

**MODULE 2: Chapter 1****Text Book 1: William Stallings****Classical Encryption Techniques**

**Syllabus:** Classical Encryption Techniques: Symmetric cipher model, Substitution techniques, Transposition techniques, Steganography.

**Symmetric cipher model:**

Symmetric encryption also referred to as conventional encryption or single-key encryption.

A symmetric encryption scheme has five ingredients (Figure 2.1):

**Plaintext:** This is the original intelligible message or data that is fed into the algorithm as input.

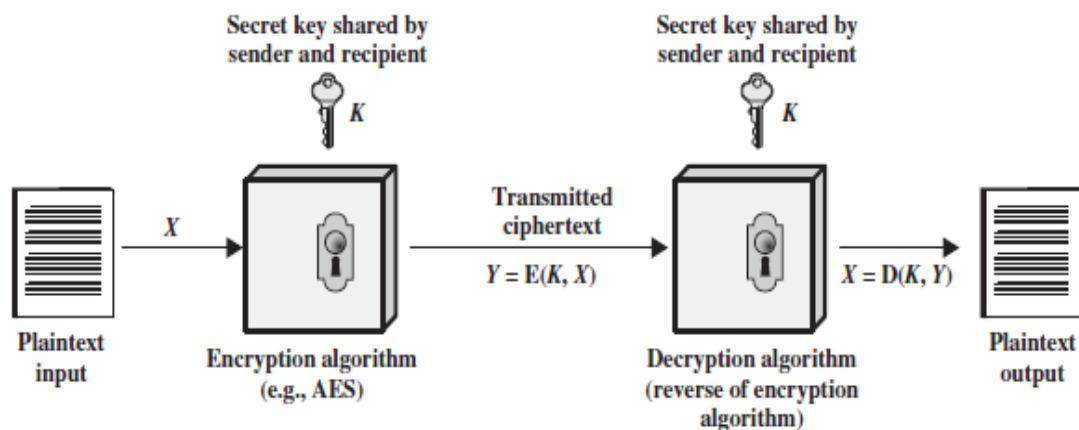


Figure 2.1 Simplified Model of Symmetric Encryption

**Encryption algorithm:** The encryption algorithm performs various substitutions and transformations on the plaintext.

**Secret key:** The secret key is also input to the encryption algorithm. The key is a value independent of the plaintext and of the algorithm. The algorithm will produce a different output depending on the specific key being used at the time. The exact substitutions and transformations performed by the algorithm depend on the key.

**Ciphertext:** This is the scrambled message produced as output. It depends on the plaintext and the secret key. For a given message, two different keys will produce two different ciphertexts. The ciphertext is an apparently random stream of data and, as it stands, is unintelligible.

**Decryption algorithm:** This is essentially the encryption algorithm run in reverse. It takes the ciphertext and the secret key and produces the original plaintext.

There are two requirements for secure use of conventional encryption:

1. It is required to have a strong encryption algorithm. At a minimum, the algorithm to be such that an opponent who knows the algorithm and has access to one or more ciphertexts would be unable to decipher the ciphertext or figure out the key. This requirement is usually stated in a stronger form: The opponent should be unable to decrypt ciphertext or discover the key even if he or she is in possession of a number of ciphertexts together with the plaintext that produced each ciphertext.
2. Sender and receiver must have obtained copies of the secret key in a secure fashion and must keep the key secure. If someone can discover the key and knows the algorithm, all communication using this key is readable.

Assume that it is impractical to decrypt a message on the basis of the ciphertext plus knowledge of the encryption/decryption algorithm. In other words, we do not need to keep the algorithm secret; we need to keep only the key secret. This feature of symmetric encryption is what makes it feasible for widespread use.

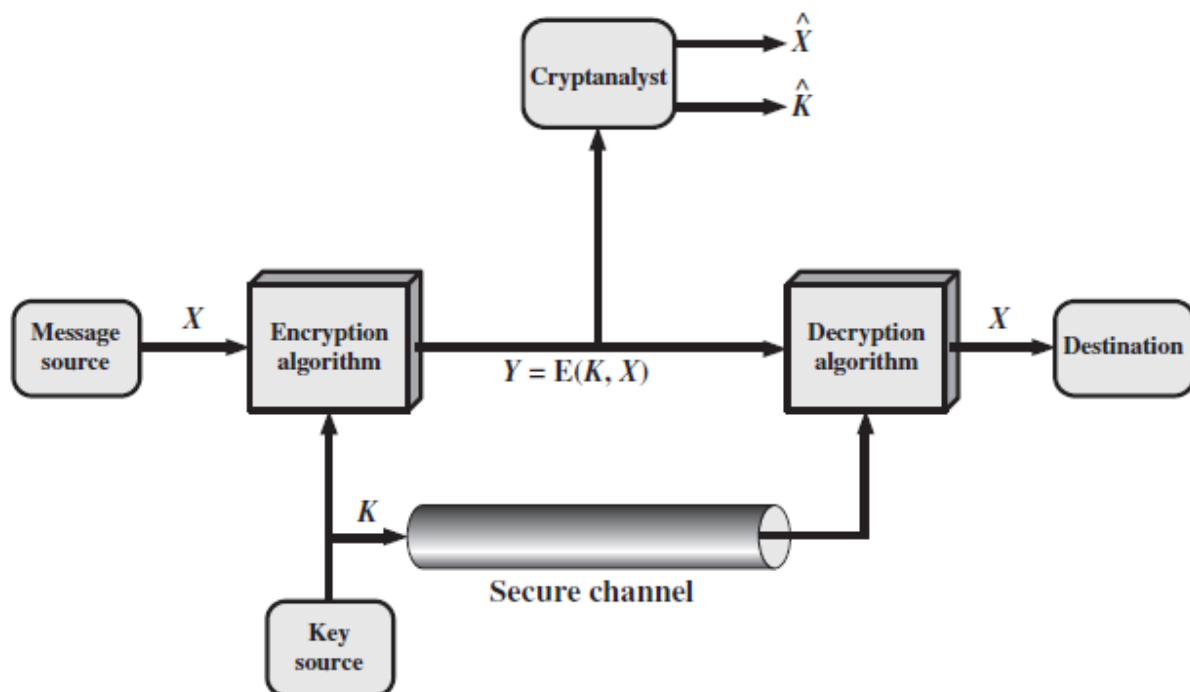


Figure 2.2 Model of Symmetric Cryptosystem

Let us take a closer look at the essential elements of a symmetric encryption scheme, using Figure 2.2. A source produces a message in plaintext,  $X = [X_1, X_2, \dots, X_M]$ . The  $M$  elements of  $X$  are letters in some finite alphabet. Traditionally, the alphabet usually consisted of the 26 capital letters. The binary alphabet  $\{0, 1\}$  is typically used. For encryption, a key of the form

$K = [K_1, K_2, \dots, K_J]$  is generated. If the key is generated at the message source, then it must also be provided to the destination by means of some secure channel. Alternatively, a third party could generate the key and securely deliver it to both source and destination. With the message  $X$  and the encryption key  $K$  as input, the encryption algorithm forms the ciphertext.

$Y = [Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_N]$ . We can write this as  $Y = E(K, X)$ .

This notation indicates that  $Y$  is produced by using encryption algorithm  $E$  as a function of the plaintext  $X$ , with the specific function determined by the value of the key  $K$ . The intended receiver, in possession of the key, is able to invert the transformation:  $X = D(K, Y)$ .

An opponent, observing  $Y$  but not having access to  $K$  or  $X$ , may attempt to recover  $X$  or  $K$  or both  $X$  and  $K$ . It is assumed that the opponent knows the encryption ( $E$ ) and decryption ( $D$ ) algorithms. If the opponent is interested in only this particular message, then the focus of the effort is to recover  $X$  by generating a plaintext estimate  $\hat{X}$ . Often, however, the opponent is interested in being able to read future messages as well, in which case an attempt is made to recover  $K$  by generating an estimate  $\hat{K}$ .

### Cryptography

Cryptographic systems are characterized along three independent dimensions:

**1. The type of operations used for transforming plaintext to ciphertext.** All encryption algorithms are based on two general principles: substitution, in which each element in the plaintext (bit, letter, group of bits or letters) is mapped into another element, and transposition, in which elements in the plaintext are rearranged. The fundamental requirement is that no information be lost (i.e., that all operations are reversible). Most systems, referred to as product systems, involve multiple stages of substitutions and transpositions.

**2. The number of keys used.** If both sender and receiver use the same key, the system is referred to as symmetric, single-key, secret-key, or conventional encryption. If the sender and receiver use different keys, the system is referred to as asymmetric, two-key, or public-key encryption.

**3. The way in which the plaintext is processed.** A block cipher processes the input one block of elements at a time, producing an output block for each input block. A stream cipher processes the input elements continuously, producing output one element at a time, as it goes along.

### Cryptanalysis and Brute-Force Attack

Typically, the objective of attacking an encryption system is to recover the key in use rather than simply to recover the plaintext of a single ciphertext. There are two general approaches to attacking a conventional encryption scheme:

- **Cryptanalysis:** Cryptanalytic attacks rely on the nature of the algorithm plus perhaps some knowledge of the general characteristics of the plaintext or even some sample plaintext-ciphertext pairs. This type of attack exploits the characteristics of the algorithm to attempt to deduce a specific plaintext or to deduce the key being used.

• **Brute-force attack:** The attacker tries every possible key on a piece of ciphertext until an intelligible translation into plaintext is obtained. On average, half of all possible keys must be tried to achieve success. If either type of attack succeeds in deducing the key, the effect is catastrophic: All future and past messages encrypted with that key are compromised.

Table 2.1 summarizes the various types of **cryptanalytic attacks** based on the amount of information known to the cryptanalyst. The most difficult problem is presented when all that is available is the ciphertext only. One possible attack under these circumstances is the brute-force approach of trying **all possible keys**. If the key space is very large, this becomes impractical. Thus, the opponent must rely on an analysis of the ciphertext itself, generally applying various statistical tests to it. To use this approach, the opponent must have some general idea of the type of plaintext that is concealed, such as English or French text, an EXE file, a Java source listing, an accounting file, and so on.

Table 2.1 Types of Attacks on Encrypted Messages

Type of Attack	Known to Cryptanalyst
Ciphertext Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encryption algorithm</li><li>• Ciphertext</li></ul>
Known Plaintext	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encryption algorithm</li><li>• Ciphertext</li><li>• One or more plaintext–ciphertext pairs formed with the secret key</li></ul>
Chosen Plaintext	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encryption algorithm</li><li>• Ciphertext</li><li>• Plaintext message chosen by cryptanalyst, together with its corresponding ciphertext generated with the secret key</li></ul>
Chosen Ciphertext	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encryption algorithm</li><li>• Ciphertext</li><li>• Ciphertext chosen by cryptanalyst, together with its corresponding decrypted plaintext generated with the secret key</li></ul>
Chosen Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encryption algorithm</li><li>• Ciphertext</li><li>• Plaintext message chosen by cryptanalyst, together with its corresponding ciphertext generated with the secret key</li><li>• Ciphertext chosen by cryptanalyst, together with its corresponding decrypted plaintext generated with the secret key</li></ul>

The ciphertext-only attack is the easiest to defend against because the opponent has the least amount of information to work with.

In many cases, however, the analyst has more information. The analyst may be able to capture one or more plaintext messages as well as their encryptions. Or the analyst may know that certain plaintext patterns will appear in a message. For example, a file that is encoded in the **Postscript format** always begins with

the same pattern, or there may be a **standardized header or banner** to an electronic funds transfer message, and so on. All these are examples of known plaintext. With this knowledge, the analyst may be able to deduce the key on the basis of the way in which the known plaintext is transformed.

Closely related to the known-plaintext attack is what might be referred to as a probable-word attack. If the opponent is working with the encryption of some general prose message, he or she may have little knowledge of what is in the message.

However, if the opponent is after some very specific information, then parts of the message may be known. For example, if an entire accounting file is being transmitted, the opponent may know the placement of certain **key words** in the header of the file. As another example, the source code for a program developed by **CorporationX** might include a copyright statement in some standardized position.

If the analyst is able somehow to get the source system to insert into the system a message chosen by the analyst, then a chosen-plaintext attack is possible. Table 2.1 lists two other types of attack: chosen ciphertext and chosen text.

An encryption scheme is **unconditionally secure** if the ciphertext generated by the scheme does not contain enough information to determine uniquely the corresponding plaintext, no matter how much ciphertext is available. That is, no matter how much time an opponent has, it is impossible for him or her to decrypt the ciphertext simply because the required information is not there. There is no encryption algorithm that is unconditionally secure. Therefore, all that the users of an encryption algorithm can **strive** (meaning is **struggle**) for is an algorithm that meets one or both of the following criteria:

- The cost of breaking the cipher exceeds the value of the encrypted information.
- The time required to break the cipher exceeds the useful lifetime of the information.

An encryption scheme is said to be **computationally secure** if either of the foregoing two criteria are met. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to estimate the amount of effort required to cryptanalyze ciphertext successfully.

A **brute-force attack** involves trying every possible key until an intelligible translation of the ciphertext into plaintext is obtained. On average, half of all possible keys must be tried to achieve success. That is, if there are  $X$  different keys, on average an attacker would discover the actual key after  $X/2$  tries. It is important to note that there is more to a brute-force attack than simply running through all possible keys. Unless known plaintext is provided, the analyst must be able to recognize plaintext as plaintext.

If the message is just plain text in English, then the result pops out easily, although the task of recognizing English would have to be automated. If the text message has been compressed before encryption, then recognition is more difficult. And if the message is some more general type of data, such as a

numerical file, and this has been compressed, the problem becomes even more difficult to automate.

### Substitution Techniques:

The two basic building blocks of all encryption techniques are substitution and transposition.

**A substitution technique is one in which the letters of plaintext are replaced by other letters or by numbers or symbols.** If the plaintext is viewed as a sequence of bits, then substitution involves replacing plaintext bit patterns with ciphertext bit patterns.

### Caesar Cipher

The simplest use of a substitution cipher was by Julius Caesar. The Caesar cipher involves replacing each letter of the alphabet with the letter standing three places further down the alphabet. For example, plain: meet me after the toga party

**cipher: PHHW PH DIWHU WKH WRJD SDUWB**

Note that the alphabet is wrapped around, so that the letter following Z is A. We can define the transformation by listing all possibilities, as follows:

```
plain:  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
cipher: 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
```

Let us assign a numerical equivalent to each letter:

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25

Then the algorithm can be expressed as follows. For each plaintext letter  $p$ , substitute the ciphertext letter  $C$ :<sup>2</sup>

$$C = E(3, p) = (p + 3) \bmod 26$$

A shift may be of any amount, so that the general Caesar algorithm is

$$C = E(k, p) = (p + k) \bmod 26$$

where  $k$  takes on a value in the range 1 to 25. The decryption algorithm is simply

$$p = D(k, C) = (C - k) \bmod 26$$

If it is known that a given ciphertext is a Caesar cipher, then a brute-force cryptanalysis is easily performed: simply try all the 25 possible keys. Figure 2.3



shows the results of applying this strategy to the example ciphertext. In this case, the plaintext leaps out as occupying the third line.

Three important characteristics of this problem enabled us to use a brute-force cryptanalysis:

1. **The encryption and decryption algorithms are known.**
2. **There are only 25 keys to try.**
3. **The language of the plaintext is known and easily recognizable.**

The third characteristic is also significant. If the language of the plaintext is unknown, then plaintext output may not be recognizable. Furthermore, the input may be abbreviated or compressed in some fashion, again making recognition difficult. For example, Figure 2.4 shows a portion of a text file compressed using an algorithm called ZIP. If this file is then encrypted with a simple substitution cipher (expanded to include more than just 26 alphabetic characters),

then the plaintext may not be recognized when it is uncovered in the brute-force cryptanalysis.

```

~+Wu"- Ω-O)≤4{∞‡, ë~Ω%ràu.-í Ô-Z-
Ú#2Ò#Åæð æ«q7,Ωn.®3NÔÚ Œz'Y-f∞í[±Ô_ èΩ,<NO-±«~xă Åăfèu3Å
x}ö§k²Â
_yÍ ^ΔÉ] ,¤ J/'iTê&1 'c<uΩ-
ÄD(G WÄC~y_iöÄW PÔ1«ÎÜ†ç],¤; ~î^üÑπ~≈~L^9Ogf10~&Œ≤ ~≤ øÔ§":
~Œ!SGqèvo^ ú\,S>h<-*6ø‡%x'"|fió#≈~my%~≥ñP<,fi Áj ÅÔ¿"Zù-
Ω"Ö-6ŒY{%,ΩÊó ,Y π+Áî'ú02çSy'O-
2Äñßi /@^"ΠK²*PŒπ,úé^'3Σ~ð^ÔZÌ"Y-ÿΩæY> Ω+eô/'<Kf¿*+~"≤û~
B ZøK~Qßÿüf,!òñîzssS/]>ÈQ ü

```

Figure 2.4 Sample of Compressed Text

KEY		PHHW	PH	DIWHU	WKH	WRJD	SDUWB
1		oggv	og	chvgt	vjg	vqic	retva
2		nffu	nf	bgufs	uif	uphb	qbsuz
3		meet	me	after	the	toga	party
4		ldds	ld	zesdq	sgd	snfz	ozqsx
5		kccr	kc	ydrpc	rfc	rmey	nyprw
6		jbbq	jb	xcqbo	qeb	qldx	mxoqv
7		iaap	ia	wbpan	pda	pkcw	lwnpu
8		hzzo	hz	vaozm	ocz	ojbv	kvmot
9		gyyn	gy	uznyl	nby	niau	julns
10		fxxm	fx	tymxk	max	mhzt	itkmr
11		ewwl	ew	sxlwj	lzw	lgys	hsjlg
12		dvvk	dv	rwkvi	kyv	kfxr	grikp
13		cuuj	cu	qvjuh	jxu	jewq	fqhjo
14		btti	bt	puitg	iwt	idvp	epgin
15		assh	as	othsf	hvs	hcuo	dofhm
16		zrrg	zr	nsgre	gur	gbtn	cnegl
17		yqqf	yq	mrfqd	ftq	fasm	bmdfk
18		xppe	xp	lqepc	esp	ezrl	alcej
19		wood	wo	kpdob	dro	dyqk	zkbdi
20		vnnc	vn	jocna	cqn	cxpj	yjach
21		unmb	um	inbmz	bpm	bwoi	xizbg
22		tlla	tl	hmaly	aol	avnh	whyaf
23		skkz	sk	glzcx	znk	zumg	vgxze
24		rjjy	rj	fkyjw	ymj	ytlf	ufwyd
25		qiix	qi	ejxiv	xli	xske	tevxc

Figure 2.3 Brute-Force Cryptanalysis of Caesar Cipher

### Monoalphabetic Ciphers:

With only 25 possible keys, the Caesar cipher is far from secure. A dramatic increase in the key space can be achieved by allowing an arbitrary substitution. A **permutation** of a finite set of elements  $S$  is an ordered sequence of all the elements of  $S$ , with each element appearing exactly once. For example, if  $S = \{a, b, c\}$ , there are six permutations of  $S$ :

**abc, acb, bac, bca, cab, cba**

In general, there are  $n!$  permutations of a set of  $n$  elements, because the first element can be chosen in one of  $n$  ways, the second in  $n - 1$  ways, the third in  $n - 2$  ways, and so on. The assignment for the Caesar cipher:



```

plain:  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
cipher: 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

```

If, instead, the “cipher” line can be any permutation of the 26 alphabetic characters, then there are  $26!$  or greater than  $4 \times 10^{26}$  possible keys. This is 10 orders of magnitude greater than the key space for DES and would seem to eliminate brute-force techniques for cryptanalysis. Such an approach is referred to as a **monoalphabetic substitution cipher**, because a single cipher alphabet (mapping from plain alphabet to cipher alphabet) is used per message. There is, however, another line of attack. If the cryptanalyst knows the nature of the plaintext (e.g., noncompressed English text), then the analyst can exploit the regularities of the language. To see how such a cryptanalysis might proceed, we give a partial example here that is adapted. The ciphertext to be solved is,

```

UZQSOVUOHXMOPVGPOZPEVSGZWSZOPFPESXUDBMETSXAIZ
VUEPHZHMDZSHZOWSFPAPDTSVPQUZWYMXUZUHSX
EPYEPOPDZSZUFPOMBZWPFUPZHMDJUDTMOHMQ

```

As a first step, the relative frequency of the letters can be determined and compared to a standard frequency distribution for English, such as is shown in Figure 2.5. If the message were long enough, this technique alone might be sufficient, but because this is a relatively short message in any case, the relative frequencies of the letters in the ciphertext (in percentages) are as follows:

P 13.33	H 5.83	F 3.33	B 1.67	C 0.00
Z 11.67	D 5.00	W 3.33	G 1.67	K 0.00
S 8.33	E 5.00	Q 2.50	Y 1.67	L 0.00
U 8.33	V 4.17	T 2.50	I 0.83	N 0.00
O 7.50	X 4.17	A 1.67	J 0.83	R 0.00
M 6.67				

Comparing this breakdown with Figure 2.5, it seems likely that cipher letters P and Z are the equivalents of plain letters e and t, but it is not certain which is which. The letters S, U, O, M, and H are all of relatively high frequency and probably correspond to plain letters from the set {a, h, i, n, o, r, s}. The letters with the lowest frequencies (namely, A, B, G, Y, I, J) are likely included in the set {b, j, k, q, v, x, z}.

A powerful tool is to look at the frequency of two-letter combinations, known as **digrams**. A table similar to Figure 2.5 could be drawn up showing the relative frequency of digrams. The most common such digram is **th**. In our ciphertext, the most common digram is ZW, which appears three times. So we make the correspondence of Z with t and W with h. Then, by our earlier hypothesis, we can equate P with e.

Now notice that the sequence ZWP appears in the ciphertext, and we can translate that sequence as “the.” This is the most frequent trigram (three-letter combination) in English.

Next, notice the sequence ZWSZ in the first line. We do not know that these four letters form a complete word, but if they do, it is of the form th\_t. If so, S equates with a.

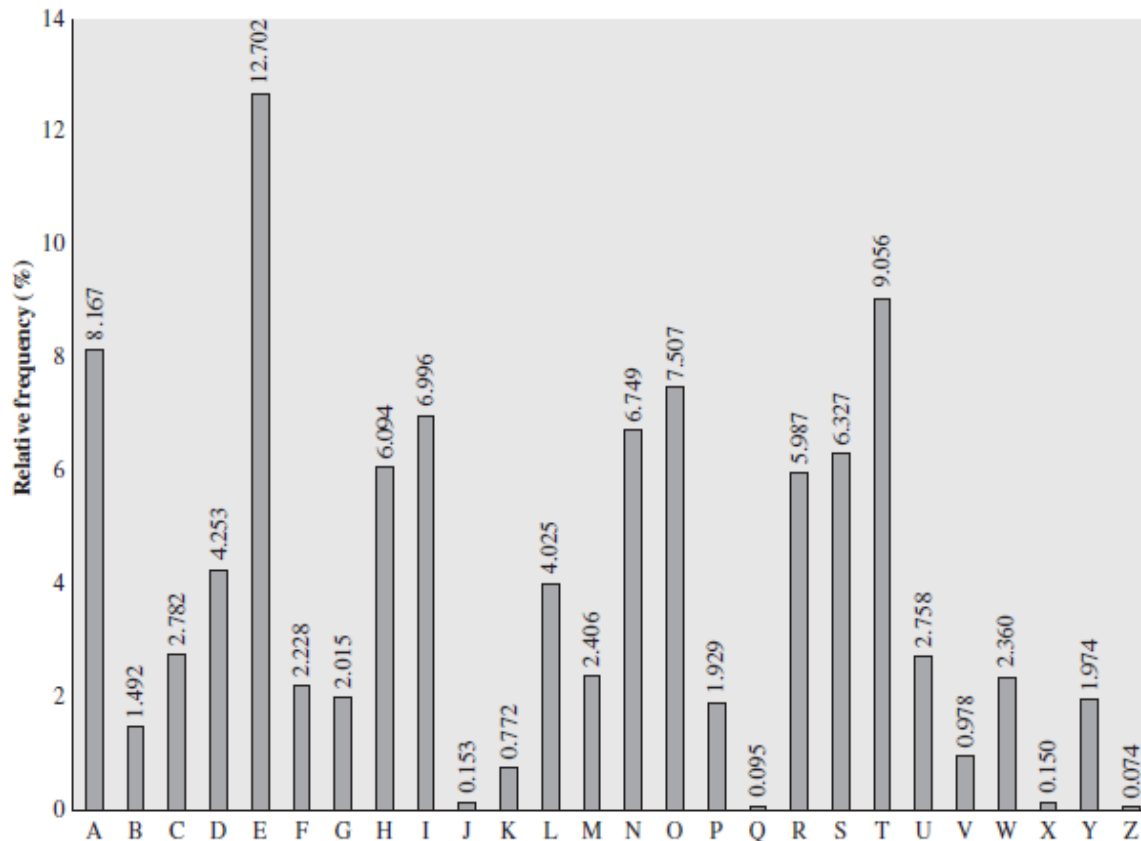


Figure 2.5 Relative Frequency of Letters in English Text

So far, then, we have

```

UZQSOVUOHXMOPVGPOZPEVSGZWSZOPFPESXUDBMETSXAIZ
t a      e e te a that e e a      a
VUEPHZHMDSZHSZOWSFPAPPDTSVPQUZWYMXUZUHSX
e t  ta t ha e ee a e th  t a
EPYEPDPDZSZUFPOMBZWPFUPZHMDJUDTMOHMQ
e e e tat e  the  t

```

Only four letters have been identified, but already we have quite a bit of the message. Continued analysis of frequencies plus trial and error should easily yield a solution from this point. The complete plaintext, with spaces added between words, follows:

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

Monoalphabetic ciphers are easy to break because they reflect the frequency data of the original alphabet. A countermeasure is to provide multiple substitutes, known as homophones, for a single letter. For example, the letter e could be assigned a number of different cipher symbols, such as 16, 74, 35, and 21, with each homophone assigned to a letter in rotation or randomly. If the number of symbols assigned to each letter is proportional to the relative frequency of that letter, then single-letter frequency information is completely obliterated (or made invisible).

Two principal methods are used in substitution ciphers to lessen the extent to which the structure of the plaintext survives in the ciphertext: One approach is to encrypt multiple letters of plaintext, and the other is to use multiple cipher alphabets.

### Playfair Cipher:

The best-known multiple-letter encryption cipher is the Playfair, which treats digrams in the plaintext as single units and translates these units into ciphertext digrams. The Playfair algorithm is based on the use of a 5 \* 5 matrix of letters constructed using a keyword. Here is an example,

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

In this case, the keyword is monarchy. The matrix is constructed by filling in the letters of the keyword (minus duplicates) from left to right and from top to bottom, and then filling in the remainder of the matrix with the remaining letters in alphabetic order. The letters I and J count as one letter. Plaintext is encrypted two letters at a time, according to the following rules:

1. Repeating plaintext letters that are in the same pair are separated with a filler letter, such as x, so that balloon would be treated as ba lx lo on.
2. Two plaintext letters that fall in the same row of the matrix are each replaced by the letter to the right, with the first element of the row circularly following the last. For example, ar is encrypted as RM.
3. Two plaintext letters that fall in the same column are each replaced by the letter beneath, with the top element of the column circularly following the last. For example, mu is encrypted as CM.

4. Otherwise, each plaintext letter in a pair is replaced by the letter that lies in its own row and the column occupied by the other plaintext letter. Thus, hs becomes BP and ea becomes IM (or JM, as the encipherer wishes).

The **Playfair** cipher is a great advance over simple monoalphabetic ciphers. For one thing, whereas there are only 26 letters, there are  $26 * 26 = 676$  digrams, so that identification of individual digrams is more difficult. Furthermore, the relative frequencies of individual letters exhibit a much greater range than that of digrams, making frequency analysis much more difficult. For these reasons, the Playfair cipher was for a long time considered unbreakable.

One way of revealing the effectiveness of the Playfair and other ciphers is shown in Figure 2.6. The line labeled *plaintext* plots a typical frequency distribution of the 26 alphabetic characters (no distinction between upper and lower case) in ordinary text.

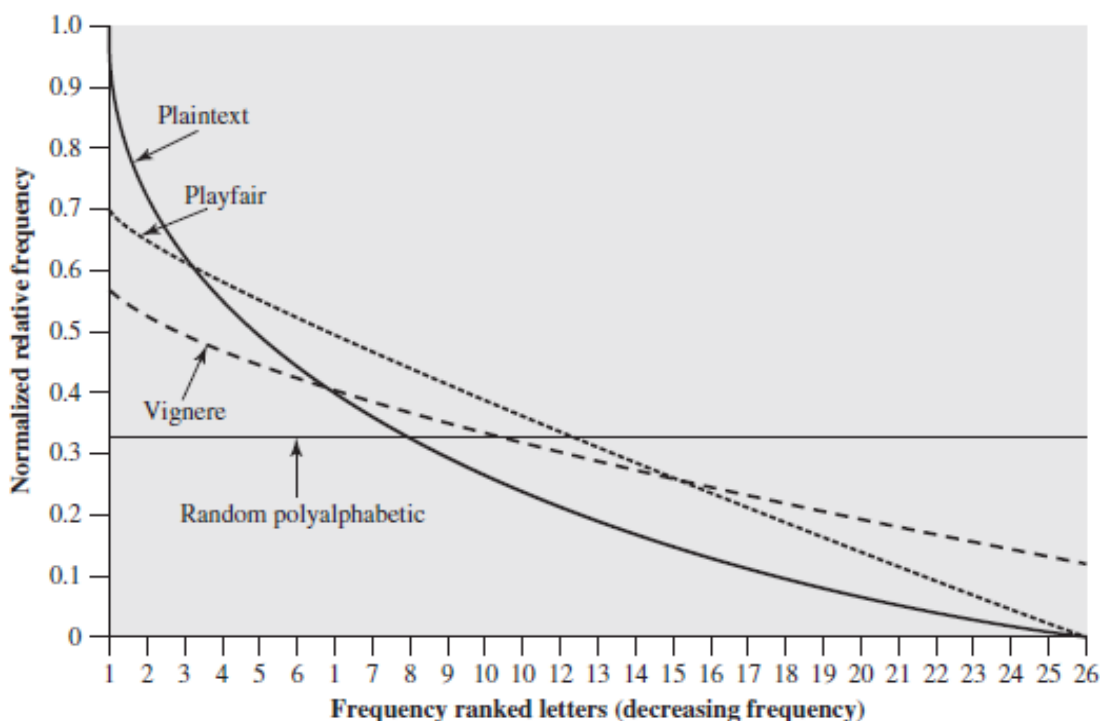


Figure 2.6 Relative Frequency of Occurrence of Letters

Figure 2.6 also shows the frequency distribution that results when the text is encrypted using the Playfair cipher. To normalize the plot, the number of occurrences of each letter in the cipher text was again divided by the number of occurrences of e in the plaintext. The resulting plot therefore shows the extent to which the frequency distribution of letters, which makes it trivial to solve substitution ciphers, is masked by encryption.

**Hill Cipher:**

Another interesting multi-letter cipher is the Hill cipher, developed by the mathematician Lester Hill in 1929.

**Concepts from Linear Algebra:** concerned with matrix arithmetic modulo 26. We define the inverse  $\mathbf{M}^{-1}$  of a square matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  by the equation  $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{M}^{-1}) = \mathbf{M}^{-1}\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{I}$ , where  $\mathbf{I}$  is the identity matrix.  $\mathbf{I}$  is a square matrix that is all zeros except for ones along the main diagonal from upper left to lower right. The inverse of a matrix does not always exist, but when it does, it satisfies the preceding equation. For example,

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 8 \\ 17 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{A}^{-1} \bmod 26 = \begin{pmatrix} 9 & 2 \\ 1 & 15 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{AA}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} (5 \times 9) + (8 \times 1) & (5 \times 2) + (8 \times 15) \\ (17 \times 9) + (3 \times 1) & (17 \times 2) + (3 \times 15) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 53 & 130 \\ 156 & 79 \end{pmatrix} \bmod 26 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

**The Hill Algorithm:**

This encryption algorithm takes  $m$  successive plaintext letters and substitutes for them  $m$  ciphertext letters. The substitution is determined by  $m$  linear equations in which each character is assigned a numerical value ( $a = 0, b = 1, c, z = 25$ ). For  $m = 3$ , the system can be described as,

$$c_1 = (k_{11}p_1 + k_{21}p_2 + k_{31}p_3) \bmod 26$$

$$c_2 = (k_{12}p_1 + k_{22}p_2 + k_{32}p_3) \bmod 26$$

$$c_3 = (k_{13}p_1 + k_{23}p_2 + k_{33}p_3) \bmod 26$$

This can be expressed in terms of row vectors and matrices:

$$(c_1 \ c_2 \ c_3) = (p_1 \ p_2 \ p_3) \begin{pmatrix} k_{11} & k_{12} & k_{13} \\ k_{21} & k_{22} & k_{23} \\ k_{31} & k_{32} & k_{33} \end{pmatrix} \bmod 26$$

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{PK} \bmod 26$$

Where  $\mathbf{C}$  and  $\mathbf{P}$  are row vectors of length 3 representing the plaintext and ciphertext, and  $\mathbf{K}$  is a  $3 \times 3$  matrix representing the encryption key. Operations are performed mod 26.

For example, consider the plaintext “paymoremoney” and use the encryption Key

$$\mathbf{K} = \begin{pmatrix} 17 & 17 & 5 \\ 21 & 18 & 21 \\ 2 & 2 & 19 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{P}) = \mathbf{PK} \bmod 26$$

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{CK}^{-1} \bmod 26 = \mathbf{PKK}^{-1} = \mathbf{P}$$

Consider this example. Suppose that the plaintext “hillcipher” is encrypted using a  $2 \times 2$  Hill cipher to yield the ciphertext HCRZSSXNSP. Thus, we know that  $\begin{pmatrix} 7 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{K} \bmod 26 = \begin{pmatrix} 7 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ ;  $\begin{pmatrix} 11 & 11 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{K} \bmod 26 = \begin{pmatrix} 17 & 25 \end{pmatrix}$ ; and so on. Using the first two plaintext–ciphertext pairs, we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 17 & 25 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 & 8 \\ 11 & 11 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{K} \bmod 26$$

The inverse of  $\mathbf{X}$  can be computed:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 7 & 8 \\ 11 & 11 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 25 & 22 \\ 1 & 23 \end{pmatrix}$$

so

$$\mathbf{K} = \begin{pmatrix} 25 & 22 \\ 1 & 23 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 17 & 25 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 549 & 600 \\ 398 & 577 \end{pmatrix} \bmod 26 = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 8 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

This result is verified by testing the remaining plaintext–ciphertext pairs.

**Related all problems are solved in the class..Refer problems document sent through what's up (related to module 2).**

### Polyalphabetic Ciphers:

Another way to improve on the simple monoalphabetic technique is to use different monoalphabetic substitutions as one proceeds through the plaintext message. The general name for this approach is **polyalphabetic substitution cipher**. All these techniques have the following features in common:

1. A set of related monoalphabetic substitution rules is used.
2. A key determines which particular rule is chosen for a given transformation.

### Vigenère Cipher:

The best known, and one of the simplest, polyalphabetic ciphers is the Vigenère cipher. In this scheme, the set of related monoalphabetic substitution rules consists of the 26 Caesar ciphers with shifts of 0 through 25. Each cipher is denoted by a key letter, which is the ciphertext letter that substitutes for the plaintext letter a. Thus, a Caesar cipher with a shift of 3 is denoted by the key value 3.



We can express the Vigenère cipher in the following manner. Assume a sequence of plaintext letters  $P = p_0, p_1, p_2, \dots, p_{n-1}$  and a key consisting of the sequence of letters

$K = k_0, k_1, k_2, \dots, k_{m-1}$ , where typically  $m < n$ .

The sequence of ciphertext letters  $C = C_0, C_1, C_2, \dots, C_{n-1}$  is calculated as follows:

$C = C_0, C_1, C_2, \dots, C_{n-1} = E(K, P) = E[(k_0, k_1, k_2, \dots, k_{m-1}), (p_0, p_1, p_2, \dots, p_{n-1})]$   
 $= (p_0 + k_0) \bmod 26, (p_1 + k_1) \bmod 26, \dots, (p_{m-1} + k_{m-1}) \bmod 26,$   
 $(p_m + k_0) \bmod 26, (p_{m+1} + k_1) \bmod 26, \dots, (p_{2m-1} + k_{m-1}) \bmod 26, \dots$

A general equation of the encryption process is,

$$C_i = (p_i + k_{i \bmod m}) \bmod 26$$

Decryption process is,

$$p_i = (C_i - k_{i \bmod m}) \bmod 26$$

To encrypt a message, a key is needed that is as long as the message. Usually, the key is a repeating keyword. For example, if the keyword is *deceptive*, the message “we are discovered save yourself” is encrypted as

```
key:           deceptive
plaintext:     wearediscoveredsaveyourself
ciphertext:    ZICVTWQNGRZGVTWAVZHCQYGLMGJ
```

Expressed numerically, we have the following result.

key	3	4	2	4	15	19	8	21	4	3	4	2	4	15
plaintext	22	4	0	17	4	3	8	18	2	14	21	4	17	4
ciphertext	25	8	2	21	19	22	16	13	6	17	25	6	21	19

key	19	8	21	4	3	4	2	4	15	19	8	21	4
plaintext	3	18	0	21	4	24	14	20	17	18	4	11	5
ciphertext	22	0	21	25	7	2	16	24	6	11	12	6	9

The strength of this cipher is that there are multiple ciphertext letters for each plaintext letter, one for each unique letter of the keyword. Thus, the letter frequency information is obscured. However, not all knowledge of the plaintext structure is lost. For example, Figure 2.6 shows the frequency distribution for a Vigenère cipher with a keyword of length 9. An improvement is achieved over the Playfair cipher, but considerable frequency information remains.

Vigenère cipher is suspected, then progress depends on determining the length of the keyword, let us concentrate on how the keyword length can be determined. The important insight that leads to a solution is the following: If two identical sequences of plaintext letters occur at a distance that is an integer multiple of the keyword length, they will generate identical ciphertext sequences. In the foregoing example, two instances of the sequence “**red**” are separated by nine

character positions. Consequently, in both cases,  $r$  is encrypted using key letter  $e$ ,  $e$  is encrypted using key letter  $p$ , and  $d$  is encrypted using key letter  $t$ . Thus, in both cases, the ciphertext sequence is VTW. Indicate this above by underlining the relevant ciphertext letters and shading the relevant ciphertext numbers.

An analyst looking at only the ciphertext would detect the repeated sequences VTW at a displacement of 9 and make the assumption that the keyword is either three or nine letters in length. The appearance of VTW twice could be by chance and may not reflect identical plaintext letters encrypted with identical key letters. However, if the message is long enough, there will be a number of such repeated ciphertext sequences. By looking for common factors in the displacements of the various sequences, the analyst should be able to make a good guess of the keyword length.

Solution of the cipher now depends on an important insight. If the keyword length is  $m$ , then the cipher, in effect, consists of  $m$  monoalphabetic substitution ciphers. For example, with the keyword DECEPTIVE, the letters in positions 1, 10, 19, and so on are all encrypted with the same monoalphabetic cipher. Thus, we can use the known frequency characteristics of the plaintext language to attack each of the monoalphabetic ciphers separately.

The periodic nature of the keyword can be eliminated by using a nonrepeating keyword that is as long as the message itself. Vigenère proposed what is referred to as an **autokey system**, in which a keyword is concatenated with the plaintext itself to provide a running key. For our example,

key:	deceptivewearediscoveredsav
plaintext:	wearediscoveredsaveyourself
ciphertext:	ZICVTWQNGKZEIIGASXSTSLVVWLA

Even this scheme is vulnerable (in danger) to cryptanalysis. Because the key and the plaintext share the same frequency distribution of letters, a statistical technique can be applied. For example,  $e$  enciphered by  $e$ , by Figure 2.5, can be expected to occur with a frequency of

$(0.127)^2 \approx 0.016$ , whereas  $t$  enciphered by  $t$  would occur only about half as often. These regularities can be exploited to achieve successful cryptanalysis.

### Vernam Cipher:

The ultimate defense against such a cryptanalysis is to choose a keyword that is as long as the plaintext and has no statistical relationship to it. Such a system was introduced by an AT&T engineer named Gilbert Vernam in 1918.

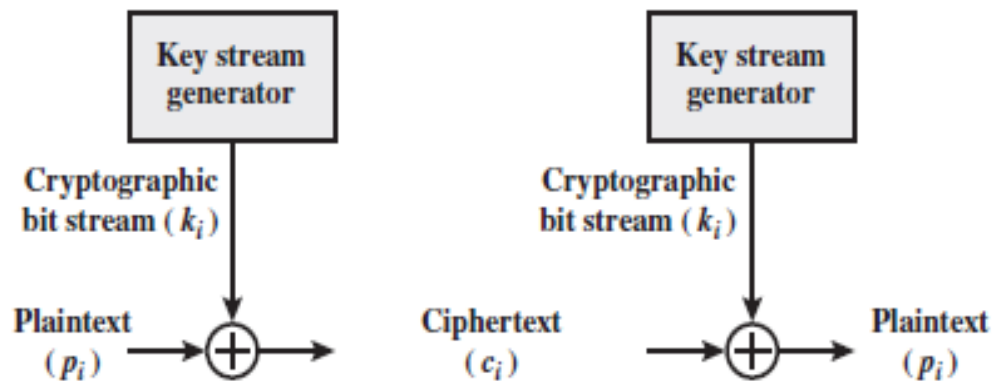


Figure 2.7 Vernam Cipher

$$c_i = p_i \oplus k_i$$

where

$p_i$  =  $i$ th binary digit of plaintext

$k_i$  =  $i$ th binary digit of key

$c_i$  =  $i$ th binary digit of ciphertext

$\oplus$  = exclusive-or (XOR) operation

### One-Time Pad:

An Army Signal Corp officer, Joseph Mauborgne, proposed an improvement to the Vernam cipher that yields the ultimate in security. Using a random key that is as long as the message, so that the key need not be repeated. In addition, the key is to be used to encrypt and decrypt a single message, and then is discarded. Each new message requires a new key of the same length as the new message. Such a scheme, known as a **one-time pad**, is unbreakable. It produces random output that bears no statistical relationship to the plaintext. Because the ciphertext contains no information whatsoever about the plaintext, there is simply no way to break the code.

Vigenère scheme with 27 characters in which the twenty-seventh character is the space character, but with a one-time key that is as long as the message. Consider the ciphertext,

ANKYODKYUREPFJBYOJDSPLREYIUNOFDOIUERFPLUYTS

We now show two different decryptions using two different keys:

ciphertext: ANKYODKYUREPFJBYOJDSPLREYIUNOFDOIUERFPLUYTS

key: pxlmvmsydofoyrvzwc tnlebnecvgdupahfzzlmnyih

plaintext: mr mustard with the candlestick in the hall

ciphertext: ANKYODKYUREPFJBYOJDSPLREYIUNOFDOIUERFPLUYTS

key: pftgpmiydgaxgoufhklmlhmsqdqogtewbqfgyovuhwt

plaintext: miss scarlet with the knife in the library

Suppose that a cryptanalyst had managed to find these two keys. Two possible plaintexts are produced. How is the cryptanalyst to decide which is the correct decryption (i.e., which is the correct key)? If the actual key were produced in a truly random fashion, then the cryptanalyst cannot say that one of these two keys is more likely than the other. Thus, there is no way to decide which key is correct and therefore which plaintext is correct.

Given any plaintext of equal length to the ciphertext, there is a key that produces that plaintext. Therefore, if you did an exhaustive search of all possible keys, you would end up with many legible plaintexts, with no way of knowing which was the intended plaintext. Therefore, the code is unbreakable.

The security of the one-time pad is entirely due to the randomness of the key. If the stream of characters that constitute the key is truly random, then the stream of characters that constitute the ciphertext will be truly random. Thus, there are no patterns or regularities that a cryptanalyst can use to attack the ciphertext.

The one-time pad offers complete security but, in practice, has two fundamental **difficulties**:

1. There is the practical problem of making large quantities of random keys. Any heavily used system might require millions of random characters on a regular basis. Supplying truly random characters in this volume is a significant task.
2. Even more daunting (difficult to deal with) is the problem of key distribution and protection. For every message to be sent, a key of equal length is needed by both sender and receiver. Thus, a mammoth (huge) key distribution problem exists.

Because of these difficulties, the one-time pad is of limited utility and is useful primarily for **low-bandwidth channels** requiring very high security. The one-time pad is the only cryptosystem that exhibits what is referred to as **perfect secrecy**.

### Transposition Techniques:

A very different kind of mapping is achieved by performing some sort of permutation on the plaintext letters. This technique is referred to as a transposition cipher. The simplest such cipher is the **rail fence** technique, in which the plaintext is written down as a sequence of diagonals and then read off as a sequence of rows.

**NOTE: a transposition cipher is a method of encryption by which the positions held by units of plaintext (which are commonly characters or groups of characters) are shifted according to a regular system, so that the ciphertext constitutes a permutation of the plaintext.**

For example, to encipher the message “meet me after the toga party” with a rail fence of depth 2, we write the following:

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

The encrypted message is

MEMATRHTGPRYETEFETEOAAT

This sort of thing would be trivial to cryptanalyze. A more complex scheme is to write the message in a rectangle, row by row, and read the message off, column by column, but permute the order of the columns. The order of the columns then becomes the key to the algorithm. For example,

```
Key:          4 3 1 2 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:   TTNAAPTMTSUOAODWCOIXKNLYPETZ
```

Thus, in this example, the key is 4312567. To encrypt, start with the column that is labeled 1, in this case column 3. Write down all the letters in that column. Proceed to column 4, which is labeled 2, then column 2, then column 1, then columns 5, 6, and 7.

A pure transposition cipher is easily recognized because it has the same letter frequencies as the original plaintext. For the type of columnar transposition just shown, cryptanalysis is fairly straightforward and involves laying out the ciphertext in a matrix and playing around with column positions. **Digram and trigram** frequency tables can be useful. The transposition cipher can be made significantly more secure by performing more than one stage of transposition. The result is a more complex permutation that is not easily reconstructed. Thus, if the foregoing message is reencrypted using the same algorithm,

```
Key:      4 3 1 2 5 6 7
Input:    t t n a a p t
          m t s u o a o
          d w c o i x k
          n l y p e t z
Output:   NSCYAUOPTTWLTMDNAOIEPAXTTOKZ
```



To visualize the result of this double transposition, designate the letters in the original plaintext message by the numbers designating their position. Thus, with 28 letters in the message, the original sequence of letters is

```
01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
```

After the first transposition, we have

```
03 10 17 24 04 11 18 25 02 09 16 23 01 08
15 22 05 12 19 26 06 13 20 27 07 14 21 28
```

which has a somewhat regular structure. But after the second transposition, we have

```
17 09 05 27 24 16 12 07 10 02 22 20 03 25
15 13 04 23 19 14 11 01 26 21 18 08 06 28
```

This is a much less structured permutation and is much more difficult to cryptanalyze.

### **Steganography:**

**NOTE:** Meaning: steganos, or "**covered**," and graphie, or "**writing**" is the hiding of a secret message within an ordinary message and the extraction of it at its destination.

A plaintext message may be hidden in one of two ways. The methods of **steganography** conceal the existence of the message, whereas the methods of cryptography render the message unintelligible to outsiders by various transformations of the text.

A simple form of steganography, but one that is time-consuming to construct, is one in which an arrangement of words or letters within an apparently innocuous (not harmful) text spells out the real message. For example, the sequence of first letters of each word of the overall message spells out the hidden message. Figure 2.9 shows an example in which a subset of the words of the overall message is used to convey the hidden message.

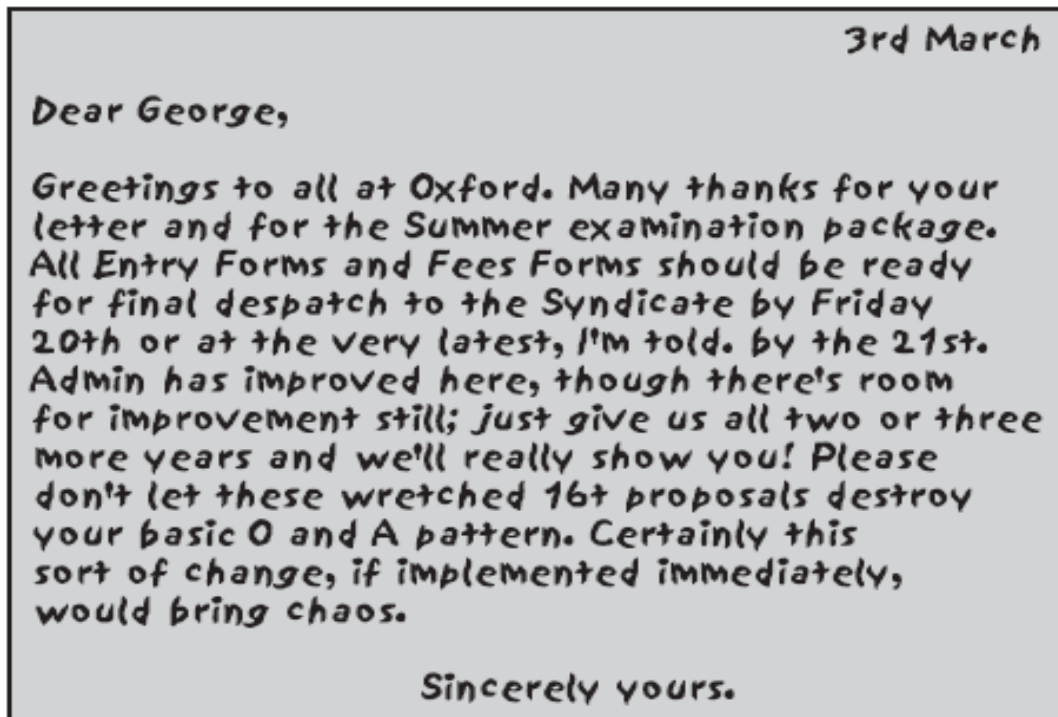


Figure 2.9 A Puzzle for Inspector Morse

Various other techniques have been used historically; some examples are the Following,

- **Character marking:** Selected letters of printed or typewritten text are overwritten in pencil. The marks are ordinarily not visible unless the paper is held at an angle to bright light.
- **Invisible ink:** A number of substances can be used for writing but leave no visible trace until heat or some chemical is applied to the paper.
- **Pin punctures:** Small pin punctures on selected letters are ordinarily not visible unless the paper is held up in front of a light.
- **Typewriter correction ribbon:** Used between lines typed with a black ribbon, the results of typing with the correction tape are visible only under a strong light.

**Example:** The **Kodak Photo CD** format's maximum resolution is 3096 \* 6144 pixels, with each pixel containing 24 bits of RGB color information. The least significant bit of each 24-bit pixel can be changed without greatly affecting the quality of the image. The result is that you can hide a 130-kB message in a single digital snapshot. There are now a number of software packages available that take this type of approach to steganography.

Steganography has a number of drawbacks when compared to encryption. It requires a lot of overhead to hide a relatively few bits of information, although using a scheme like that proposed in the preceding paragraph may make it more effective. Also, once the system is discovered, it becomes virtually worthless. This

problem, too, can be overcome if the insertion method depends on some sort of key. Alternatively, a message can be first encrypted and then hidden using steganography.

### **SYMMETRIC CIPHERS: Text Book 1: Chapter 2**

**Syllabus:** Traditional Block Cipher structure, Data Encryption Standard (DES)

#### **Traditional Block Cipher Structure:**

Many symmetric block encryption algorithms in current use are based on a structure referred to as a **Feistel block cipher**.

#### **Stream Ciphers and Block Ciphers:**

A **stream cipher** is one that encrypts a digital data stream one bit or one byte at a time. Examples of classical stream ciphers are the autokeyed Vigenère cipher and the Vernam cipher. In the ideal case, a one-time pad version of the Vernam cipher, in which the keystream ( $k_i$ ) is as long as the plaintext bit stream ( $p_i$ ). If the cryptographic keystream is random, then this cipher is unbreakable by any means other than acquiring the keystream. However, the keystream must be provided to both users in advance via some independent and secure channel. The bit-stream generator is a key-controlled algorithm and must produce a bit stream that is cryptographically strong.

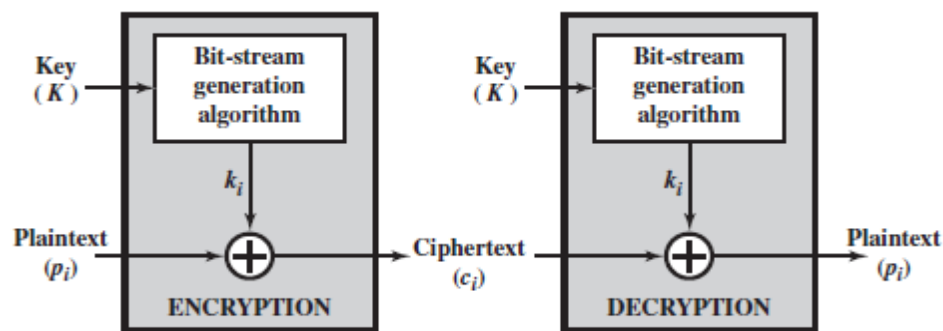
A **block cipher** is one in which a block of plaintext is treated as a whole and used to produce a ciphertext block of equal length. Typically, a block size of 64 or 128 bits is used. As with a stream cipher, the two users share a symmetric encryption key. The vast majority of network-based symmetric cryptographic applications make use of block ciphers.

#### **Motivation for the Feistel Cipher Structure:**

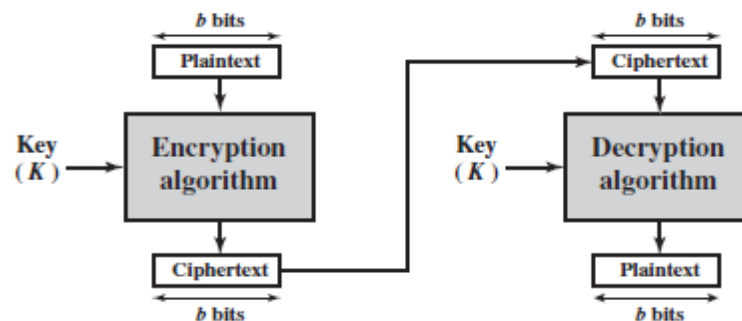
A block cipher operates on a plaintext block of  $n$  bits to produce a ciphertext block of  $n$  bits. There are  $2^n$  possible different plaintext blocks and, for the encryption to be reversible (i.e., for decryption to be possible), each must produce a unique ciphertext block. Such a transformation is called reversible, or nonsingular. The following examples illustrate nonsingular and singular transformations for  $n = 2$ .

Reversible Mapping		Irreversible Mapping	
Plaintext	Ciphertext	Plaintext	Ciphertext
00	11	00	11
01	10	01	10
10	00	10	01
11	01	11	01

In the second table, a ciphertext of 01 could have been produced by one of two plaintext blocks. So if we limit ourselves to reversible mappings, the number of different transformations is  $2^n!$ .



(a) Stream cipher using algorithmic bit-stream generator



(b) Block cipher

Figure 3.1 Stream Cipher and Block Cipher

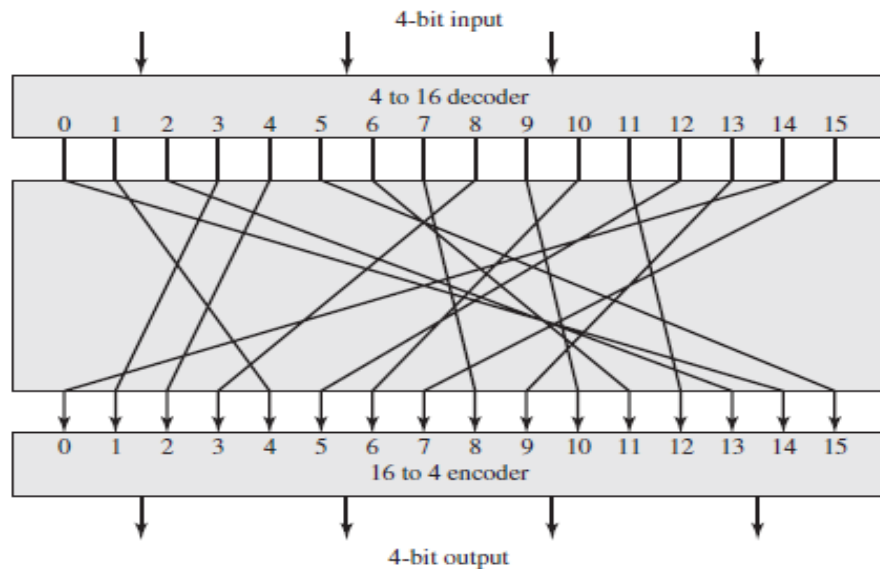


Figure 3.2 General  $n$ -bit- $n$ -bit Block Substitution (shown with  $n = 4$ )

Figure 3.2 illustrates the logic of a general substitution cipher for  $n = 4$ . A 4-bit input produces one of 16 possible input states, which is mapped by the substitution cipher into a unique one of 16 possible output states, each of which is represented by 4 ciphertext bits. The encryption and decryption mappings can be defined by a tabulation, as shown in Table 3.1. This is the most general form of block cipher and can be used to define any reversible mapping between plaintext and ciphertext.

Table 3.1 Encryption and Decryption Tables for Substitution Cipher of Figure 3.2

Plaintext	Ciphertext	Ciphertext	Plaintext
0000	1110	0000	1110
0001	0100	0001	0011
0010	1101	0010	0100
0011	0001	0011	1000
0100	0010	0100	0001
0101	1111	0101	1100
0110	1011	0110	1010
0111	1000	0111	1111
1000	0011	1000	0111
1001	1010	1001	1101
1010	0110	1010	1001
1011	1100	1011	0110
1100	0101	1100	1011
1101	1001	1101	0010
1110	0000	1110	0000
1111	0111	1111	0101

Feistel refers to this as the ideal block cipher, because it allows for the maximum number of possible encryption mappings from the plaintext block. If  $n$  is sufficiently large and an arbitrary reversible substitution between plaintext and ciphertext is allowed, then the statistical characteristics of the source plaintext are masked to such an extent that this type of cryptanalysis is infeasible. With reference to the table 3.1 defining the key, the required key length is  $(4 \text{ bits}) * (16 \text{ rows}) = 64 \text{ bits}$ . In general, for an  $n$ -bit ideal block cipher, the length of the key defined in this fashion is  $n * 2^n$  bits. For a 64-bit block, which is a desirable length to thwart (or prevent) statistical attacks, the required key length is  $64 * 2^{64} = 2^{70} \approx 10^{21}$  bits.

### The Feistel Cipher:

Feistel proposed that the ideal block cipher by utilizing the concept of a product cipher, which is the execution of two or more simple ciphers in sequence in such a way that the final result or product is cryptographically stronger than any of the component ciphers. The essence of the approach is to develop a block cipher with a key length of  $k$  bits and a block length of  $n$  bits, allowing a total of  $2^K$  possible transformations, rather than the  $2^n!$  transformations available with the ideal block cipher.

Feistel proposed the use of a cipher that alternates substitutions and permutations, where these terms are defined as follows:

- **Substitution:** Each plaintext element or group of elements is uniquely replaced by a corresponding ciphertext element or group of elements.



• **Permutation:** A sequence of plaintext elements is replaced by a permutation of that sequence. That is, no elements are added or deleted or replaced in the sequence, rather the order in which the elements appear in the sequence is changed.

Feistel's is a practical application of a proposal by **Claude Shannon** to develop a product cipher that alternates confusion and diffusion functions.

**Diffusion and Confusion** The terms diffusion and confusion were introduced by Claude Shannon to capture the two basic building blocks for any cryptographic System.

The main concern was to thwart cryptanalysis based on statistical analysis. The reasoning is as follows.

- Assume the attacker has some knowledge of the statistical characteristics of the plaintext. For example, in a human-readable message in some language, the frequency distribution of the various letters may be known. Or there may be words or phrases likely to appear in the message (probable words). If these statistics are in any way reflected in the ciphertext, the cryptanalyst may be able to deduce the encryption key, part of the key, or at least a set of keys likely to contain the exact key.

In **Diffusion**, the statistical structure of the plaintext is dissipated into long-range statistics of the

ciphertext. This is achieved by having each plaintext digit affect the value of many ciphertext digits; generally, this is equivalent to having each ciphertext digit be affected by many plaintext digits. An example of diffusion is to encrypt a message  $M = m_1, m_2, m_3, \dots$  of characters with an averaging operation:

$$y_n = \left( \sum_{i=1}^k m_{n+i} \right) \bmod 26$$

adding  $k$  successive letters to get a ciphertext letter  $y_n$ . The statistical structure of the plaintext has been dissipated. Thus, the letter frequencies in the ciphertext will be more nearly equal than in the plaintext; the digram frequencies will also be more nearly equal, and so on. In a binary block cipher, diffusion can be achieved by repeatedly performing some permutation on the data followed by applying a function to that permutation; the effect is that bits from different positions in the original plaintext contribute to a single bit of ciphertext.

Every block cipher involves a transformation of a block of plaintext into a block of ciphertext, where the transformation depends on the key. The mechanism of diffusion seeks to make the statistical relationship between the plaintext and ciphertext as complex as possible in order to thwart attempts to deduce the key.

**Confusion** seeks to make the relationship between the statistics of the ciphertext and the value of the encryption key as complex as possible, again to prevent attempts to discover the key. Thus, even if the attacker can get some handle on the statistics of the ciphertext, the way in which the key was used to produce

that ciphertext is so complex as to make it difficult to deduce the key. This is achieved by the use of a complex substitution algorithm.

**Feistel Cipher Structure:**

The left-hand side of Figure 3.3 depicts the structure proposed by Feistel. The inputs to the encryption algorithm are a plaintext block of length  $2w$  bits and a key  $K$ . The plaintext block is divided into two halves,  $L_0$  and  $R_0$ . The two halves of the data pass through  $n$  rounds of processing and then combine to produce the ciphertext block. Each round  $i$  has as inputs  $L_{i-1}$  and  $R_{i-1}$  derived from the previous round, as well as a subkey  $K_i$  derived from the overall  $K$ . In general, the subkeys  $K_i$  are different from  $K$  and from each other. In Figure 3.3, 16 rounds are used, although any number of rounds could be implemented.

All rounds have the same structure. A **substitution** is performed on the left half of the data. This is done by applying a round function  $F$  to the right half of the data and then taking the exclusive-OR of the output of that function and the left half of the data. The round function has the same general structure for each round but is parameterized by the round subkey  $K_i$ . Another way to express this is to say that  $F$  is a function of right-half block of  $w$  bits and a subkey of  $y$  bits, which produces an output value of length  $w$  bits:  $F(R_{i-1}, K_i)$ . Following this substitution, a **permutation** is performed that consists of the interchange of the two halves of the data. This structure is a particular form of the **substitution-permutation network (SPN)** proposed by Shannon.

The realization of a Feistel network depends on the choice of the following parameters and design features:

- **Block size:** Larger block sizes mean greater security (all other things being equal) but reduced encryption/decryption speed for a given algorithm. The greater security is achieved by greater diffusion. Traditionally, a block size of 64 bits has been considered a reasonable tradeoff and was nearly universal in block cipher design. However, the new AES uses a 128-bit block size.
- **Key size:** Larger key size means greater security but may decrease encryption / decryption speed. The greater security is achieved by greater resistance to brute-force attacks and greater confusion. Key sizes of 64 bits or less are now widely considered to be inadequate, and 128 bits has become a common size.
- **Number of rounds:** The essence of the Feistel cipher is that a single round offers inadequate security but that multiple rounds offer increasing security. A typical size is 16 rounds.
- **Subkey generation algorithm:** Greater complexity in this algorithm should lead to greater difficulty of cryptanalysis.
- **Round function  $F$ :** Again, greater complexity generally means greater resistance to cryptanalysis.

There are two other considerations in the design of a Feistel cipher:

- **Fast software encryption/decryption:** In many cases, encryption is embedded in applications or utility functions in such a way as to preclude a hardware implementation. Accordingly, the speed of execution of the algorithm becomes a concern.
- **Ease of analysis:** Although we would like to make our algorithm as difficult as possible to cryptanalyze, there is great benefit in making the algorithm easy to analyze. That is, if the algorithm can be concisely and clearly explained, it is easier to analyze that algorithm for cryptanalytic vulnerabilities and therefore develop a higher level of assurance as to its strength. DES, for example, does not have an easily analyzed functionality.

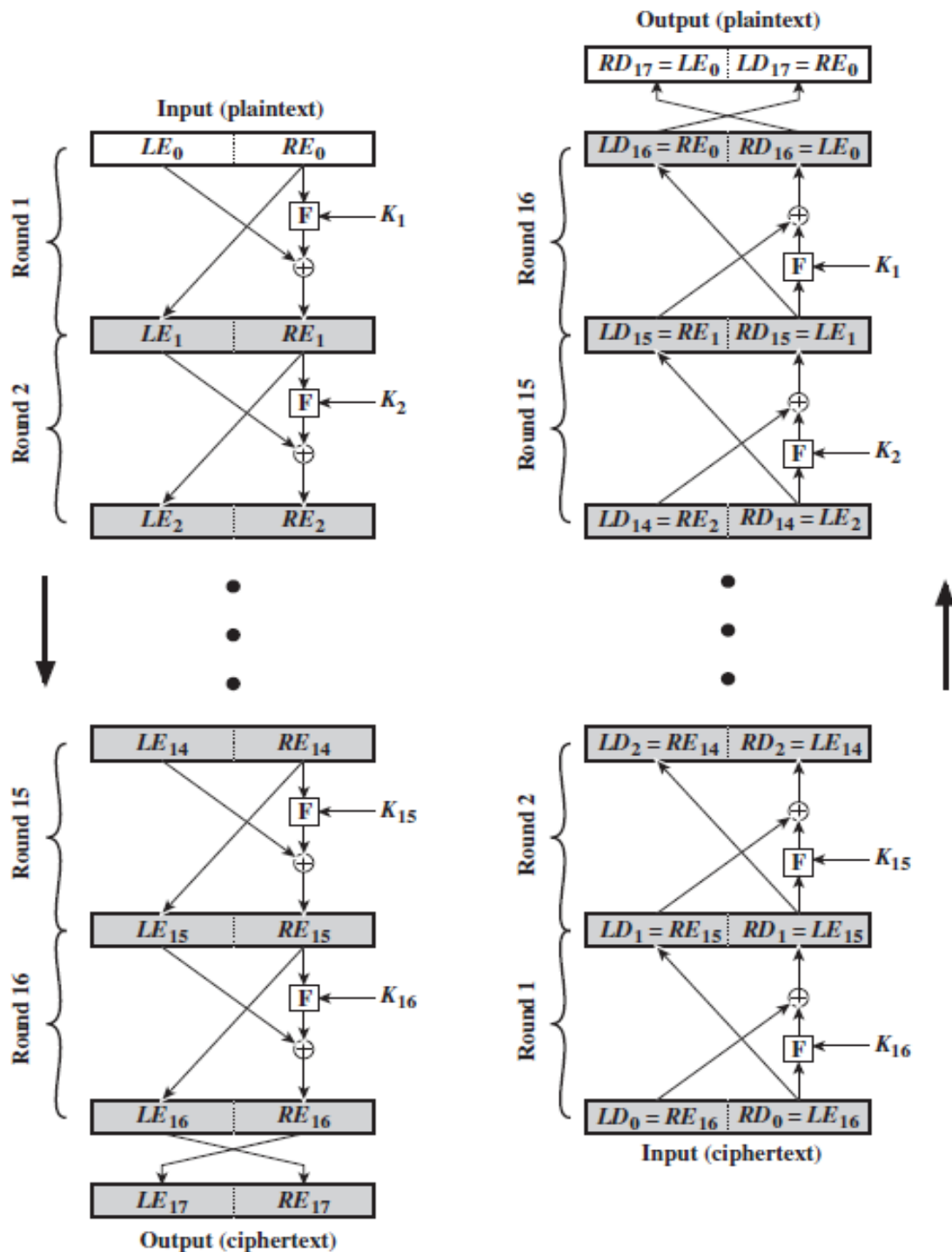


Figure 3.3 Feistel Encryption and Decryption (16 rounds)

**Feistel Decryption Algorithm:**

The process of decryption with a Feistel cipher is essentially the same as the encryption process. The rule is as follows:

- Use the ciphertext as input to the algorithm, but use the subkeys  $K_i$  in reverse order. That is, use  $K_n$  in the first round,  $K_{n-1}$  in the second round, and so on, until  $K_1$  is used in the last round.
- To see that the same algorithm with a reversed key order produces the correct result, Figure 3.3 shows the encryption process going down the left-hand side and the decryption process going up the right-hand side for a 16-round algorithm. For clarity, we use the notation  $LE_i$  and  $RE_i$  for data traveling through the encryption algorithm and  $LD_i$  and  $RD_i$  for data traveling through the decryption algorithm.
- The diagram indicates that, at every round, the intermediate value of the decryption process is equal to the corresponding value of the encryption process with the two halves of the value swapped. Let the output of the  $i$ th encryption round be  $LE_i \parallel RE_i$  ( $LE_i$  concatenated with  $RE_i$ ). Then the corresponding output of the  $(16 - i)$ th decryption round is  $RE_i \parallel LE_i$  or, equivalently,  $LD_{16-i} \parallel RD_{16-i}$ .

Figure 3.3 is to demonstrate the validity of the preceding assertions. After the last iteration of the encryption process, the two halves of the output are swapped, so that the ciphertext is

$RE_{16} \parallel LE_{16}$ . The output of that round is the ciphertext. Now take that ciphertext and use it as input to the same algorithm.

The input to the first round is  $RE_{16} \parallel LE_{16}$ , which is equal to the 32-bit swap of the output of the sixteenth round of the encryption process.

The output of the first round of the decryption process is equal to a 32-bit swap of the input to the sixteenth round of the encryption process. First, consider the encryption process. We see that,

$$\begin{aligned} LE_{16} &= RE_{15} \\ RE_{16} &= LE_{15} \oplus F(RE_{15}, K_{16}) \end{aligned}$$

On the decryption side,

$$\begin{aligned} LD_1 &= RD_0 = LE_{16} = RE_{15} \\ RD_1 &= LD_0 \oplus F(RD_0, K_{16}) \\ &= RE_{16} \oplus F(RE_{15}, K_{16}) \\ &= [LE_{15} \oplus F(RE_{15}, K_{16})] \oplus F(RE_{15}, K_{16}) \end{aligned}$$

The XOR has the following properties:

$$\begin{aligned} [A \oplus B] \oplus C &= A \oplus [B \oplus C] \\ D \oplus D &= 0 \\ E \oplus 0 &= E \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $LD_1 = RE_{15}$  and  $RD_1 = LE_{15}$ . Therefore, the output of the first round of the decryption process is  $RE_{15} \parallel LE_{15}$ , which is the 32-bit swap of the input to the sixteenth round of the encryption. For the  $i$ th iteration of the encryption algorithm,

$$LE_i = RE_{i-1}$$

$$RE_i = LE_{i-1} \oplus F(RE_{i-1}, K_i)$$

Rearranging terms:

$$RE_{i-1} = LE_i$$

$$LE_{i-1} = RE_i \oplus F(RE_{i-1}, K_i) = RE_i \oplus F(LE_i, K_i)$$

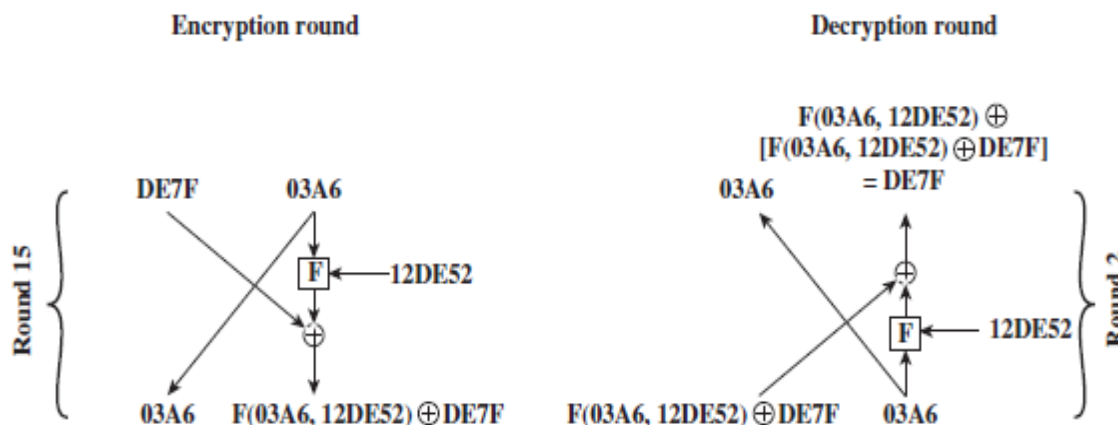


Figure 3.4 Feistel Example

Consider a specific example, (Figure 3.4 and focus on the fifteenth round of encryption, corresponding to the second round of decryption). Suppose that the blocks at each stage are 32 bits (two 16-bit halves) and that the key size is 24 bits. Suppose that at the end of encryption round fourteen, the value of the intermediate block (in hexadecimal) is DE7F03A6. Then

$LE_{14} = DE7F$  and  $RE_{14} = 03A6$ . Also assume that the value of  $K_{15}$  is 12DE52. After round 15, we have  $LE_{15} = 03A6$  and  $RE_{15} = F(03A6, 12DE52) \oplus DE7F$ .

Observe the decryption. Assume that  $LD_1 = RE_{15}$  and  $RD_1 = LE_{15}$ , as shown in Figure 3.3, and want to demonstrate that  $LD_2 = RE_{14}$  and  $RD_2 = LE_{14}$ .

So,  $LD_1 = F(03A6, 12DE52) \oplus DE7F$  and  $RD_1 = 03A6$ . Then, from Figure 3.3,  $LD_2 = 03A6 = RE_{14}$  and  $RD_2 = F(03A6, 12DE52) \oplus [F(03A6, 12DE52) \oplus DE7F] = DE7F = LE_{14}$ .

### The Data Encryption Standard (DES):

The Data Encryption Standard (DES) was the most widely used encryption scheme. DES was issued in 1977 by the National Bureau of Standards, now the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), as Federal Information Processing Standard 46 (FIPS PUB 46). The algorithm itself is referred to as the Data Encryption Algorithm (DEA). For DEA, data are encrypted in **64-bit blocks using a 56-bit key**. The algorithm transforms 64-bit input in a series of steps



into a 64-bit output. The same steps, with the same key, are used to reverse the encryption.

**DES Encryption:**

The overall scheme for DES encryption is illustrated in Figure 3.5. As with any encryption scheme, there are two inputs to the encryption function: **the plaintext to be encrypted and the key**. In this case, the plaintext must be **64 bits in length and the key is 56 bits in length**.

- Consider the left-hand side of the figure, the processing of the plaintext proceeds in three phases. First, the 64-bit plaintext passes through an initial permutation (IP) that rearranges the bits to produce the permuted input.
- This is followed by a phase consisting of sixteen rounds of the same function, which involves both permutation and substitution functions. The output of the last (sixteenth) round consists of 64 bits that are a function of the input plaintext and the key. The left and right halves of the output are swapped to produce the **preoutput**.
- Finally, the preoutput is passed through a permutation [IP<sup>-1</sup>] that is the inverse of the initial permutation function, to produce the 64-bit ciphertext. With the exception of the initial and final permutations, DES has the exact structure of a Feistel cipher, as shown in Figure 3.3.

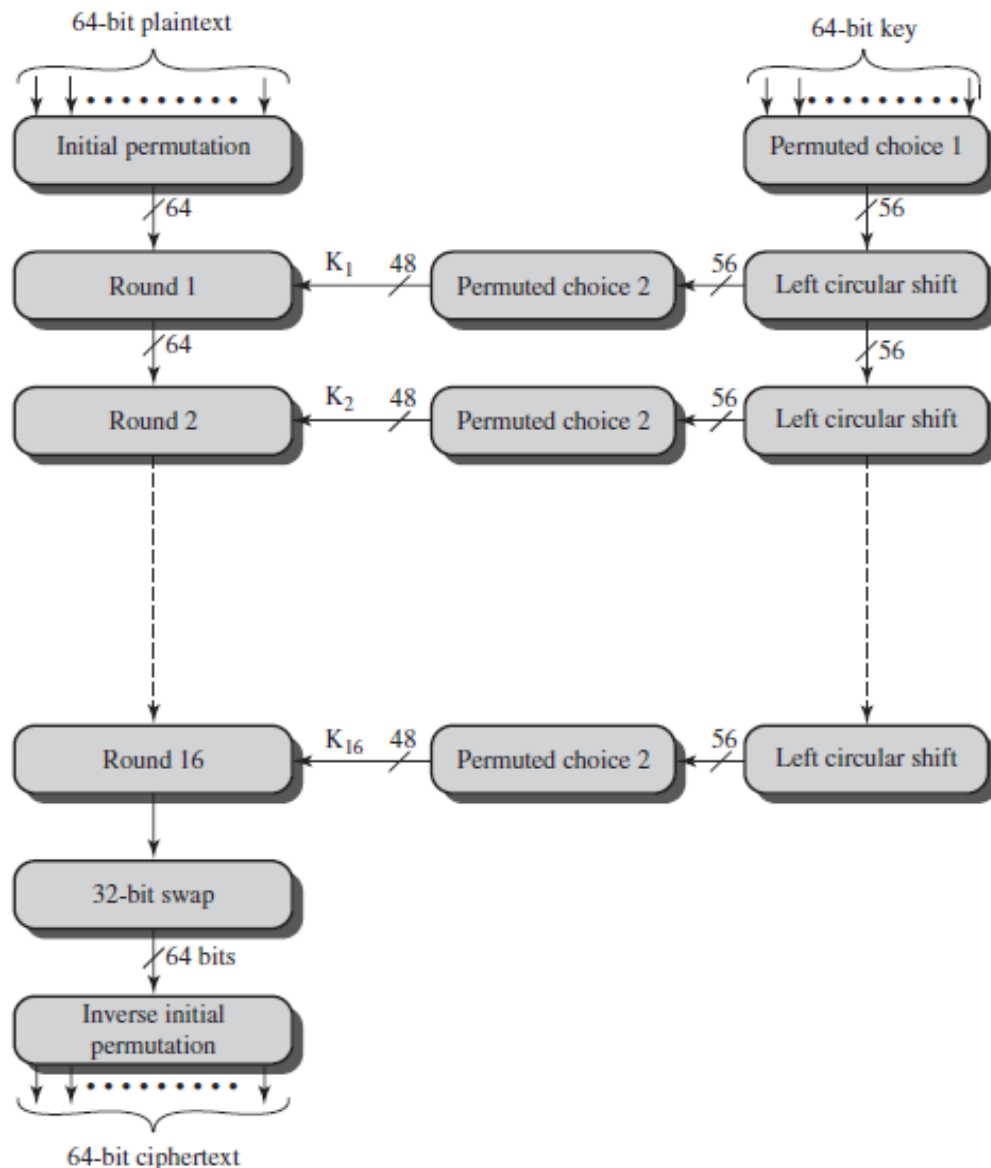


Figure 3.5 General Depiction of DES Encryption Algorithm

The right-hand portion of Figure 3.5 shows the way in which the 56-bit key is used. Initially, the key is passed through a permutation function. Then, for each of the sixteen rounds, a subkey ( $K_i$ ) is produced by the combination of a left circular shift and a permutation. The permutation function is the same for each round, but a different subkey is produced because of the repeated shifts of the key bits.

### DES Decryption:

As with any Feistel cipher, decryption uses the same algorithm as encryption, except that the application of the subkeys is reversed. Additionally, the initial and final permutations are reversed.

**NOTE: for only student Reference -> Simple DES key generation**

### The Data Encryption Standard (DES)

The Data Encryption Standard is an example of a conventional cryptosystem that is widely employed. DES uses a unique 56-bit key to transform a 64-bit plaintext message into a 64-bit ciphertext message. The three operations used in DES are, XOR, substitution, and permutation.

When used for communication, both sender and receiver must know the same secret key, which can be used to encrypt and decrypt the message. The same algorithm is used with the same key to convert ciphertext back to plaintext. The DES consists of 16 rounds of operations that mix the data and key together using permutation and substitution. The data and the key are scrambled so that every bit of the ciphertext depends on every bit of the data and every bit of the key. After sufficient rounds, there should be no correlation between the ciphertext and either the original data or key.

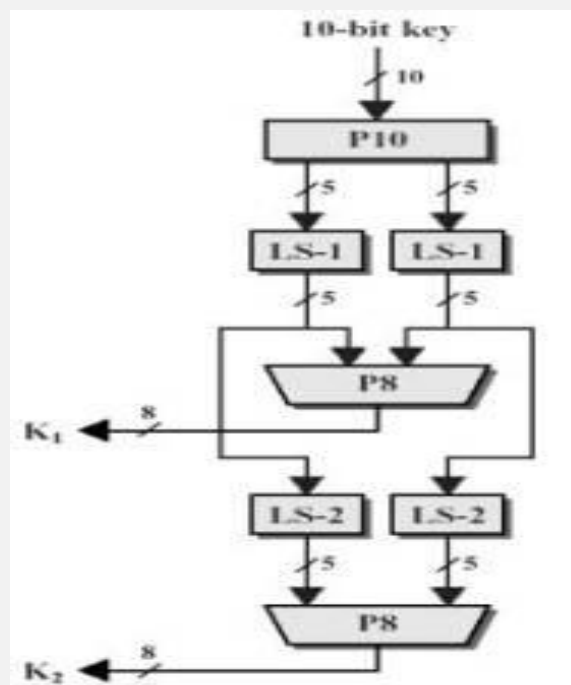


Figure A. Key Generation for Simplified DES.

A simplified DES is presented in figure A. Only the key generations is shown. The key is 10 bits long. The two keys  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  are generated by applying first permutation followed by shifting some bits of the original key.