptanalysis using letter frequencies
  - polyalphabetic ciphers
  - transposition ciphers
  - product ciphers and rotor machines
  - stenography