

## Pretty Permutation Parity Proof

Let  $p$  be a permutation of  $[1\ 2\ \dots\ n]$ . Let  $G(p)$  be the number of times in  $p$  that a number is greater than a number to its immediate right. For example,  $G([2\ 4\ 1\ 3]) = 1$ . Note that  $G[1\ 2\ \dots\ n] = 0$ . A transposition of numbers in adjacent positions changes the parity of  $G$ . Every transposition can be expressed as a product of an *odd* number of such transpositions. Therefore every transposition changes the parity of  $G$ . Thus the number of transpositions used to obtain  $p$  is always even or always odd, according as  $G(p)$  is even or odd.