

Random Number Generation without Repetition

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Problem: We are given a function f from naturals to naturals. Let f^i denote the i -fold application of f to a fixed argument, f^0 .

Theorem: $(\exists i, t : i \geq 0 \wedge t > 0 : (f^i = f^{i+t}) \Rightarrow (\exists j : i \leq j < i+t : f^j = f^{2j}))$

Proof: Consider the interval of numbers i through $i+t-1$. Since this interval contains t numbers, there exists j , $i \leq j < i+t$, which is a multiple of t . Since $f^i = f^{i+t}$ and j is a multiple of t , $f^k = f^{k+j}$, for all k , $k \geq i$. Letting k be j , $f^j = f^{2j}$.

Corollary: $(\forall j : m \leq j < n : f^j \neq f^{2j}) \Rightarrow (\forall i, k : m \leq i < k \leq n : f^i \neq f^k)$

Proof: We prove the contrapositive of this result.

$$\begin{aligned} & (\exists i, k : m \leq i < k \leq n : f^i = f^k) \\ \Rightarrow & \quad \{ \text{From Theorem, using the introduced values } i, k \} \\ & (\exists j : i \leq j < k : f^j = f^{2j}) \\ \Rightarrow & \quad \{ \text{relaxing the bounds on } j \} \\ & (\exists j : m \leq j < n : f^j = f^{2j}) \end{aligned}$$

Note: This is an interesting example where a producer has to produce two items, f^{2j-1} and f^{2j} , and the consumer can then consume a single item, f^j , provided $f^j \neq f^{2j}$.