

## Fixed-point-free variations (Reference A336246)

$V(n,k)$  is the number of ways to place  $n$  persons on different seats such that each person number  $p$ ,  $1 \leq p \leq n$  differs from the seat number  $s(p)$ ,  $1 \leq s(p) \leq n+k$ ,  $k \geq 0$ .

Annotation: Here,  $n$  is used rather than  $i$ ;  $k$  is the number of free seats.  
Abbreviation:  $V(n,k)$  is the number of  $(n,k)$ -arrangements (variations).

Recurrence:  $V(n,k) = (n+k-1) \cdot V(n-1,k) + (n-1) \cdot V(n-2,k)$  for  $n \geq 2$ ,  $k \geq 0$   
with  $V(0,k) = 1$  and  $V(1,k) = k$

For  $n=0$ , there is one empty arrangement. For  $n=1$ , the person can be placed on seat number 2 thru  $k+1$  (if  $k > 0$ ).

Explicite formula:  $V(n, k) = \sum_{r=0}^n (-1)^r \binom{n}{r} \frac{(n+k-r)!}{k!}$

A constructive proof of the recurrence is based on this fact:

For  $n \geq 2$ , any  $(n,k)$ -arrangement can be reduced to a  $(n-2,k)$ -arrangement by removing two persons and two seats or to a  $(n-1,k)$ -arrangement by removing one person and one seat. Inversely, any  $(n,k)$ -arrangement can be produced by extending  $(n-1,k)$ - and  $(n-2,k)$ -arrangements, see appendix.

### 1. Proof of the recurrence

There are two types of  $(n,k)$ -arrangements:

Type 1:  $s(n) < n$  and  $s(s(n)) = n+k$ , type 2:  $s(n) > n$  or  $s(s(n)) \neq n+k$

Let  $V_j(n,k)$  be the number of  $(n,k)$ -arrangements of type  $j$ ,  $j=1,2$

#### Type 1

Person  $n$  selects the seat  $q = s(n)$ ,  $1 \leq q < n$ , and person  $q$  selects the seat  $n+k$ . First we remove the persons and seats with numbers  $n$  and  $q$ . Then we reduce  $p \rightarrow p' = p-1$  for  $p > q$  and  $s' = s-1$  for  $s > q$ . If  $p$  and  $s$  are both smaller or greater than  $q$ , then  $s' \neq p'$  follows from  $s \neq p$ . Otherwise  $|p-s| > 1$ , as seat  $q$  is gone, and therefore  $|p'-s'| > 0$ .

The inversion with given  $q$ ,  $1 \leq q < n$ , is unambiguous: Increase, in the  $(n-2,k)$ -arrangement, all seat numbers  $s \geq q$  by 1 such that seat  $q$  does not occur and the largest possible seat number is  $n+k-1$ . Insert person  $q$  with seat  $n+k$  and person  $n$  with seat  $q$ . Therefore, the number of  $(n,k)$ -arrangements of type 1, with given  $q$ , equals the number of  $(n-2,k)$ -arrangements.

Summing over  $n-1$  values of  $q$ , we yield  $V_1(n,k) = (n-1) \cdot V(n-2,k)$ .

## Type 2

Person  $n$  selects the seat  $q=s(n)$ ,  $1 \leq q \leq n+k$ ,  $q \neq n$ , and, if  $q < n$ , person  $q$  selects the seat  $s(q) \neq n+k$ . First we remove person  $n$  so that seat  $q$  is free now. If seat  $n+k$  is also free, we remove this seat immediately. Otherwise, we first move the person  $p$  sitting there to seat  $q$ . This way, we yield a  $(n-1, k)$ -arrangement. Again the inversion, with given  $q$ , is unambiguous: If seat  $q$  is occupied in the  $(n-1, k)$ -arrangement, we move the person  $p \neq q$  to seat  $n+k$  (which satisfies  $s(q) \neq n+k$ ) and place person  $n$  on seat  $q$ . Therefore, the number of  $(n, k)$ -arrangements of type 2, with given  $q$ , equals the number of  $(n-1, k)$ -arrangements.

Summing over  $n+k-1$  values of  $q$ , we yield  $V_2(n, k) = (n+k-1) \cdot V(n-2, k)$ .

With  $V(n, k) = V_1(n, k) + V_2(n, k)$ , the recurrence is proved.

## 2. Proof of the explicite formula

Here the more general term 'variation' is used instead of 'seat arrangement'. For  $V(n, 0)$ , see 'Counting derangements' in [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inclusion%E2%80%93exclusion\\_principle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inclusion%E2%80%93exclusion_principle)

The number of variations of placing  $n$  persons on  $n+k$  seats is  $\frac{(n+k)!}{k!}$ .

Let  $A(q)$  be the set of variations with fixed point  $q$  ( $s(q)=q$ ). Select  $r$  persons  $1 \leq q_1 < q_2 < \dots < q_r \leq n$ . The cardinality of  $|A(q_1) \cap \dots \cap A(q_r)|$  is  $\frac{(n+k-r)!}{k!}$  because  $r$  points (persons and seats) are fixed. The number of

selections of  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_r$  is  $\binom{n}{r}$  and, therefore, the number of variations with  $r$  fixed points is  $\binom{n}{r} \frac{(n+k-r)!}{k!}$ , multiple counts included. These are discounted by using the principle of inclusion-exclusion (see link above), which yields the number of all variations with at least one fixed point:

$$\bar{V}(n, k) = \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} \binom{n}{r} \frac{(n+k-r)!}{k!}.$$

Therefore,  $V(n, k) = \frac{(n+k)!}{k!} - \bar{V}(n, k) = \sum_{r=0}^n (-1)^r \binom{n}{r} \frac{(n+k-r)!}{k!}$  q.e.d.

### 3. Appendix: Maxima code and output, using the recurrence

All variations  $V(n,k)$  with  $n$  persons and  $n+k$  seats are returned:

```
block(k:1, n:3, v2:[""],v3: [],
  for n0 from 0 thru n-1 do
    (n1:n0+1,n2: n0+2,v1:v2,v2:v3,v3:[],
      for nu from 1 thru length(v1) do /*make type 2*/
        (for q from 1 thru n1+k do
          if q#n1 then
            (w:v1[nu], w:ssubst(string(n1+k),string(q),w),
              w:concat(w,string(q)),v2:append(v2,[w])),
            if n0<n-1 then
              for q from 1 thru n2-1 do /*make type 1*/
                (w:v1[nu], u:string(q),
                  for s from 1 thru n2-2 do
                    (t:cint(substring(w,s,s+1)),
                      if t>=48+q then w:ssubst(ascii(t+1),ascii(t),w,s,s+1)),
                      w: concat(sinsert(string(n2+k),w,q),string(q)),
                      v3: append(v3,[w]))),
                print(concat("V(",n,"",k,")", "=",length(v2), " variations:")),
                return(v2) );
```

$V(3,1) = 11$  variations:

[431, 342, 341, 312, 314, 241, 412, 214, 231, 432, 234]

The first triple means: Person 1 on seat 4, person 2 on seat 3, person 3 on seat 1.

$V(4,1) = 53$  variations:

[5421, 4512, 4153, 5321, 3512, 2153, 5341, 3542, 2453, 4351, 4312, 4513, 4315, 3421, 3452, 5423, 3425, 3451, 3412, 5413, 3415, 3521, 3152, 5123, 3125, 3541, 3142, 5143, 3145, 2451, 5412, 2413, 2415, 4521, 4152, 4123, 4125, 2541, 5142, 2143, 2145, 2351, 5312, 2513, 2315, 4321, 4352, 4523, 4325, 2341, 5342, 2543, 2345]

$V(3,2) = 32$  variations:

[531, 352, 541, 452, 451, 412, 514, 415, 251, 512, 214, 215, 231, 532, 234, 235, 241, 542, 254, 245, 351, 312, 314, 315, 431, 432, 534, 435, 341, 342, 354, 345]

$V(4,2) = 181$  variations:

[6521, 5612, 5163, 6321, 3612, 2163, 6341, 3642, 2463, 6351, 3652, 2563, 6421, 4612, 4163, 6541, 5642, 5463, 6451, 4652, 4563, 5361, 5312, 5613, 6315, 5316, 3521, 3562, 6523, 3625, 3526, 5461, 5412, 5413, 6415, 5416, 4521, 4562, 4523, 4625, 4526, 4561, 4512, 4513, 4615, 4516, 4621, 4162, 4123, 4125, 4126, 5641, 5142, 5143, 6145, 5146, 4651, 4152, 4153, 4165, 4156, 2561, 6512, 2513, 2615, 2516, 5621, 5162, 5123, 6125, 5126, 2641, 6142, 2143, 2145, 2146, 2651, 6152, 2153, 2165, 2156, 2361, 6312, 2613, 2315, 2316, 5321, 5362, 5623, 6325, 5326, 2341, 6342, 2643, 2345, 2346, 2351, 6352, 2653, 2365, 2356, 2461, 6412, 2413, 2415, 2416, 5421, 5462, 5423, 6425, 5426, 2541, 6542, 2543, 2645, 2546, 2451, 6452, 2453, 2465, 2456, 3561, 3512, 6513, 3615, 3516, 3621, 3162, 6123, 3125, 3126, 3641, 3142, 6143, 3145, 3146, 3651, 3152, 6153, 3165, 3156, 4361, 4312, 4613, 4315, 4316, 4321, 4362, 4623, 4325, 4326, 5341, 5342, 5643, 6345, 5346, 4351, 4352, 4653, 4365, 4356, 3461, 3412, 6413, 3415, 3416, 3421, 3462, 6423, 3425, 3426, 3541, 3542, 6543, 3645, 3546, 3451, 3452, 6453, 3465, 3456]