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# S 6160 Cryptology Lecture Classical Ciphers and Perfect Secrecy

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## Caesar cipher / Shift cipher

Named after Julius Caesar who used it to communicate with his generals.

Replace each letter with one that is a fixed number of positions down the alphabet.

### Caesar cipher

$$\mathcal{M} = \{A, B, \dots, Z\}^*$$

$$\mathcal{K} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, 25\}$$

$$\text{Gen} = k, k \in \mathcal{K}$$

$$\text{Enc}_k(m_1 m_2 \dots m_n) = (c_1 c_2 \dots c_n), \text{ where } c_i = m_i + k$$

$$\text{Dec}_k(c_1 c_2 \dots c_n) = (m_1 m_2 \dots m_n) \text{ where } m_i = c_i - k$$

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# aeser ipher/Shift ipher

Encrypted messages look scrambled (unless  $k$  is 1)

Encrypt with  $k = 7$

C	L	E	O	P	A	T	R	A
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
J	S	L	V	W	H	A	Y	H

## Cryptanalysis

We just need to try all 26 different values of  $k$  s  
resulting plaintext is readable.

If the message is relatively long, the scheme is e

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# Substitution Cipher

Choose a **permutation** of the alphabet set  $\{A, B, \dots, Z\}$ , and apply that to all letters in the plaintext.

Permutation : one-one, onto function from a set to itself

Brute-force won't work – you have to try  $26! \approx 4 \times 10^{27}$  keys.

## Substitution Cipher

$$\mathcal{M} = \{A, B, \dots, Z\}^*$$

$\mathcal{K}$  = the set of permutations of  $\{A, B, \dots, Z\}$

$$\text{Gen} = \{ \text{key} \mid \text{key} \in \mathcal{K} \}$$

$$\text{Enc} (m_1 m_2 \dots m_n) = c_1 c_2 \dots c_n, \text{ where } c_i = \text{key}(m_i)$$

$$\text{Dec} (c_1 c_2 \dots c_n) = m_1 m_2 \dots m_n \text{ where } m_i = \text{key}^{-1}(c_i)$$

Cryptanalysis of Substitution Cipher ?

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## Different types of attacks

**Passive attack – Ciphertext-only attack** : attack with only ciphertexts. Most difficult attack.

**Passive attack – Known-plaintext attack (KP )** : given the pair (plaintext, ciphertext). Relevant because attacker may know side information (e.g: headers) which can help him to deduce some plaintexts.

**Active attack – Chosen-plaintext attack (CP )** : attacker obtains (plaintext, ciphertext) where **plaintexts are chosen at will**. e.g: information we encrypt is not guaranteed to come from trusted sources.

**Active attack – Chosen-ciphertext attack (CC )** : attacker requests (plaintext, ciphertext) for **arbitrary ciphertexts**. E.g: We cannot always trust the provenance of ciphertexts we decrypt.

# cryptanalysis of Substitution cipher

## Ciphertext only (passive) attack? – Frequency analysis

E.g: in the ciphertext, if  $x$  is the most common letter, it is likely that  $(e) = x$ .

Probability distributions of 1-grams in English.

Additionally, we need to make use of the frequencies of bigrams (two letter seq.) and trigrams (three letter seq.) in the language. For e.g. frequent three letter words : “and”

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# Vigenère cipher

So far, all were **monoalphabetic ciphers** – each symbol in the plaintext is mapped to a unique symbol in the ciphertext using the secret key.

Vigenère cipher is a **polyalphabetic cipher** – same symbol can be mapped to more than one ciphertext symbol.

It is a generalization of the shift cipher where each letter in the plaintext is shifted by different amounts.

Key is a string  $k = k_1 \dots k_n$  with  $k_i \in \{0, \dots, 25\}$ .

Encryption of  $m = m_1 \dots m_l$  under key  $k$  is  
 $(m_1 + k_1 \bmod 26)(m_2 + k_2 \bmod 26) \dots (m_n + k_n \bmod 26)(m_{n+1} + k_1 \bmod 26), \dots)$ .

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# Vigenère cipher

$$\mathcal{M} = \{ , B, \dots, Z \}^*$$

$$\mathcal{K} = \{k = (k_1 \dots k_n) : k_i \in \{0, \dots, \}$$

$$Gen = k, k \in \mathcal{K}$$

$$Enc_k(m_1 m_2 \dots m_l) = c_1 c_2 \dots c_l, \text{ where } c_i = m_i + k_i$$

$$Dec_k(c_1 c_2 \dots c_l) = m_1 m_2 \dots m_l \text{ where } m_i = c_i - k_i$$

S	E	N	D	R	E	I	N	F	O	R	C	E	M	E
V	I	G	E	N	E	R	E	V	I	G	E	N	E	R
N	M	T	H	E	I	Z	R	A	W	X	G	R	Q	V



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## cryptanalysis of Vigenère cipher

If both the plaintext and the ciphertext are known, we can break the system. Just compute the difference between each letter in the ciphertext and the plaintext.

It is not secure of course with a chosen plaintext attack.  
What about ciphertext only attack?

The key space is of size  $26^n$  so except for small  $n$ , brute force attack is not possible.

Frequency distribution won't work.

Charles Babbage and "Kasiski Test" (Both came up with it independently and Babbage was earlier. )

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# 'Kasiski Test'

## First step - determining $n$

Determine the keyword length  $n$ .

Any two (or more) identical segments of plaintext correspond to the same ciphertext letters whenever the distance between them is a multiple of  $n$ .

Look for identical segments of the ciphertext.

Suppose we have  $m$  such identical segments.

Record the distance between starting positions of these segments, say  $l_1, l_2, \dots$

Prove :  $n$  divides  $l_1, l_2$  and  $n$  divides the gcd of  $l_1, l_2, \dots$  therefore  $n$  is the GCD.

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## ‘Kasiski Test’

### another way to determine $n$

Guess for  $n$  and divide the ciphertext into  $n$  bins  $B_0, B_1, \dots, B_{n-1}$  by placing the  $i$ th ciphertext into

If the frequency distribution of the symbols  $n$  each resembles the expected distribution of a “meaningful” text, then our guess is most probably correct.

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## 'Kasiski Test'

### Second step - determining the keyword

Suppose we have got the correct keyword length  $k$ . The ciphertext symbols are arranged in bins  $B_0, \dots, B_{k-1}$ .  
Strategy II.

The ciphertext symbols in each bin  $B_i$  is the result of applying a "shift cipher" (i.e., a cyclic shift of the alphabet) to the corresponding plaintext letters.)

Use the frequency distribution of ciphertext symbols in each bin to make a guess for the  $i$ th letter of the keyword.

Use partial guesses for the key letters to guess the plaintext.

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# Vernam cipher – One Time Pad

$$\mathcal{M} = \{0, 1\}^*$$

$$\mathcal{K} = \{0, 1\}^* \text{ where key length} = \text{message length}$$

$$\text{Gen} = k, k \in \mathcal{K}$$

$$\text{Enc}_k(m_1 m_2 \dots m_n) = c_1 c_2 \dots c_n, \text{ where } c_i = m_i \oplus k_i$$

$$\text{Dec}_k(c_1 c_2 \dots c_n) = m_1 m_2 \dots m_n \text{ where } m_i = c_i \oplus k_i$$

Vigenère cipher with key length equal to the length of the plaintext.

Key must be chosen in a **completely random way** and **used once**.

Perfectly secret but impractical! Key should be as long as the message and used only once.

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# One Time Pad

Encrypting and Decrypting : just XOR with the s

$$Enc_k(m) = c = m \oplus k$$

$$Dec_k(c) = m = c \oplus k$$

Why is it secure? Every  $m \in \mathcal{M}$  and ciphertext  $c$  correspond to a unique key  $k$

What is perfect secrecy?

*method is secure iff the odds of the adversary  $m$  are the same whether or not he has seen  $c$ .*

How to formalize this notion?

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# Perfectly Secret Encryption

## Definition

Let  $m \in \mathcal{M}$  be a random message and  $c \in \mathcal{C}$  be the ciphertext. The encryption scheme is said to be **perfectly secure** if for every adversary  $Pr[M = m|C = c] = Pr[M = m]$ .

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# One Time Pad is Perfectly Secure

Proof: To show that  $Pr[M = m|C = c] = Pr[M = m]$   
 $m, c$ .

$$Pr[(M = m|C = c)] = \frac{Pr[(M = m \cap C = c)]}{Pr[C = c]}$$

by Bayes law,

$$= \frac{Pr[(M = m)] \cdot Pr[(C = c|M = m)]}{Pr[C = c]}$$

by conditional prob. def.,

$$= \frac{Pr[(M = m)] \cdot Pr[(C = c|M = m)]}{\sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} (Pr[M = m] \cdot Pr[C = c|M = m])}$$

by expanding  $Pr[C=c]$  as the sum



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## Proof ontd

Note that  $Pr[C = c | M = m] = Pr[k = c \oplus m]$

Since every  $k \in \{0, 1\}^n$  is equally likely to be a k  
 $Pr[k = c \oplus m] = \frac{1}{2^n}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} Pr[M = m | C = c] &= \frac{Pr[M = m] \cdot \frac{1}{2^n}}{\sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} (Pr[M = m] \cdot \frac{1}{2^n})} \\ &= \frac{Pr[M = m]}{\sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} Pr[M = m]} \\ &= \frac{Pr[M = m]}{1} \end{aligned}$$

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## Shannon's result

OTPs are not practical especially because of the  
Can we have a clever way of getting perfect secrecy  
shorter keys? Unfortunately the answer is no!

### Theorem (Shannon)

*For any perfectly secure scheme where Alice and Bob  
from space  $\mathcal{K}$  and can encrypt any message  $m$  from  $\mathcal{M}$ ,  
must have  $|\mathcal{K}| \geq |\mathcal{M}|$ .*

Thus OTP is optimal in this regard. Nobody else claims  
they have discovered an unbreakable cipher with shorter keys  
wrong!

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## Shannon's result - Proof

For any valid ciphertext  $c$ , let  $N_c$  be the number of plaintexts that could result from the decryption of  $c$ .

Let us estimate  $N_c$  in two ways:

For a given key  $k \in \mathcal{K}$  there can be at most one plaintext that could decrypt  $c$  in at most one way for each  $k$ .

Thus  $N_c \leq |\mathcal{K}|$ .

Claim :  $N_c = |\mathcal{M}|$ , i.e. every  $m \in \mathcal{M}$  can result in ciphertext  $c$ .

If not for some  $m$ , then  $Pr[M = m] > 0$  before we see  $c$ , but  $Pr[M = m|C = c] = 0$ , contradiction to perfect secrecy.

Thus,  $N_c = |\mathcal{M}| \leq |\mathcal{K}|$ .

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## Observations

Perfect secrecy is w.r.t. computationally unbounded

Is this true? : Every encryption scheme for which  $|\mathcal{M}|$  and for which the key is chosen uniformly from  $\mathcal{K}$  is perfectly secret. : False.

Let  $\mathcal{M} = \{a, b\}$ ,  $\mathcal{K} = \{k, k_2\}$ ,  $\mathcal{C} = \{0, 1\}$ .

Let  $Enc_k(a) = 0$  and  $Enc_k(b) = 1$  for  $k = k, k_2$ .

Dec algorithm will return  $a$  on input ciphertext 0 and  $b$  on input ciphertext 1.

Clearly, the scheme is correct.

$$Pr[M = a | C = 1] = 0 \neq (1/2) = Pr[M = a]$$

not perfectly secret!

Gen must choose the key uniformly from the set  $\mathcal{K}$  that is not enough! for every message  $m$  and ciphertext  $c$  there is a unique key mapping  $m$  to  $c$

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## Observations/Exercises

Ceaser cipher is definitely not secure. What if we use **one letter**? i.e.,  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{C} = \{0, \dots, 25\}$  and not  $\{0, 1, \dots, 25\}^*$ ? Prove that in such a scenario it is not a secure cipher!

Consider an encryption scheme  $(Gen, Enc, Dec)$ . For two messages  $m, m' \in \mathcal{M}$  the distribution of the ciphertext when  $m$  is encrypted is identical to the distribution of the ciphertext when  $m'$  is encrypted. i.e.

$$Pr[Enc(m) = c] = Pr[Enc(m') = c], \forall c$$

The encryption scheme is said to have **adversarial indistinguishability**.

**Q:** Show that it is equivalent to saying an encryption scheme is perfectly secret.