Aufgabe VII.47 of Pólya-Szegö Immediately Implies Dave Robbins's Multi-Integral Evaluation

Doron ZEILBERGER[1]

Exercise VII.47 of [PS] (brought to my attention by Richard Stanley),

$$\sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{S}_k} \mathrm{sgn}(\pi)\cdot\pi\left[\frac{x_1 x_2^2 \dots x_k^k}{(1-x_k)(1-x_k x_{k-1})\cdots(1-x_k x_{k-1}\dots x_1)}\right] = \frac{x_1 \cdots x_k \prod_{1\le i<j\le k}(x_j - x_i)}{\prod_{i=1}^k (1-x_i)\prod_{1\le i<j\le k}(1-x_i x_j)} \quad ,$$

(that is easily proved by induction on k and Lagrange Interpolation), immediately implies the main result of [R], upon setting $x_i := q^{a_i}$, multiplying by $(1-q)^k$, and letting $q \to 1$.

References

[PS] George Pólya and Gabor Szegö, *Aufgaben und Lehrsätze aus der Analysis*, Julius Springer, Berlin, 1925.

[R] David Robbins, *An application of Okada's Minor Summation Formula to the Evaluation of a Multiple Integral*, xxx archives (`http://xxx.lanl.gov`), `math.CO/9805108`, 23 May 1998, (3 pages).

[1] Department of Mathematics, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122, USA. `zeilberg@math.temple.edu`
`http://www.math.temple.edu/~zeilberg` . May 28, 1998. Exclusive to the author's website and the xxx archives.