# **History of Cryptography**

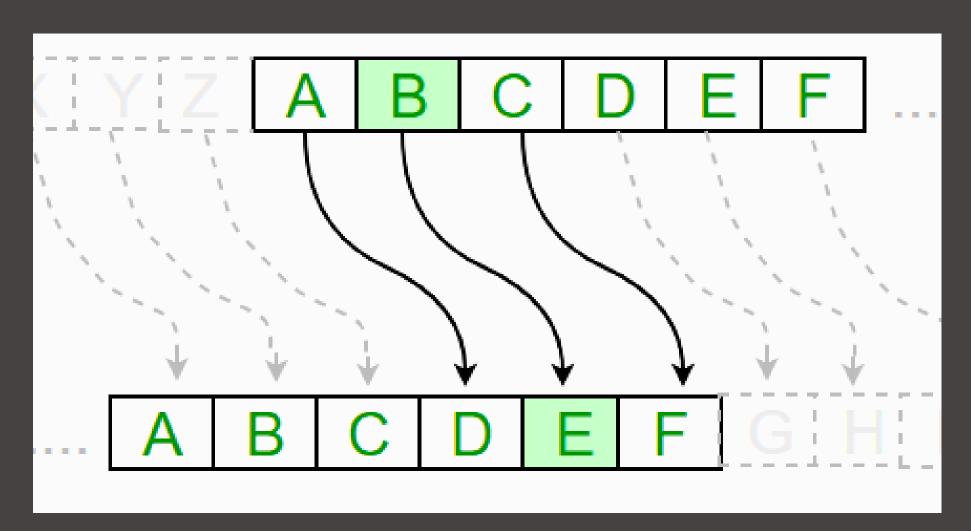
- The history of cryptology is thought to date back to Egyptian times, almost 4000 years ago, when human beings discovered the art of writing.
- Originating from the Greek words kryptós (meaning 'hidden'), and lógos (meaning 'word'), cryptology is the science that studies secure and secret data communication and storage in the form of a cryptosystem.
- Hidden or secret messaging evolved with civilisation as they formed tribes, groups and kingdoms which required power, politics and battles to be upheld.
- This resulted in secrecy when passing communications between people and the development of cryptography, particularly from the Romans and Egyptians

# Hieroglyphs Cryptography



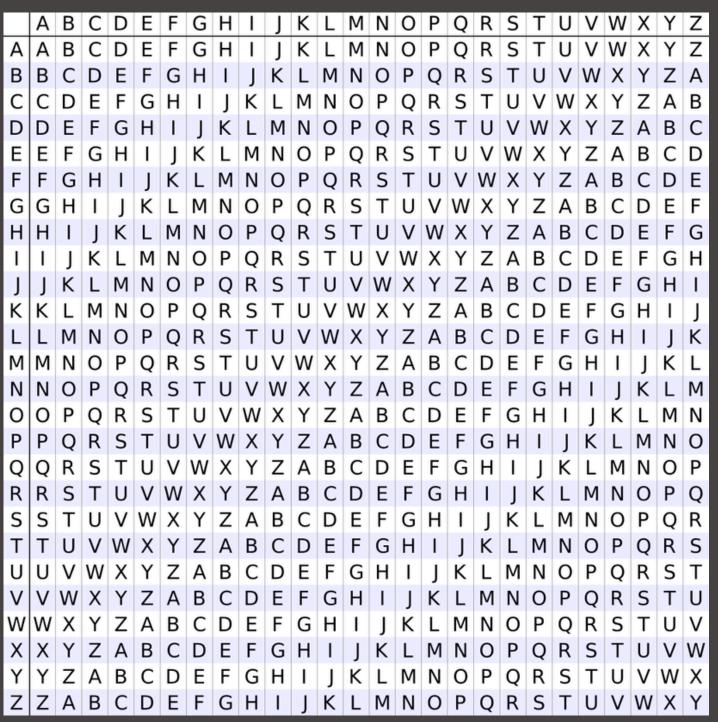
- Hieroglyph is thought to be the first evidence of cryptography can be dated back to 1900 BCE.
- The intent of the hieroglyphs was not to conceal messages but since it took hundreds of years to solve the meaning of the characters, it can be considered as one of the earliest forms of cryptography.
- Hieroglyphs were a secret form of communication that the Egyptians used to communicate with one another.
- This secret text was known only to the scribes of the kings who used to transmit messages on their behalf.

#### Caesar Ciphers



- Moving to Roman times, around 100 BC, Julius Caesar developed his own method of encryption so he could communicate with the generals of his armies on the war front, without enemies knowing
- It is a form of Substitution Cipher where each character in a word is replaced by a fixed number of positions. For example with a shift of 3, A is replaced by D, B by E, and so on
- However, this cipher became quite easy to crack. Once the shared number was known, the recipient or interceptor could decode the message.

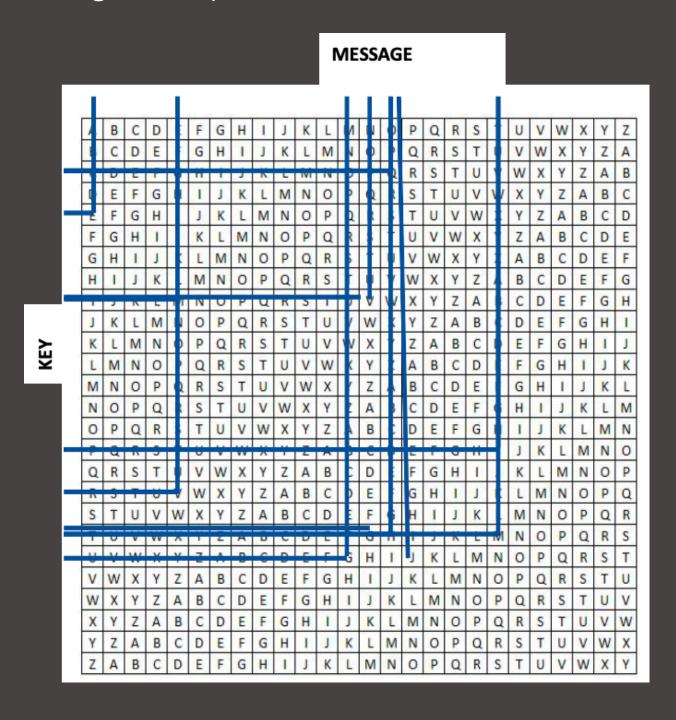
### Vigenere Cipher



- During the 16th century, Vigenere designed a cipher in which the encryption key is repeated multiple times spanning the entire message, and then the cipher text is generated by adding the message character with key character modulo 26.
- It used polyalphabetic substitution meaning several alphabets were required to substitute letters, usually in the form of a Vigenère square.
- The square consists of 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
- Vigenère ciphers were also easy to crack but the use of a keyword to encrypt the data made it much more secure than the Caesar cipher

# Vigenere Cipher

For example, if we want to encrypt the message "Meet me at noon" using the key "picture", using the square we get the cipher text "BMGM GV EI VQHH".



# Hebern rotating machine



- At the start of the 19th century, Hebern designed a Hebern rotating machine
- In this machine, a single rotor is used where the secret key is embedded in the rotating disc and the key has an embedded substitution table.
- Each key press from the keyboard resulted in the output of cipher text
- This code is broken by using the letter frequencies.

## Enigma machine



- Encryption became much more sophisticated after the 19th century as more machines became electric
- The early 20th century brought along the <u>Enigma</u> rotor machine with World War I and it became heavily used in German communications in <u>World War II</u>.
- Enigma is a combination of electro-mechanical subsystems. It consisted of somewhat three to five rotors.
- Whenever a key was pressed, one or more rotors rotated on the spindle, and accordingly, the key was scrambled to something else.
- The Enigma cipher was broken by Poland.

# **Modern Cryptography**

- Computational Cryptography: The development of digital computers in the mid-20th century transformed cryptography, enabling the use of complex algorithms and large keys. Public key cryptography, introduced in the 1970s by Whitfield Diffie and Martin Hellman, revolutionized the field by allowing secure communication over insecure channels without the need for a shared secret key.
- Key Algorithms: Algorithms like RSA, DES (and later AES), and elliptic curve cryptography became standards for secure communication. These systems rely on the computational difficulty of problems like factoring large numbers or computing discrete logarithms.
- Cryptographic Applications: Cryptography underpins much of modern digital infrastructure, including secure internet communication (SSL/TLS), digital signatures, cryptocurrencies, and data encryption.

