

A simple test for monoalphabetic substitution

English: MISSISSIPPI

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Monoalphabetic: RDFFDFFD00D

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Vigenere : PQJLLAJBSXZ

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In English or monoalphabetic encrypted text we observe:

$$p_{AA} + p_{BB} + p_{CC} + \dots + p_{ZZ} \approx .027$$

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While in polyalphabetic cyphertext we should observe:

$$P(\alpha\alpha \text{ occurs in random cyphertext}) = \frac{1}{26} \approx .038$$

We should note (of course) that this only works for reasonably large amounts of text.