

Probabilistic number theory on permutations

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A natural way to define additive and multiplicative functions on the symmetric group \mathbb{S}_n , $n \geq 1$, analogous to that under investigation in number theory, is based on the cycle decomposition of a permutation $\sigma \in \mathbb{S}_n$. Assume that σ has $k_j(\sigma) \geq 0$ independent cycles of length j , $1 \leq j \leq n$. If $h_j(k)$, $j \geq 1$, $k \geq 0$ is a double index sequence in \mathbb{R} such that $h_j(0) \equiv 0$, then an additive function $h: \mathbb{S}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined by

$$h(\sigma) = \sum_{j=1}^n h_j(k_j(\sigma)), \quad \sigma \in \mathbb{S}_n.$$

Let $\theta > 0$ be a constant and $w(\sigma) = k_1(\sigma) + \dots + k_n(\sigma)$ be the number of cycles in σ . The Ewens probability $\nu_{n,\theta}(\cdot)$ on the subsets of \mathbb{S}_n is defined via

$$\nu_{n,\theta}(\{\sigma\}) = \theta^{w(\sigma)} / \theta(\theta + 1) \cdots (\theta + n - 1), \quad \sigma \in \mathbb{S}_n.$$

In the talk, we will discuss asymptotical properties of the distributions $\nu_{n,\theta} \cdot h^{-1}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. The role of ideas originated in probabilistic number theory will be emphasized.