PROBLEM 1. The digits 1, 2, 3, 4 are randomly arranged into two two-digit numbers  $\overline{AB}$  and  $\overline{CD}$ —each of the four digits is used exactly once. In this problem you will ultimately determine the expected value of  $\overline{AB} \cdot \overline{CD}$ .

- (i) Randomly choose two digits from the set {1,2,3,4} without replacement (for example, we cannot choose 1 twice). What is their expected product? [To get started: create an appropriate sample space *S* and random variable *X*: *S* → ℝ.]
- (ii) Note that  $\overline{AB}$  is a linear combination of *A* and *B*: namely,  $\overline{AB} = 10A + B$ . A similar statement holds for  $\overline{CD}$ . Use this fact along with part (a) and linearity of expectation to determine the expected value  $E(\overline{AB} \cdot \overline{CD})$ .

PROBLEM 2. (The coupon collector problem.) Safeway is running a promotion in which they have produced *n* coupons and you randomly receive a coupon each time you check out. You passionately hope to one day collect all *n* coupons. What is the expected number of times *T* you'll have to check out at the store in order to collect all *n*? There's a very clever way to solve this problem with linearity of expectation!

(i) Label the coupons  $C_1, C_2, ..., C_n$ . If n = 4, a successful collection of all 4 coupons might look like  $C_2 C_2 C_4 C_2 C_1 C_3$ . Break the sequence into segments where a segment ends when you receive a new coupon. In the example sequence, the segments are:

$$C_2$$
,  $C_2 C_4$ ,  $C_2 C_1$ ,  $C_3$ .

Because it will make our lives easier, consider these the 0-th, 1-st, ..., 3-rd segments (as opposed to 1-st through 4-th). Let  $X_k$  be the length of the *k*-th segment, and note that *k* ranges from 0 through n - 1. In the example,  $X_0 = 1$ ,  $X_1 = 2$ ,  $X_2 = 2$ , and  $X_3 = 1$ . Express *T*, the total number of checkouts needed to collect all coupons, as a linear combination of the  $X_k$ .

- (ii) Compute  $p_k$ , the probability that you will collect a new coupon given that you have already collected k of them. After studying the geometric distribution, we will learn that  $E(X_k) = 1/p_k$ . Compute this value.
- (iii) Use your answers to (a) and (b) to determine E(T).
- (iv) Can you say anything about the asymptotic behavior of E(T)?