

Problem 5:

**How does the value of n affect the decipherment accuracy it achieves? Speculate as to why this pattern occurs.**

In general, the value of n for the most optimal decipherment accuracy seems to be low, with most of them being optimal with bigrams. The reasoning could possibly be that the frequency of n-grams, where n is greater than 2, are not that common in the texts, where the higher n is, the more susceptible the frequency dictionary is to overfitting. If n is a high enough number, the corresponding n-grams may not appear as frequently in wells.txt, which would worsen the decipherment accuracy as most if not all n-grams would have very low frequencies.

Hill climbing solver seems to have more accuracy than the textbook solver for all ciphers. Using n in the right most column, the hill climbing algorithm produces the following Key/Deciphering accuracies:

Name	Hill-climbing		Textbook		n
	KA	DA	KA	DA	
deer	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	0.69	0.88	<b>4</b>
forest	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.519</b>	0.0	0.0	<b>2</b>
pangram	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.25</b>	0.0	0.0	<b>2</b>
tree	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	0.92	0.99	<b>2</b>
woodm	<b>0.272</b>	<b>0.279</b>	0.45	0.58	<b>2</b>
1984	<b>0.125</b>	<b>0.115</b>	0.0	0.0	<b>6</b>
finnegan	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	0.08	0.05	<b>2</b>