

Week 2: Cryptanalysis and Statistical Modelling

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September 6, 2018

Definition

Let $\mathbf{s} = c_1c_2 \dots c_n$ be a string of n letters. The index of coincidence of \mathbf{s} is denoted $\text{IndCo}(\mathbf{s})$ and is defined to be the probability that two randomly chosen characters in the string \mathbf{s} are identical.

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Proposition

Let $\mathbf{s} = c_1c_2 \dots c_n$ be a string of n , and let F_i be the frequency with which the letter i appears in the string \mathbf{s} . Then

$$\text{IndCo}(\mathbf{s}) = \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{i=0}^{25} F_i(F_i - 1). \quad (1)$$

Two important values of the index of coincidence

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Proposition

- 1 If s is a string of letters generated uniformly at random, then $\text{IndCo}(s) \approx .038$.

Two important values of the index of coincidence

Proposition

- 1 If \mathbf{s} is a string of letters generated uniformly at random, then $\text{IndCo}(\mathbf{s}) \approx .038$.
- 2 If \mathbf{s} is a string of letters with the frequencies common in written English, then $\text{IndCo}(\mathbf{s}) \approx .068$.

Recall the Vigenère Cipher

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Choose a keyword. Write the keyword down repeatedly until you have a string of letters as long as your message. This is the *keystream*.

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For each letter of your plaintext, add the corresponding letter from your keystream. This gives the ciphertext.

To decrypt, generate the keystream as before, and then subtract it from the ciphertext to get the plaintext.

Example

Example

Plaintext | I L O V E C R Y P T O L O G Y

Example

Plaintext		I	L	O	V	E	C	R	Y	P	T	O	L	O	G	Y
Keystream		M	A	T	H	M	A	T	H	M	A	T	H	M	A	T

Example

Plaintext		I	L	O	V	E	C	R	Y	P	T	O	L	O	G	Y
Keystream		M	A	T	H	M	A	T	H	M	A	T	H	M	A	T
Plaintext		8	11	14	21	4	2	17	24	15	19	14	11	14	6	24
Keystream		12	0	19	7	12	0	19	7	12	0	19	7	12	0	19

Example

Plaintext		I	L	O	V	E	C	R	Y	P	T	O	L	O	G	Y
Keystream		M	A	T	H	M	A	T	H	M	A	T	H	M	A	T
Plaintext		8	11	14	21	4	2	17	24	15	19	14	11	14	6	24
Keystream		12	0	19	7	12	0	19	7	12	0	19	7	12	0	19
Ciphertext		20	11	7	2	16	2	10	3	1	19	7	18	0	6	17

Example

Plaintext	I L O V E C R Y P T O L O G Y
Keystream	M A T H M A T H M A T H M A T
Plaintext	8 11 14 21 4 2 17 24 15 19 14 11 14 6 24
Keystream	12 0 19 7 12 0 19 7 12 0 19 7 12 0 19
Ciphertext	20 11 7 2 16 2 10 3 1 19 7 18 0 6 17
Ciphertext	U L H C Q C K D B T H S A G R

Example

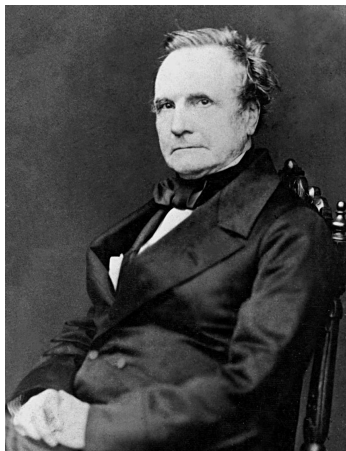
Plaintext	I L O V E C R Y P T O L O G Y
Keystream	M A T H M A T H M A T H M A T
Plaintext	8 11 14 21 4 2 17 24 15 19 14 11 14 6 24
Keystream	12 0 19 7 12 0 19 7 12 0 19 7 12 0 19
Ciphertext	20 11 7 2 16 2 10 3 1 19 7 18 0 6 17
Ciphertext	U L H C Q C K D B T H S A G R

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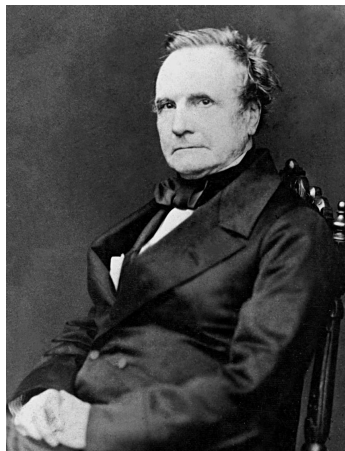
ULHCQCKDBTHSAGR

The Kasiski Method

The Kasiski Method

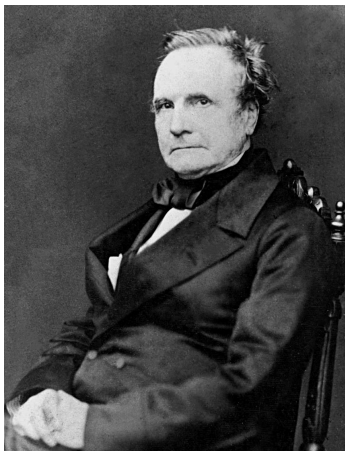


The Kasiski Method



The Kasiski method was first discovered by Charles Babbage in 1854.

The Kasiski Method



The Kasiski method was first discovered by Charles Babbage in 1854.

It was first published by Friedrich Kasiski in 1863.

zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh
zvreg kwivs saolt nliuw oldie aqewf iiykh bjowr hdogc qhkwa
jyagg emisr zqoqh oavlk bjoifr ylvps rtgiu avmsw lzgms evwpc
dmjsv jqbrn klpcf iowhv kxjbj pmfkr qthtk ozrgq ihbmj sbivd
ardym qmpbu nivxm tzwqv gefjh ucbor vwpcd xuwft qmoow jipds
fluqm oeavl jgqea lrkti wvext vkrrg xani

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh
1: zpgd lrjla jkpyl xzpyy glrjg dlrzh zqyjqz qrepv mswrz yrigz h

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1 coincidence

```
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2: zpg dlrjl ajkpy lxzpy yglrj gdlrz hzqyj zqrep vmswr zyrig zh
```

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjq repvm swrzy rigzh
1: zpgd lrjla jkpyl xzpyy glrjg dlrzh zqyz qrepv mswrz yrigz h
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 1 coincidence

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 3: zp gdlrj lajkp ylxzp yyglr jgdlr zhqyq jzqre pvmsw rzyri gzh
 3 coincidences

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh
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 3 coincidences

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh
 4: z pgdlr jlajk pylxz pyygl rjgdl rzhzq yjqzr epvms wrzyr

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 3 coincidences


```
0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh  
5:      zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy
```

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh
5: zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy
5 coincidences

```
0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh
5:      zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy
5 coincidences
0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh
6:      zpgd lrjla jkpyl xzpyy glrjg dlrzh zqyjq qrepv mswrz
```

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjq repvm swrzy rigzh

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5 coincidences

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjq repvm swrzy rigzh

6: zpgd lrjla jkpyl xzpyy glrjg dlrzh zqyz qrepv mswrz

3 coincidences

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh

5: zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy

5 coincidences

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh

6: zpgd lrjla jkpyl xzpyy glrjg dlrzh zqyjqz qrepv mswrz

3 coincidences

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh

7: zpg dlrjl ajkpy lxzpy yglrj gdlrz hzqyjqz qrep vmswr

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh

5: zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy

5 coincidences

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh

6: zpgd lrjla jkpyl xzpyy glrjg dlrzh zqyjqz qrepv mswrz

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2 coincidences

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh

5: zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy

5 coincidences

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh

6: zpgd lrjla jkpyl xzpyy glrjg dlrzh zqyjz qrepv mswrz

3 coincidences

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh

7: zpg dlrjl ajkpy lxzpy yglrj gdlrz hzqyj zqrep vmswr

2 coincidences

Shift	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Coincidences	6	6	9	5	8	13	15	11	11

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh

5: zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy

5 coincidences

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh

6: zpgd lrjla jkpyl xzpyy glrjg dlrzh zqyjz qrepv mswrz

3 coincidences

0:zpgdl rjlaj kpylx zpyyg lrjgd lrzhz qyjqz repvm swrzy rigzh

7: zpg dlrjl ajkpy lxzpy yglrj gdlrz hzqyj zqrep vmswr

2 coincidences

Shift	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Coincidences	6	6	9	5	8	13	15	11	11

Trigrams

Trigrams

Trigram	Places	Offset	Trigram	Places	Offset
avl	117 and 258	$141 = 3 \cdot 47$	bjo	86 and 121	$35 = 5 \cdot 7$
dlr	4 and 25	$21 = 3 \cdot 7$	gd1	3 and 24	$16 = 2^4$
lrj	5 and 21	$98 = 2 \cdot 7^2$	msw	40 and 138	$84 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$
pcd	149 and 233	$13 = 13$	qmo	241 and 254	$98 = 2 \cdot 7^2$
vms	39 and 137	$84 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$	vwp	147 and 231	$84 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$
wpc	148 and 232	$21 = 3 \cdot 7$	zhz	28 and 49	$21 = 3 \cdot 7$

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dlr	4 and 25	$21 = 3 \cdot 7$	gd1	3 and 24	$16 = 2^4$
lrj	5 and 21	$98 = 2 \cdot 7^2$	msw	40 and 138	$84 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$
pcd	149 and 233	$13 = 13$	qmo	241 and 254	$98 = 2 \cdot 7^2$
vms	39 and 137	$84 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$	vwp	147 and 231	$84 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$
wpc	148 and 232	$21 = 3 \cdot 7$	zhz	28 and 49	$21 = 3 \cdot 7$

It looks like the offset is 7.

Using the Index of Coincidence

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Shift | indices |

Using the Index of Coincidence

Shift	indices	
2	.038	0.40

Using the Index of Coincidence

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2	.038	0.40	
3	0.39	0.42	0.38

Using the Index of Coincidence

Shift	indices			
2	.038	0.40		
3	0.39	0.42	0.38	
4	0.34	0.42	0.39	0.35

Using the Index of Coincidence

Shift	indices				
2	.038	0.40			
3	0.39	0.42	0.38		
4	0.34	0.42	0.39	0.35	
5	0.38	0.39	0.43	0.28	0.36

Using the Index of Coincidence

Shift	indices						
2	.038	0.40					
3	0.39	0.42	0.38				
4	0.34	0.42	0.39	0.35			
5	0.38	0.39	0.43	0.28	0.36		
6	0.38	0.40	0.39	0.38	0.32	0.33	

Using the Index of Coincidence

Shift	indices							
2	.038	0.40						
3	0.39	0.42	0.38					
4	0.34	0.42	0.39	0.35				
5	0.38	0.39	0.43	0.28	0.36			
6	0.38	0.40	0.39	0.38	0.32	0.33		
7	0.62	0.57	0.65	0.60	0.60	0.64	0.64	

Using the Index of Coincidence

Shift	indices								
2	.038	0.40							
3	0.39	0.42	0.38						
4	0.34	0.42	0.39	0.35					
5	0.38	0.39	0.43	0.28	0.36				
6	0.38	0.40	0.39	0.38	0.32	0.33			
7	0.62	0.57	0.65	0.60	0.60	0.64	0.64		
8	0.37	0.29	0.38	0.33	0.34	0.57	0.40	0.39	

Using the Index of Coincidence

Shift	indices								
2	.038	0.40							
3	0.39	0.42	0.38						
4	0.34	0.42	0.39	0.35					
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6	0.38	0.40	0.39	0.38	0.32	0.33			
7	0.62	0.57	0.65	0.60	0.60	0.64	0.64		
8	0.37	0.29	0.38	0.33	0.34	0.57	0.40	0.39	

Frequency Counts on Substrings

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zlxrh rrrhl oehdw eokli lwvlh phqby nwhwf julrx x

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zlxrh rrrhl oehdw eokli lwvlh phqby nwhwf julrx x

Letter	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
Frequency	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	6	1	1	1	6	0	1	2	1	1	4	0	0	1	1	5	3	1	1

Frequency Counts on Substrings

zlxrh rrrhl oehdw eokli lwvlh phqby nwhwf julrx x

Letter	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
Frequency	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	6	1	1	1	6	0	1	2	1	1	4	0	0	1	1	5	3	1	1

Frequency Counts on Substrings

zlxrh rrrhl oehdw eokli lwlh phqby nwhwf julrx x

Letter	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
Frequency	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	6	1	1	1	6	0	1	2	1	1	4	0	0	1	1	5	3	1	1

Ciphertext	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
Plaintext	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

Or

Ciphertext	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
Plaintext	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

Frequency Counts on Substrings

zlxrh rrrhl oehdw eokli lwlh phqby nwhwf julrx x

Letter	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
Frequency	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	6	1	1	1	6	0	1	2	1	1	4	0	0	1	1	5	3	1	1

Ciphertext	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
Plaintext	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

Or

Ciphertext	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
Plaintext	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

Mutual Index of Coincidence

Definition

Let $\mathbf{s} = c_1c_2 \dots c_n$, $\mathbf{t} = d_1d_2 \dots d_m$ be two strings of letters. Then we define the mutual index of coincidence to be $\text{MutIndCo}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$, the chance that a randomly selected letter of \mathbf{s} is the same as a randomly selected letter of \mathbf{t} .

Mutual Index of Coincidence

Proposition

Let $\mathbf{s} = c_1c_2 \dots c_n$, $\mathbf{t} = d_1d_2 \dots d_m$ be two strings of letters, and let $F_i(\mathbf{s})$ be the number of times the i th letter appears in the string \mathbf{s} . Then:

Mutual Index of Coincidence

Proposition

Let $\mathbf{s} = c_1c_2 \dots c_n$, $\mathbf{t} = d_1d_2 \dots d_m$ be two strings of letters, and let $F_i(\mathbf{s})$ be the number of times the i th letter appears in the string \mathbf{s} . Then:

1

$$\text{MutIndCo}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) = \frac{1}{nm} \sum_{i=0}^{25} F_i(\mathbf{s})F_i(\mathbf{t}).$$

Mutual Index of Coincidence

Proposition

Let $\mathbf{s} = c_1c_2 \dots c_n$, $\mathbf{t} = d_1d_2 \dots d_m$ be two strings of letters, and let $F_i(\mathbf{s})$ be the number of times the i th letter appears in the string \mathbf{s} . Then:

①

$$\text{MutIndCo}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) = \frac{1}{nm} \sum_{i=0}^{25} F_i(\mathbf{s})F_i(\mathbf{t}).$$

- ② If the letters of \mathbf{s} and \mathbf{t} are drawn from the same distribution, given by taking English frequencies and permuting the letters, then $\text{MutIndCo}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) \approx .068$.

Mutual Index of Coincidence

Proposition

Let $\mathbf{s} = c_1c_2 \dots c_n$, $\mathbf{t} = d_1d_2 \dots d_m$ be two strings of letters, and let $F_i(\mathbf{s})$ be the number of times the i th letter appears in the string \mathbf{s} . Then:

①

$$\text{MutIndCo}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) = \frac{1}{nm} \sum_{i=0}^{25} F_i(\mathbf{s})F_i(\mathbf{t}).$$

- ② If the letters of \mathbf{s} and \mathbf{t} are drawn from the same distribution, given by taking English frequencies and permuting the letters, then $\text{MutIndCo}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) \approx .068$.
- ③ If the letters of \mathbf{s} and \mathbf{t} are drawn from different such distributions, then $\text{MutIndCo}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) \approx .038$.

i	j	σ	MutIndCo($i, j + \sigma$)	Relative shift equation
1	3	1	.067	$\beta_1 - \beta_3 = 1$
3	7	10	.069	$\beta_3 - \beta_7 = 10$
1	4	19	.071	$\beta_1 - \beta_4 = 19$
1	6	16	.071	$\beta_1 - \beta_6 = 16$
3	4	18	.073	$\beta_3 - \beta_4 = 18$
3	5	24	.067	$\beta_3 - \beta_5 = 24$
3	6	15	.074	$\beta_3 - \beta_6 = 15$
4	6	23	.066	$\beta_4 - \beta_6 = 23$
4	7	18	.071	$\beta_4 - \beta_7 = 18$
6	7	21	.069	$\beta_6 - \beta_7 = 21$

$$\beta_3 = \beta_1 + 25$$

$$\beta_6 = \beta_1 + 10$$

$$\beta_5 = \beta_3 + 2 = \beta_1 + 1$$

$$\beta_4 = \beta_1 + 7$$

$$\beta_7 = \beta_3 + 16 = \beta_1 + 15$$

$$\beta_3 = \beta_1 + 25$$

$$\beta_4 = \beta_1 + 7$$

$$\beta_6 = \beta_1 + 10$$

$$\beta_7 = \beta_3 + 16 = \beta_1 + 15$$

$$\beta_5 = \beta_3 + 2 = \beta_1 + 1$$

$$\text{MutIndCo}(2, 4 + 24) = .061 \Rightarrow \beta_2 = \beta_4 + 24 = \beta_1 + 5$$

$$\beta_3 = \beta_1 + 25$$

$$\beta_4 = \beta_1 + 7$$

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$$\text{MutIndCo}(2, 4 + 24) = .061 \Rightarrow \beta_2 = \beta_4 + 24 = \beta_1 + 5$$

Key = AFZHBKP

$$\beta_3 = \beta_1 + 25$$

$$\beta_4 = \beta_1 + 7$$

$$\beta_6 = \beta_1 + 10$$

$$\beta_7 = \beta_3 + 16 = \beta_1 + 15$$

$$\beta_5 = \beta_3 + 2 = \beta_1 + 1$$

$$\text{MutIndCo}(2, 4 + 24) = .061 \Rightarrow \beta_2 = \beta_4 + 24 = \beta_1 + 5$$

Key = AFZHBKP + shift

β_1	Keyword	Potential plaintext
0	AFZHBKP	zkhwhkhu1vkdoowxuq

β_1	Keyword	Potential plaintext
0	AFZHBKP	zkhwhkulvkdoowxuq
1	BGAICLQ	yjgvjgtkujcnnvntp

β_1	Keyword	Potential plaintext
0	AFZHBKP	zkhwhkhlvkdoowxuq
1	BGAICLQ	yjgvjgtkujcnnvwtq
2	CHBJDMR	xifuifsjtibmmuvso

β_1	Keyword	Potential plaintext
0	AFZHBKP	zkhwhkhlvkdoowxuq
1	BGAICLQ	yjgvjgtkujcnnvwt
2	CHBJDMR	xifuifsjtibmmuvso
3	DICKENS	whetherishallturn

β_1	Keyword	Potential plaintext
0	AFZHBKP	zkhwkhulvkdoowxuq
1	BGAICLQ	yjgvjgtkujcnnvwt
2	CHBJDMR	xifuifsjtibmmuvso
3	DICKENS	whetherishallturn
4	EJDLFOT	vgdsgdqhrgzkkstqm

β_1	Keyword	Potential plaintext
0	AFZHBKP	zkhwkhulvkdoowxuq
1	BGAICLQ	yjgvjgtkujcnnvntp
2	CHBJDMR	xifuifsjtibmmuvso
3	DICKENS	whetherishallturn
4	EJDLFOT	vgdsgdqhrqzkkstqm
5	FKEMGPU	ufcrfcpgqfyjjrspl

β_1	Keyword	Potential plaintext
0	AFZHBKP	zkhwkhulvkdoowxuq
1	BGAICLQ	yjgvjgtkujcnnvntp
2	CHBJDMR	xifuifsjtibmmuvso
3	DICKENS	whetherishallturn
4	EJDLFOT	vgdsgdqhrqzkkstqm
5	FKEMGPU	ufcrfcpgqfyjjrspl
6	GLFNHQV	tebqebfopexiiqrok

β_1	Keyword	Potential plaintext
0	AFZHBKP	zkhwkhulvkdoowxuq
1	BGAICLQ	yjgvjgtkujcnnvntp
2	CHBJDMR	xifuifsjtibmmuvso
3	DICKENS	whetherishallturn
4	EJDLFOT	vgdsgdqhrqzkkstqm
5	FKEMGPU	ufcrfcpgqfyjjrspl
6	GLFNHQV	tebqebfopexiiqrok

wheth erish alltu rnout tobet heher oofmy ownli feorw hethe
rthat stati onwil lbehe ldbya nybod yelse these pages musts
howto begin mylif ewith thebe ginni ngofm ylife ireco rdtha
tiwas borna sihav ebeen infor medan dbeli eveon afrid ayatt
welve ocloc katni ghtit wasre marke dthat thecl ockbe ganto
strik eandi began tocry simul taneo usly

wheth erish alltu rnout tobet heher oofmy ownli feorw hethe
 rthat stati onwil lbehe ldbya nybod yelse these pages musts
 howto begin mylif ewith thebe ginni ngofm ylife ireco rdtha
 tiwas borna sihav ebeen infor medan dbeli eveon afrid ayatt
 welve ocloc katni ghtit wasre marke dthat thecl ockbe ganto
 strik eandi began tocry simul taneo usly

“Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show. To begin my life with the beginning of my life, I record that I was born (as I have been informed and believe) on a Friday, at twelve oclock at night. It was remarked that the clock began to strike, and I began to cry, simultaneously.”

wheth erish alltu rnout tobet heher oofmy ownli feorw hethe
 rthat stati onwil lbehe ldbya nybod yelse these pages musts
 howto begin mylif ewith thebe ginni ngofm ylife ireco rdtha
 tiwas borna sihav ebeen infor medan dbeli eveon afrid ayatt
 welve ocloc katni ghtit wasre marke dthat thecl ockbe ganto
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“Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show. To begin my life with the beginning of my life, I record that I was born (as I have been informed and believe) on a Friday, at twelve oclock at night. It was remarked that the clock began to strike, and I began to cry, simultaneously.”

From *David Copperfield*, by Charles Dickens

Definition

A crib is a known or guessed portion of the plaintext, which can be used to help cryptanalyze a ciphertext.

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW

Let's guess the word "the" is in the message somewhere.

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

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

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

Let's assume the "aso" was real and see what we can conclude.

Key Length of Four

Key Length of Four

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
--- --- --- --- --- --f bn- the -as o-- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---
--- --- --- --- --- --t he- aso -gu s-- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---

```


Key Length of Four

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
--- --- --- --- --- --f bn- the -as o-- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---
--- --- --- --- --- --t he- aso -gu s-- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---

```

“fbn” isn’t very likely.

Key Length of Five

Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
--- --- --- --- --- -er e-- the --a so- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---
--- --- --- --- --- -th e-- aso --m ob- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---

```

Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
--- --- --- --- --- -er e-- the --a so- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---
--- --- --- --- --- -th e-- aso --m ob- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---

```

This looks better...

Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
--- --- ono --m di- -er e-- the --a so- -mo b-- auo --- ---
--- --- --- ---
--- --- mdi --e re- -th e-- aso --m ob- -au o-- ncj --- ---
--- --- --- ---

```

This looks better...but this doesn't.

Key Length of Six

Key Length of Six

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
--- --- --- --- --- gqu --- the --- aso --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---
--- --- --- --- --- the --- aso --- gxw --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---

```

Key Length of Six

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
--- --- --- --- --- gqu --- the --- aso --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---
--- --- --- --- --- the --- aso --- gxw --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---

```

“gxw” and “gqu” both look bad.

Key Length of Six

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
--- --- --- --- --- gqu --- the --- aso --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---
--- --- --- --- --- the --- aso --- gxw --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---

```

“gxw” and “gqu” both look bad.

We could keep trying longer keywords. We won't get anywhere.

A new offset?

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

A new offset?

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

Key Length of Four

Key Length of Four

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
--- --- --- -wj q-t he- est --- --- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---
--- --- --- -th e-e st- ezr --- --- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---

```

Key Length of Four

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
--- --- --- -wj q-t he- est --- --- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---
--- --- --- -th e-e st- ezr --- --- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---

```

Nope.

Key Length of Five

Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
--- --- --- tim --t he- -es t-- --- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---
--- --- --- the --e st- -ns a-- --- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---

```


Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
--- --- --- tim --t he- -es t-- --- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---
--- --- --- the --e st- -ns a-- --- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---

```

Promising....

Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
--- --s o-- tim --t he- -es t-- nsa --- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---
so- --i m-- the --e st- -ns a-- com --- --- --- --- --- ---
--- --- --- ---

```

Promising....

Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
wa- --s o-- tim --t he- -es t-- nsa --c om- -ic a-- dan --h
ea- -we r-- res
so- --i m-- the --e st- -ns a-- com --i ca- -da n-- hea --w
er- -re s-- ple

```

Promising....And now it's a fill-in-the-blank puzzle.

Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
wa- --s o-- tim --t he- -es t-- nsa --c om- -ic a-- dan --h
ea- -we r-- res
so- --i m-- the --e st- -ns a-- com --i ca- -da n-- hea --w
er- -re s-- ple

```

Promising....And now it's a fill-in-the-blank puzzle.

Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
wa- --s o-- tim --t he- -es t-- nsa --c om- -ic a-- dan --h
ea- -we r-- res
so- --i m-- the --e st- -ns a-- com --i ca- -da n-- hea --w
er- -re sam ple

```

Promising....And now it's a fill-in-the-blank puzzle.

Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
wa- --s o-- tim --t he- -es t-- nsa --c om- -ic a-- dan --h
eaf swe raa res
so- --i m-- the --e st- -ns a-- com --i ca- -da n-- hea --w
era are sam ple

```

Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
wa- --s o-- tim --t he- -es t-- nsa --c om- -ic a-- dan --h
eaf swe raa res
so- --i m-- the --e st- -ns a-- com --i ca- -da n-- hea --w
era are sam ple

```

Doesn't look so good.

Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
wa- --s o-- tim --t he- -es t-- nsa --c om- -ic a-- dan --h
ea- -we r-- res
so- --i m-- the --e st- -ns a-- com --i ca- -da n-- hea --w
er- -re simple

```

Let's try "simple" instead.

Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
wa- --s o-- tim --t he- -es t-- nsa --c om- -ic a-- dan --h
ea- -we rsa res
so- --i m-- the --e st- -ns a-- com --i ca- -da n-- hea --w
ers are sim ple

```

Let's try "simple" instead.

Key Length of Five

```

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
wa- --s o-- tim --t he- -es t-- nsa --c om- -ic a-- dan --h
ean swe rsa res
so- --i m-- the --e st- -ns a-- com --i ca- -da n-- hea nsw
ers are sim ple

```

Let's try "simple" instead.

Key Length of Five

OOF IKA AQW MPQ UMX ZXY IRK TZS PGM GPK QMI PLC NWX KEN QLD
IRF SNI JAM GPW
wat ers ome tim est heq ues tio nsa rec omp lic ate dan dth
ean swe rsa res
som eti mes the que sti ons are com pli cat eda ndt hea nsw
ers are sim ple

Done!

“Sometimes the questions are complicated, and the answers are simple.”
Theodor Geisel

“Sometimes the questions are complicated, and the answers are simple.”
Theodor Geisel a.k.a. Dr. Seuss