

# THE LOG-CONVEXITY OF $r$ -DERANGEMENT NUMBERS

FENG-ZHEN ZHAO

**ABSTRACT.** This paper focuses on the log-convexity of the sequence  $\{D_r(n)\}_{n \geq r}$  of  $r$ -derangement numbers, where  $r \geq 2$  is a positive integer. We mainly prove that  $\{D_2(n)\}_{n \geq 2}$  and  $\{D_3(n)\}_{n \geq 7}$  are log-convex. In addition, we also show that  $\{\sqrt{D_2(n)}\}_{n \geq 2}$  and  $\{\sqrt[3]{D_3(n)}\}_{n \geq 7}$  are log-balanced.

**1. Introduction.** The derangement number  $d_n$  is the number of fixed point-free permutations (FPF) on  $n$  letters. The sequence  $\{d_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  satisfies the recurrence

$$(1.1) \quad d_n = (n-1)(d_{n-1} + d_{n-2}), \quad n \geq 2,$$

where  $d_0 = 1$ ,  $d_1 = 0$  and  $d_2 = 1$ . Some values of  $\{d_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  are as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1.

$n$	$d_n$
0	1
1	0
2	1
3	2
4	9
5	44
6	265
7	1,854
8	14,833
9	133,496
10	1,334,961
11	14,684,570
12	176,214,841

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For a permutation on  $n + r$  letters, Wang, et al., [12] gave the following definition.

**Definition 1.1.** An FPF permutation on  $n + r$  letters will be called an FPF  $r$ -permutation if, in its cycle decomposition, the first  $r$  letters are in distinct cycles. The number of FPF  $r$ -permutations is denoted by  $D_r(n)$  and is called the  $r$ -derangement number. The first  $r$  elements, as well as the cycles in which they are contained, will be called *distinguished*.

It is clear that  $D_r(n) = 0$  for  $n < r$ ,  $D_1(n) = d_{n+1}$ ,  $D_r(r) = r!$ ,  $r \geq 1$  and  $D_r(r+1) = r(r+1)!$ ,  $r \geq 2$ . For the sequence  $\{D_r(n)\}_{n \geq 0}$ , Wang, et al., [12] proved that

$$(1.2) \quad D_r(n) = rD_{r-1}(n-1) + (n+r-1)D_r(n-1) \\ + (n-1)D_r(n-2), \quad n > r, \quad r > 0.$$

Some values of  $\{D_2(n)\}$  and  $\{D_3(n)\}$  are as shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2.

$n$	$D_2(n)$	$D_3(n)$
2	2	0
3	12	6
4	84	72
5	640	780
6	5,430	8,520
7	50,988	97,650
8	526,568	1,189,104
9	5,940,576	15,441,048
10	72,755,370	213,816,240
11	961,839,340	3,152,287,710

Wang, et al., [12] also investigated some properties of  $\{D_r(n)\}$ . In this paper, we are interested in the log-behavior of  $\{D_r(n)\}$ .

Now, we recall some definitions involved in this paper. For a sequence of positive real numbers  $\{z_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ , it is said to be *log-convex* (or *log-concave*) if  $z_n^2 \leq z_{n-1}z_{n+1}$  (or  $z_n^2 \geq z_{n-1}z_{n+1}$ ) for each  $n \geq 1$ . A log-convex sequence  $\{z_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  is said to be *log-balanced* if  $\{z_n/n!\}_{n \geq 0}$  is log-concave [3]. It is well known that  $\{z_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  is log-convex (or log-concave) if and only if its quotient sequence  $\{z_{n+1}/z_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  is nondecreasing (or

nonincreasing), and a log-convex sequence  $\{z_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  is log-balanced if and only if  $(n+1)z_n/z_{n-1} \geq nz_{n+1}/z_n$  for each  $n \geq 1$ . The log-balancedness is a special case of log-convexity. It is clear that the quotient sequence of a log-balanced sequence does not grow too fast.

In combinatorics, log-behavior of sequences is not only one of the important parts of unimodality problems but also a fertile source of inequalities. It has many applications in other subjects, see [1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11]. Hence, the log-behavior of sequences deserves to be studied. Liu and Wang [7] proved that the sequence of derangement numbers  $\{d_n\}_{n \geq 2}$  is log-convex. It seems that the log-behavior of  $\{D_r(n)\}_{n \geq r}$  has not been studied when  $r \geq 2$ . The main object of this paper is to discuss the log-behavior of  $\{D_r(n)\}_{n \geq r}$ . In the next section, we show that  $\{D_2(n)\}_{n \geq 2}$  and  $\{D_3(n)\}_{n \geq 7}$  are log-convex. In addition, we also discuss the log-behavior of some sequences involving  $D_2(n)$  (or  $D_3(n)$ ).

Throughout this paper,  $x_r(n) = D_r(n+1)/D_r(n)$ ,  $n \geq r$ .

**2. The log-convexity of the sequence  $\{D_r(n)\}_{n \geq r}$ .** In this paper, we study the log-convexity of the sequence  $\{D_r(n)\}_{n \geq r}$  when  $r \geq 2$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** *Suppose that  $r \geq 2$  is a fixed positive integer. For the sequence  $\{D_r(n)\}_{n \geq r}$ , there exists a positive integer  $N_r \geq r+1$  such that  $\{D_r(n)\}_{n \geq N_r}$  is log-convex.*

*Proof.* It follows from (1.2) that

$$(2.1) \quad x_r(n) = \frac{rD_{r-1}(n)}{D_r(n)} + n + r + \frac{n}{x_r(n-1)}, \quad n \geq r+1.$$

It is clear that

$$(2.2) \quad x_r(n) \geq n + r, \quad n \geq r+1.$$

Wang, et al., [12] proved

$$(2.3) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{D_r(n)}{(n+r)!} = \frac{1}{r!e},$$

where  $r \in \mathbb{N}_+$  is fixed. Due to (2.3), we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{rD_{r-1}(n)}{D_r(n)} = 0.$$

Then, there exists a positive integer  $M_1 \geq r+1$  such that  $rD_{r-1}(n)/D_r(n) < 1/2$  for  $n \geq M_1$ . Applying (2.2), we have

$$x_r(n) \leq n + r + \frac{3}{2}, \quad n \geq M_1.$$

This implies that

$$x_r(n) \geq n + r + \frac{n}{n + r + 3/2}, \quad n \geq M_1 + 1.$$

We note that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{n}{n + r + 3/2} = 1.$$

Then there exists a positive integer  $N_r \geq M_1 + 1$  such that  $x_r(n) \geq n + r + 1/2$  for  $n \geq N_r$ . Since  $n + r + 1/2 \leq x_r(n) \leq n + r + 3/2$  for  $n \geq N_r$ , the sequence  $\{D_r(n)\}_{n \geq N_r}$  is log-convex.  $\square$

For Theorem 2.1, we note that the value of  $N_r$  is related to  $r$ . Next, we mainly discuss the log-convexity of  $\{D_2(n)\}$  and  $\{D_3(n)\}$ . In addition, we also discuss the log-behavior of some sequences involving  $D_2(n)$  (or  $D_3(n)$ ).

For convenience, let  $x_n = x_2(n)$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) and  $y_n = x_3(n)$  ( $n \geq 3$ ). We first give some lemmas.

**Lemma 2.2.** *For  $n \geq 6$ , we have*

$$\lambda_n \leq x_n \leq \lambda_{n+1},$$

where  $\lambda_n = (2n + 5)/2$ .

*Proof.* For  $n \geq 2$ , put  $g_n = d_{n+1}/d_n$  and  $z_n = D_2(n)$ . We prove by induction that

$$(2.4) \quad \mu_n \leq g_n \leq \mu_{n+1}, \quad n \geq 3,$$

where  $\mu_n = (2n + 1)/2$ . By (1.1), we have

$$(2.5) \quad g_n = n + \frac{n}{g_{n-1}}, \quad n \geq 3.$$

It is evident that  $\mu_k \leq g_k \leq \mu_{k+1}$  for  $k = 3$ . For  $k \geq 3$ , assume that  $\mu_k \leq g_k \leq \mu_{k+1}$ . It follows from (2.5) that

$$\begin{aligned} g_{k+1} - \mu_{k+1} &= \frac{k+1}{g_k} - \frac{1}{2} \geq \frac{k+1}{\mu_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{2} > 0, \\ g_{k+1} - \mu_{k+2} &= \frac{k+1}{g_k} - \frac{3}{2} \leq \frac{k+1}{\mu_k} - \frac{3}{2} < 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then we have  $\mu_n \leq g_n \leq \mu_{n+1}$  for  $n \geq 3$ .

It follows from (2.1) that

$$(2.6) \quad x_n = \frac{2d_{n+1}}{D_2(n)} + n + 2 + \frac{n}{x_{n-1}}, \quad n \geq 3.$$

By means of (1.2), we can verify that

$$(2.7) \quad z_{n+1} = (n+2+g_n)z_n - [(n+1)g_n - n]z_{n-1} - (n-1)g_n z_{n-2}, \quad n \geq 4.$$

It follows from (2.7) that

$$(2.8) \quad x_n = n + 2 + g_n - \frac{(n+1)g_n - n}{x_{n-1}} - \frac{(n-1)g_n}{x_{n-1}x_{n-2}}, \quad n \geq 4.$$

Now, we prove by induction that  $\lambda_k \leq x_k \leq \lambda_{k+1}$  for  $k \geq 6$ . By straightforward calculation, we have

$$\lambda_6 < x_6 = \frac{8498}{905} < \lambda_7 \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_7 < x_7 = \frac{131642}{12747} < \lambda_8.$$

For  $k \geq 7$ , assume that  $\lambda_k \leq x_k \leq \lambda_{k+1}$ . By using (2.6), we get

$$\begin{aligned} x_{k+1} - \lambda_{k+1} &= \frac{k+1}{x_k} - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{2d_{k+2}}{D_2(k+1)} > \frac{k+1}{x_k} - \frac{1}{2} \geq \frac{k+1}{\lambda_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{2} \\ &= \frac{2k-3}{2(2k+7)} > 0. \end{aligned}$$

By applying (2.4) and (2.7), we derive

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{k+1} &\leq k+3+g_{k+1}-\frac{(k+2)g_{k+1}-k-1}{\lambda_{k+1}}-\frac{kg_{k+1}}{\lambda_{k+1}\lambda_k} \\
 &= k+3+\frac{(3\lambda_k-2k)g_{k+1}+2(k+1)\lambda_k}{2\lambda_{k+1}\lambda_k} \\
 &\leq k+3+\frac{6k+19}{2(2k+7)}<k+\frac{9}{2} \\
 &= \lambda_{k+2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have  $\lambda_n \leq x_n \leq \lambda_{n+1}$  for  $n \geq 6$ . □

**Lemma 2.3.** *For  $n \geq 8$ , we have*

$$\nu_n \leq y_n \leq \theta_n,$$

where  $\nu_n = (2n+7)/2$  and  $\theta_n = n+5$ .

*Proof.* By applying (2.1), we have

$$(2.9) \quad y_n = \frac{3D_2(n)}{D_3(n)} + n + 3 + \frac{n}{y_{n-1}}, \quad n \geq 4.$$

For  $n \geq 3$ , let  $z_n = D_3(n)$ . It follows from (1.2) that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.10) \quad z_{n+1} &= (n+3+x_{n-1})z_n - [(n+2)x_{n-1} - n]z_{n-1} \\
 &\quad - (n-1)x_{n-1}z_{n-2}, \quad n \geq 5.
 \end{aligned}$$

By using (2.10), we have

$$(2.11) \quad y_n = n+3+x_{n-1} - \frac{(n+2)x_{n-1}-n}{y_{n-1}} - \frac{(n-1)x_{n-1}}{y_{n-1}y_{n-2}}, \quad n \geq 5.$$

We observe that  $\nu_k \leq y_k \leq \theta_k$  for  $8 \leq k \leq 10$ . For  $k \geq 10$ , assume that  $\nu_k \leq y_k \leq \theta_k$ . It follows from (2.9) that

$$y_{k+1} \geq k+4 + \frac{k+1}{\theta_k} \geq \frac{2k+9}{2} = \nu_{k+1}.$$

It follows from (2.11) that

$$\begin{aligned} y_{k+1} &\leq k+4+x_k - \frac{(k+3)x_k - k-1}{k+5} - \frac{kx_k}{(k+4)(k+5)} \\ &= k+4 + \frac{2x_k + k+1}{k+5} - \frac{kx_k}{(k+4)(k+5)} \\ &= k+4 + \frac{(k+8)x_k + (k+1)(k+4)}{(k+4)(k+5)}. \end{aligned}$$

By means of Lemma 2.2 we know that  $(2k+5)/2 \leq x_k \leq (2k+7)/2$ . Then, we derive

$$y_{k+1} \leq k+4 + \frac{4k^2 + 33k + 64}{2k^2 + 18k + 40} < k+6 = \theta_{k+1}.$$

Hence, we obtain  $\nu_n \leq y_n \leq \theta_n$  for  $n \geq 8$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.4.** *For  $n \geq 2$ , let  $p_n = 2d_{n+1}/D_2(n)$ . Then, the sequence  $\{p_n\}_{n \geq 2}$  is decreasing.*

*Proof.* We prove by induction that the sequence  $\{p_n\}_{n \geq 2}$  is decreasing.

For  $n \geq 2$ , set  $g_n = d_{n+1}/d_n$ . We observe that  $p_2 > p_3 > p_4 > p_5 > p_6$ . For  $k \geq 6$ , assume that  $p_{k-1} \geq p_k$ . By Lemma 2.2, we derive  $g_{k+1}/x_k \leq 1$  for  $k \geq 6$ . Due to  $p_{k+1} = p_k g_{k+1}/x_k$ , we have  $p_k \geq p_{k+1}$ . Hence, the sequence  $\{p_n\}_{n \geq 2}$  is decreasing.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.5.** *For  $n \geq 3$ , let  $q_n = 3D_2(n)/D_3(n)$ . Then, the sequence  $\{q_n\}_{n \geq 3}$  is decreasing.*

The proof of Lemma 2.5 is similar to that of Lemma 2.4 and is omitted here.

**Lemma 2.6.** ([7]). *If both  $\{a_n\}$  and  $\{b_n\}$  are log-convex, then so is the sequence  $\{a_n + b_n\}$ .*

**Theorem 2.7.** *The sequences  $\{D_2(n)\}_{n \geq 2}$  and  $\{D_3(n)\}_{n \geq 7}$  are log-convex, and  $\{\sqrt{D_2(n)}\}_{n \geq 2}$  and  $\{\sqrt[3]{D_2(n)}\}_{n \geq 7}$  are log-balanced.*

*Proof.* For  $n \geq 2$ , let  $U_n = (n-2)D_2(n)$  and  $V_n = nD_2(n-1)$ ,  $n \geq 3$ .

(i) In order to prove the log-convexity of  $\{D_2(n)\}_{n \geq 2}$ , we need to show that the sequence  $\{x_n\}_{n \geq 2}$  is increasing. We have from Lemma 2.2 that  $\{x_n\}_{n \geq 6}$  is increasing. On the other hand, it is not difficult to see that  $x_k < x_{k+1}$  for  $2 \leq k \leq 6$ . Then, the sequence  $\{x_n\}_{n \geq 2}$  is increasing.

Since the sequence  $\{D_2(n)\}_{n \geq 2}$  is log-convex,  $\{\sqrt{D_2(n)}\}_{n \geq 2}$  is also log-convex. In order to prove the log-balancedness of  $\{\sqrt{D_2(n)}\}_{n \geq 2}$ , we need to show that  $\{\sqrt{D_2(n)}/n!\}_{n \geq 2}$  is log-concave. It is sufficient to prove that the sequence  $\{\sqrt{x_n}/(n+1)\}_{n \geq 2}$  is decreasing. It is evident that  $\sqrt{x_n}/(n+1) \geq \sqrt{x_{n+1}}/(n+2)$  if and only if  $(n+2)^2x_n - (n+1)^2x_{n+1} \geq 0$ . For  $n \geq 6$ , it follows from Lemma 2.2 that

$$\begin{aligned} (n+2)^2x_n - (n+1)^2x_{n+1} &\geq \frac{(2n+5)(n+2)^2}{2} - \frac{(2n+9)(n+1)^2}{2} \\ &= \frac{8n+11}{2} > 0. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, we can verify that  $(k+2)^2x_k \geq (k+1)^2x_{k+1}$  for  $2 \leq k \leq 5$ . Hence, the sequence  $\{\sqrt{x_n}/(n+1)\}_{n \geq 2}$  is decreasing.

(ii) There is a recurrence relation for  $D_r(n)$  and  $D_{r+1}(n)$  in [12]

$$D_{r+1}(n) = \frac{n-r}{r+1}D_r(n) + \frac{n}{r+1}D_r(n-1),$$

where  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$ . Then, we have

$$(2.12) \quad D_3(n) = \frac{U_n}{3} + \frac{V_n}{3}.$$

In order to prove the log-convexity of  $\{D_3(n)\}$ , we first show that  $\{U_n\}$  and  $\{V_n\}$  are both log-convex.

For  $n \geq 3$ , set  $s_n = U_{n+1}/U_n$  and  $t_n = V_{n+1}/V_n$ ,  $n \geq 4$ . Now, we prove that  $\{s_n\}_{n \geq 8}$  and  $\{t_n\}_{n \geq 8}$  are both increasing. It is obvious that

$$s_n = \frac{n-1}{n-2}x_n \quad \text{and} \quad t_n = \frac{n+1}{n}x_{n-1}.$$



We note that

$$\begin{aligned}s_{n+1} - s_n &= \frac{n(n-2)x_{n+1} - (n-1)^2x_n}{(n-1)(n-2)}, \\ t_{n+1} - t_n &= \frac{n(n+2)x_n - (n+1)^2x_{n-1}}{n(n+1)}.\end{aligned}$$

It follows from (2.6) that

$$\begin{aligned}& n(n-2)x_{n+1} - (n^2 - 2n + 1)x_n \\ & \geq n(n-2)\left(n + 3 + \frac{n+1}{x_n}\right) - (n-1)^2x_n \\ & = \frac{n(n-2)(n+3)x_n + n(n+1)(n-2) - (n-1)^2x_n^2}{x_n}, \\ n(n+2)x_n - (n+1)^2x_{n-1} & \geq \frac{n(n+2)^2x_{n-1} + n^2(n+2) - (n+1)^2x_{n-1}^2}{x_{n-1}}.\end{aligned}$$

For any real number  $x$ , we define

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(x) &= -(n^2 - 2n + 1)x^2 + n(n-2)(n+3)x + n(n+1)(n-2), \\ \psi(x) &= -(n+1)^2x^2 + n^2(n+2)x + n^2(n+2).\end{aligned}$$

It is obvious that

$$\begin{aligned}n(n-2)x_{n+1} - (n^2 - 2n + 1)x_n &\geq \frac{\varphi(x_n)}{x_n}, \\ (n^2 - 1)x_n - n^2x_{n-1} &\geq \frac{\psi(x_{n-1})}{x_{n-1}}.\end{aligned}$$

We note that

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi'(x) &= -2(n^2 - 2n + 1)x + n(n-2)(n+3), \\ \psi'(x) &= -2(n+1)^2x + n^2(n+2).\end{aligned}$$

It is easy to verify that  $\varphi'(x) < 0$  and  $\psi'(x) < 0$  for  $x \in [\lambda_n, +\infty)$ , where  $\lambda_n = (2n+5)/2$ . The functions  $\varphi(x)$  and  $\psi(x)$  are decreasing on  $[\lambda_n, +\infty)$ . We have from Lemma 2.2 that  $\lambda_n \leq x_n \leq \lambda_{n+1}$  for  $n \geq 6$ . This implies

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(x_n) &\geq \varphi(\lambda_{n+1}), \\ \psi(x_{n-1}) &\geq \psi(\lambda_n).\end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\varphi(\lambda_{n+1}) = \frac{2n^3 - 11n^2 - 22n - 49}{4} > 0, \quad n \geq 8,$$

and

$$\psi(\lambda_n) = \frac{2n^3 - 11n^2 - 50n + 25}{4} > 0, \quad n \geq 9,$$

the sequences  $\{s_n\}_{n \geq 8}$  and  $\{t_n\}_{n \geq 9}$  are both increasing. Then,  $\{U_n\}_{n \geq 8}$  and  $\{V_n\}_{n \geq 9}$  are log-convex. By means of (2.12) and Lemma 2.6, we derive that the sequence  $\{D_3(n)\}_{n \geq 9}$  is log-convex. We note that  $\{D_3(7), D_3(8), D_3(9), D_3(10)\}$  is log-convex. Thus,  $\{D_3(n)\}_{n \geq 7}$  is log-convex.

Since the sequence  $\{D_3(n)\}_{n \geq 7}$  is log-convex,  $\{\sqrt[3]{D_3(n)}\}_{n \geq 7}$  is also log-convex. In order to prove the log-balancedness of  $\{\sqrt[3]{D_3(n)}\}_{n \geq 7}$ , we must show that the sequence  $\{\sqrt[3]{D_3(n)}/n!\}_{n \geq 7}$  is log-concave. Now, we prove that the sequence  $\{\sqrt[3]{y_n}/(n+1)\}_{n \geq 7}$  is decreasing. It is clear that

$$\frac{\sqrt[3]{y_n}}{n+1} \geq \frac{\sqrt[3]{y_{n+1}}}{n+2}$$

if and only if  $(n+2)^3 y_n - (n+1)^3 y_{n+1} \geq 0$ . By using Lemma 2.3, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & (n+2)^3 y_n - (n+1)^3 y_{n+1} \\ & \geq \frac{(n+2)^3(2n+7) - (n+1)^3(2n+12)}{2} \\ & = \frac{(n+16)(n+1)^2 + (3n+4)(2n+7)}{2} > 0, \quad n \geq 8. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, we observe that  $9^3 y_7 - 8^3 y_8 > 0$ . Then

$$\frac{\sqrt[3]{y_n}}{n+1} - \frac{\sqrt[3]{y_{n+1}}}{n+2} > 0 \quad \text{for } n \geq 7.$$

This implies that  $\{\sqrt[3]{y_n}/(n+1)\}_{n \geq 7}$  is decreasing. Therefore,  $\{\sqrt[3]{D_3(n)}/n!\}_{n \geq 7}$  is log-concave.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.8.** *The sequence  $\{nD_2(n)\}_{n \geq 6}$  is log-balanced, and the sequence  $\{D_3(n)/(n-1)!\}_{n \geq 3}$  is log-concave.*

*Proof.* From the proof of Theorem 2.7, we know that the sequence  $\{(n-2)D_2(n)\}_{n \geq 8}$  is log-convex. Since  $nD_2(n) = (n-2)D_2(n) + 2D_2(n)$ , the sequence  $\{nD_2(n)\}_{n \geq 8}$  is log-convex. On the other hand, we can verify that  $\{kD_2(k)\}_{6 \leq k \leq 9}$  is log-convex. Hence, the sequence  $\{nD_2(n)\}_{n \geq 6}$  is log-convex.

Now, we prove that the sequences  $\{D_2(n)/(n-1)!\}_{n \geq 6}$  and  $\{D_3(n)/(n-1)!\}_{n \geq 3}$  are both log-concave. For  $n \geq 2$ , let  $\rho_n = x_n/n$  and  $p_n = 2d_{n+1}/D_2(n)$ . For  $n \geq 3$ , let  $\tau_n = y_n/n$  and  $q_n = 3D_2(n)/D_3(n)$ . It is evident that  $\{\rho_n\}$  (or  $\{\tau_n\}$ ) is the quotient sequence of  $\{D_2(n)/(n-1)!\}$  (or  $\{D_3(n)/(n-1)!\}$ ). In order to prove the log-concavity of  $\{D_2(n)/(n-1)!\}_{n \geq 6}$  (or  $\{D_3(n)/(n-1)!\}_{n \geq 3}$ ), it is sufficient to show that the sequence  $\{\rho_n\}_{n \geq 6}$  (or  $\{\tau_n\}_{n \geq 3}$ ) is decreasing. Due to (2.6) (or (2.9)), we have

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_n &= \frac{p_n}{n} + \frac{n+2}{n} + \frac{1}{x_{n-1}}, \quad n \geq 3, \\ \tau_n &= \frac{q_n}{n} + \frac{n+3}{n} + \frac{1}{y_{n-1}}, \quad n \geq 4.\end{aligned}$$

We have from Lemma 2.4 (or Lemma 2.5) that the sequence  $\{p_n\}_{n \geq 2}$  (or  $\{q_n\}_{n \geq 3}$ ) is decreasing. On the other hand, we note that  $\{1/n\}_{n \geq 1}$ ,  $\{(n+2)/n\}_{n \geq 1}$  and  $\{1/x_{n-1}\}_{n \geq 3}$  are decreasing. Then, the sequence  $\{\rho_n\}_{n \geq 6}$  is decreasing. Using a similar method, we derive that  $\{\tau_n\}_{n \geq 8}$  is decreasing. We observe that  $\{\tau_k\}_{3 \leq k \leq 8}$  is decreasing. Hence, the sequence  $\{\tau_n\}_{n \geq 3}$  is increasing.

Since  $\{nD_2(n)\}_{n \geq 6}$  is log-convex and  $\{D_2(n)/(n-1)!\}_{n \geq 6}$  is log-concave,  $\{nD_2(n)\}_{n \geq 6}$  is log-balanced.  $\square$

**3. Conclusions.** We have discussed the log-behavior of the sequence  $\{D_r(n)\}_{n \geq r}$  of the  $r$ -derangement numbers. We mainly proved that  $\{D_2(n)\}_{n \geq 2}$  and  $\{D_3(n)\}_{n \geq 7}$  are log-convex. Our future work is to study the log-behavior of various recurrence sequences appearing in combinatorics.

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SHANGHAI UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, SHANGHAI 200444, CHINA  
**Email address:** fengzhenzhao@shu.edu.cn