

From Privacy to Enumeration in a Restroom and Elsewhere

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The desire for privacy significantly impacts various aspects of social behavior as illustrated by people's tendency to seek out the most secluded spot when multiple options are available. In particular, this can be seen at rows of payphones, where people tend to occupy an available payphone that is most distant from already occupied ones. A similar tendency was observed for urinals in a male restroom and was stated as one of the rules in the *Male Restroom Etiquette* mockumentary by Phil Rice. Assuming that there are n payphones in a row and that n people occupy payphones one after another as privately as possible, the resulting assignment of people to payphones defines a permutation, which we will refer to as a *payphone permutation*. It can be easily seen that not every permutation can be obtained this way. In the present study, we consider different variations of payphone permutations and enumerate them.

Keywords: permutations, enumeration, privacy.