Playfair Cipher

B Tech CSE- IV Sem

TCS 491

Introduction to Cryptography

Jan- Jun 2022

- The **Playfair cipher** or **Playfair square** or **Wheatstone–Playfair cipher** is a manual symmetric encryption technique and was the first literal digram substitution cipher. The scheme was invented in 1854 by Charles Wheatstone, but bears the name of Lord Playfair for promoting its use

Playfair Cipher

- In this scheme, pairs of letters are encrypted, instead of single letters as in the case of simple substitution cipher.
- In playfair cipher, initially a key table is created. The key table is a 5×5 grid of alphabets that acts as the key for encrypting the plaintext. Each of the 25 alphabets must be unique and one letter of the alphabet (usually J) is omitted from the table as we need only 25 alphabets instead of 26. If the plaintext contains J, then it is replaced by I.
- The sender and the receiver deicide on a particular key, say ‘tutorials’. In a key table, the first characters (going left to right) in the table is the phrase, excluding the duplicate letters. The rest of the table will be filled with the remaining letters of the alphabet, in natural order.

Sample table/matrix

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

Process of Playfair Cipher

- First, a plaintext message is split into pairs of two letters (digraphs). If there is an odd number of letters, a Z is added to the last letter. Let us say we want to encrypt the message “hide money”. It will be written as −
- HI DE MO NE YZ

The rules of encryption are

1. If both the letters are in the same column, take the letter below each one (going back to the top if at the bottom)

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

'H' and 'I' are in same column, hence take letter below them to replace. HI → QC

2. If both letters are in the same row, take the letter to the right of each one (going back to the left if at the farthest right)

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

'D' and 'E' are in same row, hence take letter to the right of them to replace.

DE → EF

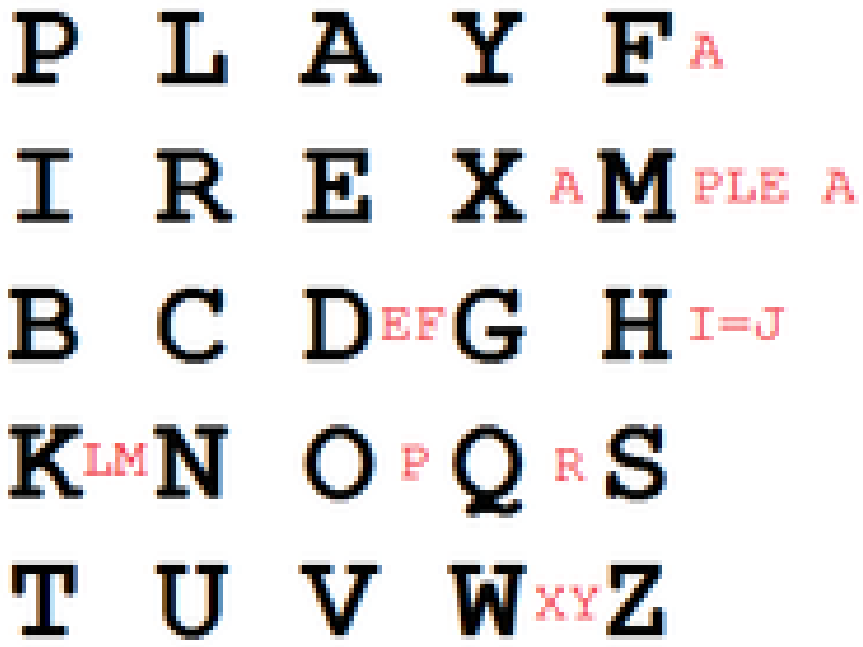
3. If neither of the preceding two rules are true, form a rectangle with the two letters and take the letters on the horizontal opposite corner of the rectangle.

T	U	O	R	I	'M' and 'O' nor on same column or same row, hence form rectangle as shown, and replace letter by picking up opposite corner letter on same row MO -> NU
A	L	S	B	C	
D	E	F	G	H	
K	M	N	P	Q	
V	W	X	Y	Z	

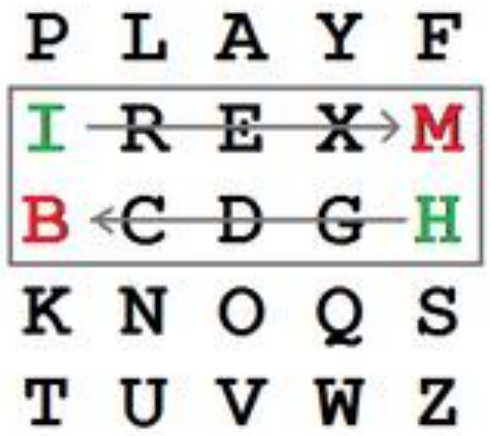
- Using these rules, the result of the encryption of ‘hide money’ with the key of ‘tutorials’ would be −
- QC EF NU MF ZV
- Decrypting the Playfair cipher is as simple as doing the same process in reverse. Receiver has the same key and can create the same key table, and then decrypt any messages made using that key.

Security Value

- It is also a substitution cipher and is difficult to break compared to the simple substitution cipher. As in case of substitution cipher, cryptanalysis is possible on the Playfair cipher as well, however it would be against 625 possible pairs of letters (25x25 alphabets) instead of 26 different possible alphabets.
- The Playfair cipher was used mainly to protect important, yet non-critical secrets, as it is quick to use and requires no special equipment.


PLAYFAIR EXAMPLE
BCDEFGH I=J
KLMNOPQRS
TUVWXYZ

- The first step of encrypting the message
- "hide the gold in the tree stump" is to convert it to the pairs of letters
- "HI DE TH EG OL DI NT HE TR EX ES TU MP" (with the null "X" used to separate the repeated "E"s). Then:

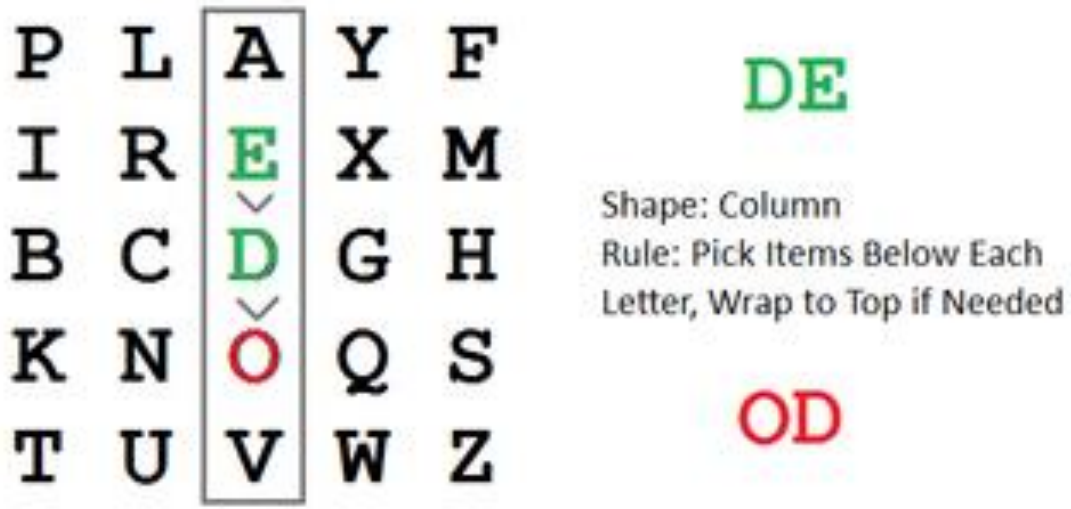


HI

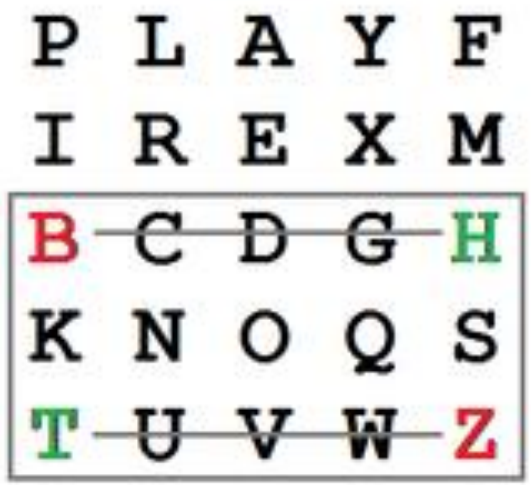
Shape: Rectangle
Rule: Pick Same Rows, Opposite Corners

BM

pair HI forms a rectangle, replace it with BM	



. The pair DE is in a column, replace it with OD	

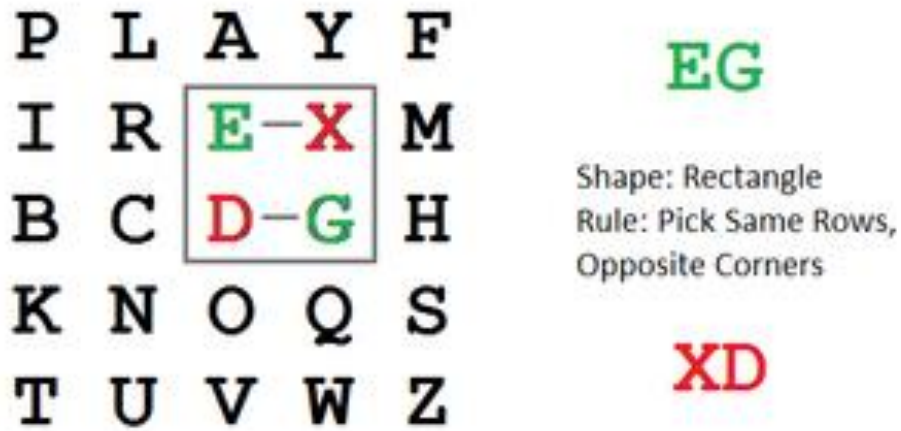


TH

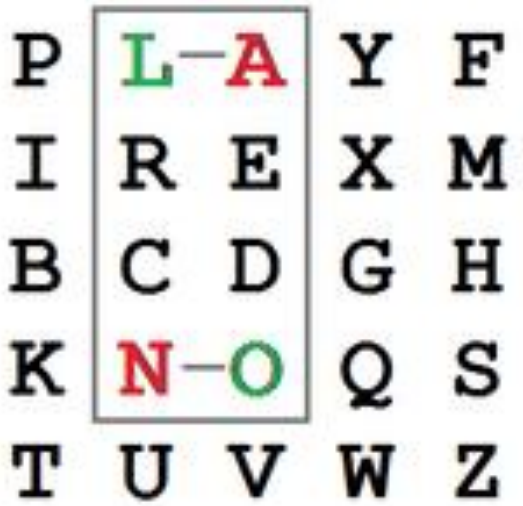
Shape: Rectangle
Rule: Pick Same Rows, Opposite Corners

ZB

3. The pair TH forms a rectangle, replace it with ZB	



The pair EG forms a rectangle, replace it with XD	



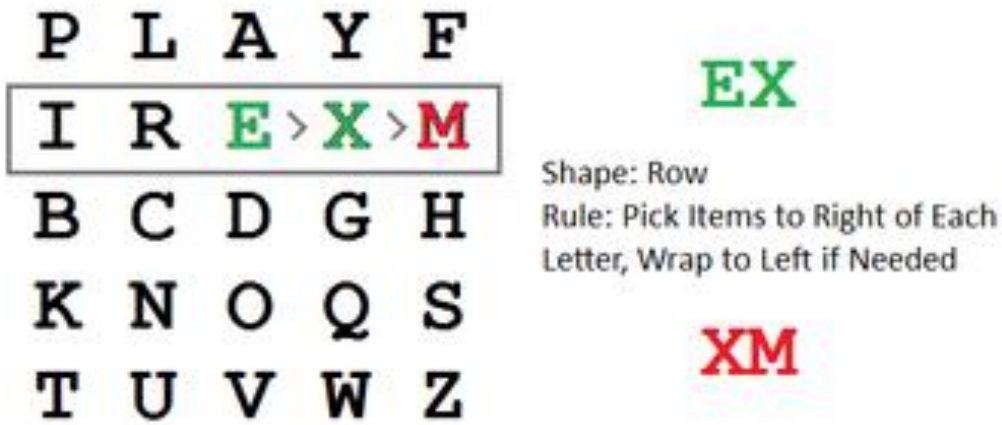
OL

Shape: Rectangle
Rule: Pick Same Rows, Opposite Corners

NA

5. The pair OL forms a rectangle, replace it with NA	

The pair DI forms a rectangle, replace it with BE	
7. The pair NT forms a rectangle, replace it with KU	
8. The pair HE forms a rectangle, replace it with DM	
9. The pair TR forms a rectangle, replace it with UI	



10. The pair EX (X inserted to split EE) is in a row, replace it with XM	

11. The pair ES forms a rectangle, replace it with MO	
12. The pair TU is in a row, replace it with UV	
13. The pair MP forms a rectangle, replace it with IF	

- Thus the message "hide the gold in the tree stump" becomes "BM OD ZB XD NA BE KU DM UI XM MO UV IF", which may be restructured as "BMODZ BXDNA BEKUD MUIXM MOUVI F" for ease of reading the cipher text.

VIGNERE

- To encrypt, a table of alphabets can be used, termed a *tabula recta*, *Vigenère square* or *Vigenère table*. It has the alphabet written out 26 times in different rows, each alphabet shifted cyclically to the left compared to the previous alphabet, corresponding to the 26 possible Caesar ciphers. At different points in the encryption process, the cipher uses a different alphabet from one of the rows. The alphabet used at each point depends on a repeating keyword

For example, suppose that the plaintext to be encrypted is
`attackatdawn`.
The person sending the message chooses a keyword and repeats
it until it matches the length of the plaintext, for example, the keyword "LEMON":
`LEMONLEMONLE`

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

Thank You

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Best Wishes