

# Package ‘cryptography’

July 22, 2025

**Title** Encrypts and Decrypts Text Ciphers

**Version** 1.0.0

**Description** Playfair, Four-Square, Scytale, Columnar Transposition and Autokey methods. Further explanation on methods of classical cryptography can be found at Wikipedia; (<[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical\\_cipher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_cipher)>).

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.3

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**URL** <https://github.com/PiarasFahey/cryptography>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/PiarasFahey/cryptography/issues>

**Imports** DescTools

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Piaras Fahey [aut, cre, cph]

**Maintainer** Piaras Fahey <faheypi@tcd.ie>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2023-07-08 09:40:02 UTC

## Contents

autokey . . . . .	2
columnar_transposition . . . . .	2
four_square . . . . .	3
playfair . . . . .	4
scytale . . . . .	4
<b>Index</b>	<b>6</b>

autokey

*Autokey Cipher*

---

**Description**

This can be used to encrypt or decrypt an Autokey cipher. The Autokey Cipher is derived from the Vigenere Cipher, in which the key and plaintext are bound to generate a new encryption key for the Vigenere method. This Vigenere method uses only letters and numbers, as such any other characters used as inputs are not used in the cipher.

**Usage**

```
autokey(message, key, encrypt = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

message	A character vector of plaintext to be encrypted or ciphertext to be decrypted
key	A character vector to be used as the encryption key
encrypt	(Default: TRUE) TRUE will encrypt the message, while FALSE will decrypt the message.

**Value**

A character vector of either plaintext that has been encrypted or ciphertext that has been decrypted.

**Examples**

```
autokey("VerySecretMessage", "Hack", encrypt = TRUE)
autokey("c4JYn8JfwNoLMbmAM", "Hack", encrypt = FALSE)
autokey("Very $%^&SecretMes(*sagf$%e", "Hack", encrypt = TRUE)
```

---

columnar\_transposition*Columnar Transposition Cipher*

---

**Description**

This can be used to encrypt or decrypt a Columnar Transposition cipher. This method is a development of the Scytale cipher that rearranges the encryption matrix used in the Scytale method by the alphabetical ordering of the encryption key.

**Usage**

```
columnar_transposition(message, key, encrypt = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

message	A character vector
key	A character vector composed only of a-zA-Z letters used as the encryption key
encrypt	(Default: TRUE) TRUE will encrypt the message, while FALSE will decrypt the message.

**Value**

A character vector of either plaintext that has been encrypted or ciphertext that has been decrypted using the columnar transposition cryptographic method.

**Examples**

```
columnar_transposition("Hidden message", "hack", encrypt = TRUE)
columnar_transposition("insed sHeegdma", "hack", encrypt = FALSE)
```

---

four_square	<i>Four-Square Cipher</i>
-------------	---------------------------

---

**Description**

This can be used to encrypt or decrypt a Four-Square cipher. The Four-Square cipher is a poly-graphic substitution cipher that maps digrams of text to two encryption matrices through their position in a square alphabet matrix.

**Usage**

```
four_square(message, key1, key2, encrypt = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

message	a character vector used as the plaintext to be encrypted or the ciphertext to be decrypted
key1	a character vector used as the encryption key for the first encryption matrix
key2	a character vector used as the encryption key for the second encryption matrix
encrypt	(Default: TRUE) TRUE will encrypt the message, while FALSE will decrypt the message.

**Value**

A character vector of either plaintext that has been encrypted or ciphertext that has been decrypted.

**Examples**

```
four_square("THEPRISONERSHAVEESCAPED", "HACK", "SAFE", encrypt = TRUE)
four_square("SHBOTDTMPFSQDFZSCUHFBCY", "HACK", "SAFE", encrypt = FALSE)
```

---

playfair

*Playfair Cipher*


---

### Description

This can be used to encrypt or decrypt a Playfair cipher. A Playfair cipher is a polygraphic substitution cipher that maps digrams of text to other elements of an encryption matrix which is generated by a keyword.

### Usage

```
playfair(message, key, encrypt = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

message	a character vector to be encrypted or decrypted
key	a character vector to be used as the encryption key
encrypt	(Default: TRUE) TRUE will encrypt the message, while FALSE will decrypt the message.

### Value

A character vector of either plaintext that has been encrypted or ciphertext that has been decrypted.

### Examples

```
playfair("SUPERSECRETMESAGE", "safety", encrypt = TRUE)
playfair("YSQFNTFDQTGRTAAFDT", "safety", encrypt = FALSE)
playfair("$%^Att&(a09Ck___He86re", "safety", encrypt = TRUE)
playfair("FSSFkPLSQT", "safety", encrypt = FALSE)
```

---

scytale

*Scytale cipher*


---

### Description

This can be used to encrypt and decrypt a Scytale cipher. A Scytale cipher is an ancient form of cryptography that wraps a message (typically written on a long thin piece of paper) around a device to create a matrix with a fixed number of columns that transposes the text.

### Usage

```
scytale(message, col, encrypt = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

message	A character vector
col	A positive integer, this determines the number of columns in the encryption matrix. 1 column will have no effect
encrypt	(Default: TRUE) TRUE will encrypt the message, while FALSE will decrypt the message.

**Value**

A character vector of either plaintext that has been encrypted or ciphertext that has been decrypted.

**Examples**

```
scytale("very super secret message!", col = 4, encrypt = TRUE)
scytale("v eetseesrc s!ru rmaypseeg", col = 4, encrypt = FALSE)
```

# Index

autokey, [2](#)

columnar\_transposition, [2](#)

four\_square, [3](#)

playfair, [4](#)

scytale, [4](#)