**Harold’s Cryptology Cheat Sheet**

9 September 2025

**Definitions**

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| **Cryptology** | The study of cryptography and cryptoanalysis |
| **Cryptography** | Methods of encipherment (secret techniques) |
| **Cryptoanalysis** | Methods of decipherment (code breaking) |
| **Plain** | Plain text message to be encrypted |
| **Cipher** | Encrypted text message to be decrypted |
| **Key** | Secret string or set of numbers used to encrypt plain text |
| **Stegenography** | Information hiding in files, like JPG images |

**Text to Numbers Encoding**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Letter** | **Number** | **Letter** | **Number** |
| **A** | 00 | **N** | 13 |
| **B** | 01 | **O** | 14 |
| **C** | 02 | **P** | 15 |
| **D** | 03 | **Q** | 16 |
| **E** | 04 | **R** | 17 |
| **F** | 05 | **S** | 18 |
| **G** | 06 | **T** | 19 |
| **H** | 07 | **U** | 20 |
| **I** | 08 | **V** | 21 |
| **J** | 09 | **W** | 22 |
| **K** | 10 | **X** | 23 |
| **L** | 11 | **Y** | 24 |
| **M** | 12 | **Z** | 25 |
|  |  | **<space>** | 26 |

**Cipher Methods**

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| **Method** | **Concept** | **Example** | **How** |
| **Shift** | m = plain text messagec = cipher texte.g., (“A” = 0, “B” = 1, ...) | Modular Arithmetic for all three (see Harold’s Modular Arithmetic Cheat Sheet) |
| Multiply and shift, then wrap | **Affine Ciphers** | To find *a*-1, solve for *r*:Since ,then  |
| Shift and wrap | **Caesar Cipher** | Same as Affine with *a* = 1. |
| Multiply and wrap | **Decimation Cipher** | Same as Affine with *b* = 0 and “A” = “A”. |
| **Substitution** | Replacement (simple) | Mixed Alphabet with Key Words | **Key**: Unique letters of the key word in order, without repetitions**Plain**: A B C … X Y Z**Cipher**: <Key> followed by remaining letters of the alphabet, without repetitions |
| Keyword Columnar Transposition Substitution | 1. Row 1: Key word unique chars (# cols)2. Rows 2-n: Remaining unique chars in rows of a fixed column table3. Add a padding character as needed4. Cipher text is simply reading columns top down in alphabetical order |
| **Transposition** | Rearranged | Columnar Transposition | 1. Agree upon number of columns2. Rows 1-n: Use clear text to write out rows of a fixed column table3. Add a padding character as needed4. Cipher text is simply reading columns top down in order left to right |

**Spreadsheet Example – Caesar Cipher**

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| **Function** | **Description** | **Excel Formula** |
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| **Operation** |  | **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** | **F** | **G** | **H** | **I** | **J** |
| Plain Text | **1** | S | K | Y | I | S | C | L | E | A | R |
| Plain Text as # | **2** | 18 | 10 | 24 | 8 | 18 | 2 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 17 |
| Cipher Text as # | **3** | 25 | 27 | 5 | 15 | 25 | 9 | 18 | 11 | 7 | 24 |
| Cipher Text | **4** | Z | R | F | P | Z | J | S | L | H | Y |

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| CODE(“A”) | Converts an ASCII character into a number | A2=CODE(A1) - CODE(“A”) |
| MOD(n, m) | Adds a fixed offset to each number (n) then mods it by m | A3=MOD(A2 + 7, 26) |
| CHAR(65) | Converts a number into an ASCII character | A4=CHAR(A3 + CODE(“A”)) |
| Combined | All three functions combined into one | A4=CHAR(MOD(CODE(A1) - CODE(“A”) + 7, 26) + CODE(“A”)) |

**Frequency Analysis**

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| **Language** | **Combos** | **Letter Frequency** |
| Chart, bar chart, histogram  Description automatically generated |
| **English** | Letters | ETOANIS RHCULETAOI NSHRD LCUMW FGYPB VKXJQZ (Texts)ESIAR NTOLC DUGPM HBYFV KWZXJQ (Dictionaries)ETAON RISHD LFCMU GYPWB VKJXZQ (40K sample)ETAOI NSRHD LUCMF YWGPB VKXQJZETAOI NSRHL DCUMF PGWYB VKXJQZ |
| Diagrams | TH HE AN RE ER IN ON AT ND ST ES EN OF TE ED OR TI HI AS TOTH HE IN EN NT RE ER AN TI ES ON AT SE ND OR AR AL TE CO DE TO RA ET ED IT SA EM RO |
| Double Letters | LL EE SS OO TT FF RR NN PP CC |
| Trigrams | THE AND THA ENT ING ION TIO FOR NDE HAS NCE EDT TIS OFT STH MEN |
| Words | [1500 Most Commonly Used English Words in Daily Life](https://english.makeaneasy.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/1500-most-common-english-words.pdf) |
| **French** | Letters | ESAIT NRUOL DCMPV ÉQFBG HJÀXZ ÈÊYÇK ÛÙÂW |
| **Italian** | Letters | EAION LRTSC DPUMV GZFBH ÀQÈÚW ÍYJKX ÒÉÇÆ |
| **German** | Letters | ENSRI ATDHU LGCOM WBFKZ ÜÖßJY XQÀÈÚ ÍÒÉ |
| **Spanish** | Letters | EAOSR NIDLC TUMPB GYÍVQ ÓHFZJ ÉÁÑXÚ ÜWK |

**RSA Algorithm**

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| **RSA** | Public key cryptosystem developed by Rivest, Adelman, and Shamir in 1978. |
| **Key Prep** | 1. Bob selects two large prime numbers, p and q.
2. Bob computes N = pq and φ = (p-1) (q-1)
3. Bob finds an integer e such that gcd (e, φ) = 1.
4. Bob computes the multiplicative inverse of e mod φ: an integer d such that (ed mod φ) = 1.
5. Public (encryption) key: N and e.
6. Private (decryption) key: d.
 |
| Example | 1. Bob selects two primes:p = 31q = 592. Compute:N = p ⋅ q = 31 ⋅ 59 = 1829ϕ = (p - 1) ⋅ (q - 1) = 30 ⋅ 58 = 17403. Find integer e such that gcd (e, ϕ) = 1Guess e = 859 and check: gcd (859, 1740) = 1If the first guess is not relatively prime to ϕ, try another.4. Using Euclid's algorithm, find A and B such that A ⋅ 859 + B ⋅ 1740 = 179 ⋅ 859 + (-39) ⋅ 1740 = 179 ⋅ 859 = 1 mod 1740d = 79 is the inverse of 859 mod 17405. Public key: (e, N)e = 859N = 18296. Private key: (d, N)d = 79N = 1829 |
| **Encryption** |  |  |
| **Decryption** |  |  |
| **Number Theory Fact** | Let p and q be prime numbers and pq = N. Suppose that m ∈ **Z**N and gcd (m, N) = 1. Then m(p-1)(q-1) mod N = 1. |
| **Theorem: Validity of the RSA Cryptosystem** | If m ∈ **Z**N and gcd (m, N) = 1, then RSA encryption and decryption applied to m always yield m as the unique result. |

**Sources**:

* [SNHU MAT 230](https://www.snhu.edu/admission/academic-catalogs/coce-catalog#/courses/4kVhSZLtg) - Discrete Mathematics, zyBooks.
* [SNHU MAT 260](https://www.snhu.edu/admission/academic-catalogs/coce-catalog#/courses/NkdqI-8Fe) - Cryptology, I[nvitation to Cryptology](https://www.amazon.com/Invitation-Cryptology-Thomas-H-Barr/dp/0130889768/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=9A8O5P2JQ7F&keywords=978-0-13-088976-8&qid=1656057152&sprefix=978-0-13-088976-8%2Caps%2C71&sr=8-1), 1st Edition, Thomas Barr, 2001.