## Shuffle to One, Shuffle to Normal

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## Model



## Communications in Statistics - Theory and Methods

## A discrete probability problem in card shuffling

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"The original question raised was to determine how many times catalysts are expected to be added in order to get a single lump of all molecules."

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Let $X_{n}$ be the random number of steps it takes to shuffle $n$ cards.

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Number of cards $=\mathbf{1 0}$


Number of cards $=30$


Number of cards $=\mathbf{2 0}$


Number of cards $\mathbf{= 5 0}$


Figure 1. Shuffling distributions with normal curves fitted.

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## Remark

Experiments shows $\mathbb{E}\left[X_{n}\right]-n \sim \log n$.

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works for general card shuffling models.

1. "general" refers to other models that reduce the number of cards in a different way.
2. And if given the sequence $p_{n, k}$, to find the asymptotic expression of $\mu_{n}$ can be considered independent of the shuffling model.

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$$

## $p_{n, k}=A(n, k) / n!$

## Definition

A permutation of $n$ integers $1,2, \ldots, n$ is said to have $k$ lumps if and only if when the numbers are read from left to right, after the numbers in consecutive increasing order are merged, there are exactly $k$ mergers including those standing alone.

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The number of lumps of permutations of $[n]$ is

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A(n, k)=\binom{n-1}{k-1} \frac{(k+1)!}{k} \sum_{j=0}^{k+1} \frac{(-1)^{j}}{j!} .
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Let $\varepsilon_{n}:=\mu_{n}-n-\mathcal{H}_{n-1}$, where the harmonic number is defined by

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3. Abel summation by parts:

Lemma $\left(U(n):=\sum_{k=1}^{n} u_{k}\right)$

$$
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$$

$\operatorname{Var}\left[X_{n}\right]$
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Theorem (M. Rao, H. Zhang, C. Huang, and F.-C. Cheng)
For any $n \geq 2$,
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Let $\left\{\lambda_{n}\right\} \subset \mathbb{C}$ with $\lambda_{n} \sim M n^{L}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ for fixed $L \in \mathbb{N} \cup\{0\}$ and $M \in \mathbb{C}$, where $M \neq 0$ if $L \neq 0$. Define sequence $\xi_{n}$ by the recurrence

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Bell Numbers

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## End: Any Questions?



