

Exercise 38. (a) *Derangements.* Recall that a derangement of n is a permutation of n with no fixed-points, and that the number of derangements of n is given by

$$D(n) = n! \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i / i!.$$

- (i) Verify this formula for $D(n)$ for $n = 3$.
 - (ii) Verify the recursive formula $D(n) = nD(n-1) + (-1)^n$ using the above formula for $D(n)$.
 - (iii) Give a combinatorial proof for the recursive formula $D(n) = (n-1)(D(n-1) + D(n-2))$.
- (b) *Fixed-point free functions* Consider the set of functions $\varphi : [n] \rightarrow [n]$. Note that this differs from our work on derangements, since φ is not necessarily bijective.

- (i) Let S be the set of conditions “ $\varphi(i) = i$ ” (so that $|S| = n$, one condition for each element of $[n]$.) For $T \subseteq S$, describe $f_{=}(T)$ and $f_{\geq}(T)$ using set notation.
- (ii) How many functions $\varphi : [n] \rightarrow [n]$ have no fixed points?
- (iii) Let $E(n)$ be the number of fixed-point free functions $\varphi : [n] \rightarrow [n]$. Show that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E(n)/n^n = 1/e.$$

- (c) How many permutations of $[n]$ have no cycle of length k ? If $f_k(n)$ denotes this number, then compute $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_k(n)/n!$.

[Hint: for a subset $S \subseteq [n]$ of size k , let A_S be the set of permutations in which there is a k -cycle whose entries are the elements of S . It may or may not be useful to note that A_S and A_T are disjoint exactly when S and T are not disjoint.]