# Cryptography - Part 1

Feb. 20, 2025

# Recap question:

Feb. 20, 2025

A disease in the SIR model is estimated to have parameter values $\beta = 2$ and $\gamma = 1$. What is the herd immunity threshold for the disease?

The herd immunity threshold is

$$p_c = 1 - \frac{1}{R_0}.$$

To compute this, we need to find the value of $R_0$ . We use the definition of $R_0$ :

$$R_0 = \frac{\beta}{\gamma} = \frac{2}{1} = 2$$

so

$$p_c = 1 - \frac{1}{R_0} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

# Cryptography - Part 1

## Feb. 20, 2025

By the end of this lecture, you will be able to:

1. Define substitution ciphers and Caesar ciphers
2. Decrypt Caesar ciphers using the brute-force method
3. Decrypt substitution ciphers using frequency analysis

**Cryptography** is “the art of writing in secret characters”. A cryptographer encodes messages before they are transmitted so that even if the encrypted message is intercepted by a hostile party, its meaning will still remain secret.

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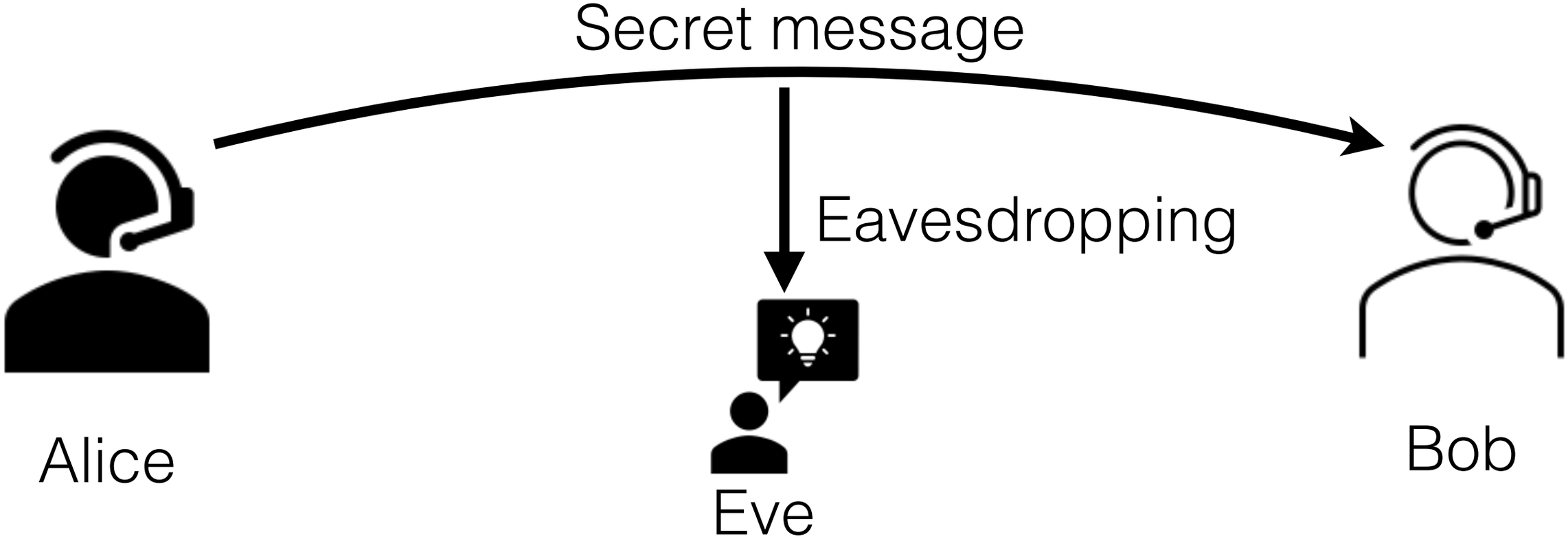
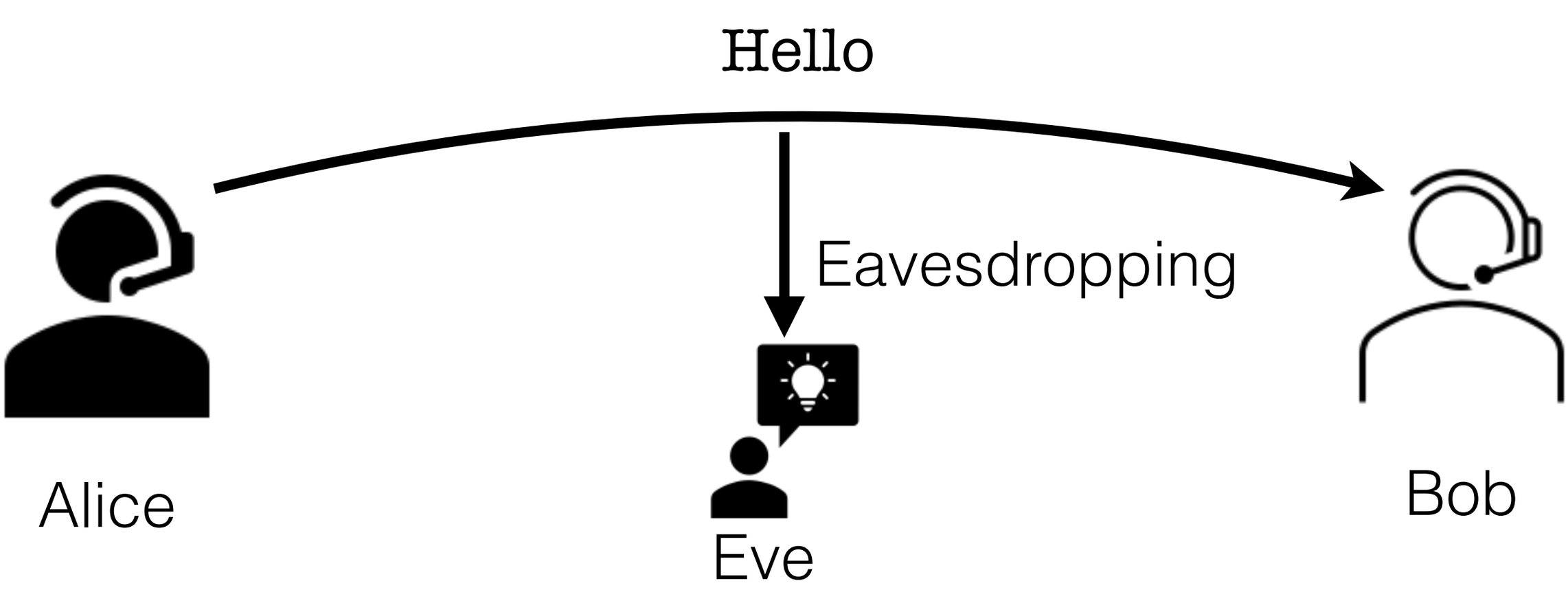
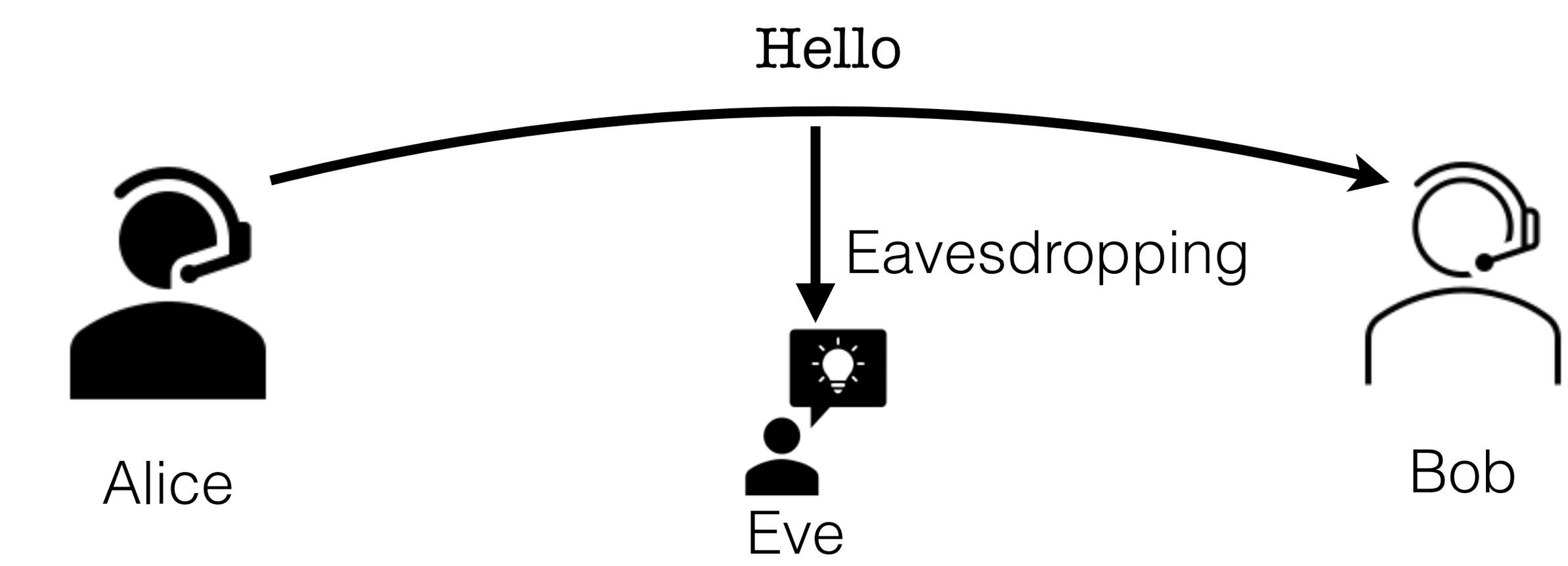



Hello
Eavesdropping
Alice
Eve
Bob


Hello
Eavesdropping
Alice
Eve
Bob


Encrypt
Hello → xcppr
xcppr
Eavesdropping
?
Decrypt
xcppr → Hello
Alice
Eve
Bob

In principle, only “friends” of the original cryptographer, who knows the secret recipe for decoding or decrypting, can decode the encrypted message to the original plain text.

A “code breaker” seeks to detect patterns in the encrypted messages that will lead to sufficient understanding of the encryption scheme to enable the discovery of a decryption method.

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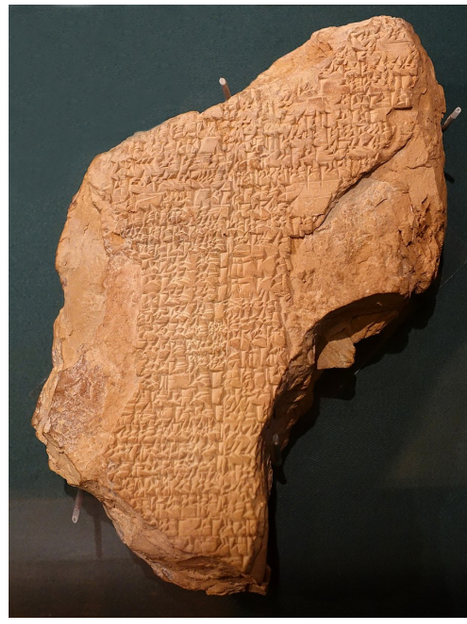
1500 BC: encrypted clay tablets to keep valuable information (recipe for pottery glaze) secret



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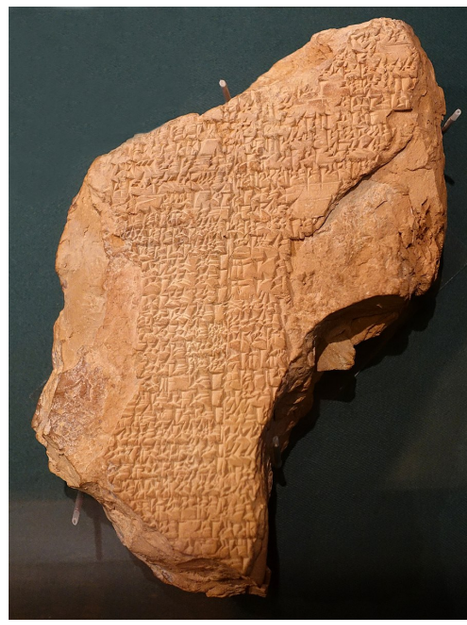

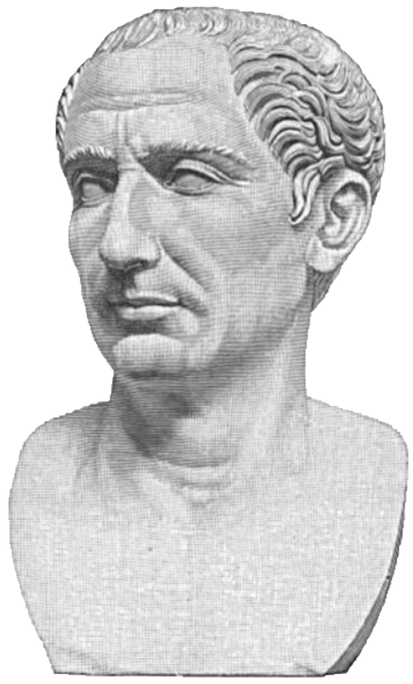

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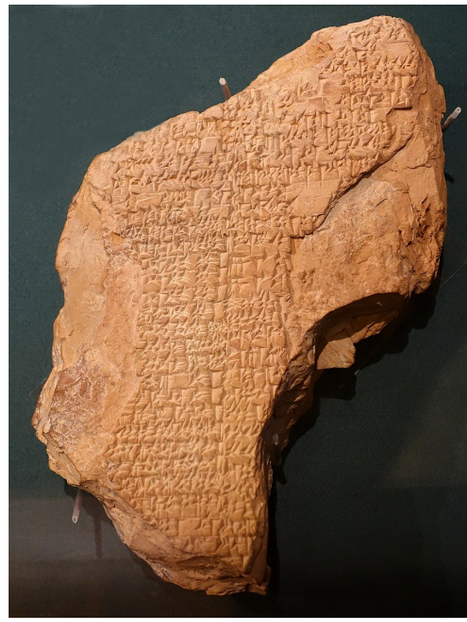

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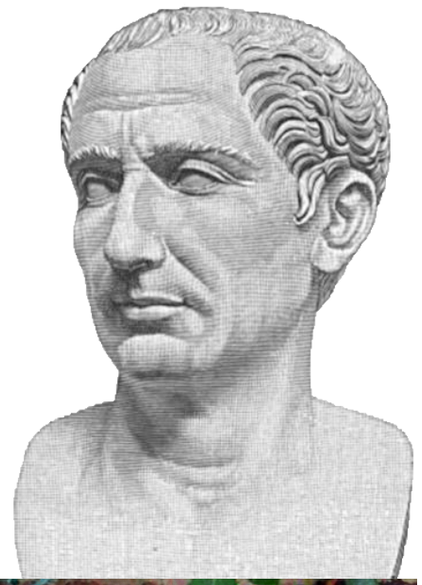

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⋮

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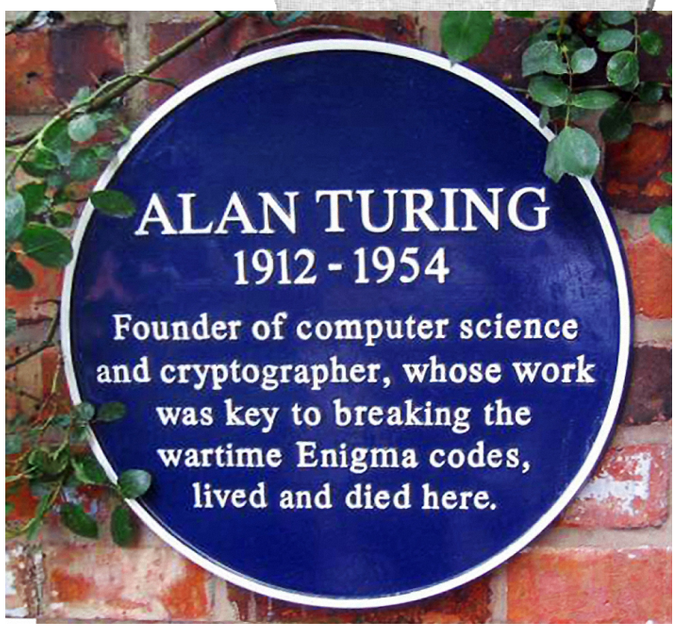


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Turing_Plaque.jpg

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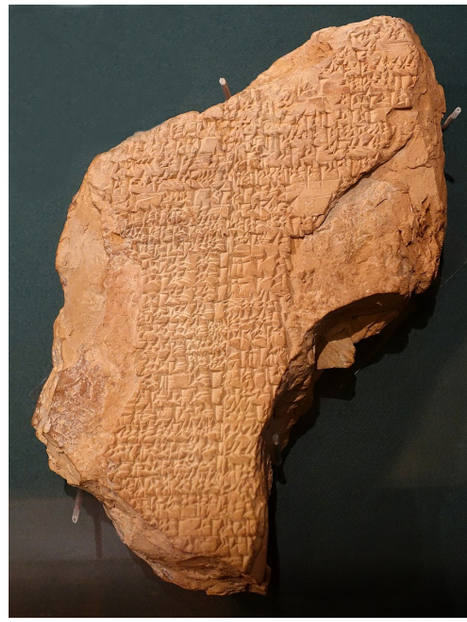

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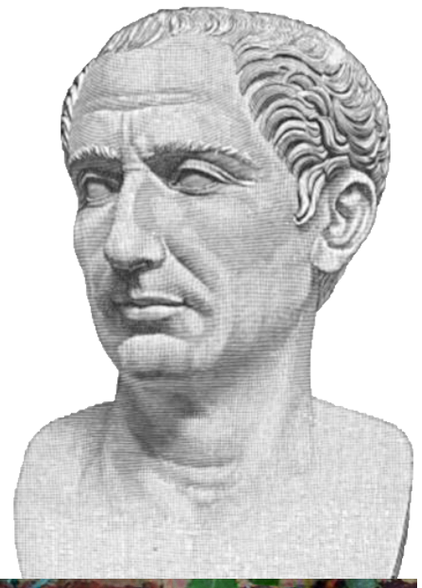

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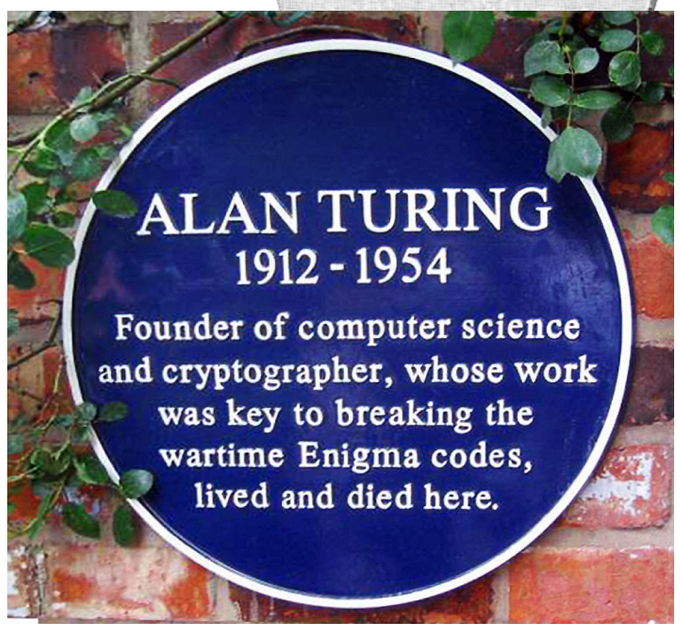


Today: logging into websites, sending emails, WhatsApp, verifying credit card information, cloud storage of pictures, …

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# Unsolved historical encryption techniques

71, 194, 38, 1701, 89, 76, 11, 83, 1629, 48, 94, 63, 132, 16, 111, 95, 84, 341,
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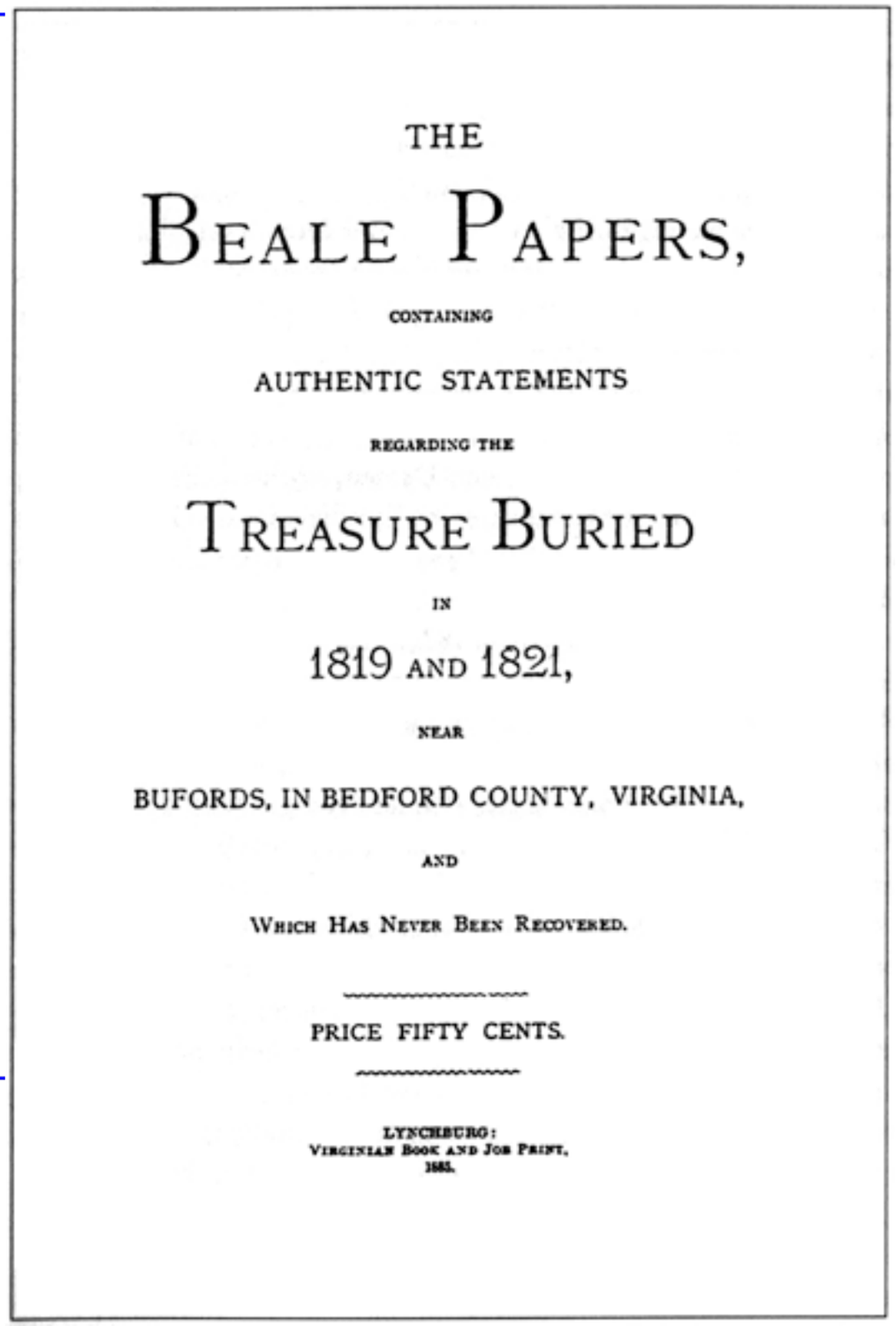


THE

BEALE PAPERS,

CONTAINING

AUTHENTIC STATEMENTS

REGARDING THE

TREASURE BURIED

IN

1819 AND 1821,

NEAR

BUFORDS, IN BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA,

AND

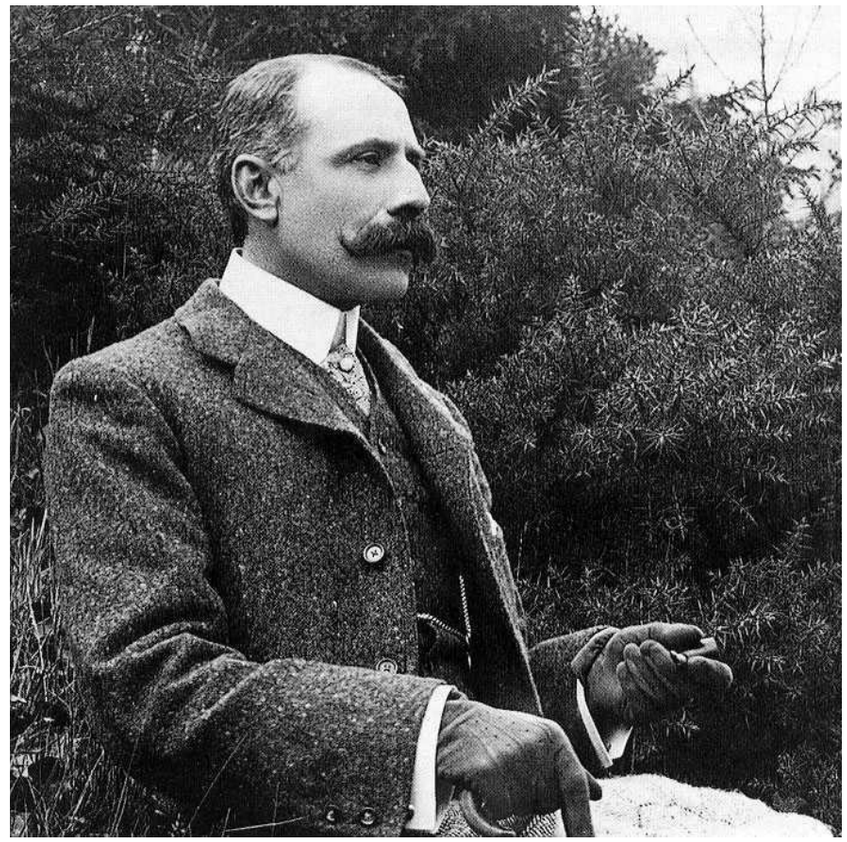
WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN RECOVERED.

PRICE FIFTY CENTS.

LYNCHBURG:
VIRGINIAN BOOK AND JOB PRINT.
1885.

# Unsolved historical encryption techniques

Letter written by composer
Edward Elgar to Dora Penny



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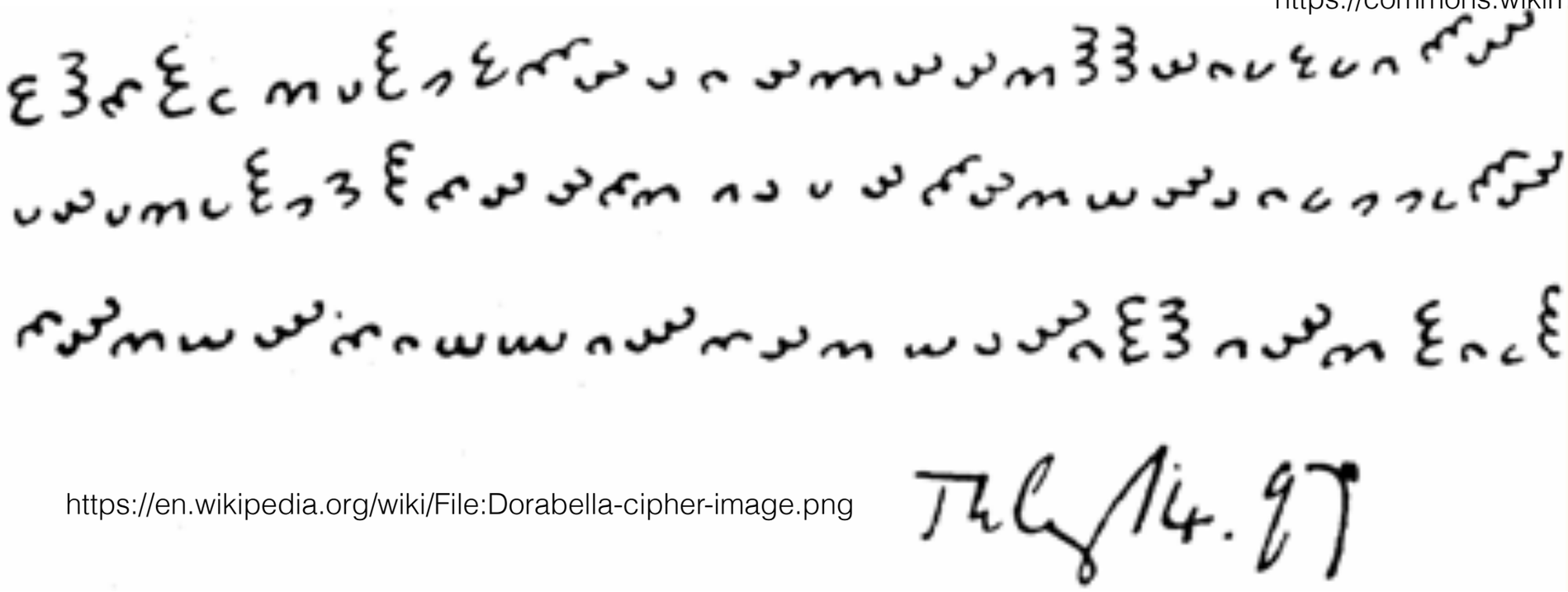

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## Some (not very good) encryption techniques:

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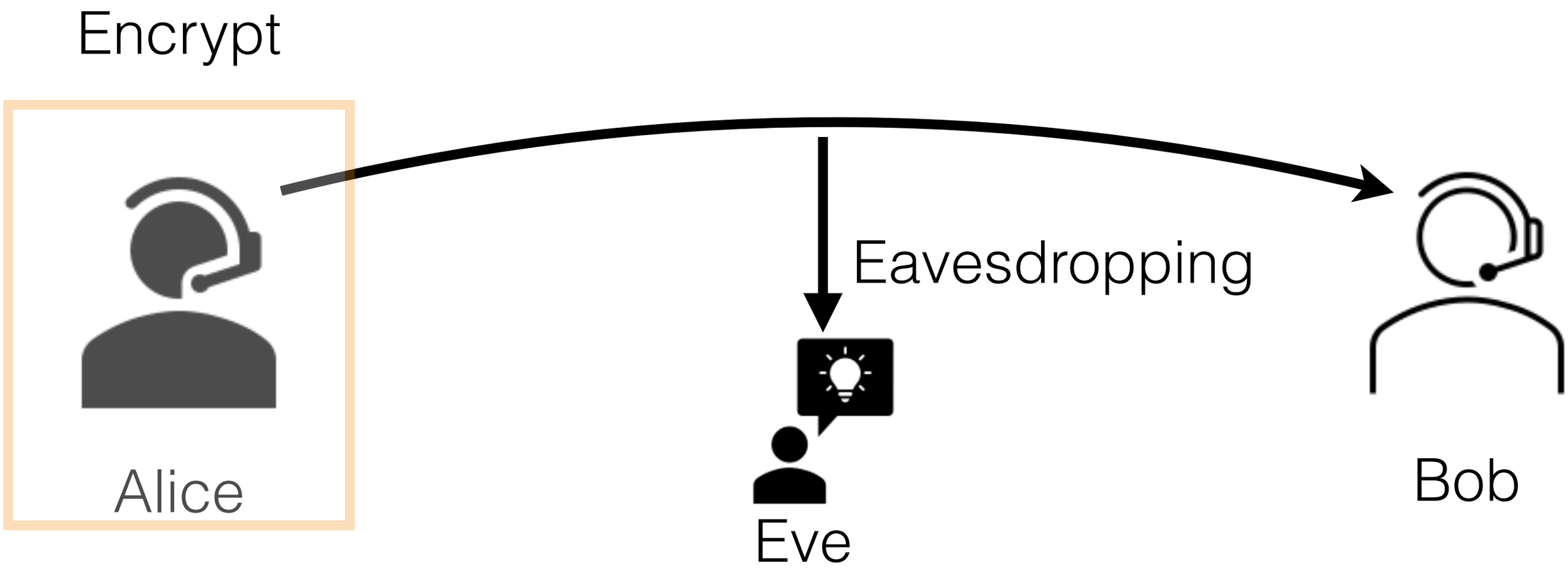
For the rest of today, we will discuss better techniques!

# Old standards: substitution ciphers

The oldest schemes replace the letters in the message one by one, following a fixed recipe.



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

How do we encrypt “Math alive”?

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| 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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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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# Old standards: substitution ciphers

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# Old standards: substitution ciphers

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Math alive

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# Old standards: substitution ciphers

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Math alive

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# Old standards: substitution ciphers

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# Old standards: substitution ciphers

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# Old standards: substitution ciphers

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Math alive

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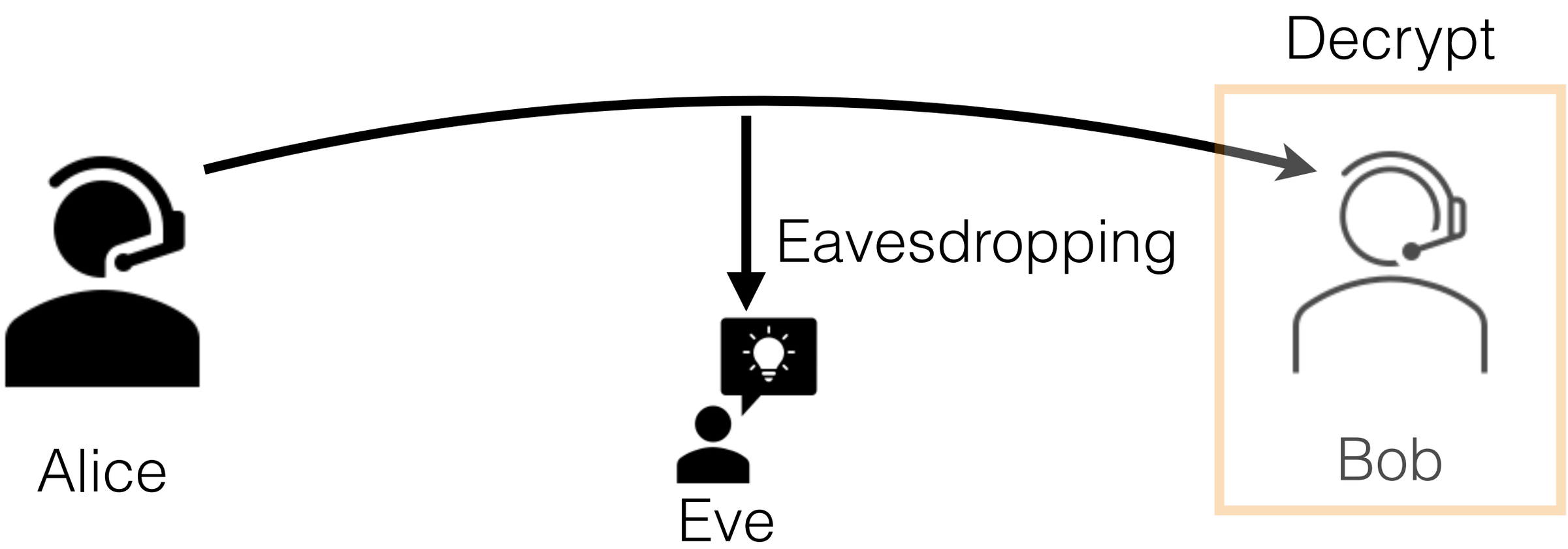
# Old standards: substitution ciphers

To decrypt, go the other way!



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

What does “QYMGNNAYVSATTHI” mean?

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

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GIR

| 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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GIRAFFE

| 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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GIRAFFEIS

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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What does “QYMGNNAYVSATTHI” mean?

GIRAFFEISY

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

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# Special substitution cipher used by Julius Caesar

Caesar ciphers (circular shift of alphabets):

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
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 A

Shift by one step

# Substitution cipher used by Julius Caesar

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### Shift by one step

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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### Shift by two steps

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Shift by two steps

⋮

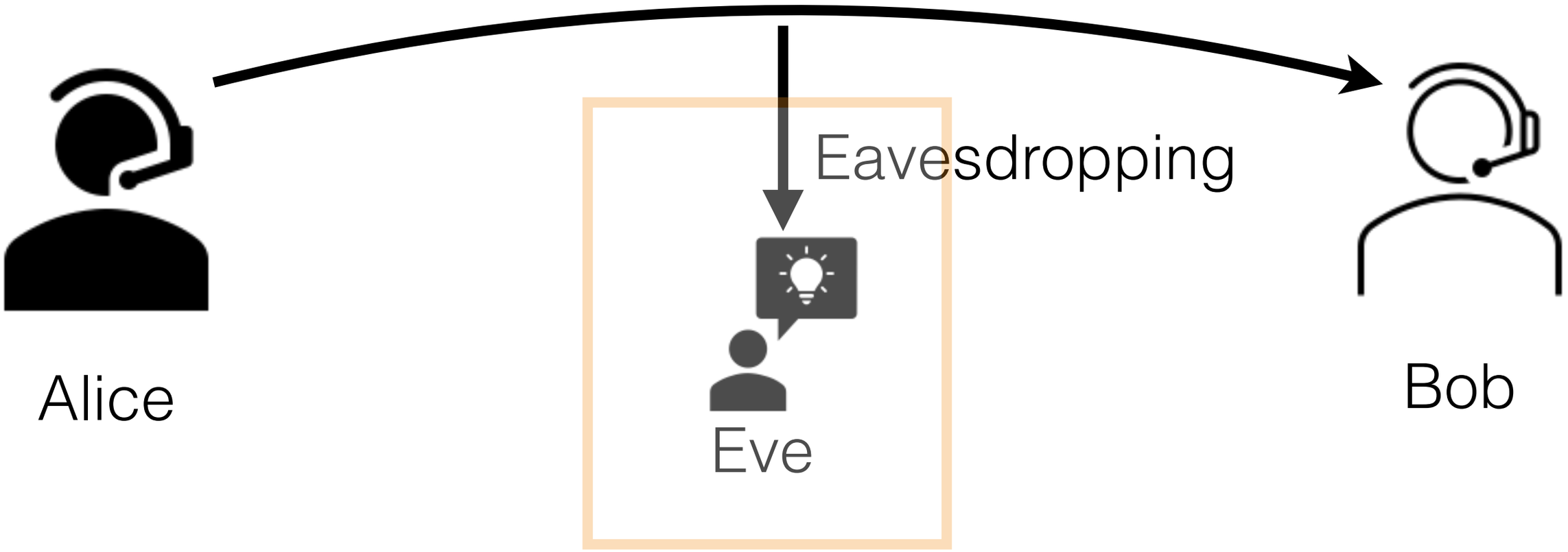
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y

Shift by 25 steps

We choose a value for the shift (the “key”) between 1 and 25 and get one cipher

**Example:** the following was encrypted with a Caesar cipher, but we do not know the key that was used. Decrypt it anyways!

nqpiecnewncvkqpu



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longcalculations

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**Brute force decryption:** try every possible key.

Feasible for Caesar cipher

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Feasible for Caesar cipher (25 possible keys),

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$$26 \cdot 25 \cdot \ldots \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \approx 4 \cdot 10^{26}$$

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$$26 \cdot 25 \cdot \ldots \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \approx 4 \cdot 10^{26}$$

keys. Trying them all would take around 317 years on Earth's currently largest supercomputer.

zkbzkrphzkbihhwgrqwidlophqrzwdnhphwrbrxuilqlvkolqhrkpbkhduwlwe
uhdnvhyhubvwhswkdwlwdnhexwlpkrslqjwkdwwkhjdwhvwkhboowhoop
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voryhlvqrwhqrxjkdqgwkhurdgjhwvwrxjklgrqwnqrzzkbnhhspdnlqjphodx
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rxdqglzhzhuheruqwrglhorvwexwqrzldpirxqglfdqvhhexwrqfhlzdveolqglz
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hurdglvorqjzhfduubrqwubwrkdyhixqlqwkhphdqwlphfrphwdnhdzdonrqw
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fkrrvhbrxuodvwzrugvwklvlvwkhodvwwlphfdxvhbrxdqglzhzhuheruqwrg
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rxdqglzhzhuheruqwrglhorvwexwqrzldpirxqglfdqvhhexwrqfhlzdveolqglz
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phvoryhlvqrwhqrxjkdqgwkhurdgjhwvwrxjklgrqwnqrzzkbnhhspdnlqjphodx
jkohwvjrjhwkljkwkhurdglvorqjzhfduubrqwubwrkdyhixqlqwkhphdqwlphf
rphwdnhdzdonrqwkhzlogvlghfrphnlvvphkduglqwkhsrxulqjudlqbrxol
nhbrxujluovlqvdqhvrfkrrvhbrxuodvwzrugvwklvlvwkhodvwwlphfdxvhb
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hurdglvorqjzhfduubrqwubwrkdyhixqlqwkhphdqwlphfrphwdnhdzdonrqw
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fkrrvhbrxuodvwzrugvwklvlvwkhodvwwlphfdxvhbrxdqglzhzhuheruqwrg
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uhplqhlwvolnhlwrogbrxkrqhbgrqwpdnhphvdggrqwpdnhphfubvrphwlphvory
hlvqrwhqrxjkdqgwkhurdgjhwvwrxjklgrqwnqrzzkbnhhspdnlqjphodxjko
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wilqgdoowkhdqvzhuvkrqhbgrqwpdnhphvdggrqwpdnhphfubvrphwlphvory
hlvqrwhqrxjkdqgwkhurdgjhwvwrxjklgrqwnqrzzkbnhhspdnlqjphodxjko
hwvjrjhwkljkwkhurdglvorqjzhfduubrqwubwrkdyhixqlqwkhphdqwlphfrp
hwdnhdzdonrqwkhzlogvlghfrphnlvvphkduglqwkhsrxulqjudlqbrxolnh
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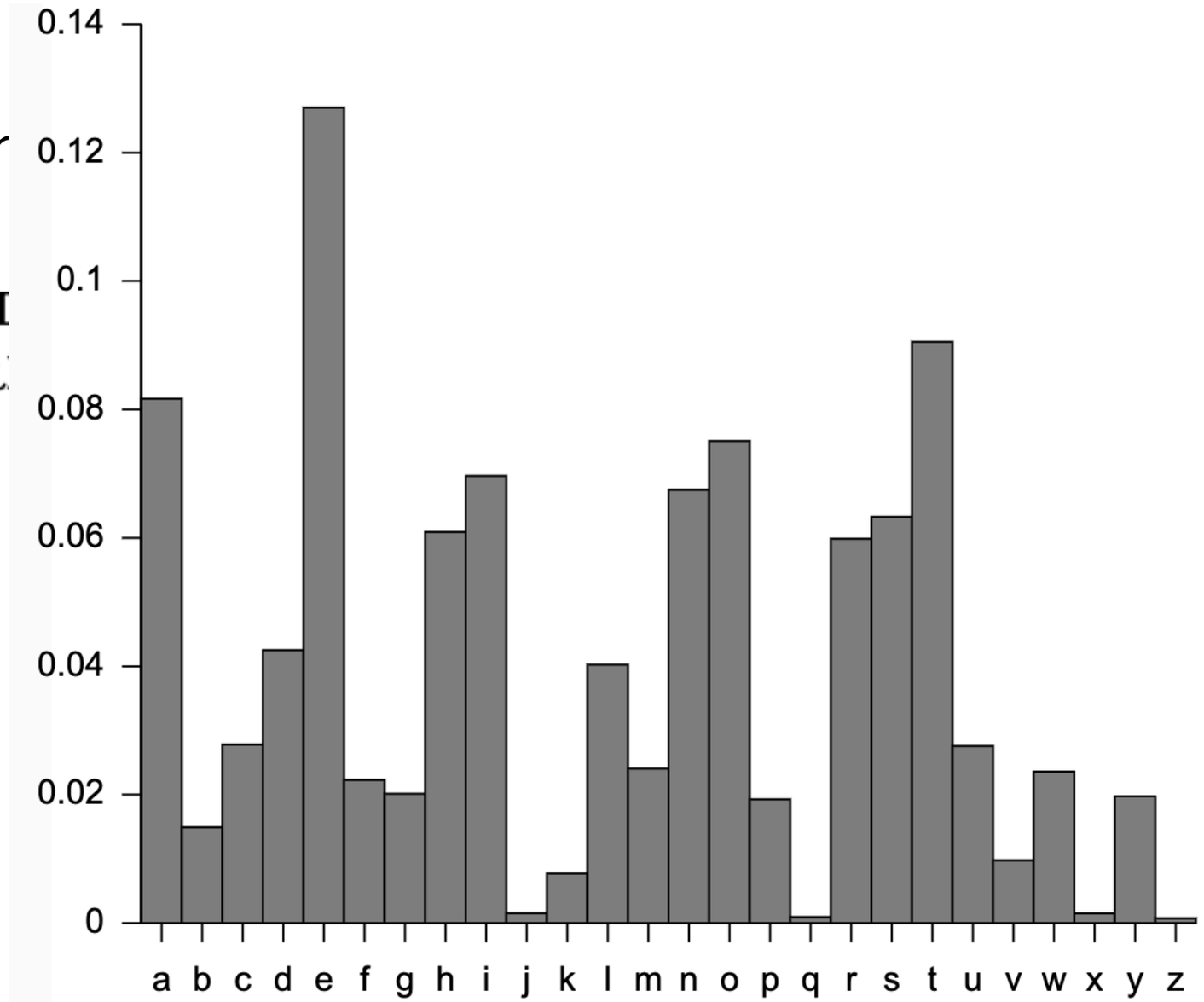
jhwvwrxjklgrqwnqrzzkbnhhspdnlqjphodxjkohwvjrjhwkljkwkhurdglvorq
jzhfduubrqwubwrkdyhixqlqwkhphdqwlphfrphwdnhdzdonrqwkhzlogvlghoh
wphnlvvbrxkduglqwkhsrxulqjudlqbrxolnhbrxujluovlqvdqhfkrrvhbrxuod
vwzrugvwklvlvwkhodvwwlphfdxvhbrxdqglzhzhuheruqwrglhzhzhuheruqwrg
lhzhzhuheruqwrglh

If the language in which the plain text is written is known to the code-breaker, and if the messages contain a few sentences of text,

| LETTER | STANDARD FREQUENCY | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | .0761 | i | .0734 | r | .0615 |
| b | .0154 | j | .0015 | s | .0650 |
| c | .0311 | k | .0065 | t | .0933 |
| d | .0395 | l | .0411 | u | .0272 |
| e | .1262 | m | .0254 | v | .0099 |
| f | .0234 | n | .0711 | w | .0189 |
| g | .0195 | o | .0765 | x | .0019 |
| h | .0551 | p | .0203 | y | .0172 |
| | | q | .0010 | z | .0009 |

If the language in which the plain text is written is known sages contair




ST

| LETTER | FR |
|---|---|
| a | .0615 |
| b | .0650 |
| c | .0933 |
| d | .0272 |
| e | .0099 |
| f | .0189 |
| g | .0019 |
| h | .0172 |
| | .0009 |

# Decryption example using frequency analysis:

zkbzkrphzkbihhwgrqwidlophqrzwdnhphwrbrxuilqlvkolqhrkpbkhduwlwe
uhdnvhyhubvwhswkdwlwdnhexwlpkrslqjwkdwwkhjdwhvwkhboowhoop
hwkdwbrxuhplqhzdonlqjwkurxjkwkhflwbvwuhhwvlvlwebplvwdnhrughv
ljqlihhovrdorqhrqdiulgdbqljkwfdqbrxpdnhlwihhoolnhkrphlilwhoobrxbrx
uhplqhlwvolnhlwrogbrxkrqhbgrqwpdnhphvdggrqwpdnhphfubvrphwlph
voryhlvqrwhqrxjkdqgwkhurdgjhwvwrxjklgrqwnqrzzkbnhhspdnlqjphodx
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nhbrxujluovlqvdqhvrfkrrvhbrxuodvwzrugvwklvlvwkhodvwwlphfdxvhb
rxdqglzhzhuheruqwrglhorvwexwqrzldpirxqglfdqvhhexwrqfhlzdveolqglz
dvvrfrqixvhgdvdolwwohfklogwulhgwrwdnhzkdwlfrxogjhwvfduhgwkdwlf
rxogqwilqgdoowkhdqvzhuvkrqhbgrqwpdnhphvdggrqwpdnhphfubvrphwl
phvoryhlvqrwhqrxjkdqgwkhurdgjhwvwrxjklgrqwnqrzzkbnhhspdnlqjpho
dxjkohwvjrjhwkljkwkhurdglvorqjzhfduubrqwubwrkdyhixqlqwkhphdqwl
phfrphwdnhdzdonrqwkhzlogvlghfrphnlvvphkduglqwkhsrxulqjudlqbrxol
nhbrxujluovlqvdqhvrfkrrvhbrxuodvwzrugvwklvlvwkhodvwwlphfdxvhb
rxdqglzhzhuheruqwrglhzhzhuheruqwrglhzhzhuheruqwrglhfrphdqgwdn
hdzdonrqwkhzlogvlghohwphnlvvbrxkduglqwkhsrxulqjudlqbrxolnhbrxuj
luovlqvdqhgrqwpdnhphvdggrqwpdnhphfubvrphwlphvoryhlvqrwhqrxjkd
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hurdglvorqjzhfduubrqwubwrkdyhixqlqwkhphdqwlphfrphwdnhdzdonrqw
khzlogvlghohwphnlvvbrxkduglqwkhsrxulqjudlqbrxolnhbrxujluovlqvdqh
fkrrvhbrxuodvwzrugvwklvlvwkhodvwwlphfdxvhbrxdqglzhzhuheruqwrg
lhzhzhuheruqwrglh

# Decryption example using frequency analysis:

zkbzkrphzkbihhwgrqwidlophqrzwdnhphwrbrxuilqlvkolqhrkp
uhdnvhyhubvwhswkdwlwdnhexwlpkrslqjwkdwwkhjdwhvwkl
hwkdwbrxuhplqhzdonlqjwkurxjkwkhflwbvwuhhwvlvlwebplv
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jkohwvjrjhwkljkwkhurdglvorqjzhfduubrqwubwrkdyhixqlqwk
rphwdnhdzdonrqwkhzlogvlghohwphnlvvbrxkduglqwkhsrxul
nhbrxujluovlqvdqhvrfkrrvhbrxuodvwzrugvwklvlvwkhodvww
rxdqglzhzhuheruqwrglhorvwexwqrzldpirxqglfdqvhhexwrqfh
dvvrfrqixvhgdvdolwwohfklogwulhgwrwdnhzkdwlfrxogjhwvfc
rxogqwilqgdoowkhdqvzhuvkrqhbgrqwpdnhphvdggrqwpdnhp
phvoryhlvqrwhqrxjkdqgwkhurdgjhwvwrxjklgrqwnqrzzkbnhl
dxjkohwvjrjhwkljkwkhurdglvorqjzhfduubrqwubwrkdyhixqlqw
phfrphwdnhdzdonrqwkhzlogvlghfrphnlvvphkduglqwkhsrxulc
nhbrxujluovlqvdqhvrfkrrvhbrxuodvwzrugvwklvlvwkhodvww
rxdqglzhzhuheruqwrglhzhzhuheruqwrglhzhzhuheruqwrglhfr
hdzdonrqwkhzlogvlghohwphnlvvbrxkduglqwkhsrxulqjudlqbr
luovlqvdqhgrqwpdnhphvdggrqwpdnhphfubvrphwlphvoryhlvc
qgwkhurdgjhwvwrxjklgrqwnqrzzkbnhhspdnlqjphodxjkohwvj
hurdglvorqjzhfduubrqwubwrkdyhixqlqwkhphdqwlphfrphwdn
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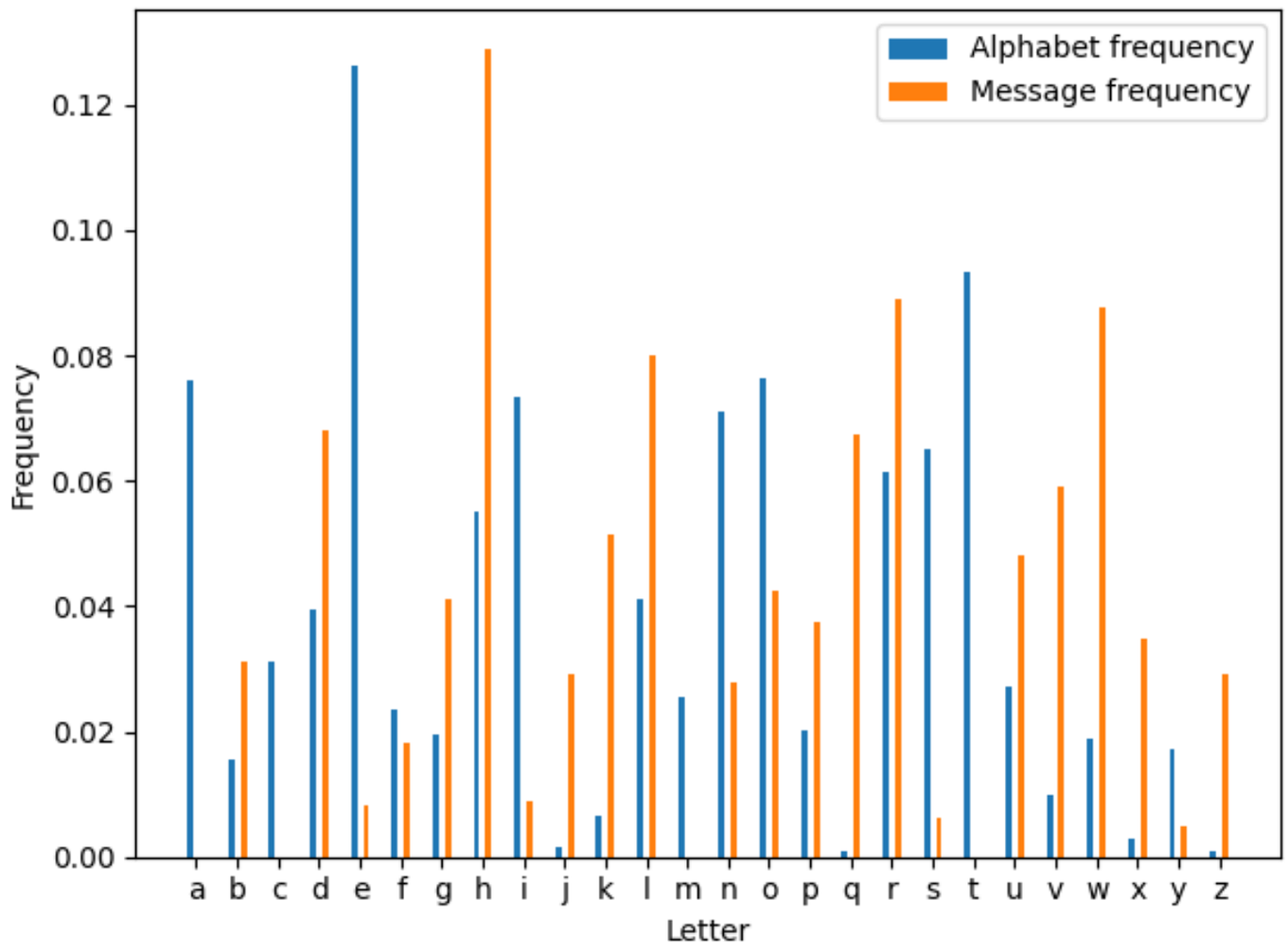

# Decryption example using frequency analysis:

zkbzkrphzkbihhwgrqwidlophqrzwdnhphwrbrxuilqlvkolqhrkp
uhdnvhyhubvwhswkdwlwdnhexwlpkrslqjwkdwwkhjdwhvwkl
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rxogqwilqgdoowkhdqvzhuvkrqhbgrqwpdnhphvdggrqwpdnhp
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rxdqglzhzhuheruqwrglhzhzhuheruqwrglhzhzhuheruqwrglhfr
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qgwkhurdgjhwvwrxjklgrqwnqrzzkbnhhspdnlqjphodxjkohwvj
hurdglvorqjzhfduubrqwubwrkdyhixqlqwkhphdqwlphfrphwdn
khzlogvlghohwphnlvvbrxkduglqwkhsrxulqjudlqbrxolnhbrxuj
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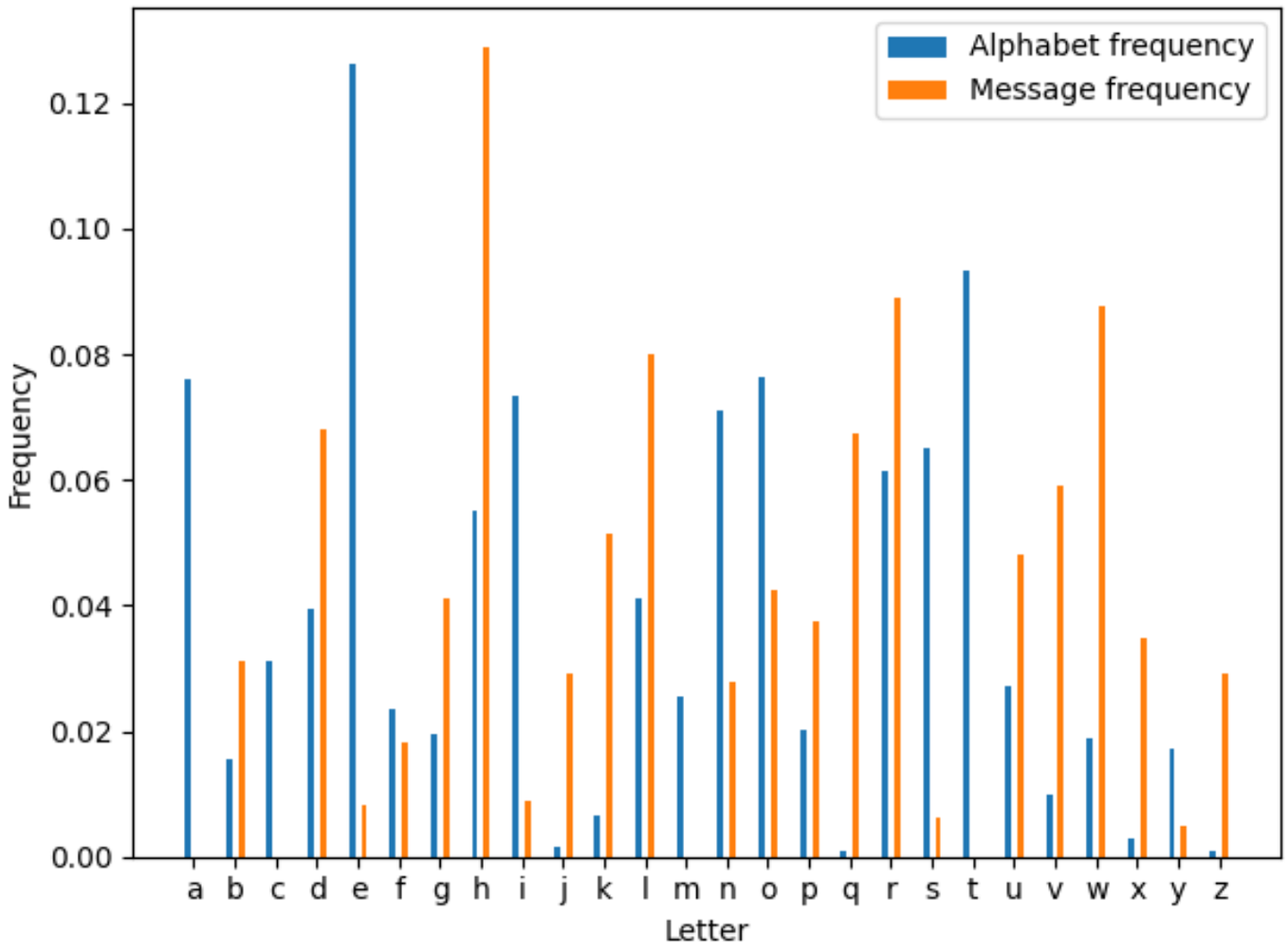
lhzhzhuheruqwrglh




whywhomewhyfeetdontfailmenowtakemetoyourfinishlineohmyheartitbreakseverystepthatitake...
— Lana Del Rey

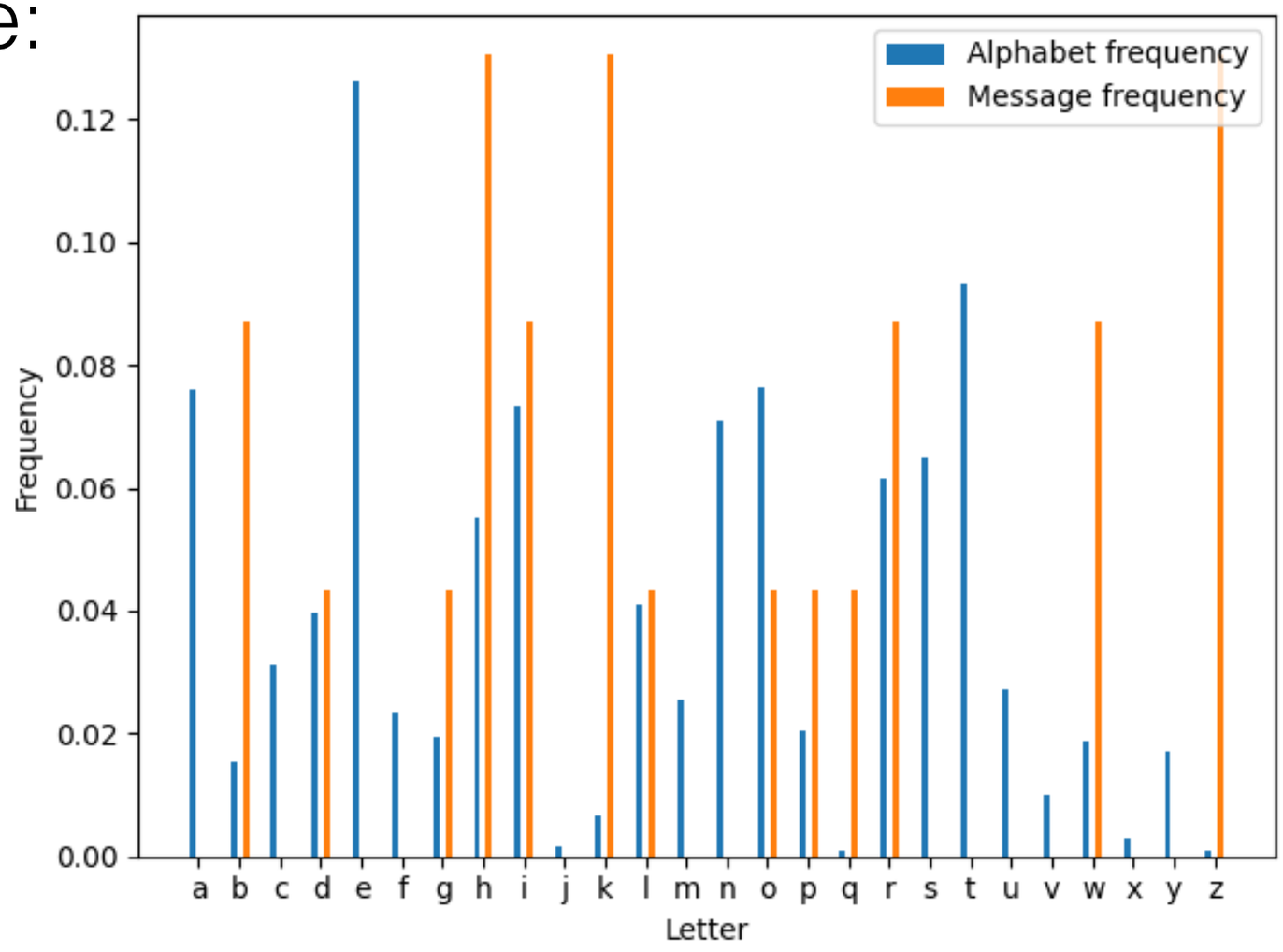
# Decryption example using frequency analysis:

The first part of the message:

zkbzkrphzkbihhwgrqwidlo

“decrypts” to:

etoetihaetonaasridsnlcu



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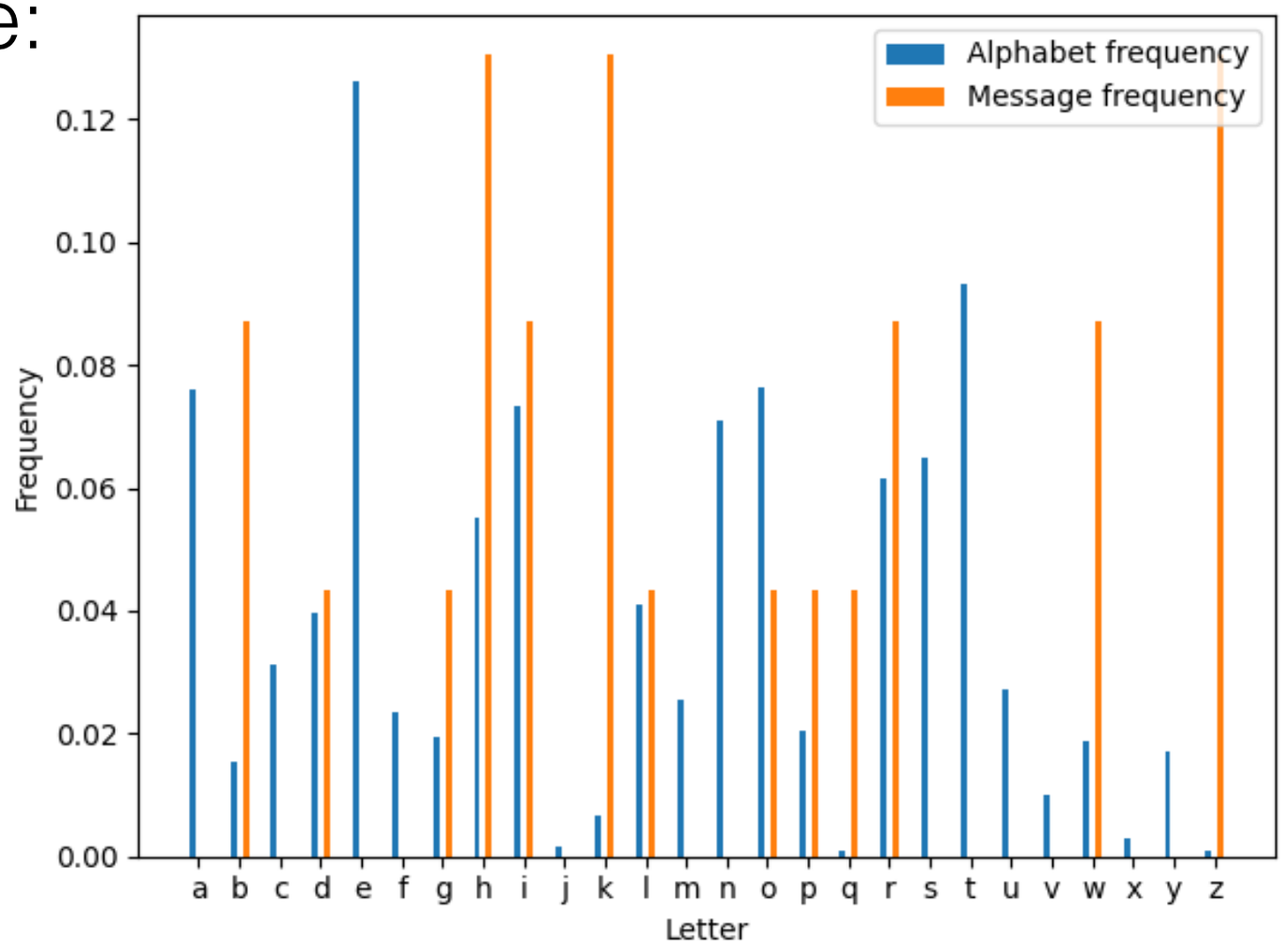
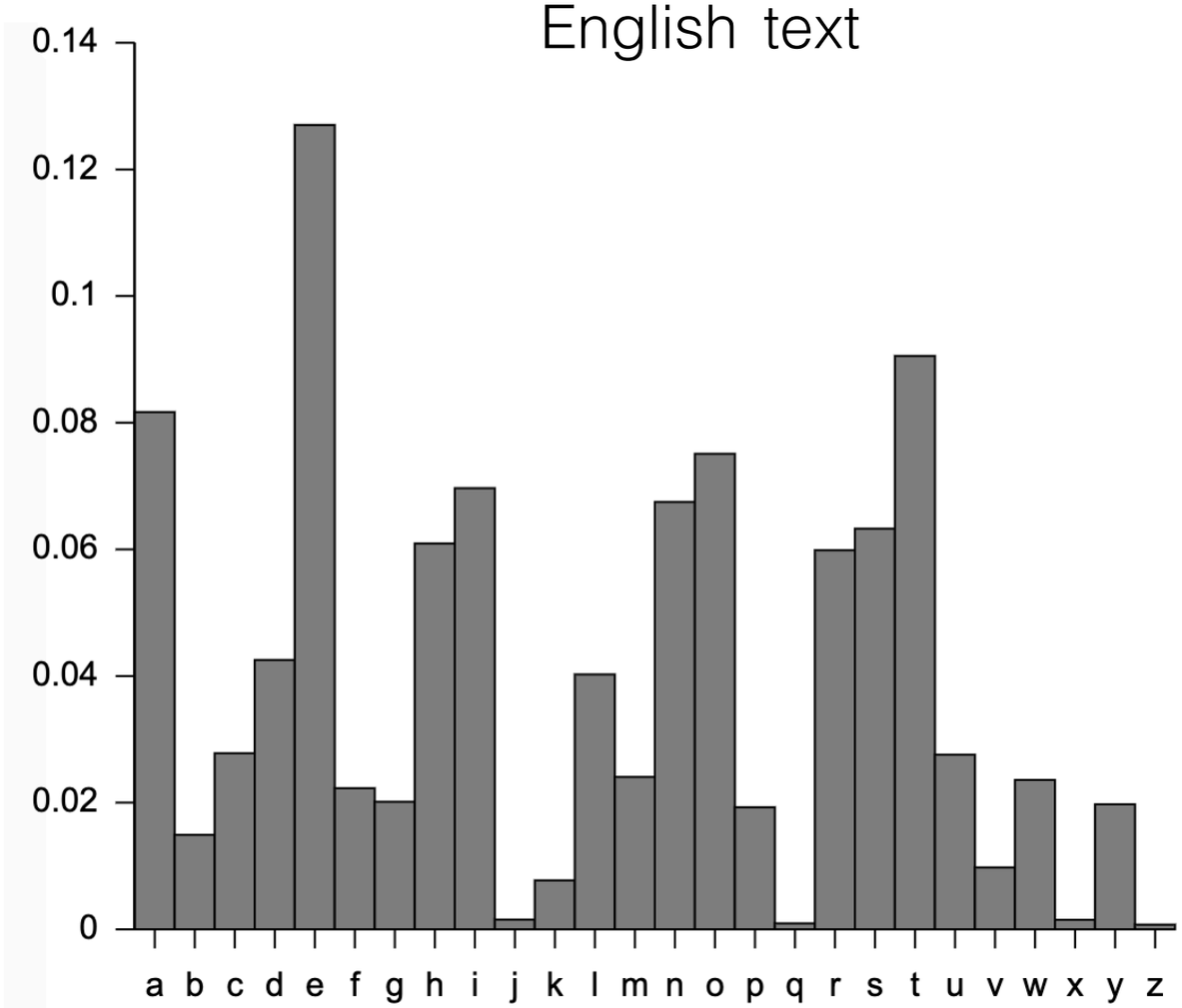


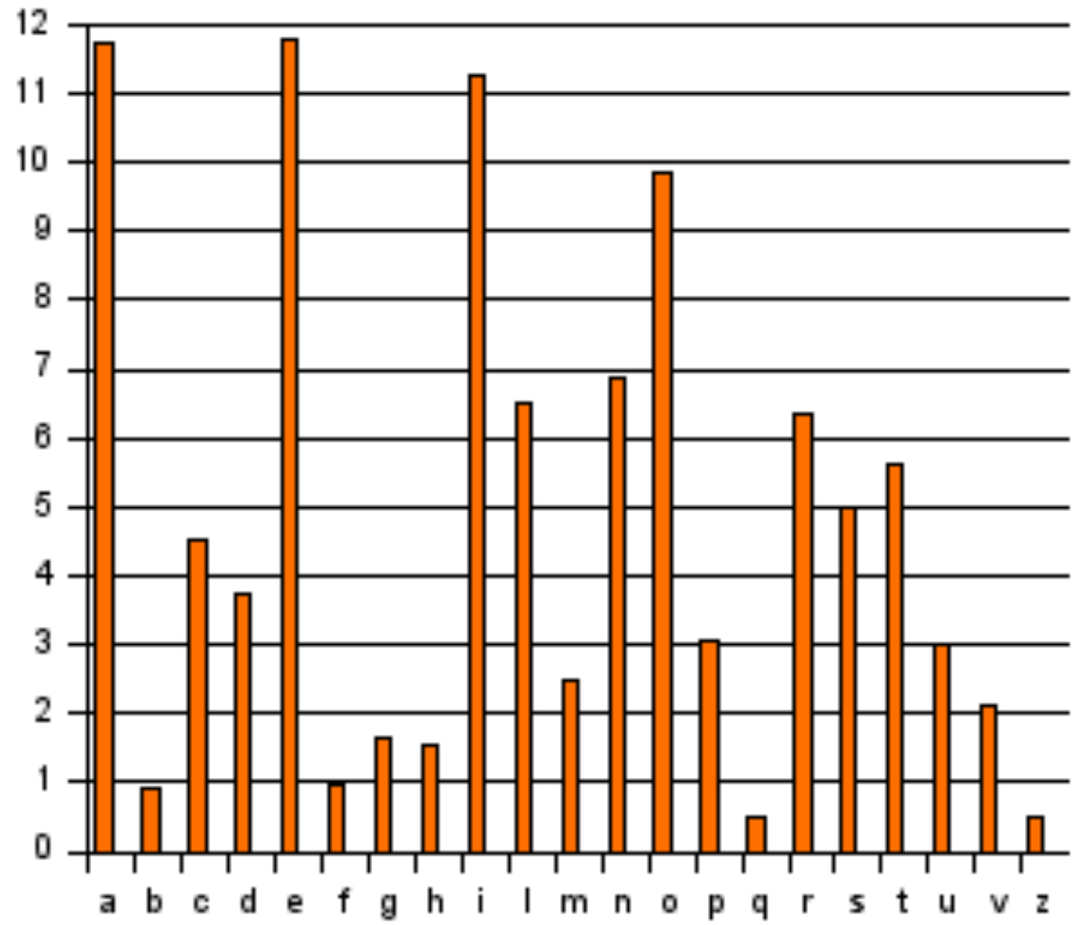

Does not work when message is too short!

# Decryption example using frequency analysis:

English text




Italian text

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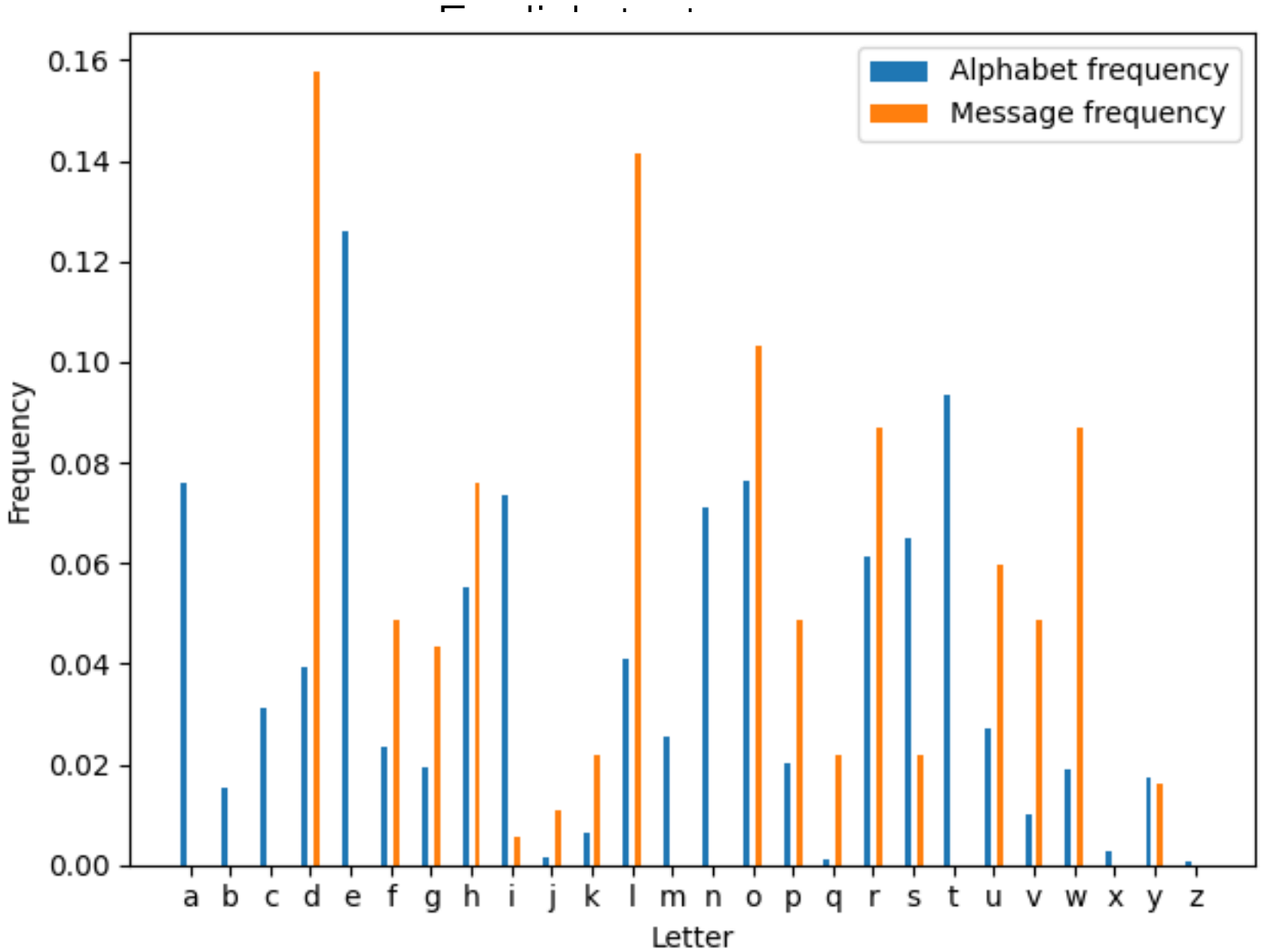
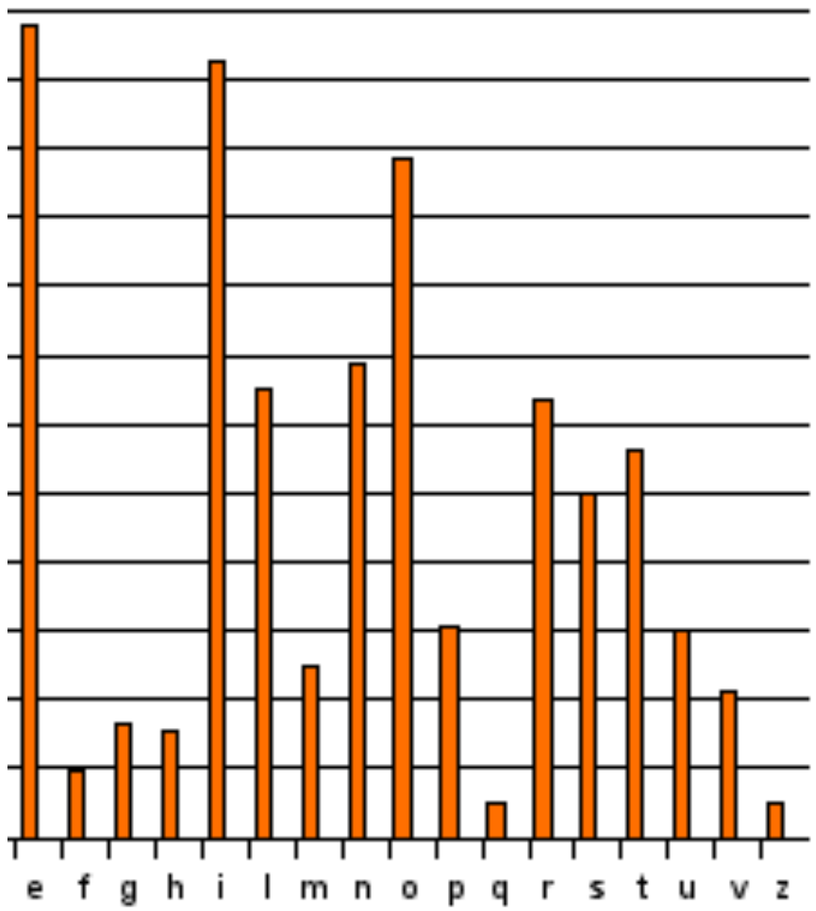
# Decryption example using frequency analysis:




Italian text

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Does not work if message is in the wrong language!