

Cryptography

April 9, 2018

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Secret Writing

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Steganography

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Herodotus



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- Demaratus – a Greek living in Susa – sent a message to warn the Greeks.
- Demaratus wrote the message on a wooden tablet which was covered with wax. The message was hidden under the wax.



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- Histaiaeus sent a message to Aristagoras of Miletus to encourage him to revolt against Persia.
- The head of the messenger was shaved.
- The message was written on the shaved scalp.
- The messenger's hair was allowed to regrow before he left.

Ancient China

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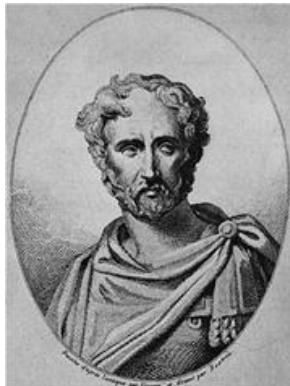
Ancient China

- Messages were written on pieces of silk.
- The silk was balled up and covered with wax.
- The wax ball was swallowed by a messenger.

Pliny the Elder

First Century A.D.

Described how to make invisible ink from a thithymallus plant.



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- Write a message on the shell of a boiled egg.
- The ink soaks through the shell and leaves the message on the surface of the egg.
- The message can be read when the shell is removed.

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- Messages were photographed and shrunk to dots less than 1mm in diameter.

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- Messages were photographed and shrunk to dots less than 1mm in diameter.
- The film microdots were placed on top of periods in what seemed to be innocent letters.

The Weakness of Steganography

If a message is concealed only with steganography, then the message can be read as soon as it is found.

Message is *scrambled* to hide its **meaning**.

Comes in Two Forms

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Transposition

Substitution

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Symbols in message are re-arranged.

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Symbols in message are replaced with other symbols.

Cryptography Terminology

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- **plain alphabet**: alphabet used to write plaintext (we will usually use lower-case).
- **ciphertext**: encrypted message.
- **cipher alphabet**: alphabet used to write ciphertext (WE WILL USUALLY USE UPPER-CASE).

Spartan Scytale 400 B.C. – Transposition Cipher



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- To encrypt the plaintext “attack the south gate at dawn” with 5 columns
- Write the text in a grid of 5 columns:

a	t	t	a	c
k	t	h	e	s
o	u	t	h	g
a	t	e	a	t
d	a	w	n	x

filling in extra space with gibberish.

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- Copy the ciphertext down the columns:

AKOADTTUTATHTEWAEHANCSGTX

Columnar Transposition

- A keyword is written at the top of the columns in a table

Y	E	T	I	S	A	R	E	R	E	A	L

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t	h	b	r	i	d	g	e	a	t	m	i
d	n	i	g	h	t	g	i	b	b	e	r

- Write the plaintext

attack the north bridge at midnight
under the keyword in rows.

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- Re-arrange the columns to place the letters of the keyword in alphabetical order...
- Copy the letters down the columns to form the cipher text
KDTOMETHHHEINTBARGRIRTGGEABCIHTBIATB
- Reverse the steps to decrypt.

Columnar Transposition Decryption

- Decrypt this ciphertext which was encrypted with a columnar transposition with keyword CAB:

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- Write columns under letters ABC (CAB in order)

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- Re-arrange

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- Read across columns to get “retreatxx”

Substitution Cipher

Make a table with the plain alphabet in the top row and the CIPHER ALPHABET in the bottom row.

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
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Note: The sender and receiver must both use the same table!

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- Sender and receiver must begin with the same letter!

- Ancient Hebrew cipher which appears in the Old Testament.

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- First letter of the alphabet exchanged with last, second with second to last, and so on.

Atbash

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- Substitution table for English alphabet:

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

Substitution with keyword

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- Write remaining letters in alphabetical order:

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

- If keyword does not contain letters near the end of the alphabet, then this type of substitution may not change those letters.

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- **Substitution with keyword:** Key is keyword.

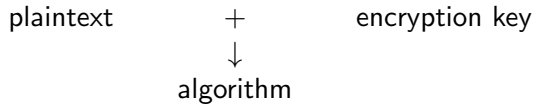
Ingredients of a cipher system

plaintext

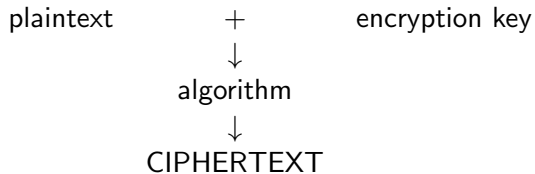
Ingredients of a cipher system

plaintext + encryption key

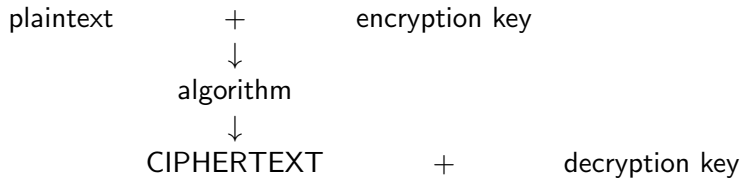
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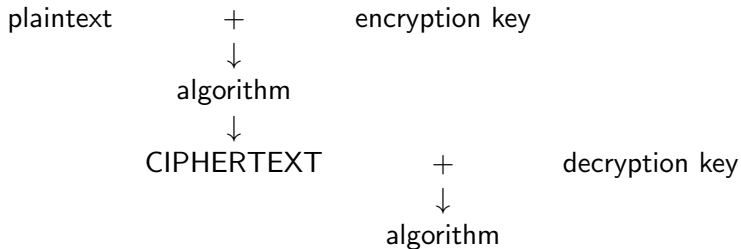
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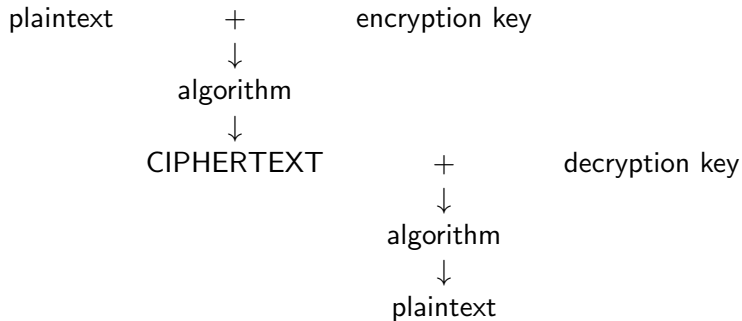
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Source of security

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For security, a cipher system needs:

- There should be *many* keys to choose from.
- The key(s) should be kept absolutely secret.

Simple Substitution Ciphers were adequate for political, military, and domestic use around the world until around 1000 AD.

Some of the greatest minds in the world prior to that time believed simple substitutions to be unbreakable.

Between 800 and 1200, the Western World (Europe) was experiencing its “Dark Ages.”

Much of the Near East was experiencing a “Golden Age” marked by internal peace and prosperity.

Peace breeds cryptographers too

Peace and prosperity lead to

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Peace and prosperity lead to

- Commerce

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Peace and prosperity lead to

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- Industry

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A contribution from Islam

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A contribution from Islam

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and they noticed patterns...which lead to the invention of STATISTICS and CRYPTANALYSIS.

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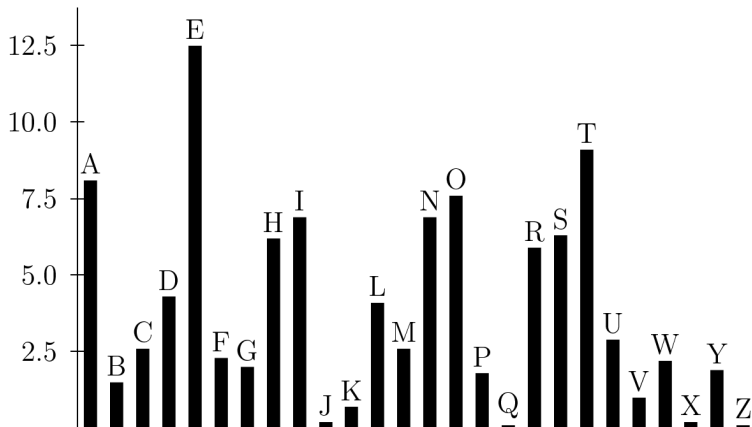
Working in the 800's, al-Kindī wrote 300 books on medicine,
astronomy, mathematics, linguistics, and music.

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