Assignment 2

Aim: Cryptanalysis or decoding of polyalphabetic ciphers: Playfair, Vigenere Cipher

Theory:

Playfair Cipher:

The Playfair Cipher is a digraph substitution cipher that encrypts pairs of letters in the plaintext. It uses a 5x5 grid of letters known as the Playfair matrix. The key determines the initial arrangement of letters in the matrix.

Encryption:

- 1. Generate the Playfair matrix using the key.
- 2. Divide the plaintext into pairs of letters (digraphs).
- 3. If the letters in a digraph are in the same row, shift them to the right; if in the same column, shift them downwards; if not, form a rectangle and take the opposite corners.
- 4. Replace each digraph with the transformed digraph.

Decryption:

- 1. Use the same Playfair matrix generated from the key.
- 2. Apply the reverse process to transform the ciphertext back to plaintext.

Example:

Key: "KEYWORD"

Plaintext: "HELLO"

Ciphertext:* "ZHMZG"

Vigenère Cipher:

The Vigenère Cipher is a polyalphabetic substitution cipher that uses a keyword to determine multiple shift values. Each letter in the plaintext is shifted according to the corresponding letter in the keyword.

Encryption:

1. Replicate the keyword to match the length of the plaintext.

- 2. Shift each letter of the plaintext by the corresponding letter's position in the keyword.
- 3. Wraparound the alphabet if the shift exceeds 'Z'.

Decryption:

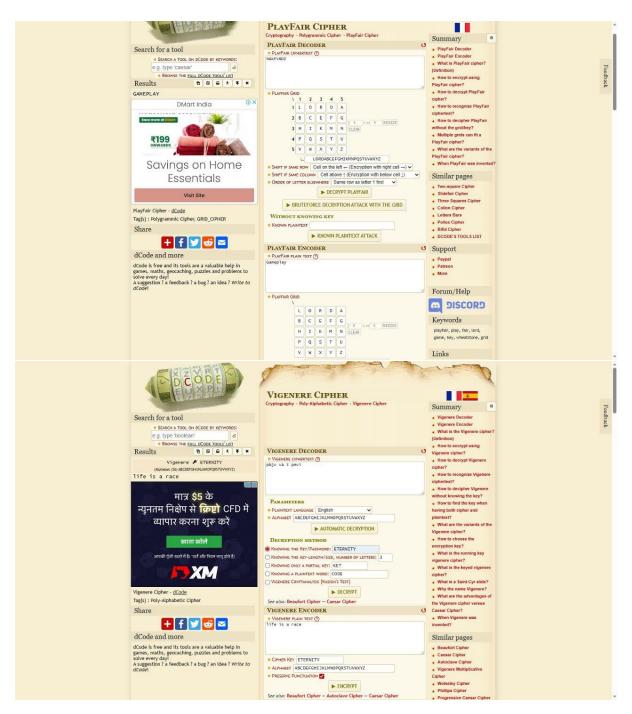
- 1. Replicate the keyword to match the length of the ciphertext.
- 2. Reverse the shift by subtracting the corresponding keyword letter's position.

Example:

Keyword: "KEY"

Plaintext: "HELLO"

Ciphertext: "RIJVS"



<u>Conclusion:</u> Thus we learnt and implemented polyalphabetic ciphers which are playfair and vigenere ciphers