

# 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"

