COMP3260 Data Security Lecture 5

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Lecture Overview

- 1. Homophonic ciphers
 - a) Beale ciphers
- 2. Polyalphabetic substitution ciphers
 - a) Vigenere cipher
 - b) Beaufort Cipher
 - c) Variant Beaufort Cipher
- 3. Breaking periodic polyalphabetic ciphers
 - a) Index of Coincidence
 - b) Kasiski Method
- 4. Running Key ciphers
- 5. Rotor Machines
- 6. One-Time Pads
- 7. Polygram Substitution Ciphers
 a) Playfair Ciphers

Classical Ciphers

- Chapter 3 textbook "Classical Encryption Techniques"
- These lecture notes (based on the text, "Cryptography and Data Security" by D. Denning [2], lecture notes by M. Miller and other sources)

Note that in-text references and quotes are omitted for clarity of the slides. When you write as essay or a report it is very important that you use both in-text references and quotes where appropriate.

A homophonic substitution cipher maps each character x of the plaintext alphabet into a set of ciphertext elements f(x) called homophones.

A plaintext message $M=m_1m_2...$ is enciphered as $C=c_1c_2...$, where each c_i is picked at random from the set of homophones $f(m_i)$.

Example: Suppose that the English letters are enciphered as integers between 0 and 99. The number of integers assigned to a letter is proportional to the relative frequency of the letter. No integer is assigned to more than one letter.

Letters	Homophones				
A	17 19 34 41 56 60 67 83				
I	08 22 53 65 88 90				
L	03 44 76				
N	02 09 15 27 32 40 59				
0	01 11 23 28 42 54 70 80				
Р	33 91				
Т	05 10 20 29 45 58 64 78 99				

One possible encipherment of the message

The first known Western use of homophonic cipher appears in correspondence between the Duchy of Mantua and Simeone de Crema in 1401.

Multiple substitutions were assigned only to vowels.

Homophonic ciphers can be much more difficult to break than simple substitution ciphers, especially when the number of homophones assigned to a letter is proportional to the relative frequency of the letter. The relative frequency distribution of the ciphertext symbols will be nearly flat. Other statistical properties may be used to break the cipher (e.g., diagram distributions).

The more homophones available, the stronger the cipher. If each ciphertext symbol appears at most once in the ciphertext, the cipher is unbreakable.

Beale ciphers

Thomas Jefferson Beale left 3 ciphers (B1, B2 and B3) about the treasure he buried in Virginia around 1820. The second cipher was broken by James Ward in 1880 and it describes the treasure and says that the first cipher contains directions to the location where the treasure was buried.

The second cipher B2 is a homophonic substitution cipher which uses as a key the Declaration of Independence, where the words are consecutively numbered. Each letter in the plaintext is enciphered with a number of some word starting with that letter. For example, letter W was enciphered with the numbers 1, 19, 40, 66, 72, 290 and 459.

Beale ciphers

The first 107 words of the Declaration of Independence

- (1) When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary
- (11) for one people to dissolve the political bands which have
- (21) connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers
- (31) of the earth the separate and equal station to which
- (41) the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them,
- (51) a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that
- (61) they should declare the causes which impel them to the
- (71) separation. We hold these truths to be self -evident; that
- (81) all men are created equal, that they are endowed by
- (91) their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among
- (99) these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

Beale ciphers

The second cipher starts with 115 73 24 818 37 52 49 17 31 62 657 22 7 15 ... which deciphers to "I have deposited..."

So far, no one has solved the first cipher. Many believe that it is a hoax. It contains 495 numbers from 1 to 2906, and DOI only has 1322 words. However, if B1 is deciphered using DOI, a strange sequence appears in the middle of the plaintext:

ABFDEFGHIIJKLMMNOHPP

There are 23 'errors' of the kind: the first F in the above sequence is encrypted as 195 and word 194 begins with a C; similarly, the last H is encrypted as 301 and word 302 begins with O.

Higher-order homophonics

Recall that, given enough ciphertext, most ciphers are theoretically breakable because there is a single key that deciphers the ciphertext into meaningful plaintext; all other keys produce meaningless sequence of letters.

It is possible to construct higher-order homophonic ciphers where each ciphertext deciphers into more that one meaningful plaintext using different keys. For example, the same ciphertext could decipher into the following 2 different plaintexts using different keys:

THE TREASURE IS BURIED IN GOOSE CREEK
THE BEALE CIPHERS ARE A GIGANTIC HOAX

Higher-order homophonics

To construct a second-order homophonic cipher (meaning that for each plaintext there are two possible meaningful plaintexts), arrange the numbers 1 through n² into an n×n matrix K whose rows and columns correspond to the characters of the plaintext alphabet. For each plaintext character a, row a of K defines one set of homophones $f_1(a)$, while column a defines another set of homophones f₂(a). A plaintext message M=m₁m₂... is enciphered along with a dummy message $X=x_1x_2...$ to get ciphertext $C=c_1c_2...$, where $c_i = K(m_i,x_i)$, i=1,2,...That is, c_i is in row m_i and column x_i .

Higher-order homophonics

Example. Let n=5. The following is 5×5 matrix for the plaintext alphabet {E, I, L, M, S}.

	E	I	L	M	5
E	10	22	18	02	11
I	12	01	25	05	20
L	19	06	23	13	07
M	03	16	08	24	15
S	17	09	21	14	04

$$M = S$$
 M I L E $X = L$ I M E S $C = 21$ 16 05 19 11

Polyalphabetic substitution ciphers

Polyalphabetic substitution ciphers conceal the single-letter frequency distribution by using multiple substitution.

The development of polyalphabetic ciphers began with Leon Battista Alberti (1404-1472), the father of Western cryptography. (He was also an artist, architect, writer, poet, priest, linguist and philosopher.)

In 1568, Alberti published a description of a 'cipher disk' that defined multiple substitutions. There were 20 letters in the outer circle, the so-called *stabilis*, (there was no H, K, Y, J, U and W) and the numbers 1-4. In the movable inner circle, the so-called *mobilis*, there were randomly placed letters of English alphabet plus & (see

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberti_cipher_disk#/media/File:Alberti_cipher_disk.JPG)

Polyalphabetic substitution ciphers

Most polyalphabetic substitution ciphers are *periodic* substitution ciphers with period d. Given d cipher alphabets C_1 , C_2 , ... C_d , let $f_i: A \to C_i$ be a mapping from the plaintext alphabet A to the i^{th} cipher alphabet c_i ($1 \le i \le d$).

A plaintext message

$$M = m_1...m_d m_{d+1}...m_{2d}...$$

is enciphered by repeating the sequence of mappings

$$f_1(m_1)...f_d(m_d)f_1(m_{d+1})...f_d(m_{2d})...$$

In the special case when d = 1, the cipher is equivalent to the *monoalphabetic* substitution cipher.

Vigenere cipher

In *Vigenere cipher* the key K is a sequence of letters $K = k_1k_2...k_d$, where k_i gives the amount of shift in the i^{th} alphabet, that is,

$$f_i(x) = (x + k_i) \mod n$$

Example: Suppose the key is K = BAND (that is, K = 10133) Then the message

M = RENA ISSA NCE is enciphered as

C = Ek (M) = SEAD JSFD OCR

K	=	В	A	N	D	В	A	N	D	В	A	N
M	=	R	Е	N	A	I	5	5	A	Ν	С	Е
C	=	S	E	A	D	J	S	F	D	0	С	R

Beaufort Cipher

Beaufort cipher uses the substitution

$$f_i(x) = (k_i - x) \mod n$$

Beaufort cipher reverses the letters in the alphabet and then shifts them to the right by k_i+1 positions:

$$f_i(x) = [(n-1) - x + (k_i + 1)] \mod n$$

The same function is used for decipherment:

$$f_i^{-1}(c) = (k_i - x) \mod n$$

Variant Beaufort Cipher

Variant Beaufort cipher uses the substitution

$$f_i(x) = (x - k_i) \mod n$$

Variant Beaufort cipher is the inverse of the Vigenere cipher; it is equivalent to a Vigenere cipher with key $(n - k_i)$.

Breaking periodic polyalphabetic ciphers

Recall that polyalphabetic substitution ciphers are harder to break than monoalphabetic ciphers because they conceal the single letter frequency distribution of the plaintext, while monoalphabetic ciphers preserve this distribution.

The unicity distance for periodic polyalphabetic ciphers is

$$N = \frac{H(K)}{D} = \frac{\log_2(s^d)}{D} = \frac{\log_2 s}{D} d$$

where d is the period and s is the number of possible keys for each simple substitution.

Breaking periodic polyalphabetic ciphers

Thus, if N ciphertext characters are required to break the individual substitution ciphers, then dN characters are required to break the complete cipher.

For example, for a Vigenere cipher with period d, the number of keys for each simple substitution is s=26 and

$$N = \frac{\log_2 s}{D} d \approx \frac{4.7}{3.2} d \approx 1.5d$$

Breaking periodic polyalphabetic ciphers

To break a periodic polyalphabetic cipher, a cryptanalyst must first determine the period of the cipher.

There are two helpful tools for determining the period of the cipher:

- Index of Coincidence
- Kasiski method

The index of coincidence (IC) was introduced in the 1920s by William Friedman.

IC measures the variation in the frequencies of the letters in the ciphertext.

If the period of the cipher is 1 (i.e., a monoalphabetic cipher) then there will be considerable variation in letter frequencies (same as in the plaintext, that is, English text), and IC will be high.

As the period increases, the variation is gradually eliminated and the IC will be low.

To derive *IC*, we shall first define a **measure of roughness** (MR), which gives the variation of the frequencies of individual characters relative to a uniform distribution.

$$MR = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (p_i - \frac{1}{n})^2$$

where p_i is the probability that an arbitrary chosen character in a random ciphertext is the i^{th} character a_i in the alphabet (i=0,...,n-1).

Note that
$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} p_i = 1$$

For English letters we have

$$MR = \sum_{i=0}^{25} (p_i - \frac{1}{26})^2$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{25} p_i^2 - \frac{2}{26} \sum_{i=0}^{25} p_i + 26(\frac{1}{26})^2 =$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{25} p_i^2 - \frac{2}{26} + \frac{1}{26}$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{25} p_i^2 - 0.038$$

MR ranges from 0 for a flat distribution (infinite period), to 0.028 for English text and ciphers with period 1.

Note that

$$MR + 0.038 = \sum_{i=0}^{25} p_i^2$$

is the probability that two arbitrarily chosen letters from the random ciphertext are the same.

Let F_i be the frequency of the ith letter of English (i=0,...25); then $\sum_{i=0}^{25} F_i = N$

The total number of pairs of letters in the ciphertext of length N is N(N-1)/2. The number of pairs containing just i^{th} letter is $F_i(F_i-1)/2$.

The IC is defined to be the probability that two letters chosen at random from the given ciphertext are the same.

$$IC = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{25} F_i(F_i - 1)}{N(N - 1)}$$

$$IC = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{25} F_i(F_i - 1)}{N(N - 1)}$$

The above is the estimate of $\sum_{i=0}^{25} p_i^2$ and the *IC* is an estimate of *MR+0.038*.

The IC ranges from 0.038 for a flat distribution (infinite period) to 0.066 for a period of 1.

The following table shows the expected value of IC for several values of period d.

d	1	2	3	4	5	10	large
IC	.066	.052	.047	.045	.044	.041	.038

IC is a statistical measure, and it doesn't always reveal the period exactly.

It provides a clue whether a cipher is monoalphabetic, polyalphabetic with small period or polyalphabetic with large period.

Kasiski Method

The Kasiski method was introduced in 1863 by the Prussian military officer Friedrich W. Kasiski.

The method analysis repetitions in the ciphertext to determine the period.

For example, consider the plaintext TO BE OR NOT TO BE enciphered with a Vigenere cipher with key HAM:

M = TOBEORNOTTOBE

K = HAMHAMHAMHAMH

C = AONLODUOFAONL

The ciphertext contains two occurrences of the sequence AONL 9 characters apart, and the period could be 1,3 or 9 (we know it's 3).

Kasiski Method

Repetitions in the ciphertext more than two characters long are unlikely to occur by chance. They occur when the plaintext pattern repeats at a distance equal to a multiple of the period.

If there are m ciphertext repetitions that occur at intervals i_j ($1 \le j \le m$) the period is likely to be some number that divides most of the m intervals.

Example

We shall use *IC* and Kasiski method to analyse the following ciphertext.

ZHYME ZVELK OJUBW CEYIN CUSML RAVSR YARNH CEARI UJPGP VARDU QZCGR NNCAW JALUH GJPJR YGEGQ FULUS QFFPV EYEDQ GOLKA LVOSJ TFRTR YEJZS RVNCI HYJNM ZDCRO DKHCR MMLNR FFLFN QGOLK ALVOS JWMIK QKUBP SAYOJ RRQYI NRNYC YQZSY EDNCA LEILX RCHUG IEBKO YTHGV VCKHC JEQGO LKALV OSJED WEAKS GJHYC LLFTY IGSVT FVPMZ NRZOL CYUZS FKOQR YRTAR ZFGKI QKRSV IRCEY USKVT MKHCR MYQIL XRCRL GQARZ OLKHY KSNFN RRNCZ TWUOC JNMKC MDEZP IRJEJ W

The frequency distribution IC=.04343

Char	Percent	
A	4.0	****
В	0.9	**
C	6.1	****
D	2.0	***
Ε	4.9	****
F	3.5	****
G	4.0	****
Н	3.2	****
I	3.5	****
J	4.6	****
K	5.2	****
L	5.8	*****
M	3.2	****
N	4.6	****
0	4.0	****
P	2.0	***
Q	3.8	****
R	8.7	*****
S	4.3	****
Т	2.0	***
U	3.5	*****
V	4.0	****
W	1.7	***
X	0.6	*
У	6.1	*****
Z	3.8	****

The frequency distribution IC=.04343

The *IC* indicates that this is a polyalphabetic cipher with a period of about 5.

ZHYME ZVELK OJUBW CEYIN CUSML RAVSR YARNH CEARI UJPGP VARDU QZCGR NNCAW JALUH GJPJR YGEGQ FULUS QFFPV EYEDQ GOLKA LVOSJ TFRTR YEJZS RVNCI HYJNM ZDCRO DKHCR MMLNR FFLFN QGOLK ALVOS JWMIK QKUBP SAYOJ RRQYI NRNYC YQZSY EDNCA LEILX RCHUG IEBKO YTHGV VCKHC JEQGO LKALV OSJED WEAKS GJHYC LLFTY IGSVT FVPMZ NRZOL CYUZS FKOQR YRTAR ZFGKI QKRSV IRCEY USKVT MKHCR MYQIL XRCRL GQARZ OLKHY KSNFN RRNCZ TWUOC JNMKC MDEZP IRJEJ W

We observe that there are 3 occurrences of the sequence QGOLKALVOSJ, the first two occurrences are separated by 51 and the last two by 72 characters; the only common divisor of 51 and 72 is 3 - the period is almost certainly 3.

Running Key ciphers

In a running key cipher, the key is as long as the plaintext.

The key is typically a text in a well-known book, and is specified by the title of the book and starting position (for example, Chapter 2, Paragraph 3).

The cipher is typically substitution based on shifted alphabet (e.g., a nonperiodic Vigenere cipher).

Example: The key is a text starting with "The second cipher..." and the plaintext starts with "The treasure is buried...".

M: THETREASUREISBURIED

K: THESECONDCIPHERISAN

C: MOILVGOFXTMXZFLZAEQ

Although a running key cipher uses a key as long as the message, it is not unbreakable.

Friedman (1918) observed that a large proportion of letters in the ciphertext comes from the encipherment where both key and plaintext letters fall in the high frequency category.

Example: In our previous example, 12 out of 19 ciphertext pairs come from high frequency pairs:

M: THETREASUREISBURIED

K: THESECONDCIPHERISAN

C: <u>MOILVGOFXTMXZFLZAEQ</u>

6 of the remaining 7 pairs have either the plaintext or the key letter belonging to the high frequency category.

To break the cipher we start with the assumption that all ciphertext letters correspond to high frequency pairs. In this way we reduce the number of initial possibilities for each pair, and then we use diagram and trigram distributions to verify the initial guesses and determine the actual pairs.

Example: We consider the first three ciphertext letters in the previous example (MOI), and we examine the possible pairs for each of the three letters. For M we get:

plaintext letter: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

key letter: MLKJ<u>I</u>HGF<u>E</u>DCBAZYXWVU<u>T</u>SRQPON

The high frequency pairs are underlined.

The high frequency pairs for all three letters are:

M: E-I, I-E, T-T

O: A-O, O-A, H-H

I: A-I, I-A, E-E, R-R

There re 3*3*4=36 possible combinations of pairs. Many of them produce highly unlikely trigrams. Some of the trigrams are shown below. Trigram THE occurring in both plaintext and key is the most likely.

plaintext: EAA EAI ... THE ... THR

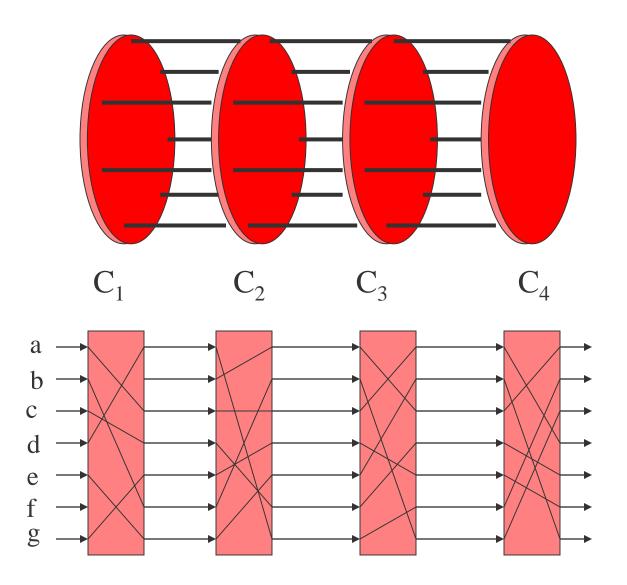
key: IOI IOA ... THE ... THR

ciphertext: MOI MOI ... MOI ... MOI

- Rotor machines are used to implement polyalphabetic ciphers with a long period.
- A Rotor machine consists of a collection of cylinders that can rotate independently of each other.

Each cylinder has:

- 26 input pins on its front face, one for each letter in the alphabet
- * 26 output pins on its rear face.
- Each input pin is wired to a unique output pin. Thus each cylinder encodes a fixed permutation of the alphabet.
- After encoding a character in the plaintext, a cylinder is rotated; this changes the relative position of the cylinder and its neighbours.



The rotor machine encryption depends on:

- fixed permutations inside each cylinder
- initial position of each cylinder
- the rule by which the cylinders are rotated.

Formally, if a Rotor machine consists of k cylinders, the fixed permutation (mapping) inside cylinder i is defined by $f_i(a)$ and j_i denotes the position of cylinder i, then the mapping of cylinder i is defined by:

$$F_i(a) = (f_i(a - j_i) \mod 26 + j_i) \mod 26$$

The mapping (encipherment) of the whole Rotor machine is:

$$F(a) = F_k (F_{k-1} (F_{k-2} (... F_2 (F_1 (a))...)))$$

After each of the plaintext characters is enciphered, one or more of the cylinders move to a new position, changing the encipherment of the Rotor machine.

A Rotor machine with k cylinders is capable of providing 26^k different encipherments; for example, if there are 4 cylinders, there are $26^4 = 456,976$ different encipherments.

Practically, Rotor machines provide a period as long as the plaintext itself.

A Rotor machine Enigma, used by Germans in World War II, was pretty complex and included a plugboard that permuted the plaintext, and a reflecting rotor that caused each rotor to encrypt each plaintext letter twice. Enigma rotated its cylinders according to the following rule:

- After each plaintext character is enciphered, the first cylinder advances to the next position;
- *after the first cylinder has reached a certain position, the second cylinder advances to its next position;
- after the second cylinder has made the complete rotation, the third cylinder advances to its next position, and so on.

Enigma was broken during the World War II by Allies, first by Polish cryptographers. Germans kept modifying Enigma as the war progressed, and the British kept breaking the new versions.

A contributing factor to this successful cryptanalysis was the fact that Germans reused the code-books (keys), and had very stereotyped military messages, often starting with a same phrase.

- Consider a substitution cipher whose key is a random sequence of characters, as long as the message.
- Such cipher is called one-time pad, and achieves perfect secrecy (recall that the perfect secrecy is achieved when the ciphertext provides no information about the plaintext any ciphertext can be obtained from any plaintext using some key).
- The computer implementation of one-time pad is based on the cryptographic device for telegraphic communications; the device was designed in 1917 by Gilbert Vernam, an employee of American Telephone and Telegraph Company (A.T. & T.).

- The code used was Baudot code with 32 characters, where each character was represented as a combination of 5 marks and spaces, corresponding to bits 1 and 0.
- A key was a nonrepeating random sequence of characters, also represented as marks and spaces (0's and 1's); the key was punched on a paper tape, and each key-tape was meant to be used more than once.
- This cipher is known as Vernam cipher, and it generates a ciphertext bit stream

$$C = E_k(M) = c_1c_2...$$
 where $c_i = (m_i + k_i) \mod 2, i = 1,2,...$

The Vernam cipher is efficiently implemented on modern computers by taking exclusive-or of each plaintext/key bit pair: $c_i = m_i \oplus k_i$

Deciphering is performed with the same operation:

$$m_i = c_i \oplus k_i$$

(To verify this, recall that $x \oplus x = 0$ and $x \oplus 0 = x$, for $x=1$ or 0; thus $c_i \oplus k_i = m_i \oplus k_i \oplus k_i = m_i \oplus 0 = m_i$)

Example: If the plaintext character A (11000 in Baudot) is enciphered under the key character D (10010 in Baudot), the resulting ciphertext character is:

M = 11000

K = 10010

C = 01010

If a key-tape is used more than once, the cipher is breakable, as it is equivalent to a running-key cipher.

To see why, suppose that two plaintext streams M and M' are enciphered with the same key stream K, giving ciphertext streams C and C'. Then

$$c_i = m_i \oplus k_i$$
 and $c_i' = m_i' \oplus k_i$, for $i = 1, 2, ...$

Let C" be the stream obtained by taking the exclusive-or of C and C'; then

$$c_i'' = c_i \oplus c_i' = m_i \oplus k_i \oplus m_i' \oplus k_i = m_i \oplus m_i'$$

Thus C" corresponds to the encipherment of M under key M', which is equivalent to running-key cipher.

Army cryptologist Mayor Joseph Mauborgne suggested that each key-tape is used only once, and the one-time pad was born.

Polygram Substitution Ciphers

- Polygram substitution ciphers encipher block of letters at the time, rather than a single letter; this makes cryptanalysis harder, as it destroys the single letter frequency distribution.
- The Playfair cipher is a diagram substitution cipher invented in 1854 by Charles Wheatstone (it is named after Wheatstone's friend, English scientist Lyon Playfair).
- The Playfair cipher was used by the British in World War I.

Playfair Ciphers

The key for Playfair cipher is given by 5×5 matrix of 25 letters (J was not used). For example,

```
H A R P S
I C O D B
E F G K L
M N Q T U
V W X Y Z
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Playfair Ciphers

A pair of plaintext letters m_1m_2 is enciphered according to the following rules:

- ❖If m_1 and m_2 are in the <u>same row</u>, then c_1 and c_2 are the two characters to the right of m_1 and m_2 , respectively (the first column is considered to be to the right of the last column).
- ❖If m_1 and m_2 are in the <u>same column</u>, then c_1 and c_2 are the two characters below m_1 and m_2 , respectively (the first row is considered to be below the last row).
- ❖ If m_1 and m_2 are in <u>different rows and columns</u>, then c_1 and c_2 are the other two corners of the rectangle having m_1 and m_2 as corners, where c_1 is in m_1 's row, and c_2 is in m_2 's row.
- ❖If $m_1 = m_2$, a null letter (for example, X) is inserted into the plaintext between m_1 and m_2 to eliminate the double.
- ❖If the plaintext has an odd number of characters, a null letter is appended to the end of the plaintext.

Playfair Ciphers

Example: Let the key be

H A R P S
I C O D B
E F G K L
M N Q T U
V W X Y Z

and let the plaintext be RENAISSANCE.

Then the ciphertext is:

$$M = RE$$
 NA IS SA NC EX
 $C = HG$ WC BH HR WF GV

Next week:

- 1. Stream Ciphers
 - a) Self-Synchronising Stream Ciphers
 - b) Synchronous Stream Ciphers
 - c) Design Principles for Stream Ciphers
- 2. Block Ciphers
 - a) Feistel Block Cipher
- 3. Confusion and Diffusion
- 4. The Data Encryption Standard (DES)
 - a) DES Encryption/Decryption
 - b) Key Generation
 - c) Avalanche Effect
 - d) Completeness Effect
- * Chapter 4. Block Ciphers and the Data Encryption Standard
- Chapter 8. Stream Ciphers
- * These lecture notes (based on the text and "Cryptography and Data Security" by D. Denning [1])

References

- 1. W. Stallings. "Cryptography and Network Security", Global edition, Pearson Education Australia, 2016.
- 2. D. Denning. "Cryptography and Data Security", Addison Wesley, 1982.