Probabilistic and Combinatorial Aspects of the Card-Cyclic to Random Insertion Shuffle

Ross Pinsky

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa

Consider a permutation $\sigma \in S_n$ as a deck of cards numbered from 1 to nand laid out in a row, where σ_j denotes the number of the card that is in the *j*-th position from the left. We study some probabilistic and combinatorial aspects of the shuffle on S_n defined by removing and then randomly reinserting each of the n cards once, with the removal and reinsertion being performed according to the original left to right order of the cards. The novelty here in this nonstandard shuffle is that every card is removed and reinserted exactly once. The bias that remains turns out to be quite strong and possesses some surprising features.