Caesar cipher

An example of a simple symmetric encryption scheme is the Caesar cipher

"If he had anything confidential to say, he wrote it in cipher, that is, by so changing the order of the letters of the alphabet, that not a word could be made out. If anyone wishes to decipher these, and get at their meaning, he must substitute the fourth letter of the alphabet, namely D, for A, and so with the others."

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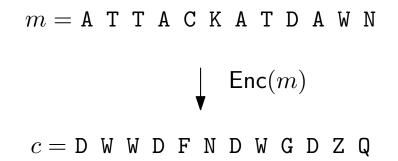
Each character of the plaintext is replaced with the character 3 positions down the alphabet, in a modular fashion



m = A T T A C K A T D A W N

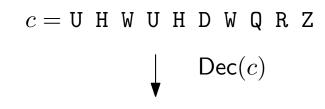
 $\mathsf{Enc}(m)$







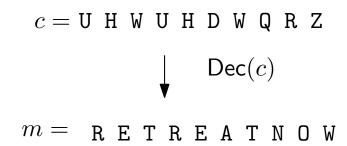
m = A T T A C K A T D A W N $\bigvee \texttt{Enc}(m)$ c = D W W D F N D W G D Z Q







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The Caesar cipher is a special type of *shift cipher*

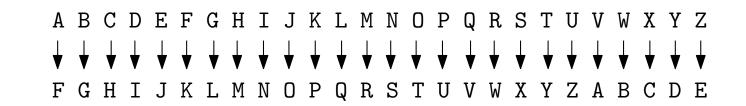
In a shift cipher, each character is replaced with the character k positions down the alphabet (in a modular fashion)

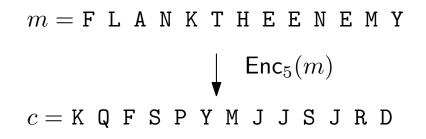
The key of the cipher is the integer k



(the key is also called the *shift* of the cipher)

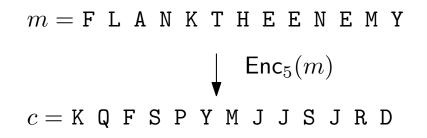






c = X J S I M J Q U $\downarrow Dec_5(c)$





$$c = X J S I M J Q U$$

 $\downarrow Dec_5(c)$
 $m = S E N D H E L P$

$$k = 5$$

Message space: $\mathcal{M} = \{A, \dots, Z\}^*$

Message space: $\mathcal{M} = \{0, 1, \dots, 25\}^*$

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Key space: $\mathcal{K} = \{0, ..., 25\}$

Key generation:

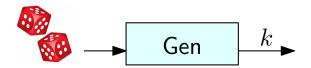


Message space: $\mathcal{M} = \{0, 1, \dots, 25\}^*$

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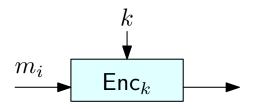
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Encryption function:

 $\mathsf{Enc}_k(m) = \mathsf{Enc}_k(m_1) \| \mathsf{Enc}_k(m_2) \| \dots \| \mathsf{Enc}_k(m_\ell)$

 $m = m_1 m_2 \dots m_\ell$





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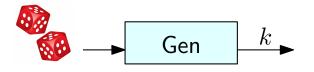
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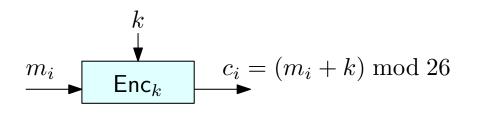
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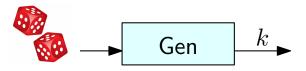
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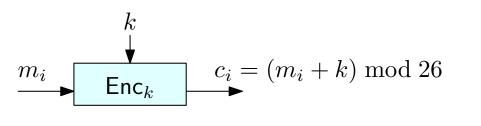
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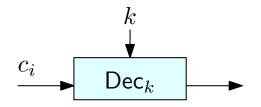
Decryption function:

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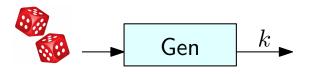
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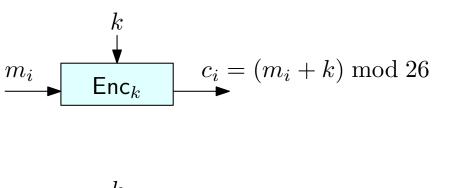
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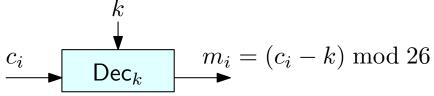
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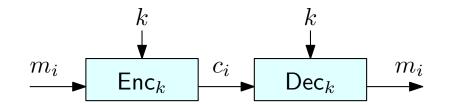
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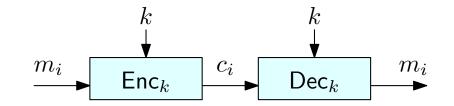


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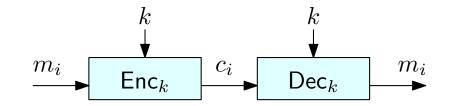
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(definition of Enc_k)

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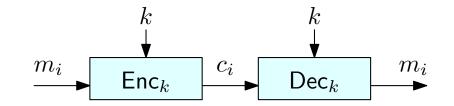


 $Dec_k(Enc_k(m_i)) = Dec_k((m_i + k) \mod 26)$ (definition of Enc_k) = (((m_i + k) \mod 26) - k) \mod 26(definition of Dec_k)

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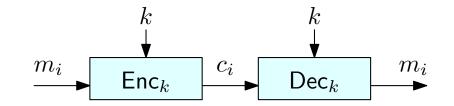


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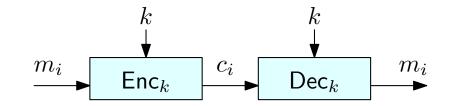


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Are shift ciphers secure?

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In a brute-force attack, the adversary systematically tries all possible keys until the correct one is found.



Brute-force attack:

$Dec_0(c) =$	Х	J	S	Ι	М	J	Q	U
$Dec_1(c) =$	W	Ι	R	Η	L	Ι	Ρ	Т
$Dec_2(c) =$	V	Η	Q	G	K	Η	0	S
$Dec_3(c) =$	U	G	Ρ	F	J	G	N	R
$Dec_4(c) =$	Т	F	0	E	Ι	F	М	Q
$Dec_5(c) =$	S	E	N	D	Η	E	L	Ρ
$Dec_6(c) =$	R	D	М	С	G	D	K	0
			•					
$Dec_{24}(c) =$	Ζ	L	U	K	0	L	S	W
$Dec_{25}(c) =$	Y	K	Т	J	N	K	R	V

Brute-force attack:

$Dec_0(c) =$	X	J	S	Ι	М	J	Q	U
$Dec_1(c) =$	W	Ι	R	Η	L	Ι	Ρ	Т
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$Dec_3(c) =$	U	G	Ρ	F	J	G	N	R
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Shift ciphers

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$Dec_5(c) =$	S	E	N	D	Η	E	L	Ρ
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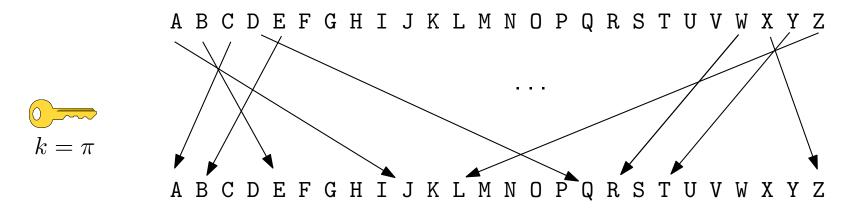
Sufficient key-space principle: Any cipher should use a "large enough" key space to prevent brute-force attacks

The key is now a permutation π of the alphabet $\Sigma = \{\mathtt{A}, \mathtt{B}, \dots, \mathtt{Z}\}$

 $\mathcal{K} = \{ \pi : \Sigma \to \Sigma \mid \pi \text{ is a pemutation} \}$

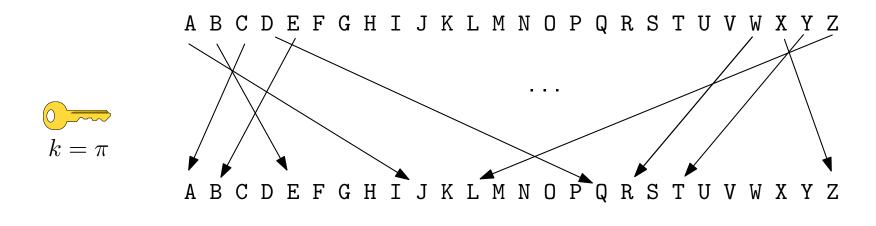
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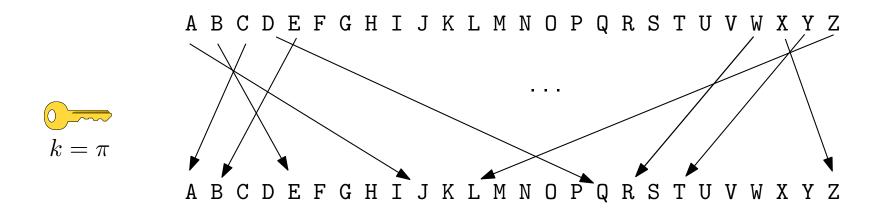
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To encrypt a message, replace each character m_i in the plaintext with $k(m_i) = \pi(m_i)$ $Enc_k(m) = k(m_1) ||k(m_2)|| \dots ||k(m_\ell)$

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To encrypt a message, replace each character m_i in the plaintext with $k(m_i) = \pi(m_i)$ Enc_k $(m) = k(m_1) ||k(m_2)|| \dots ||k(m_\ell)$

To decrypt a message, replace each character c_i of the ciphertext with $k^{-1}(c_i) = \pi^{-1}(c_i)$ $\text{Dec}_k(m) = k^{-1}(c_1) ||k^{-1}(c_2)|| \dots ||k^{-1}(c_\ell)$

(Monoalphabetic) Substitution ciphers 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 J E A Q B Y D P V F K I N H M X U S W C O G R Z T L k m = A W A I T O R D E R S \downarrow Enc_k(m)

(Monoalphabetic) Substitution ciphers 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 J E A Q B Y D P V F K I N H M X U S W C O G R Z T L k m = A W A I T O R D E R S $\downarrow Enc_k(m)$ c = J R J V C M S Q B S W

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Observation (informal): A large keyspace is not a sufficient condition for a cipher to be secure

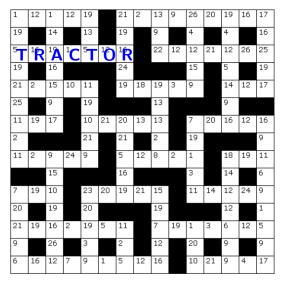
Suppose that we somehow have deciphered a small portion of the ciphertext

We can replace each known ciphertext symbol x with its plaintext $k^{-1}(x)$ and then use the partially decrypted message to make further guesses about k

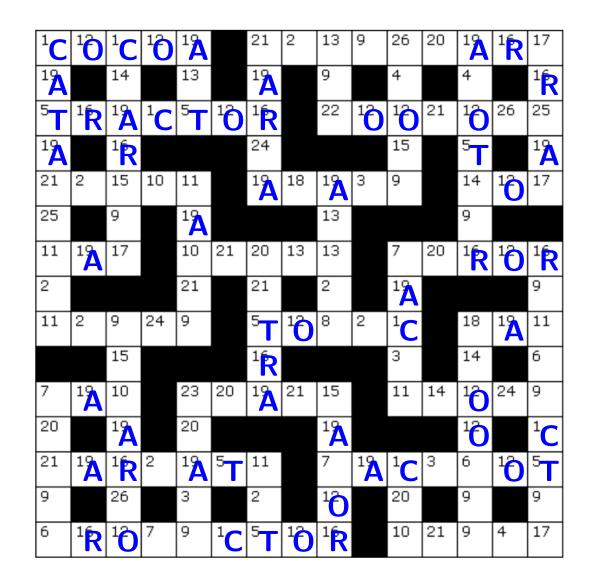
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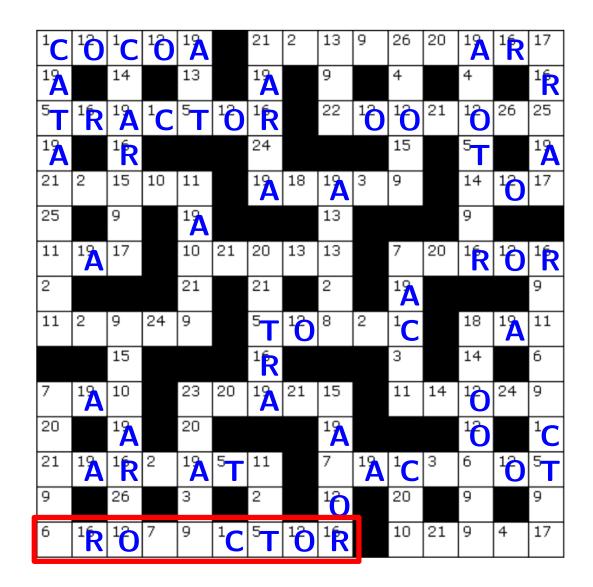
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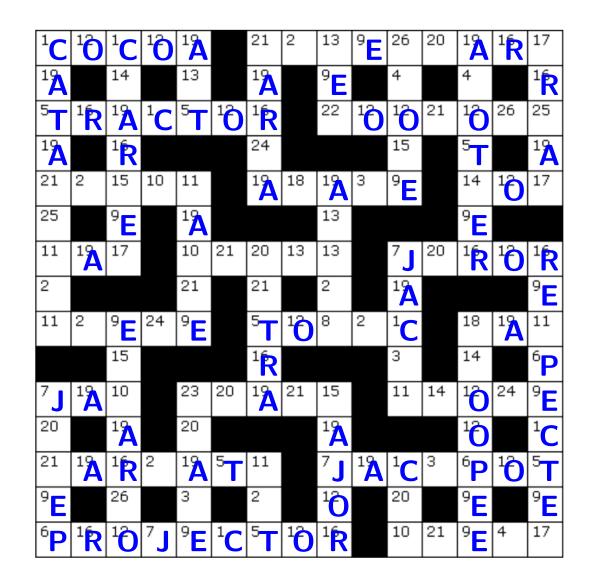
A similar example: codebreaker word puzzle

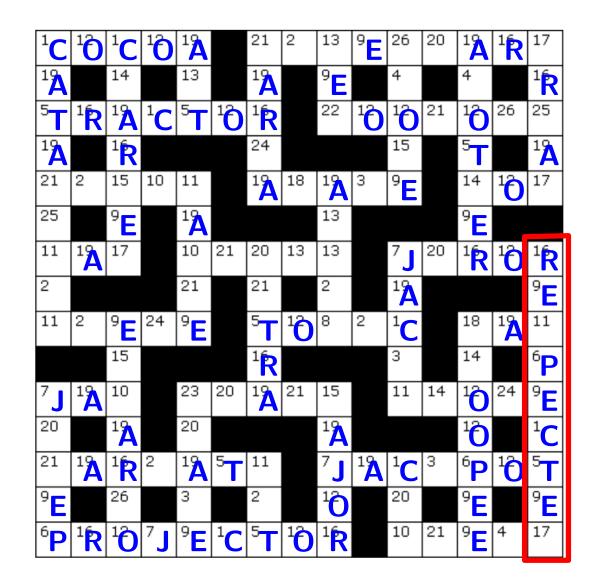


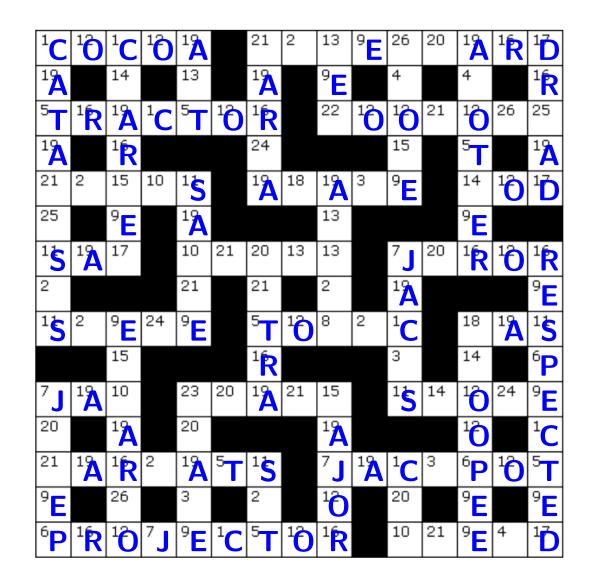
1	12	1	12	19		21	2	13	9	26	20	19	16	17
19		14		13		19		9		4		4		16
5	¹ R	¹ Å	¹ C	5		¹ R		22	12	12	21	12	26	25
19		16				24				15		5		19
21	2	15	10	11		19	18	19	3	9		14	12	17
25		9		19				13				9		
11	19	17		10	21	20	13	13		7	20	16	12	16
2				21		21		2		19				9
11	2	9	24	9		5	12	8	2	1		18	19	11
		15				16				3		14		6
7	19	10		23	20	19	21	15		11	14	12	24	9
20		19		20				19				12		1
21	19	16	2	19	5	11		7	19	1	3	6	12	5
9		26		3		2		12		20		9		9
6	16	12	7	9	1	5	12	16		10	21	9	4	17

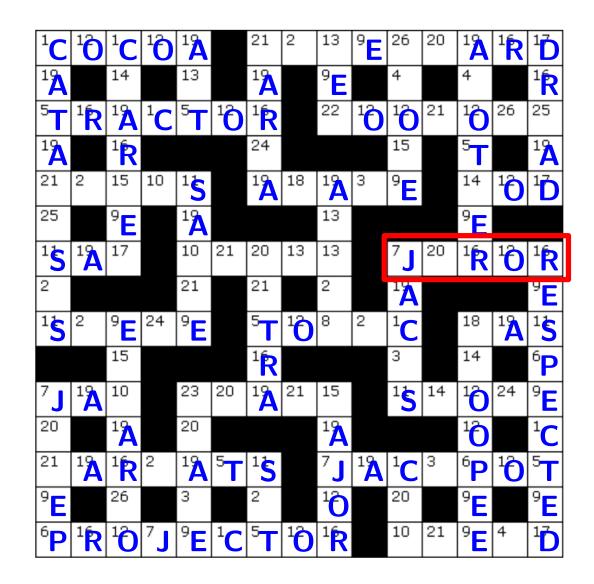


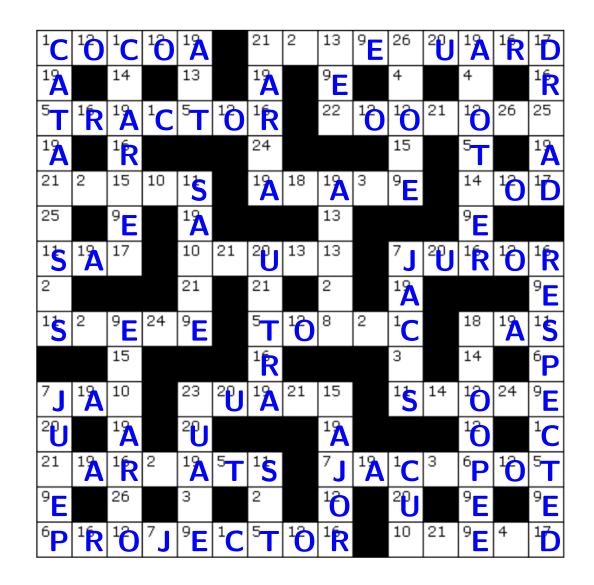




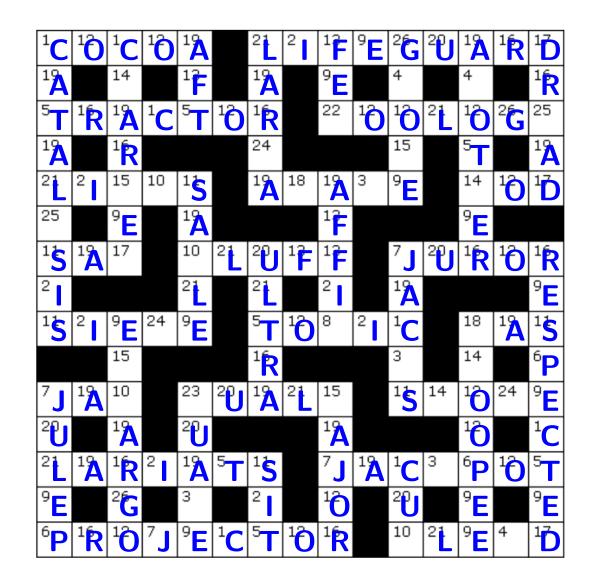


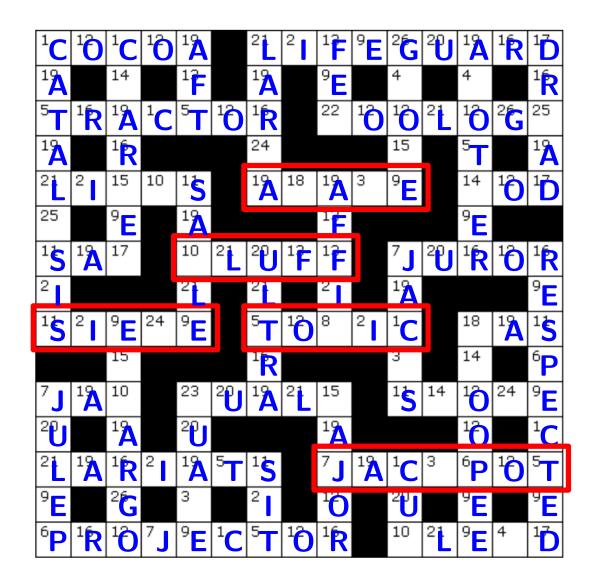


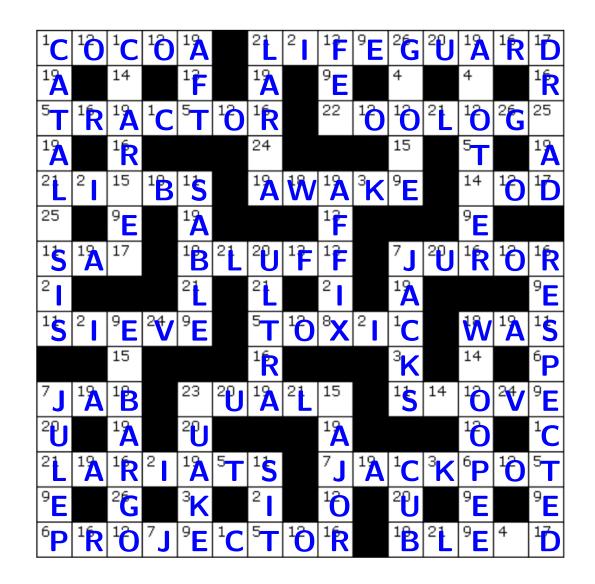


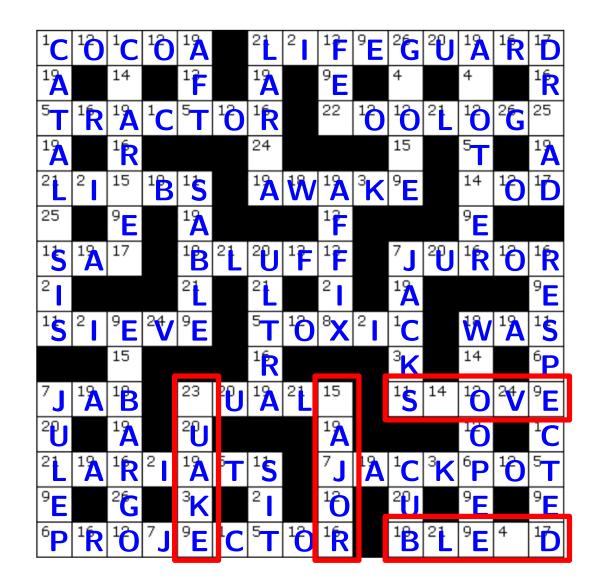


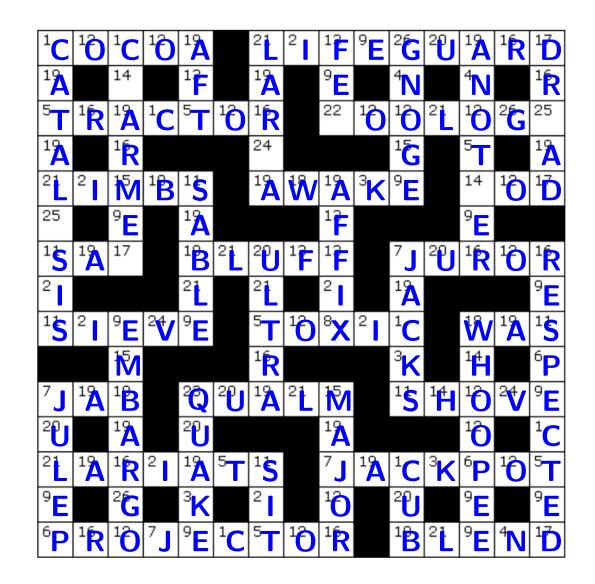


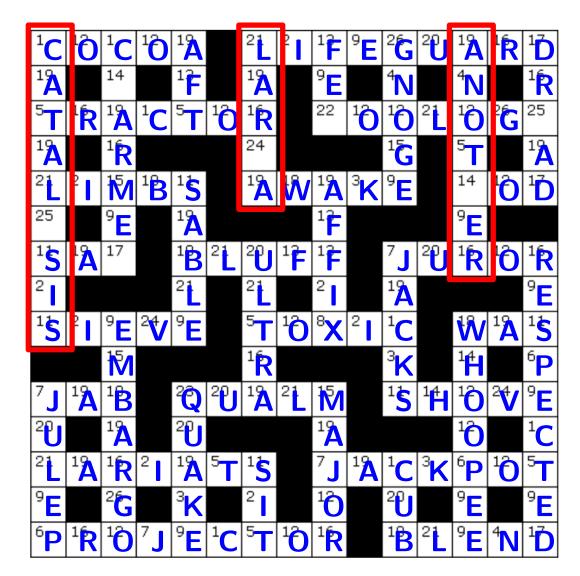


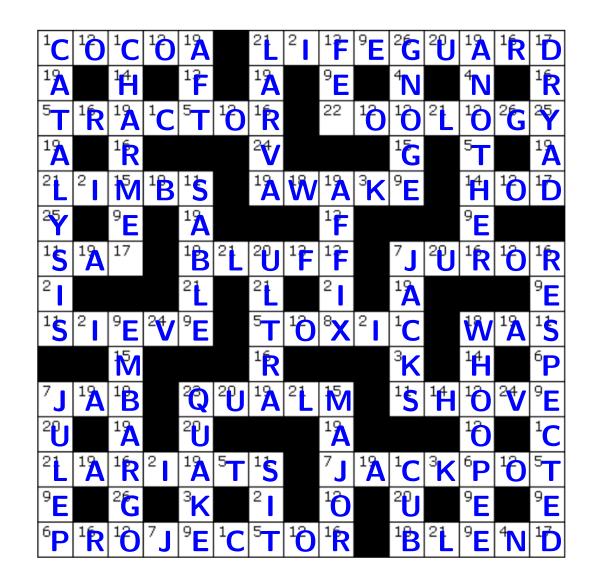


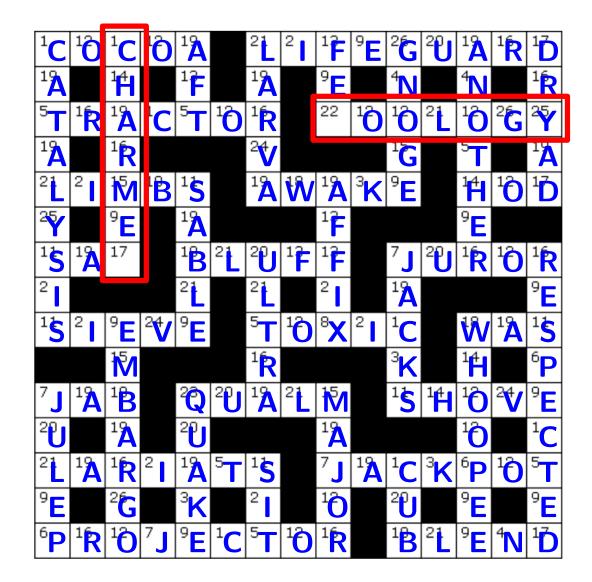


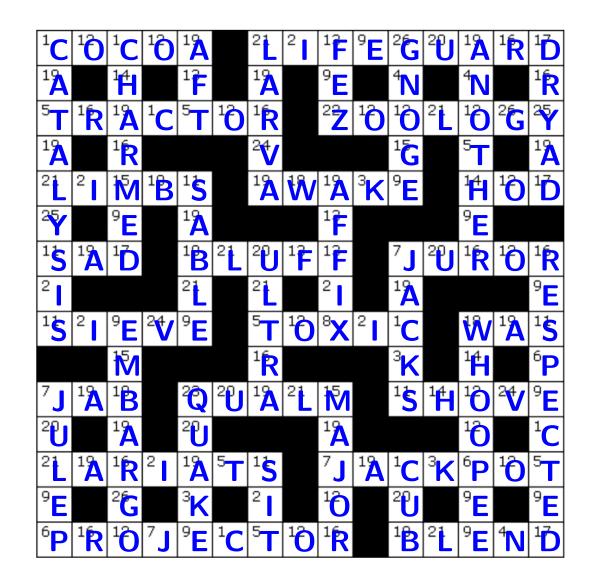












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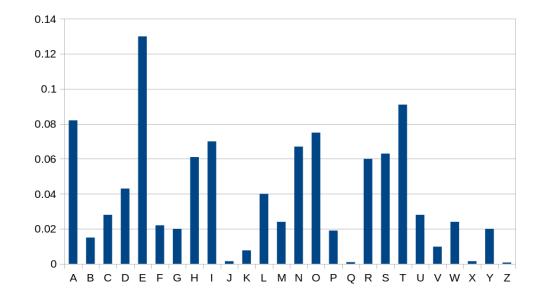
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- Natural language has a lot of redundancy
- Messages are far from random
- Different letters appear with different frequencies

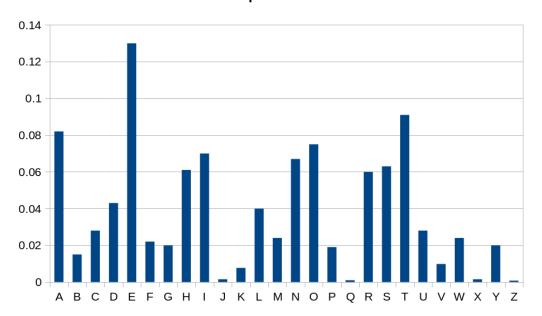
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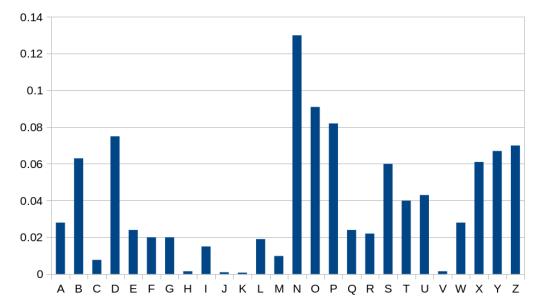
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Compare the expected frequencies in the message language with the observed frequencies in the ciphertext

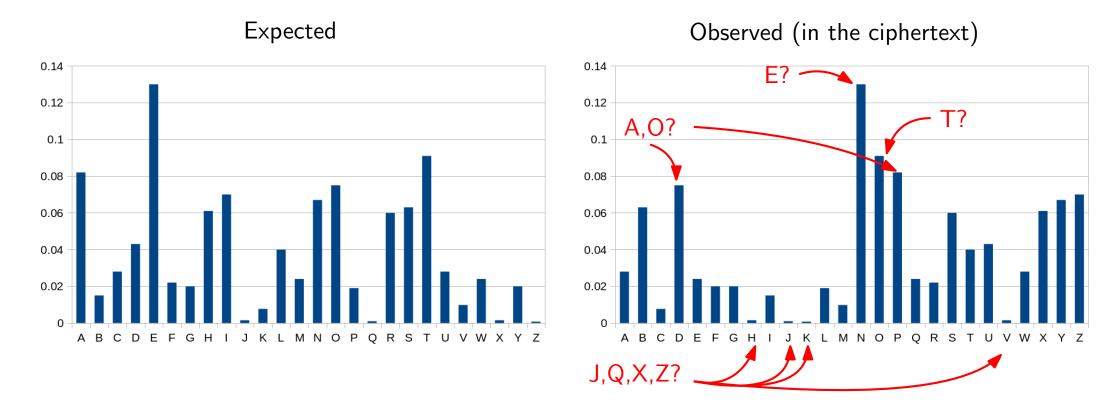


Expected



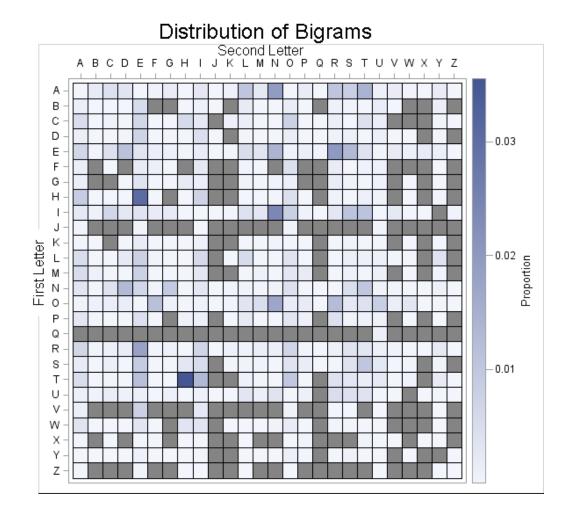
Observed (in the ciphertext)

Compare the expected frequencies in the message language with the observed frequencies in the ciphertext



Guess part of the key and use the guesses to break the cipher (as shown before)

The same analysis can be repeated for bigrams, trigrams, etc



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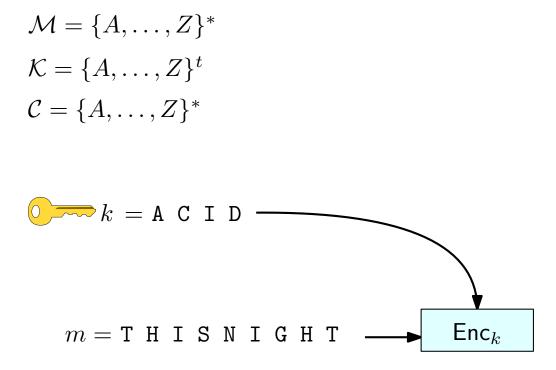
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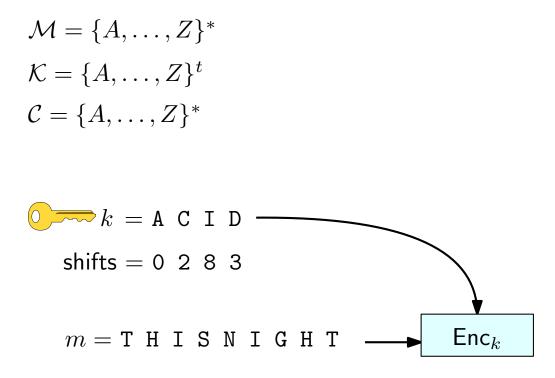
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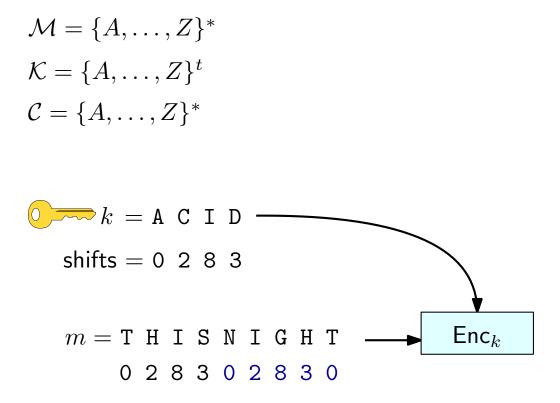
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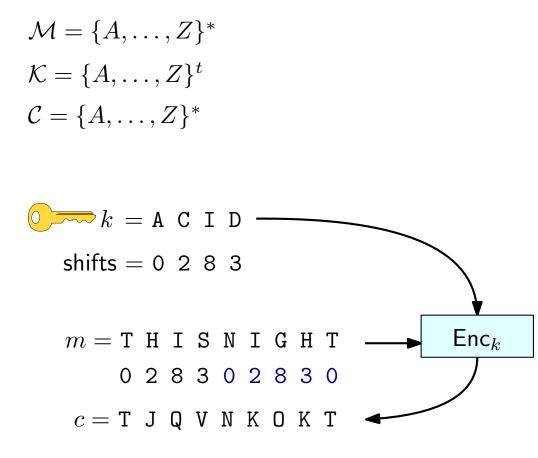
The generic *i*-th character m_i of the message $m = m_0 m_1 \dots m_{\ell-1}$ is encrypted using a shift cipher with shift $s_{i \mod t}$

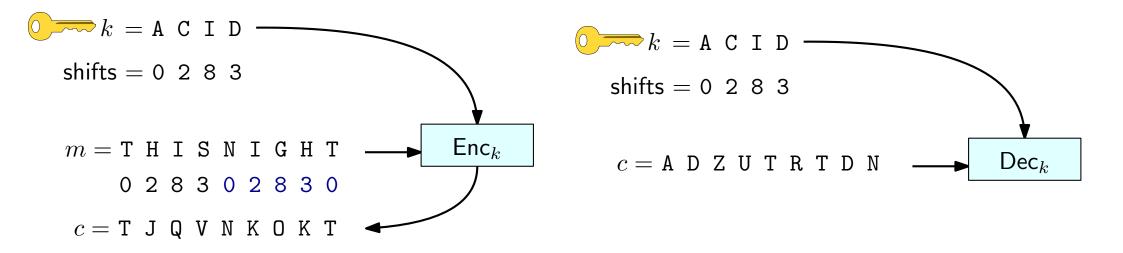
Blaise de Vigenère (1523 - 1596)

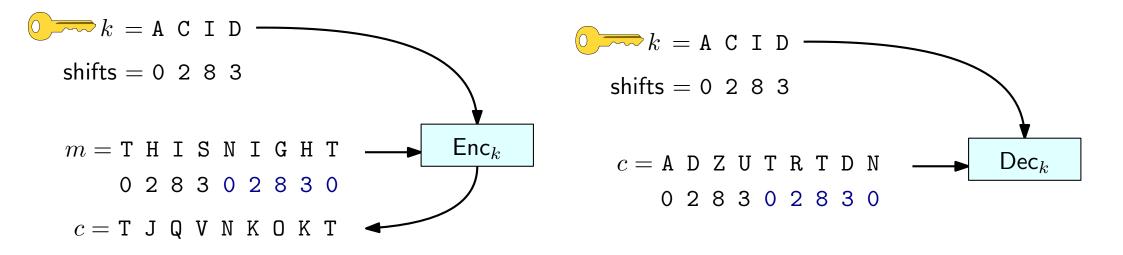


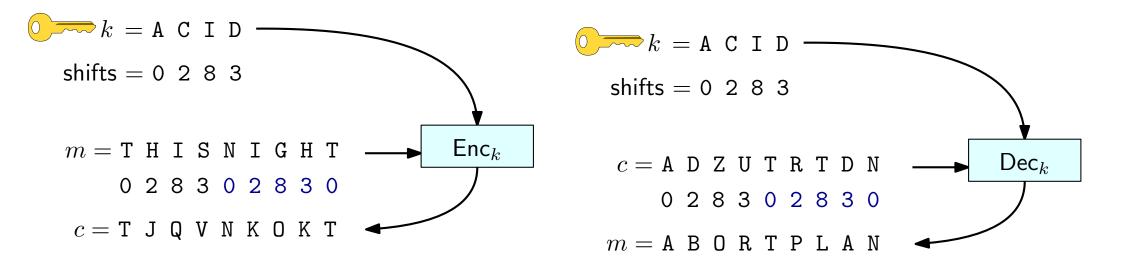












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AB PQRSTUVWX G KL ΥZ MNO AABC MNOPQRSTUVW D G Κ YZ BBCDE J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X G ΗI ZA С CDE K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y FG A B н Ζ D D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C EFGHI Е J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A В CD F F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C DE K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D EF GGHII 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 FG IJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCDEFGH J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E FGHI K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H Κ L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G L H I 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 ΚL N N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I LM O O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I ΜN P P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K LM NO 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 ΡQ 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 UUVWXYZABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRST 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 WWXYZABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRST UV XXYZABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTU VW 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

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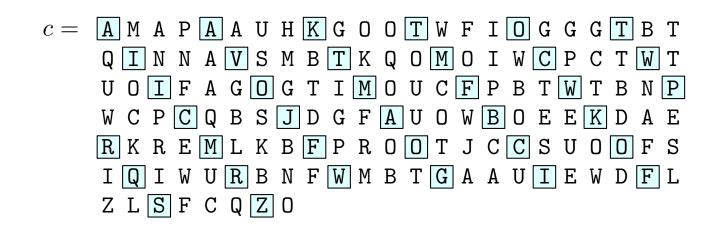
Is Vigenère cipher secure? It has been considered secure for centuries...

Suppose that the adversary is somehow able to figure out what the length t of the key is

c =	А	М	А	Ρ	А	А	U	Η	Κ	G	0	0	Т	W	F	Ι	0	G	G	G	Т	В	Т
	Q	Ι	N	N	А	V	S	М	В	Т	Κ	Q	0	М	0	Ι	W	С	Ρ	С	Т	W	Т
	U	0	Ι	F	А	G	0	G	Т	Ι	М	0	U	С	F	Ρ	В	Т	W	Т	В	N	Ρ
	W	С	Ρ	С	Q	В	S	J	D	G	F	А	U	0	W	В	0	E	Ε	Κ	D	А	Ε
	R	Κ	R	Ε	М	L	Κ	В	F	Ρ	R	0	0	Т	J	С	С	S	U	0	0	F	S
	Ι	Q	Ι	W	U	R	В	N	F	W	М	В	Т	G	А	А	U	Ι	Е	W	D	F	L
	Ζ	L	S	F	С	Q	Ζ	0															

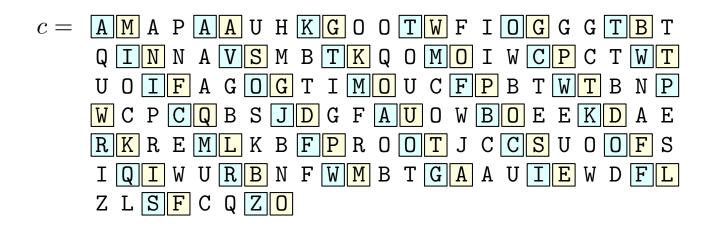
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Suppose that the adversary is somehow able to figure out what the length t of the key is



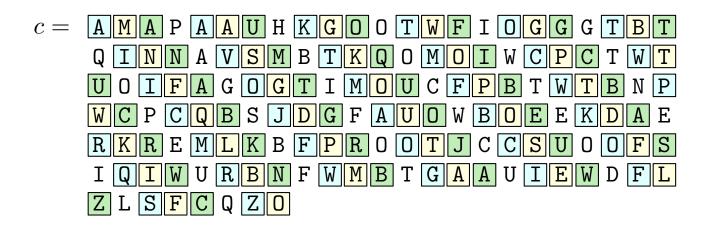
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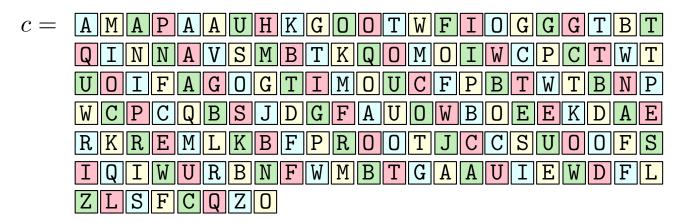
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Suppose that the adversary is somehow able to figure out what the length t of the key is

E.g.: t = 4



The ciphertext can be decomposed into n ciphertext $c^{(1)}, c^{(2)}, \ldots, c^{(t)}$.

Each $c^{(i)}$ is encrypted using the same shift

Each ciphertext can be attacked separately (but we cannot simply bruteforce them)

How do we determine the key length?

• **Option 1:** brute-force (guess t and try decrypting the t shift ciphers)

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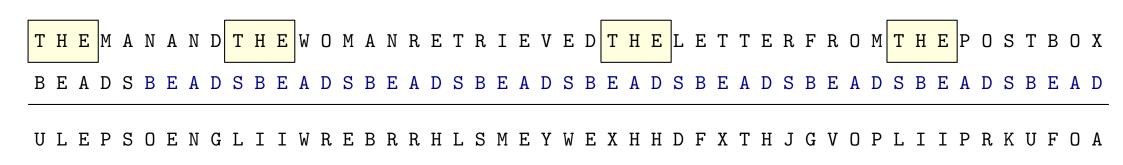
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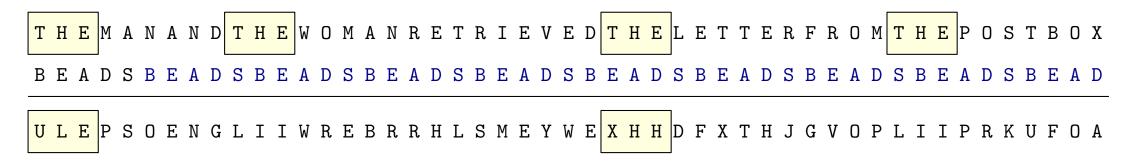
• Consider some (unknown) sequence of characters that appears frequently in the plaintext (for example the word "the")

 T
 H
 E
 M
 A
 N
 A
 N
 R
 E
 T
 R
 I
 E
 V
 E
 D
 T
 H
 E
 P
 O
 S
 T
 B
 O
 X
 N
 T
 H
 E
 V
 E
 D
 T
 H
 E
 T
 T
 E
 R
 F
 R
 O
 M
 T
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 A

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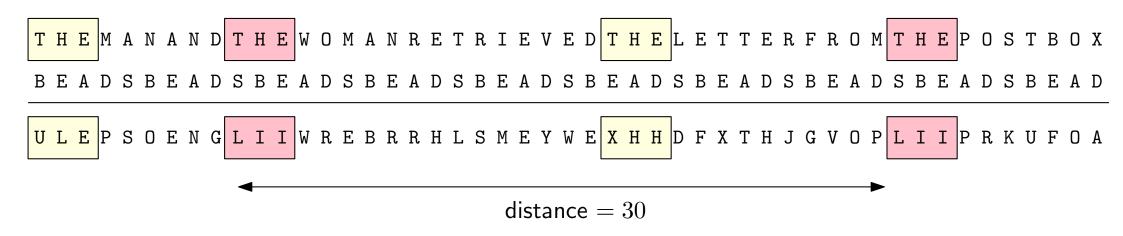


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- However, some occurrences will happen to *line up* (i.e., be encrypted with the same portion of the key)

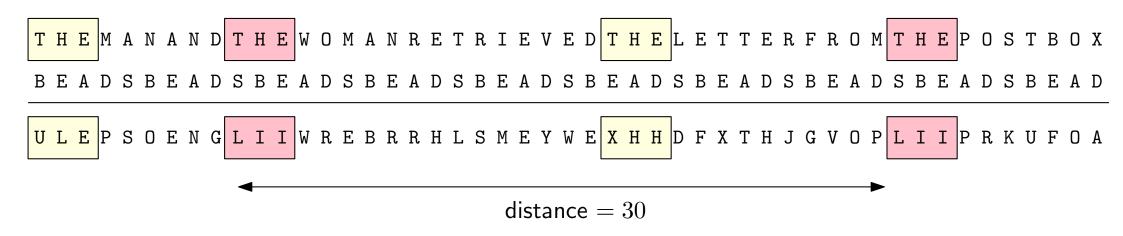
T H E M A N A N	D T H E W O M A N R E T R I E V E D	THE LETTERFROM <mark>THE</mark> POSTBOX
B E A D S B E A	D S B E A D S B E A D S B E A D S B E A D S B	E A D S B E A D S B E A D S B E A D S B E A D S B E A D
U L E P S O E N	G L I I W R E B R R H L S M E Y W E	X H H D F X T H J G V O P L I I P R K U F O A

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- In general, distinct occurrences of the word will be encrypted using different portions of the key and the ciphertext characters will differ
- However, some occurrences will happen to *line up* (i.e., be encrypted with the same portion of the key)
- When this happens, the corresponding portions of ciphertext will be equal

THE MANANI	D <mark>THE</mark> WOMANRETRIEVED	THELETTERFROM <mark>THE</mark> POSTBOX
BEADSBEAI	D S B E A D S B E A D S B E A D S B	BEADSBEADSBEADSBEADSBEAD
ULE PSOEN (GLIIWREBRRHLSMEYWE	E <mark>X H H</mark> D F X T H J G V O P L I I P R K U F O A

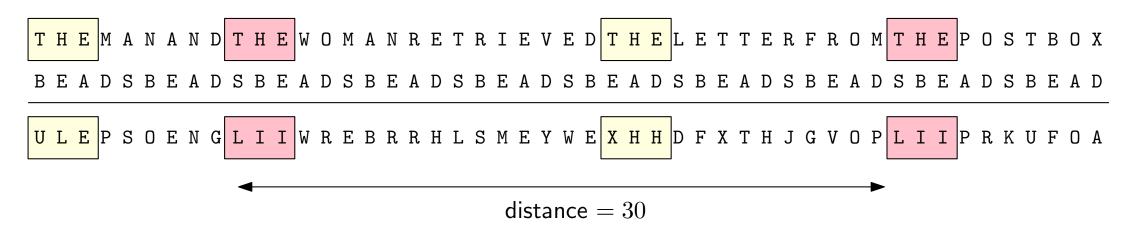


Obs: The distance between repeated patterns in the ciphertext is likely to be a multiple of the key length



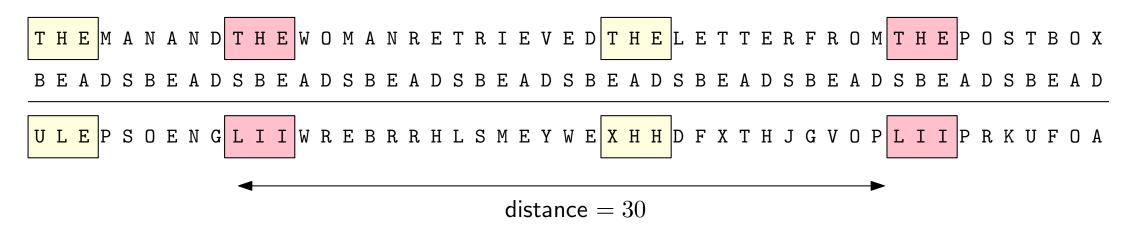
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• Find some repeated patterns of small length (e.g., 2 or 3) in the ciphertext



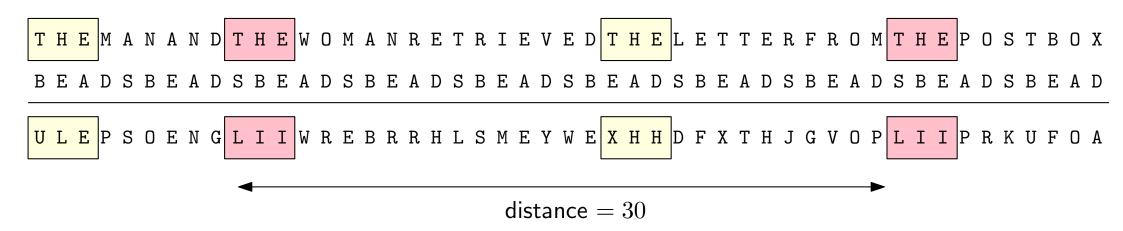
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In the example the key length t is 5 and the distance between patterns is 30

How do we determine the key length?

- **Option 1:** brute-force (guess *n* and try decrypting the *n* shift ciphers)
- Option 2: Kasiski's method

• **Option 3:** Index of coincidence method

Let p_j be the expected frequency of the *j*-th letter (j = 0, ..., 25) in the language of the plaintext

Using the frequencies in the English language:

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Guess that the key length is τ and split the ciphertext into $c^{(1)}, \ldots, c^{(\tau)}$ sub-ciphertexts (as before). For a given *i*, let q_j be the observed frequency of the *j*-th letter of the alphabet in $c^{(i)}$.

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If τ is not a multiple of t, then we expect that all characters in $c^{(i)}$ will occur with equal probability $\implies S_{\tau} \approx \sum_{j=0}^{25} \left(\frac{1}{26}\right)^2 \approx 0.038$

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Compute
$$S_{ au} = \sum_{i=0}^{25} q_j^2$$

0

The smallest value of τ such that $S_{\tau} \approx 0.065$ is probably the length of the key

This can be validated by repeating the check for other values of i

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Compute $I_j = \sum_{i=0}^{25} p_i q_{(i+j)} \mod 26$ for all possible shifts j and choose the one for which I_j is closest to 0.065.

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Marian Adam Rejewski





Alan Mathison Turing

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What is the key of this cipher? The diameter of the rod!

To decrypt the ciphertext, simply wind it around a rod of the same diameter

Breaking the scytale cipher



Breaking the scytale cipher

Wind the parchment around a cone

Look for the portion of the cone where letters start to line up and produce sensible words

The corresponding diameter is the key!



What is the effect of winding the parchment around the scytale on the order of the characters in the plaintext?



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m = K I L I	LKIN	GTOMO	RROWMI	DNIGHT
-------------	------	-------	--------	--------



What is the effect of winding the parchment around the scytale on the order of the characters in the plaintext?

m = K .	ΙL	L	Κ	Ι	Ν	G	Т	0	М	0	R	R	0	W	М	Ι	D	Ν	Ι	G	Η	Т	
---------	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--

c = K T M I O I L M D L O N K R I I R G N O H G W T



KILLKING m = TOMORROW MIDNIGHT

What is the effect of winding the parchment around the scytale on the order of the characters in the plaintext?

m =K I L L K I N G T O M O R R O W M I D N I G H T



$$m = \begin{bmatrix} K & I & L & L & K & I & N & G \\ T & O & M & O & R & R & O & W \\ M & I & D & N & I & G & H & T \end{bmatrix}$$

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m = K I L L K I N G T O M O R R O W M I D N I G H Tc = K T M I O I L M D L O N K R I I R G N O H G W T



$$\begin{bmatrix} K I L L K I N G \\ T O M O R R O W \\ M I D N I G H T \end{bmatrix}^{\mathsf{T}} = \begin{bmatrix} K T M \\ I O I \\ L M D \\ K R I \\ I R G \\ N O H \\ G W T \end{bmatrix} = c$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} K I L L K I N G \\ T O M O R R O W \\ M I D N I G H T \end{bmatrix}^{\mathsf{T}} = \begin{bmatrix} K T M \\ I O I \\ L M D \\ K R I \\ I R G \\ N O H \\ G W T \end{bmatrix} = c$$

The scytale cipher is a (specific type of) transposition cipher!

The plaintext is arranged in a matrix with n columns (and the appropriate number of rows)

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 1
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6

 T
 H
 E
 M
 E
 E

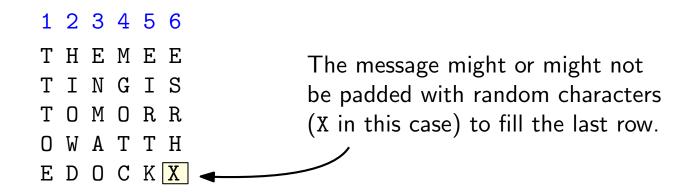
 T
 I
 N
 G
 I
 S

 T
 O
 M
 O
 R
 R

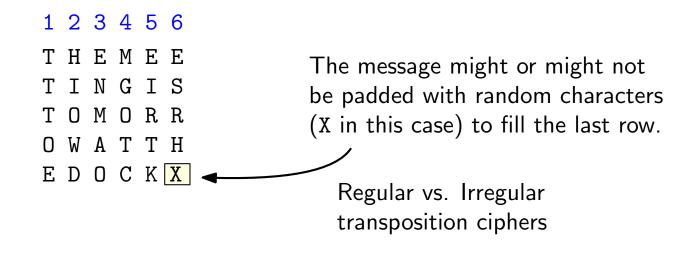
 O
 W
 A
 T
 T
 H

 E
 D
 O
 C
 K
 K

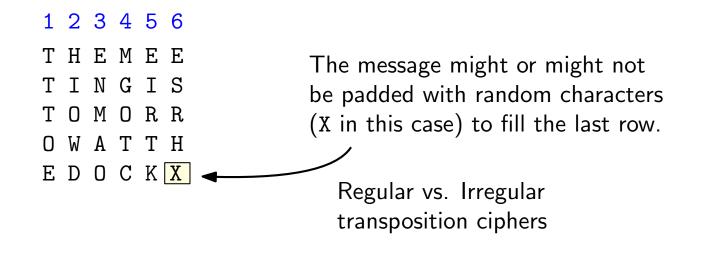
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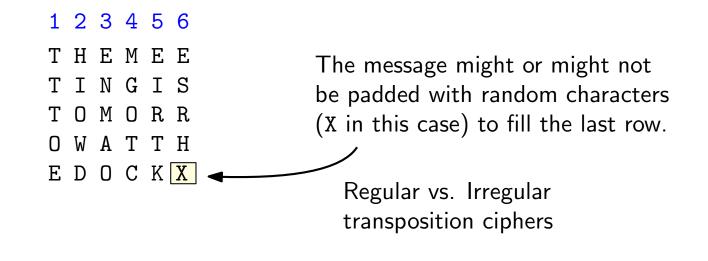


The plaintext is arranged in a matrix with n columns (and the appropriate number of rows)



Pick a permutation π of $1, 2, \ldots, n$

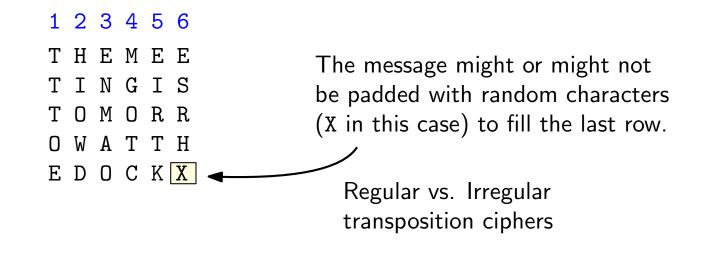
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E.g., if the permutation is 4, 2, 1, 6, 5, 3, then the ciphertext is:

c = M G O T C H I O W D T T T O E E S R H X E I R T K E N M A O

What is the key?



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~~~~~

The pair  $(n,\pi)$ 

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• If the ciphertext has  $\ell$  characters, then the original matrix had  $\ell/n$  rows

What is the key? The pair  $(n, \pi)$ 

- If the ciphertext has  $\ell$  characters, then the original matrix had  $\ell/n$  rows
- Write the ciphertext into columns of length  $\ell/n$ , following the order given by  $\pi$

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c=M G O T C H I O W D T T T O E E S R H X E I R T K E N M A O  $n=6,\ \pi=(4,2,1,6,5,3),\ \ell=30$ 

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The plaintext can be found by reading the rows in order (left to right, top to bottom)

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(if the transposition cipher is regular, look at the divisors of the ciphertext's length)

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• Look for anagrams (that simultaneously yield intelligible text on multiple rows)



To make cryptanalysis harder, a double (irregular) transposition cipher is often used:

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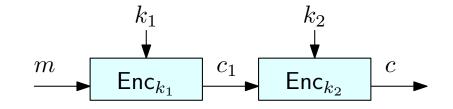
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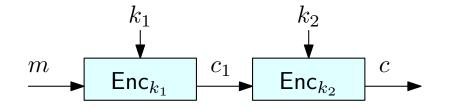
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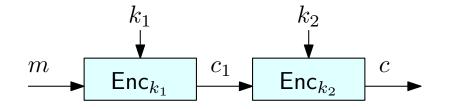
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• Many other (more complex) transposition ciphers have been used

The Zodiac Z-340 cipher remained unsolved for 51 years!

HERYGJAVPXIOLTGOD N9+BØ OBDWY . < DK 70 BYIDM+UZGWØ&L B+HJ SAAAJADV KO 0 9  $\Box \Delta M + + + T \Box I =$ 1 K 94 RAFJO-DOCÉFSO DØ +KOD I OUDXG OJ JT NO+DNY+DLA 0 G 0 < M + 8 + Z R OF B D Y A OOK JUV+AJ+09A<FBX--- $U + R / \bullet$ **LEIDYB98TMKO**  $\Theta < \Im \downarrow R \downarrow I$ 🗢 O A S Y 🖿 + N I 🔴 JGFNA 7 Y B X O B I O A C E > V U 1 ) · O + B K ¢ O 9 A · 7 M Ø 6 0 R D T + L OO C < + F J WB | OL IFXOWCALBOYOBE - ( ) >MDHN9XS+ZOAAIKI+

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What does secure mean?

