

1 | Fifteen Square Puzzle

From the definition of the problem, we have the state (A, B) :

- A is a list $(a_1 \dots a_{15})$ with all the values skipping the empty square
- B is a tuple (X, Y) containing the coordinates of the empty square

We also define "out of order" as pairs of not-necessarily-continuous values that are not strictly increasing, and "parity" as $\text{mod } 2$ of the number of out-of-order pairs plus the row number of the empty square.

1.1 | Defining Transitions

For every single case, there is four possible transitions to make

1. Move empty square up
2. Move empty square down
3. Move empty square left
4. Move empty square right

1.2 | Proving Invariant

We will show that the base state has a specific parity. At $((1 \dots 15), (4, 4))$, the starting base state, it has parity $0 + 4 = 0(\text{mod } 2)$.

Let's declare $\text{parity} = 0 (\text{mod } 2)$ as the invariant.

1.3 | Proving Invariant through Transitions

Let's prove that invariant is invariant through all transitions.