Permutations with Ascending and Descending Blocks

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A *descent* of a permutation $\pi \in S_n$ is an index *i*, $1 \le i < n$, such that $\pi(i) > \pi(i+1)$.

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Question

How many permutations in S_n have a given descent set S and lie in a given conjugacy class C?

A permutation π is (a_1, \ldots, a_k) -ascending if π ascends in consecutive blocks of lengths a_1, \ldots, a_k .

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Example

The 6 (2, 2)-ascending permutations are

12 34	13 24
14 23	23 14
24 13	34 12

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Example

(a) and (b) are the same (2,3)-compatible ornament. (c) is (3,4)-compatible.



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Theorem (Gessel and Reutenauer, 1993)

The (a_1, \ldots, a_k) -ascending permutations are in bijection with (a_1, \ldots, a_k) -compatible ornaments where every cycle is aperiodic. This bijection preserves cycle structure.

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 $(a_1, a_2) = (7, 5), \pi = 1 3 4 8 9 10 12 | 2 5 6 7 11$



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An (a_1, \ldots, a_k, S) -permutation is a permutation that descends in the blocks A_i with $i \in S$ and ascends in all other blocks.

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 $(a_1, a_2) = (8, 10), S = \{1\}$ $\pi = 18 \ 17 \ 15 \ 14 \ 13 \ 12 \ 11 \ 9 \ | \ 1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ 6 \ 7 \ 8 \ 10 \ 16$

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Question

Can we generalize the Gessel-Reutenauer bijection to (a_1, \ldots, a_k, S) -permutations?

Theorem

There is an injection from the (a_1, \ldots, a_k, S) -permutations to the (a_1, \ldots, a_k) -compatible ornaments. This injection preserves cycle structure.

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Corollary (Conjectured in (Eriksen, Freij, Wästlund, 2007)) For any permutation σ of $\{1, \ldots, k\}$ and conjugacy class C of S_n , the (a_1, \ldots, a_k, S) -permutations in C are in bijection with the $(a_{\sigma(1)}, \ldots, a_{\sigma(k)}, \sigma(S))$ -permutations in C.

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Corollary (Theorem 7.1 in (Gessel and Reutenauer, 1993)) If C satisfies certain mild properties, then the number of elements of C with descent set D equals the number of elements of C with descent set $\{1, ..., n - 1\}\setminus D$.

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Corollary (Theorem 7.2 in (Gessel and Reutenauer, 1993)) The number of involutions with descent set D equals the number of involutions with descent set $\{1, ..., n-1\}\setminus D$.

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Question

The Gessel-Reutenauer bijection implies that there are $\binom{a_1+\ldots+a_k}{a_1,\ldots,a_k}$ *A*-compatible ornaments such that every cycle is aperiodic. Is there a simpler proof of this fact? Thank you.

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