

Assignment 1

Aim : Breaking shift cipher and Mono-alphabetic substitution Cipher

Theory: Shift Cipher

Shift Ciphers work by using the modulo operator to encrypt and decrypt messages. The Shift Cipher has a key (k), which is an integer from 0 to 25. The key is only shared with people that we want to see our message

Example: Plain text = PADOL

key = 7

Encryption

P	A	D	O	L
16	1	4	15	12
+	7	7	7	7
<hr/>				
23	8	11	22	19
) mod 26				
<hr/>				
23	8	11	22	19
W	H	K	V	S

(cipher text)

How and why shift cipher can be broken using a brute force attack?

The frequency of the letter pattern provides a big clue in deciphering the entire message. Plaintext can be received by using brute force by studying the frequency of characters and linking them to their usage in regular language

Mono alphabetic cipher

In monoalphabetic ciphers, letters of the plain text are mapped to cipher text letters based on a single alphabet key

Example:- STRESS - plaintext

S \rightarrow A E \rightarrow B

T \rightarrow E S \rightarrow C

R \rightarrow S

Encrypted - AESBCC

Can it be broken using Brute force Attack? Why?

Yes, Monoalphabetic Cipher can be broken using Brute force Attack such as Frequency Analysis

How are they broken using frequency analysis

Frequency of all characters appearing in the ciphertext are noted

These frequencies are mapped starting from mapping the most commonly seen cipher character to the most commonly seen character in regular language

After utilizing frequency values and common knowledge of the language, words like 'the' are mapped.

We can try various combination for the unassigned characters

Conclusion : In this experiment we learnt about shift and monoalphabetic ciphers. These techniques are easy to implement but they are easy to decrypt as well hence providing less security. But they provide a better solution than plaintext.

Shift Cipher

The screenshot shows a web application titled "Virtual Labs" with a navigation menu on the left containing "Manual", "Experiment" (highlighted), "Quizzes", "Further Readings", and "Feedback". The main content area is divided into three parts:

- PART I**: "Ciphertext to be decrypted" with a text input field containing "ymmx nx ynj kbxjy uwnsalfq" and a "Next Ciphertext" button.
- PART II**: "Do your rough work here:" with a large text area containing a Caesar shift cipher example. The ciphertext is "xlmw mww xli jxwix twnqzesp" and the plaintext is "this is the forest primeval".
- PART III**: "Plaintext:" with a text input field containing "this is the forest primeval". Below it is a "shift" dropdown menu set to "5". There are "v Encrypt v" and "^ Decrypt ^" buttons. The "Ciphertext:" field below shows the result "ymmx nx ynj kbxjy uwnsalfq".

Monoalphabetic Cipher

PART III

Enter your solution plaintext here:

WHICH SHE SEES AN ATTRACTIVE GARDEN. SHE THEN DISCOVERS A BOTTLE LABELLED 'DRINK ME', THE CONTENTS OF WHICH CAUSE HER TO SHRINK TOO SMALL TO REACH THE KEY. A CAKE WITH 'EAT ME' ON IT CAUSES HER TO GROW TO SUCH A TREMENDOUS SIZE HER HEAD HITS THE CEILING.

Solution Key = xcdqrlpkwzouftayhnvisgijbm

Check Answer!

CORRECT!!

PART IV

Plaintext

falls a long way to a curious hall with many locked do

key = xcdqrlpkwzouftayhnvisgijbm Generate Random Key

v Encrypt v ^ Decrypt ^

☐ Remove Punctuation

Ciphertext

lxuun x uetp gxb ve x dihwein kxuu gwvk fxtb uedorg qe