

Permutations, Fractions, Primes (a "game")

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2007-01/msg00611.html>

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 - *Date:* 4 Jan 2007 11:00:23 -0800
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First, take a permutation $\{b(k)\}$ of the first n positive integers, and then take the partial sums, for $1 \leq m \leq n$,

$$s(m) = \sum_{k=1}^m 1/b(k).$$

After reducing the n fractions $\{s(m)\}$ so their numerators and denominators are coprime, we can get a "score" equal to the total number of primes in both the numerators and denominators of the $s(m)$'s.

For example, if, for $n=6$, we have the permutation $(3,4,1,6,5,2)$,

then we have the $s(m)$'s
 $1/3, 7/12, 19/12, 7/4, 39/20, 49/20$.

So we have the primes: 3,7,19,7, for a score of 4.

If we make a game of this, a better player might play the permutation $(2,6,1,4,5,3)$,

which gives the $s(m)$'s
 $1/2, 2/3, 5/3, 23/12, 127/60, 49/20$.

So we have the primes: 2,2,3,5,3,23,127, for a score of 7.

Regarding the maximum possible score for each given n :
Joseph Biberstine, as discussed on the Integer Sequence Fan email group, calculated the first few terms of the sequence:
($a(1)$ is the first term.)
0, 3, 4, 4, 6, 8, 8, 10, 11

Here is one of the best 6-integer solutions (score of 8):
2,6,1,3,5,4

The $s(m)$'s:
 $1/2, 2/3, 5/3, 2/1, 11/5, 49/20$.

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I would ask someone to compute more terms so this maximal–score sequence can be submitted to the EIS, but, as is the case with many game–derived sequences, the relatively long explanation of the sequence may make it too esoteric to be interesting to a general audience.

Thanks,
Leroy Quet

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