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12:00 noon, Wednesday 18 March 2015

Write each of the following permutations as a product of disjoint cycles.

a) The permutation which rearranges the ordered objects a, b, c, d, e in the order e, a, c, b, d ;

Solution: Noting where the object in each position ends up, we get the 4-cycle: $(1\ 2\ 4\ 5)$
 $(1\ 2\ 4\ 5)$, of order 4.

(b) the function $\pi : \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ given by $\pi(1) = 4, \pi(2) = 1, \pi(3) = 5, \pi(4)$
and $\pi(5) = 3$ viewed as meaning that the object in position 1 moves to position 4 etc. (so