On the ‘problème des ménages’ from a probabilistic viewpoint

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Available online 26 March 2002

Abstract

In this paper a straightforward solution of the classical ménage problem is given. Explicit expressions for the distribution and moments of the number of couples sitting next to each other are obtained.
Approximations of the distribution are discussed.

MSC
Primary 60C05; Secondary 05A15

Keywords
Ménage problem; Poisson approximation; binomial approximation; random permutations

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