

1. Every involution is a product of at most three involutions each of which is a square.

$$(1\ 2) = [(1\ 2)(3\ 4)(5\ 6)(7\ 8)\ \dots][[(3\ 4)(5\ 6)(7\ 8)(9\ 10)\ \dots]] = [(1324)(5768)\ \dots]^2[(3546)(798\ 10)\ \dots]^2$$

$$(12)(34)(56)(78)\ \dots = [(1324)(5768)\ \dots]^2$$

$$(12)(34)(56) = (1324)^2(56)$$

2. An infinite cycle is a product two involutions each of which is a square.

$$(\dots 75312468\dots) = [(12)(34)(56)\ \dots][[(23)(45)(67)\ \dots]] = [(1324)(5768)\ \dots]^2[(2435)(6879)\ \dots]^2$$

3. A product of finitely many (finite or infinite) cycles is a product of (finitely many) involutions each of which is a square.

**Proof:** Enough to do it for finite cycles:  $(123\dots n) = (12)(23)\dots(n-1, n) = \alpha_1^2 \alpha_2^2 \dots \alpha_{n-2}^2$   
 where  $\alpha_i$  is an element of order 4 such that  $(i, i+1) = \alpha_{2i-1}^2 \alpha_{2i}^2$ .

4. A product of disjoint

$$(123)(456) = (142536)^2$$

3. Let  $\sigma \in \text{Sym}(\mathbb{N})$ . Assume  $\sigma$  is a product of finite disjoint cycles:  $\sigma = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \dots$ . We may assume that each

$$[(123)(567)(9\ 10\ 11)\ \dots][[(345)(789)(11\ 12\ 13)\ \dots]] = (\dots 13\ 9\ 5\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 6\ 7\ 8\ 10\ 11\ 12\ 14\ \dots)$$