

Table of Contents

I. Step 1

II. Step 2

III. Step 3 - naive substitution

IV. Step 4 - Tweaking the table

1. Iteration 1

2. Iteration 2

3. Iteration 3

4. Iteration 4

5. Iteration 5

6. Iteration 6

7. Iteration 7

8. Iteration 8

9. Iteration 9

V. Deciphered Text

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categories: secintro, SS2012

Content

- Readme.markdown**
plaintext version of this document
- Readme.html**
html version of this document
- Uebung1.pdf**
this document
- cyphertext.txt**
encrypted message
- symbcouter.pl**
perl program, that counts the frequency of symbols
- xxx_round.pl**
Different versions of the mapping table, documenting the progress of my iterative search.

Caesars wordsalad

Frequency Analysis as basic idea: If every input symbol s in the cypher is mapped to a fixed output symbol $c(s)$, the probability $p(s)$ of s occurring in any given message of the language should correlate to the probability $p(c(s))$ occurring in caesars message.

Step 1

Find the probability of any given english letter occuring in a english message:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letter_frequency

Step 2

I wrote a perl script, that counts the occurrence of a symbol in a message, and prints the letter, count, and probability of that symbol to stdout.

```
#!/bin/perl -w

my %seen = ();
my $total = 0;

while( <STDIN> ){
    while ( $_ =~ /(./g) {
        $seen{$!}++;
        $total++;
    }
}

print "symbol | frequency | probability\n";
print "-----|-----|-----\n";
foreach my $symbol (keys(%seen)) {
    print pack("A6",$symbol) . " | " . pack("A9", $seen{$symbol}) . " | " .
        (100.00 * $seen{$symbol}/$total) . "\n";
}
```

Result:

symbol	frequency	probability
w	5	0.3424
a	153	10.4794
r	42	2.8767
:	1	0.0684
d	24	1.6438
,	24	1.6438
x	75	5.1369
j	2	0.1369
y	83	5.6849
u	1	0.0684
h	26	1.7808
k	18	1.2328
g	38	2.6027
.	5	0.3424
;	3	0.2054
f	89	6.0958
t	80	2.0547
i	35	5.8219
e	29	1.9863
n	21	1.4383
	252	17.260
m	63	4.3150
v	26	1.7808
s	50	3.4246
l	106	7.2602
c	71	4.8630
b	12	0.8219
q	15	1.0273
z	1	0.0684
o	110	7.5342

The " " (blank) is the most frequent symbol. I guessed that it is, in fact the blank symbol in the message.

The next most frequent symbol is "a" - if the message is indeed in english, and the frequencies are not that disturbed, that could correspond to "e" in the message.

Step 3 - naive substitution

I created a simple map, where i assigned each symbol in my table the symbol of the english language frequency table, that had the same rank.

The resulting map was:

```
#!/bin/perl -w

%imap = (
    " " => " ",
    "a" => "E",
    "o" => "T",
    "l" => "A",
    "f" => "O",
    "i" => "I",
    "y" => "N",
    "x" => "S",
    "c" => "R",
    "m" => "H",
    "s" => "D",
    "r" => "L",
    "g" => "U",
    "t" => "C",
    "e" => "M",
    "h" => "F",
    "v" => "Y",
    "d" => "W",
    ", " => "G",
    "n" => "P",
    "k" => "B",
    "q" => "V",
    "b" => "K",
    "w" => "X" );

while( <STDIN> ){
    while ( $_ =~ /(./g) {
        if( exists($imap{$!}) ){
            print $imap{$!};
        }
        else {
            print "#";
        }
    }
    print "\n";
}
```

using that maping, the message transformed into:

LAEHASG NAPIOC DEUAYED TVR DAYH IO THAT KUALEG BELAFNE NE NAD AOTILIKATED
THATG IO THE OATFSAU LRFNSE RM EPEOTNG NFLH VRFUD BE THE LRODFLT RM
PESLIOCETRSIXG UEAPEH THE ASWY FODES KSETOEHE RM SAIHIOC SELSFITH AOD
LAPALSY# HE KUALEN BSFTFNG A YRFOC WAOG IO LRWWAOD RM THESE MRSLEH# NE
CIPEN HIW IOHTSFLTIROH THAT THE LAPAUSY HNRFUD SAOCE AH EXTEDHPEUY AH
KRHHIBUE IO AUU DISELTIROH# THAT NE VRFUD EXEST NIWHEUM ORT TR BE ABSEOT
MSRW THE LAWK UROCES TNAO TNSEE DAYH# NAPIOC ASSAOCED THENE WATTESHG NE
WASLNEH TR PIEODA BY AH UROC #RFSOEYH AH NE LAOG VNEO NIH RVO NRUDIESH DID
ORT EXKELT NIW# MIOIOC TNESA A MSENH BRDY RM LAPAUSYG VNIUN NE NAD HEOT RO
TR THAT KUALE HEPESAU DAYH BEMRSEG WASLHIOC IOLEHNAOTUY OICHT AOD DAYG NE
ADPAOLED SAKIDUY TNSRFCN THE TESSITRSY RM TNEAEDFI IOTR TNAT RM THE
UIOCROEHG IO VNIUN TVR UECIROH VESE VIOTESIOCG THATG IM AOY KUAO AMMELTIOC
NIH RVO HAMETY HNRFUD NAPE BEOO RSCAOHED BY THE AEDFIG NE WICHT DEMAET IT
BY THE SAKIDITY RM HIN WRPEWEOTN# VHEO NE ASSIPED TNESEG NE HEODH
IOMRSWATIRO TR THE SEHT RM THE UECIROHG AOD CATNESH AUU NIH ASWY IOTR ROE
KUALE BEMRSE IOTEUICEOLE RM NIH ASSIPAU LRFUD BE AORFOLED TR THE ASPESOI#
PESLIOCETRSIXG RO NEASIOC TNIH LISLFWHTAOLEG UEADHBAI# NIH ASWY IOTR THE
LRFOTSY RM THE BITFSICEH# AOD AMTES WASLHIOC MSRW IT TR CESCRIPIAG A TRVO RM
THE BRIIG VNRW LAEHAS NAD HETTUED THESE AMTES DEMAETIOC THEW IO THE
HELPEITIAO VASG AOD NAD SEODESED TSIBFTASY TR TNE AEDFIG NE DETESWIOED TR
ATTAL# IT#

Step 4 - Tweaking the table

Iteration 1

I couldnt yet read the text, but some familiar patterns emerged.

The string "TNE" for example was repeated often, and could very well be "THE".

So i tried swappng N and H in my map.

The resulting text was ... astonishingly promising:

LAENASG HAPIOC DEUAYED TVR DAYN IO THAT KUALEG BELAFNE HE HAD AOTILIKATED
THATG IO THE OATFSAU LRFNSE OW EKERTSG SFUH VRFUD BE THE UORDFLT RM
PESLIOCETRNIXG LEAPES THE ANWY FODES KNETOHE RM NAIHIOC NEUNFITS ARD
UAPALNY# HE KLAUES BNFTFSG A YOFRL MARG IR UOMMARD OW THESE MONUES# HE
CIPEN HIW IOHTSFLTIROH THAT THE LAPAUSY SHRFUD SAOCE AN EXTENOIPEUY AN
KRNNIBUE IO ALL DINEUTIRON# THAT HE VRFUD EXENT HIWSELM ORT TR BE ABSEOT
MSRW THE LAWK UROCFEN THAO THNEE DAYS# HAPIOC ANNAOCED THESE WATTENSG HE
WANUNHES TR PIEODA BY AS LROC #RFOEYH AS HE LAOG VHEO HIN RVO SRLDIENS DID
ORT EXKEUT HIW# MIOIOC THENE A MNESH BRDY RM UAPALNYG VHIUH HE HAD SEOT
RO TR THAT KLAUE SEPENAL DAYS BEMRSEG WANUHIOC IOUESSAOTLY OICHT AOD DAYG
HE ADPAOLED NAKIDLY THNRFCH THE TENNITRNY RM THE AEDFI IOTR THAT RM THE
LIOCROESG IO VNIUN TVR LECIROS VENE VIOTENIOCG THATG IM AOY KLAO AMMEUTIOC
HIN RVO SAMETY SHRFLD HAPE BEOO RNCAOHED BY THE AEDFIG HE WICHT DEMAET IT BY
THE SAKIDITY RM HIN WRPEWEOTN# VHEO HE ANNIPED THENEG HE SEODS IOMRNVATIRO
TR THE NEST RM THE LECIROSG AOD CATHENS ALL HIS ANWY IOTR ROE KLAUE BEMRNE
IOELLICEOUE RM HIS ANNIPAL UOFLD BE AORFOUED TR THE ANPENOI#
PESLIOCETRNIXG RO HEANIOC THIS UNUFWSTARUEG LEADS BAU# HIS ANWY IOTR THE
URFOTNY RM THE BITFNICES# AOD AMTEN WANUHIOC MNRW IT TR CENCOKIAG A TRVO RM
THE BRIIG VHRW UAESAN HAD SETTLED THENE AMTEN DEMAETIOC THEW IO THE
HELKETIAR VANG AOD HAD NERDENED TNIBFTANY TR THE AEDFIG HE DETENWIOED TR
ATTAU# IT#

Iteration 2

Some words THAT, THE, BE ... looked good, others where nearly correct.

"IO" could be "IS" and DEUAYED could be DELAYED

swapping N for S and U to L i got:

UAESANG HAPIOC DELAYED TVO DAYS IR THAT KLAUEG BEUAFSE HE HAD AOTIUIKATED
THATG IR THE RATFNAL UOFNSE OW EKERTSG SFUH VRFUD BE THE UORDFUT RM
PENUIOCETRNIXG LEAPES THE ANWY FRDEN PNTERSE OM NAIHIRC NEUNFITS ARD
UAKALNY# HE PLAUES BNFTFSG A YOFRL MARG IR UOWMARD OW THESE MONUES# HE
CIKES HIW IRSTNFUTORS THAT THE UAKALNY SHOFCD NARLE AS EXTERSIKECY AS
POSSICE IR ALL DINEUTIRON# THAT HE VOFCD EXENT HIWSELM ORT TR BE ABSEOT
WNOM THE UAWP CORLEN THAR THNEE DAYS# HAKIRC ANNARCED THESE MATTENSG HE
MANUHES TO KIERRA BY AS CORL #OFNREYS AS HE UARG VHER HIS OVR SOCDIENS DID
ROT EXPEUT HIW# MIRDIRC THENE A MNESH BODY OW UAKALNYG VHIUH HE HAD SERT
OR TO THAT PCAUE SEKENAC DAYS BEVONEG MANUHIRL IRUESSARTCY RIHHT ARD DAYG
HE ADKARUED RAPIDCY THNOFLH THE TENNITONY OW THE AEDFI IRTO THAT OW THE
CIRLORESG IR VHIUH TVO CELIORS VENE VIRTENIRLG THATG IW ARY PCAR AMMEUITRC
HIM OVR SAMETY SHOFCD HAKE BEER ONCARIHED BY THE AEDFIG HE WICHT DEMAET IT BY
THE RAPIDITY OW HIS WOKEMERTS# VHER HE ANNIKED THENEG HE SERDS IRMONWATIOR
TO THE NEST OW THE CELIORSRG ARD CATHENS ACC HIS ANWY IRTO ORE PCAUE BEVONE
IRTECCILERUE OW HIS ANNIKAL UOFOCD BE ARROFRUED TO THE ANKENRI#
KENUIRCETONIXG OR HEANIRC THIS UNUFWSTARUEG LEADS BAU# HIS ANWY IRTO THE
UOFRTNY OM THE BITFNICES# AOD AMTEN MANUHIRC MNOW IT TO CENCOKIAG A TOVR
OW THE BOIIG VHOM UAESAN HAD SETTLED THENE AMTEN DEMAETIRC THEM IR THE
HEKETIAR VANG ARD HAD NERDENED TNIBFTANY TO THE AEDFIG HE DETENMIRED TO
ATTAU# IT#

Iteration 3

still not perfect, but more combinations emerged:

KRSSIBLE could very well mean "POSSIBLE" making K<->P and R<->O my next choice
yielding:

UAESANG HAKIRL DECAYED TVO DAYS IR THAT PCAUEG BEUAFSE HE HAD ARTIUPIATED
THATG IR THE RATFNAL UOFNSE OW EKERTSG SFUH VOFCD BE THE UORDFUT OM
KENUIRCETONIXG LEAKES THE ANWY FRDEN PNTERSE OM NAIHIRC NEUNFITS ARD
UAKALNY# HE PLAUES BNFTFSG A YOFRL MARG IR UOWMARD OW THESE MONUES# HE
CIKES HIW IRSTNFUTORS THAT THE UAKALNY SHOFCD NARLE AS EXTERSIKECY AS
POSSICE IR ALL DINEUTIRON# THAT HE VOFCD EXENT HIWSELM ORT TR BE ABSEOT
WNOM THE UAWP CORLEN THAR THNEE DAYS# HAKIRL ANNARCED THESE MATTENSG HE
MANUHES TO KIERRA BY AS CORL #OFNREYS AS HE UARG VHER HIS OVR SOCDIENS DID
ROT EXPEUT HIW# MIRDIRC THENE A MNESH BODY OW UAKALNYG VHIUH HE HAD SERT
OR TO THAT PCAUE SEKENAC DAYS BEVONEG MANUHIRL IRUESSARTCY RIHHT ARD DAYG
HE ADKARUED RAPIDCY THNOFLH THE TENNITONY OW THE AEDFI IRTO THAT OW THE
CIRLORESG IR VHIUH TVO CELIORS VENE VIRTENIRLG THATG IW ARY PCAR AMMEUITRC
HIM OVR SAMETY SHOFCD HAKE BEER ONCARIHED BY THE AEDFIG HE WICHT DEMAET IT BY
THE RAPIDITY OW HIS WOKEMERTS# VHER HE ANNIKED THENEG HE SERDS IRMONWATIOR
TO THE NEST OW THE CELIORSRG ARD LATHENS ACC HIS ANWY IRTO ORE PCAUE BEVONE
IRTECCILERUE OW HIS ANNIKAL UOFOCD BE ARROFRUED TO THE ANKENRI#
KENUIRCETONIXG OR HEANIRC THIS UNUFWSTARUEG LEADS BAU# HIS ANWY IRTO THE
UOFRTNY OM THE BITFNICES# AOD AMTEN MANUHIRC MNOW IT TO CENCOKIAG A TOVR
OW THE BOIIG VHOM UAESAN HAD SETTLED THENE AMTEN DEMAETIRC THEM IR THE
HEKETIAR VANG ARD HAD NERDENED TNIBFTANY TO THE AEDFIG HE DETENMIRED TO
ATTAU# IT#

Iteration 4

i guess:

HIWSELM -> himself
HE CIKES HIW -> HE LIKES HIM

yielding
W<->M
C<->L

UAESANG HAKIRL DECAYED TVO DAYS IR THAT PCAUEG BEUAFSE HE HAD ARTIUPIATED
THATG IR THE RATFNAL UOFNSE OW EKERTSG SFUH VOFCD BE THE UORDFUT OM
KENUIRCETONIXG LEAKES THE ANWY FRDEN PNTERSE OM NAIHIRC NEUNFITS ARD
UAKALNY# HE PLAUES BNFTFSG A YOFRL MARG IR UOWMARD OW THESE MONUES# HE
CIKES HIW IRSTNFUTORS THAT THE UAKALNY SHOFCD NARLE AS EXTERSIKECY AS
POSSICE IR ALL DINEUTIRON# THAT HE VOFCD EXENT HIWSELM ORT TR BE ABSEOT
WNOM THE UAWP CORLEN THAR THNEE DAYS# HAKIRL ANNARCED THESE MATTENSG HE
MANUHES TO KIERRA BY AS CORL #OFNREYS AS HE UARG VHER HIS OVR SOCDIENS DID
ROT EXPEUT HIW# MIRDIRC THENE A MNESH BODY OW UAKALNYG VHIUH HE HAD SERT
OR TO THAT PCAUE SEKENAC DAYS BEVONEG MANUHIRL IRUESSARTCY RIHHT ARD DAYG
HE ADKARUED RAPIDCY THNOFLH THE TENNITONY OW THE AEDFI IRTO THAT OW THE
CIRLORESG IR VHIUH TVO CELIORS VENE VIRTENIRLG THATG IW ARY PCAR AMMEUITRC
HIM OVR SAMETY SHOFCD HAKE BEER ONCARIHED BY THE AEDFIG HE WICHT DEMAET IT BY
THE RAPIDITY OW HIS WOKEMERTS# VHER HE ANNIKED THENEG HE SERDS IRMONWATIOR
TO THE NEST OW THE CELIORSRG ARD LATHENS ACC HIS ANWY IRTO ORE PCAUE BEVONE
IRTECCILERUE OW HIS ANNIKAL UOFOCD BE ARROFRUED TO THE ANKENRI#
KENUIRCETONIXG OR HEANIRC THIS UNUFWSTARUEG LEADS BAU# HIS ANWY IRTO THE
UOFRTNY OM THE BITFNICES# AOD AMTEN MANUHIRC MNOW IT TO CENCOKIAG A TOVR
OW THE BOIIG VHOM UAESAN HAD SETTLED THENE AMTEN DEMAETIRC THEM IR THE
HEKETIAR VANG ARD HAD NERDENED TNIBFTANY TO THE AEDFIG HE DETENMIRED TO
ATTAU# IT#

Iteration 5

i guess:

ARD -> AND

yielding:

R<-> N

Iteration 6

THE ARMY FNDER PRETENSE OW ... THAT PLACEW BEUAFSE HE HAD ANTICIPATED
UAESAR HAD SETTLED THERE AWTER DEWEATINL -> Caesar had settled there after defeating

F -> U
U -> C
C -> L
L -> G
W -> F
G -> W

CAESARW HAKING DELAYED TWO DAYS IN THAT PLACEW BECAUSE HE HAD ANTICIPATED
THATW IN THE NATURAL COURSE OF EKENTSW SUCH WOULD BE THE CONDUCT OF
KERCINGETORIXW LEAKES THE ARMY UNDER PRETENSE OF RAISING RECRUITS AND
CAVALRY# HE PLACES BRUTUS, A YOUNG MANW IN COMMAND OF THESE FORCES# HE
GIVES HIM INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE CAVALRY SHOULD RANGE AS EXTENSIVELY AS
POSSIBLE IN ALL DIRECTIONS# THAT HE WOULD EXERT HIMSELF NOT TO BE ABSENT
FROM THE CAMP LONGER THAN THREE DAYS# HAVING ARRANGED THESE MATTERS, HE
MARCHES TO VIENNA BY AS LONG #OURNEYS AS HE CANW WHEN HIS OWN SOLDIERS DID
NOT EXPECT HIM# FINDING THERE A FRESH BODY OF CAVALRY, WHICH HE HAD SENT ON
TO THAT PLACE SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE, MARCHING INCESSANTLY NIGHT AND DAY, HE
ADVANCED RAPIDLY THROUGH THE TERRITORY OF THE AEDUI INTO THAT OF THE
LINGONES, IN WHICH TWO LEGIONS WERE WINTERINGW THATW IF ANY PLAN AFFECTING
HIS OWN SAFETY SHOULD HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED BY THE AEDUI, HE MIGHT DEFEAT IT BY
THE RAPIDITY OF HIS MOVEMENTS# WHEN HE ARRIVED THERE, HE SENDS INFORMATION
TO THE REST OF THE LEGIONS, AND GATHERS ALL HIS ARMY INTO ONE PLACE BEFORE
INTELLIGENCE OF HIS ARRIVAL COULD BE ANNOUNCED TO THE ARVERN#
KERCINGETORIXW ON HEARING THIS CIRCUMSTANCEW LEADS BACK HIS ARMY INTO THE
COUNTRY OF THE BITURIGES# AND AFTER MARCHING FROM IT TO GERGOVIA, A TOWN OF
THE BOIIW WHOM CAESAR HAD SETTLED THERE AFTER DEFEATING THEM IN THE
HELKETIAN WARW AND HAD RENDERED TRIBUTARY TO THE AEDUIW HE DETERMINED TO
ATTAC# IT#

Iteration 7

CAKALRY -> CAVALARY
GIKES -> GIVES
HAKING -> HAVING

K -> V

Iteration 8

WOULD -> WOULD

V -> W
W ->

EKENTSW -> EVENTS

CAESAR, HAVING DELAYED TWO DAYS IN THAT PLACE, BECAUSE HE HAD ANTICIPATED
THAT, IN THE NATURAL COURSE OF EVENTS, SUCH WOULD BE THE CONDUCT OF
VERCINGETORIX, LEAVES THE ARMY UNDER PRETENSE OF RAISING RECRUITS AND
CAVALRY# HE PLACES BRUTUS, A YOUNG MAN, IN COMMAND OF THESE FORCES; HE
GIVES HIM INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE CAVALRY SHOULD RANGE AS EXTENSIVELY AS
POSSIBLE IN ALL DIRECTIONS; THAT HE WOULD EXERT HIMSELF NOT TO BE ABSENT
FROM THE CAMP LONGER THAN THREE DAYS; HAVING ARRANGED THESE MATTERS, HE
MARCHES TO VIENNA BY AS LONG #OURNEYS AS HE CAN, WHEN HIS OWN SOLDIERS DID
NOT EXPECT HIM, FINDING THERE A FRESH BODY OF CAVALRY, WHICH HE HAD SENT ON
TO THAT PLACE SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE, MARCHING INCESSANTLY NIGHT AND DAY, HE
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VERCINGETORIX, ON HEARING THIS CIRCUMSTANCE, LEADS BACK HIS ARMY INTO THE
COUNTRY OF THE BITURIGES; AND AFTER MARCHING FROM IT TO GERGOVIA, A TOWN OF
THE BOII, WHOM CAESAR HAD SETTLED THERE AFTER DEFEATING THEM IN THE
HELKETIAN WAR, AND HAD RENDERED TRIBUTARY TO THE AEDUI, HE DETERMINED TO
ATTAC# IT#

Iteration 9

...; map to themselves j -> K

CAESAR, HAVING DELAYED TWO DAYS IN THAT PLACE, BECAUSE HE HAD ANTICIPATED
THAT, IN THE NATURAL COURSE OF EVENTS, SUCH WOULD BE THE CONDUCT OF
VERCINGETORIX, LEAVES THE ARMY UNDER PRETENSE OF RAISING RECRUITS AND
CAVALRY# HE PLACES BRUTUS, A YOUNG MAN, IN COMMAND OF THESE FORCES; HE
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HELKETIAN WAR, AND HAD RENDERED TRIBUTARY TO THE AEDUI, HE DETERMINED TO
ATTAC# IT#

Done - 9 iterations

About the cypher

i couldn't find a simple key that would allow me to create the transformation
table. So i would have to provide the whole table to someone, who wanted to
decrypt messages.

I would describe the cypher as a **simple substitution cipher** where the
following table is the key:

%map = (
" " => " ",
"a" => "E",
"o" => "T",
"l" => "A",
"f" => "O",
"i" => "I",
"y" => "N",
"x" => "R",
"c" => "O",
"m" => "H",
"s" => "D",
"r" => "L",
"g" => "U",
"t" => "C",
"e" => "M",
"h" => "F",
"v" => "Y",
"d" => "W",
", " => "G",
"n" => "P",
"k" => "B",
"q" => "V",
"b" => "K",
"w" => "X",
"j" => "K",
", " => " ",
";" => " ",
":" => " ");

Each input symbol s from the message is mapped to a single symbol $c(s)$ in
the cyphered message. The mapping is fixed - the function described by the map
is bijective.

Deciphered Text

CAESAR, HAVING DELAYED TWO DAYS IN THAT PLACE, BECAUSE HE HAD ANTICIPATED
THAT, IN THE NATURAL COURSE OF EVENTS, SUCH WOULD BE THE CONDUCT OF
VERCINGETORIX, LEAVES THE ARMY UNDER PRETENSE OF RAISING RECRUITS AND
CAVALRY# HE PLACES BRUTUS, A YOUNG MAN, IN COMMAND OF THESE FORCES; HE
GIVES HIM INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE CAVALRY SHOULD RANGE AS EXTENSIVELY AS
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TO THE REST OF THE LEGIONS, AND GATHERS ALL HIS ARMY INTO ONE PLACE BEFORE
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THE BOII, WHOM CAESAR HAD SETTLED THERE AFTER DEFEATING THEM IN THE
HELKETIAN WAR, AND HAD RENDERED TRIBUTARY TO THE AEDUI, HE DETERMINED TO
ATTACK IT.