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Hyunjun Gil

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First, I will show that This process should be terminated and then show that this process should be terminated in at most  $F_{n+1} - 1$  steps, where  $F_n$  is fibonacci number.

Let  $S = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  denotes the initial state of the deck where  $x_i$  denotes the  $i$ th cards from the top. If  $n = 1$ , it is trivial. Assume that the process terminates for all integer less than  $n$ . If  $x_n = n$ , then this card cannot be moved since any other number is smaller than  $n$ . Thus, in this case it is same with the process with  $n - 1$  cards so the process will be terminated by induction hypothesis. Suppose  $x_n = k \neq n$ . If  $n$  is not placed on the top during the process,  $k$  cannot be moved from the bottom, so it is same with the process with  $n - 1$  cards and thus it will be terminated. Otherwise, if  $n$  is placed on the top,  $k$  and  $n$  exchanges their position and remaining process will be same with the process with  $n - 1$  cards. Thus the process must be terminated for all  $n$ .

Let  $f(n, k)$  be the maximum number of shuffle of the process with the deck, which has  $k$  cards of 1 and distinct  $n - k$  cards in  $\{2, 3, \dots, n\}$ . Then trivially  $f(1, 1) = 0$ ,  $\forall m \geq n f(n, m) = 0$ . I will show that  $f(n, k) \leq F_{n-k+2} - 1$  by using induction. Let  $S$  be arbitrary initial state of this deck. Assume the deck contains  $n$ . Suppose  $n$  is placed on the bottom in  $S$ . Then by similar argument used in above, the maximum shuffle number in this case is  $f(n - 1, k) \leq F_{n-k+1} - 1 \leq F_{n-k+2} - 1$ . If the bottom of  $S$  is 1, the maximum shuffle number in this case is achieved when  $n$  is placed on the top after  $f(n - 1, k)$  (by regarding  $n$  as 1) shuffle, and then shuffle once again to exchange the position between  $n$  and 1. The total shuffle is  $f(n - 1, k) + 1 \leq F_{n-k+1} \leq F_{n-k+2} - 1$ . Thus, we may assume that the bottom of the  $S$  is neither 1 nor  $n$ . Then the maximum shuffle number in this case is achieved when  $n$  is placed on the top after  $f(n - 1, k + 1)$  (by regarding  $n$  as 1) shuffles, shuffle once again to place  $n$  to the bottom, and then shuffle until the process terminates. The maximum number of shuffle required in the last step is  $f(n - 1, k)$ . Then the total number of shuffle is  $f(n - 1, k + 1) + f(n - 1, k) + 1 \leq F_{n-k} + F_{n-k+1} - 1 = F_{n-k+2} - 1$ . If  $S$  does not contains  $n$ , the card in the bottom cannot be moved. Thus, in this case the maximum number of shuffle is  $f(n - 1, k)$  which is obviously smaller than the previous cases.  $\therefore f(n, 1) \leq F_{n+1} - 1$ , which corresponds to our problem.

Then

$$F_{n+1} - 1 = \frac{\phi^{n+1} - \psi^{n+1}}{\sqrt{5}} - 1 \leq \frac{\phi^{n+1}}{\sqrt{5}} \leq \phi^n \leq (1.7)^n$$

where  $\phi = 1.618\dots$  and  $\psi = -0.618\dots$ .

Below results are the maximum number of shuffle with  $n$  cards and initial state of the deck when the maxima is achieved.

If  $n = 4$ , the maximum number of shuffle is 4, and (2413), (3142)

If  $n = 5$ , the maximum number of shuffle is 7, and (31452)

If  $n = 6$ , the maximum number of shuffle is 10, and (365142), (456213), (415263), (564132)

If  $n = 7$ , the maximum number of shuffle is 16, and (3146752), (47612153)

If  $n = 8$ , the maximum number of shuffle is 22, and (61578324)

If  $n = 9$ , the maximum number of shuffle is 30, and (615972834)

If  $n = 10$ , the maximum number of shuffle is 38, and (5, 9, 1, 8, 6, 2, 10, 4, 7, 3)

If  $n = 11$ , the maximum number of shuffle is 51, and (4, 9, 11, 6, 10, 7, 8, 2, 1, 3, 5)

If  $n = 12$ , the maximum number of shuffle is 65 and (2, 6, 1, 10, 11, 8, 12, 3, 4, 7, 9, 5)