

Exercises from Section 1.2.5

Tord M. Johnson

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1. [00] How many ways are there to shuffle a 52-card deck?

As we have 52 choices for the first card, 51 for the second, and so on, we simply have $52!$ ways to shuffle a 52-card deck. $52!$ is the 68 decimal digit number

80658175170943878571660636856403766975289505440883277824000000000000.

2. [10] In the notation of Eq. (2), show that $p_{n(n-1)} = p_{nn}$, and explain why this happens.

In the notation of Eq. (2), since

$$p_{nk} = \prod_{n-k+1 \leq j \leq n} j$$

we have that

$$p_{nn} = \prod_{1 \leq j \leq n} j = \prod_{2 \leq j \leq n} j = \prod_{n-(n-1)+1 \leq j \leq n} j = p_{n(n-1)}.$$

That is, after choosing the $(n-1)$ th element, we have no choice left for the last element.

3. [10] What permutations of $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ would be constructed from the permutation 3 1 2 4 using Methods 1 and 2, respectively?

We can construct permutations of the set $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ from the permutation 3 1 2 4 using either method.

In Method 1, we insert 5 in all possible positions to obtain

5 3 1 2 4, 3 5 1 2 4, 3 1 5 2 4, 3 1 2 5 4, and 3 1 2 4 5.

In Method 2, we start with an intermediary set of permutations

$3 \ 1 \ 2 \ 4 \ \frac{1}{2}$, $3 \ 1 \ 2 \ 4 \ \frac{3}{2}$, $3 \ 1 \ 2 \ 4 \ \frac{5}{2}$, $3 \ 1 \ 2 \ 4 \ \frac{7}{2}$, and $3 \ 1 \ 2 \ 4 \ \frac{9}{2}$,

which are finally renamed as

4 2 3 5 1, 4 1 3 5 2, 4 1 2 5 3, 3 1 2 5 4, and 3 1 2 4 5.

- 4. [13] Given the fact that $\log_{10} 1000! = 2567.60464\dots$, determine exactly how many decimal digits are present in the number $1000!$. What is the *most significant* digit? What is the *least significant* digit?

Since the number of decimal digits in a number n is given by $\lfloor \log_{10} n \rfloor + 1$, $\log_{10} 1000! = 2567.60464\dots$ implies that $1000!$ has 2568 decimal digits.

The *most significant* digit is given by $\lfloor \frac{1000!}{10^{2568-1}} \rfloor$, but since $\log_{10} 4 = 0.60206\dots$ and $\log_{10} 5 =$

0.69897...

$$\begin{aligned}
 \log_{10} 1000! = 2567.60464\dots &\implies 2567 + \log_{10} 4 \leq \log_{10} 1000! < 2567 + \log_{10} 5 \\
 &\implies \log_{10} 10^{2567} + \log_{10} 4 \leq \log_{10} 1000! < \log_{10} 10^{2567} + \log_{10} 5 \\
 &\implies \log_{10} (4 \cdot 10^{2567}) \leq \log_{10} 1000! < \log_{10} (5 \cdot 10^{2567}) \\
 &\implies \log_{10} 4 \leq \log_{10} \frac{1000!}{10^{2567}} < \log_{10} 5 \\
 &\implies 4 \leq \frac{1000!}{10^{2568-1}} < 5,
 \end{aligned}$$

and so, the most significant digit is $\lfloor \frac{1000!}{10^{2568-1}} \rfloor = 4$.

The *least significant* digit is intuitively 0, since the factorial is some number multiplied by a factor of 1000. We can determine precisely how many zeros using Eq. (8), since

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu_2 &= \sum_{k>0} \left\lfloor \frac{1000}{2^k} \right\rfloor \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq k \leq 9} \left\lfloor \frac{1000}{2^k} \right\rfloor \\
 &= 500 + 250 + 125 + 62 + 31 + 15 + 7 + 3 + 1 \\
 &= 994
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu_5 &= \sum_{k>0} \left\lfloor \frac{1000}{5^k} \right\rfloor \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq k \leq 4} \left\lfloor \frac{1000}{5^k} \right\rfloor \\
 &= 200 + 40 + 8 + 1 \\
 &= 249
 \end{aligned}$$

giving us that for some arbitrary integer z not divisible by 10, $1000! = 2^{994} \cdot 5^{249} z = 2^{745} z \cdot 10^{249}$; that is, 1000! is a number that ends with 249 zeros.

[*Scripta Mathematica* **21** (1955), 266–267]

5. [15] Estimate $8!$ using the more exact version of Stirling's approximation:

$$n! \approx \sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n \left(1 + \frac{1}{12n}\right).$$

We may estimate $8!$ as

$$\begin{aligned}
 8! &\approx \sqrt{2\pi 8} \left(\frac{8}{e}\right)^8 \left(1 + \frac{1}{12(8)}\right) \\
 &= 4\sqrt{\pi} \frac{16777216}{e^8} \frac{97}{96} \\
 &= \frac{203423744\sqrt{\pi}}{3e^8} \\
 &\approx 40318.
 \end{aligned}$$

- 6. [17] Using Eq. (8), write $20!$ as a product of prime factors.

Since the primes that divide 20 are 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, and 19, we may determine the multiplicity of the prime factors of $20!$ as

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_2 &= \sum_{k>0} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{2^k} \right\rfloor \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq k \leq 4} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{2^k} \right\rfloor \\ &= 10 + 5 + 2 + 1 \\ &= 18,\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_3 &= \sum_{k>0} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{3^k} \right\rfloor \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq k \leq 2} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{3^k} \right\rfloor \\ &= 6 + 2 \\ &= 8,\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_5 &= \sum_{k>0} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{5^k} \right\rfloor \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq k \leq 1} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{5^k} \right\rfloor \\ &= 4,\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_7 &= \sum_{k>0} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{7^k} \right\rfloor \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq k \leq 1} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{7^k} \right\rfloor \\ &= 2,\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_{11} &= \sum_{k>0} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{11^k} \right\rfloor \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq k \leq 1} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{11^k} \right\rfloor \\ &= 1,\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mu_{13} &= \sum_{k>0} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{13^k} \right\rfloor \\
&= \sum_{1 \leq k \leq 1} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{13^k} \right\rfloor \\
&= 1,
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mu_{17} &= \sum_{k>0} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{17^k} \right\rfloor \\
&= \sum_{1 \leq k \leq 1} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{17^k} \right\rfloor \\
&= 1,
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
\mu_{19} &= \sum_{k>0} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{19^k} \right\rfloor \\
&= \sum_{1 \leq k \leq 1} \left\lfloor \frac{20}{19^k} \right\rfloor \\
&= 1,
\end{aligned}$$

so that $20! = 2^{18} \cdot 3^8 \cdot 5^4 \cdot 7^2 \cdot 11 \cdot 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 19$.

7. [M10] Show that the “generalized terminal” function in Eq. (10) satisfies the identity $x? = x + (x - 1)?$ for all real numbers x .

Proposition. $x? = x + (x - 1)?$ for all real numbers x .

Proof. Let x be an arbitrary real number. We must show that

$$x? = x + (x - 1)?.$$

But by Eq. (10)

$$\begin{aligned}
x? &= \frac{1}{2}x(x+1) \\
&= x - x + \frac{1}{2}x(x+1) \\
&= x + \frac{-2x}{2} + \frac{1}{2}x(x+1) \\
&= x + \frac{1}{2}(x^2 + x - 2x) \\
&= x + \frac{1}{2}(x^2 - x) \\
&= x + \frac{1}{2}(x-1)x \\
&= x + \frac{1}{2}(x-1)((x-1)+1) \\
&= x + (x-1)?
\end{aligned}$$

as we needed to show. □

8. [HM15] Show that the limit in Eq. (13) does equal $n!$ when n is a nonnegative integer.

When n is a nonnegative integer, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m^n m!}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq m} (n+k)} &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m^n m!}{(n+m)!/n!} \\
 &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n! m^n m!}{(m+n)!} \\
 &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n! m^n}{(m+n)!/m!} \\
 &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n! m^n}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} (m+k)} \\
 &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} n! \prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} \frac{m}{m+k} \\
 &= n! \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} \frac{m}{m+k} \\
 &= n!.
 \end{aligned}$$

9. [M10] Determine the values of $\Gamma(\frac{1}{2})$ and $\Gamma(-\frac{1}{2})$, given that $(\frac{1}{2})! = \sqrt{\pi}/2$.

Given that $(\frac{1}{2})! = \sqrt{\pi}/2$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) &= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)! / \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \\
 &= \frac{\sqrt{\pi}/2}{\frac{1}{2}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\pi}
 \end{aligned}$$

and that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Gamma\left(\frac{-1}{2}\right) &= \frac{2}{-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \\
 &= -2\sqrt{\pi}
 \end{aligned}$$

since $\Gamma(n+1) = n\Gamma(n)$.

- 10. [HM20] Does the identity $\Gamma(x+1) = x\Gamma(x)$ hold for all real numbers x ? (See exercise 7.)

The identity $\Gamma(x+1) = x\Gamma(x)$ holds for all real numbers x , except when x is zero or a negative integer, since

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Gamma(x+1) &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m^x m!}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq m} (x+k)} \\
 &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{mx(x+m)}{x(x+m)} \frac{m^{x-1} m!}{\prod_{2 \leq k \leq m+1} ((x-1)+k)} \\
 &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{mx}{x+m} \frac{m^{x-1} m!}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq m} ((x-1)+k)} \\
 &= x \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m}{m+x} \frac{m^{x-1} m!}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq m} ((x-1)+k)} \\
 &= x \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m^{x-1} m!}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq m} ((x-1)+k)} \\
 &= x\Gamma(x).
 \end{aligned}$$

11. [M15] Let the representation of n in the binary system be $n = 2^{e_1} + 2^{e_2} + \cdots + 2^{e_r}$, where $e_1 > e_2 > \cdots > e_r \geq 0$. Show that $n!$ is divisible by 2^{n-r} but not by 2^{n-r+1} .

Given $n = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq r} 2^{e_j}$, we may find the exact multiplicity of the prime factor 2 from Eq. (8) as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu &= \sum_{i>0} \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2^i} \right\rfloor \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq r} \left\lfloor \frac{\sum_{1 \leq j \leq r} 2^{e_j}}{2^i} \right\rfloor \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq r} \left\lfloor \sum_{0 \leq j \leq r} \frac{2^{e_j}}{2^i} \right\rfloor \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq j \leq r} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j} \frac{2^{e_j}}{2^i} \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq j \leq r} 2^{e_j} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j} \frac{1}{2^i} \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq j \leq r} 2^{e_j} \frac{2^{-e_j}(2^{e_j} - 1)}{2 - 1} \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq j \leq r} \frac{2^{e_j}}{2^{e_j}} (2^{e_j} - 1) \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq j \leq r} (2^{e_j} - 1) \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq j \leq r} 2^{e_j} - \sum_{0 \leq j \leq r} 1 \\
 &= n - \sum_{1 \leq j \leq r} 1 \\
 &= n - r.
 \end{aligned}$$

That is, $n!$ is divisible by 2^{n-1} , but not by 2^{n-r+1} .

► 12. [M22] (A. Legendre, 1808.) Generalizing the result of the previous exercise, let p be a prime number, and let the representation of n in the p -ary number system be $n = a_k p^k + a_{k-1} p^{k-1} + \cdots + a_1 p + a_0$. Express the number μ of Eq. (8) in a simple formula involving n , p , and a 's.

Given $n = \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} a_j p^j$, we may express the number μ from Eq. (8) as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu &= \sum_{i>0} \left\lfloor \frac{n}{p^i} \right\rfloor \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} \left\lfloor \frac{\sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} a_j p^j}{p^i} \right\rfloor \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} \left\lfloor \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} \frac{a_j p^j}{p^i} \right\rfloor \\
 &= \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j} \frac{a_j p^j}{p^i} \\
 &= \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} a_j p^j \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j} \frac{1}{p^i} \\
 &= \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} a_j p^j \frac{p^{-j}(p^j - 1)}{p - 1} \\
 &= \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} a_j \frac{p^j}{p^j} \frac{p^j - 1}{p - 1} \\
 &= \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} a_j \frac{p^j - 1}{p - 1} \\
 &= \frac{\sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} a_j (p^j - 1)}{p - 1} \\
 &= \frac{\sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} a_j p^j - \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} a_j}{p - 1} \\
 &= \frac{n - \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} a_j}{p - 1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

13. [M23] (*Wilson's theorem*, actually due to Leibniz, 1682.) If p is prime, then $(p - 1)! \bmod p = p - 1$. Prove this, by pairing off numbers among $\{1, 2, \dots, p - 1\}$ whose product modulo p is 1.

Proposition. *If p is prime, $(p - 1)! \bmod p = p - 1$.*

Proof. Let p be an arbitrary prime. We must show that

$$(p - 1)! \bmod p = p - 1.$$

By exercise 1.2.4-19, for each integer k , $1 < k < p - 1$, there is another integer k' such that

$$kk' \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

allowing us to 'pair off numbers' as

$$(p - 2)!/1! \equiv 1 \pmod{p}.$$

Also, clearly,

$$1 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

and

$$(p - 1) \equiv p - 1 \pmod{p}.$$

And so,

$$(p - 1)! \equiv p - 1 \pmod{p}$$

or equivalently

$$(p-1)! \pmod p = p-1$$

as we needed to show. \square

► 14. [M28] (L. Stickelberger, 1890.) In the notation of exercise 12, we can determine $n! \pmod p$ in terms of the p -ary representation, for *any* positive integer n , thus generalizing Wilson's theorem. In fact, prove that $n!/p^\mu \equiv (-1)^\mu a_0! a_1! \dots a_k! \pmod p$.

Proposition. $n!/p^\mu \equiv (-1)^\mu \prod_{0 \leq i \leq k} a_i! \pmod p$.

Proof. Let n and p be arbitrary positive integers such that p is prime, $n = \sum_{0 \leq i \leq k} a_i p^i$, and $\mu = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq k} \left\lfloor \frac{n}{p^j} \right\rfloor$. We must show that

$$n!/p^\mu \equiv (-1)^\mu \prod_{0 \leq i \leq k} a_i! \pmod p.$$

First consider the trivial case $k = 0$, so that $n = a_0$ and $\mu = 0$. Then clearly

$$\begin{aligned} a_0! \equiv a_0! \pmod p &\iff a_0!/p^0 \equiv (-1)^0 \prod_{0 \leq i \leq 0} a_i! \pmod p \\ &\iff n!/p^\mu \equiv (-1)^\mu \prod_{0 \leq i \leq k} a_i! \pmod p. \end{aligned}$$

Then, assuming as an inductive hypothesis for $n_k = \sum_{0 \leq i \leq k} a_i p^i$ and $\mu_k = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} \left\lfloor \frac{n_k}{p^i} \right\rfloor$ that

$$n_k!/p^{\mu_k} \equiv (-1)^{\mu_k} \prod_{0 \leq i \leq k} a_i! \pmod p,$$

we must show for $n_{k+1} = a_{k+1} p^{k+1} + n_k$ and $\mu_{k+1} = \left\lfloor \frac{n_{k+1}}{p^{k+1}} \right\rfloor + \mu_k$ that

$$n_{k+1}!/p^{\mu_{k+1}} \equiv (-1)^{\mu_{k+1}} \prod_{0 \leq i \leq k+1} a_i! \pmod p.$$

(Note that the equality for μ_{k+1} holds since n_{k+1} has grown by a multiple of p ; namely, $a_{k+1} p^k$.)

But by Wilson's theorem, all the terms between $n_k + 1$ and n_{k+1} that are *not* multiples of p may be collected into sets of size $p-1$ whose product is congruent to -1 modulo p , and there are precisely $\left\lfloor \frac{n_{k+1}}{p^{k+1}} \right\rfloor$ of these products, with a_{k+1} left over, congruent to $a_{k+1}!$ modulo p . That is

$$\prod_{n_k+1 \leq i \leq n_{k+1}} i / p^{\left\lfloor \frac{n_{k+1}}{p^{k+1}} \right\rfloor} \equiv (-1)^{\left\lfloor \frac{n_{k+1}}{p^{k+1}} \right\rfloor} a_{k+1}! \pmod p.$$

Multiplying this by the inductive hypothesis yields

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\prod_{n_k+1 \leq i \leq n_{k+1}} i / p^{\left\lfloor \frac{n_{k+1}}{p^{k+1}} \right\rfloor} \right) n_k!/p^{\mu_k} &\equiv (-1)^{\left\lfloor \frac{n_{k+1}}{p^{k+1}} \right\rfloor} a_{k+1}! (-1)^{\mu_k} \prod_{0 \leq i \leq k} a_i! \pmod p \\ \iff n_k! \prod_{n_k+1 \leq i \leq n_{k+1}} i / p^{\left\lfloor \frac{n_{k+1}}{p^{k+1}} \right\rfloor + \mu_k} &\equiv (-1)^{\left\lfloor \frac{n_{k+1}}{p^{k+1}} \right\rfloor + \mu_k} a_{k+1}! \prod_{0 \leq i \leq k} a_i! \pmod p \\ \iff n_{k+1}!/p^{\mu_{k+1}} &\equiv (-1)^{\mu_{k+1}} \prod_{0 \leq i \leq k+1} a_i! \pmod p. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$n!/p^\mu \equiv (-1)^\mu \prod_{0 \leq i \leq k} a_i! \pmod{p}$$

as we needed to show. □

15. [HM15] The *permanent* of a square matrix is defined by the same expansion as the determinant except that each term of the permanent is given a plus sign while the determinant alternates between plus and minus. Thus the permanent of

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{pmatrix}$$

is $aei + bfg + cdh + gec + hfa + idb$. What is the permanent of

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \times 1 & 1 \times 2 & \dots & 1 \times n \\ 2 \times 1 & 2 \times 2 & \dots & 2 \times n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ n \times 1 & n \times 2 & \dots & n \times n \end{pmatrix} ?$$

The permanent of a square matrix may be defined recursively as

$$\text{perm}([a_{ij}]_n) = \begin{cases} a_{11} & \text{if } n = 1 \\ \sum_{1 \leq j \leq n} a_{1j} + \text{perm}(\text{submatrix}(a_{ij})) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In the case that $a_{ij} = i \times j$, we may simply add

$$(1 \times 1) + (2 \times 2) + \dots + (n \times n) = (n!)^2,$$

and we do this for $n!$ terms, yielding a total sum of

$$n!(n!)^2 = (n!)^3.$$

16. [HM15] Show that the infinite sum in Eq. (11) does not converge unless n is a nonnegative integer.

The infinite sum in Eq. (11),

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} \left(\left(\sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} \frac{(-1)^j}{j!} \right) \left(\prod_{0 \leq j < k} (n - j) \right) \right),$$

does not converge unless n is a nonnegative integer, since if $n < 0$, the product $\prod_{0 \leq j < k} (n - j)$ never vanishes as the coefficients

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k} \frac{(-1)^j}{j!} = \frac{1}{e}.$$

(In the case that $n \geq 0$, the product eventually vanishes with a factor of zero.)

17. [HM20] Prove that the infinite product

$$\prod_{n \geq 1} \frac{(n + \alpha_1) \dots (n + \alpha_k)}{(n + \beta_1) \dots (n + \beta_k)}$$

equals $\Gamma(1 + \beta_1) \dots \Gamma(1 + \beta_k) / \Gamma(1 + \alpha_1) \dots \Gamma(1 + \alpha_k)$, if $\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_k = \beta_1 + \dots + \beta_k$ and if none of the β 's is a negative integer.

Proposition. $\prod_{n \geq 1} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \frac{n + \alpha_i}{n + \beta_i} = \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \frac{\Gamma(1 + \beta_i)}{\Gamma(1 + \alpha_i)}$ if $\sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} \alpha_i = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} \beta_i$ and $\beta_i \geq 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$.

Proof. Let α_i and β_i be arbitrary integer sequences such that $\sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} \alpha_i = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} \beta_i$ and $\beta_i \geq 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$. We must show that

$$\prod_{n \geq 1} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \frac{n + \alpha_i}{n + \beta_i} = \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \frac{\Gamma(1 + \beta_i)}{\Gamma(1 + \alpha_i)}.$$

But

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \frac{\Gamma(1 + \beta_i)}{\Gamma(1 + \alpha_i)} &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \frac{m^{1+\beta_i} m! \prod_{0 \leq j \leq m} (1 + \alpha_i + j)}{m^{1+\alpha_i} m! \prod_{0 \leq j \leq m} (1 + \beta_i + j)} \\ &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \frac{m^{\beta_i} \prod_{0 \leq j \leq m} (1 + \alpha_i + j)}{m^{\alpha_i} \prod_{0 \leq j \leq m} (1 + \beta_i + j)} \\ &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m^{\sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} \beta_i}}{m^{\sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} \alpha_i}} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \frac{\prod_{0 \leq j \leq m} (1 + \alpha_i + j)}{\prod_{0 \leq j \leq m} (1 + \beta_i + j)} \\ &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \prod_{0 \leq j \leq m} \frac{1 + \alpha_i + j}{1 + \beta_i + j} \\ &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{0 \leq j \leq m} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \frac{1 + \alpha_i + j}{1 + \beta_i + j} \\ &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{1 \leq n \leq m} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \frac{n + \alpha_i}{n + \beta_i} \\ &= \prod_{n \geq 1} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \frac{n + \alpha_i}{n + \beta_i} \end{aligned}$$

as we needed to show. □

18. [M20] Assume that $\pi/2 = \frac{2}{1} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{4}{3} \cdot \frac{4}{5} \cdot \frac{6}{5} \cdot \frac{6}{7} \cdots$. (This is “Wallis’s product,” obtained by J. Wallis in 1655, and we will prove it in exercise 1.2.6-43.) Using the previous exercise, prove that $(\frac{1}{2})! = \sqrt{\pi}/2$.

Proposition. $(\frac{1}{2})! = \sqrt{\pi}/2$.

Proof. We must show that

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)! = \sqrt{\pi}/2.$$

But according to exercise 17 with $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 0$, $\beta_1 = -1/2$, and $\beta_2 = 1/2$ so that

$\sum_{1 \leq i \leq 2} \alpha_i = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq 2} \beta_i$ and $\beta_i \geq 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq 2$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \frac{\pi}{2}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \prod_{n \geq 1} \frac{2n}{2n-1} \frac{2n}{2n+1}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \prod_{n \geq 1} \frac{n}{n-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{n}{n+\frac{1}{2}}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \prod_{n \geq 1} \frac{n+\alpha_1}{n+\beta_1} \frac{n+\alpha_2}{n+\beta_2}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \prod_{n \geq 1} \prod_{1 \leq k \leq 2} \frac{n+\alpha_k}{n+\beta_k}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \prod_{1 \leq k \leq 2} \frac{\Gamma(1+\beta_k)}{\Gamma(1+\alpha_k)}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \prod_{1 \leq k \leq 2} \frac{\Gamma(1+\beta_k)}{\Gamma(1+\alpha_k)}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \frac{\Gamma(1+\beta_1)}{\Gamma(1+\alpha_1)} \frac{\Gamma(1+\beta_2)}{\Gamma(1+\alpha_2)}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \frac{\Gamma(1-\frac{1}{2})}{\Gamma(1)} \frac{\Gamma(1+\frac{1}{2})}{\Gamma(1)}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2})}{\Gamma(1)} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{3}{2})}{\Gamma(1)}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{2} \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)} \\
 &= \sqrt{\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^2} \\
 &= \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)!
 \end{aligned}$$

as we needed to show. □

[Wallis's own heuristic "proof" can be found in D. J. Struik's *Source Book in Mathematics* (Harvard University Press, 1969), 244–253.]

19. [HM22] Denote the quantity appearing after "lim $_{m \rightarrow \infty}$ " in Eq. (15) by $\Gamma_m(x)$. Show that

$$\Gamma_m(x) = \int_0^m \left(1 - \frac{t}{m}\right)^m t^{x-1} dt = m^x \int_0^1 (1-t)^m t^{x-1} dt, \quad \text{if } x > 0.$$

Proposition. $\Gamma_m(x) = \int_0^m \left(1 - \frac{t}{m}\right)^m t^{x-1} dt = m^x \int_0^1 (1-t)^m t^{x-1} dt$ if $x > 0$.

Proof. Let x be an arbitrary positive real number so that $x > 0$. We must show that

$$\Gamma_m(x) = \int_0^m \left(1 - \frac{t}{m}\right)^m t^{x-1} dt = m^x \int_0^1 (1-t)^m t^{x-1} dt.$$

But by substituting mt for t

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^m \left(1 - \frac{t}{m}\right)^m t^{x-1} dt &= \int_0^{t/t} \left(1 - \frac{mt}{m}\right)^m (mt)^{x-1} dmt \\ &= \int_0^1 (1-t)^m m^x t^{x-1} dt \\ &= m^x \int_0^1 (1-t)^m t^{x-1} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Then, let

$$f_m(x) = \int_0^1 (1-t)^m t^{x-1} dt.$$

We may prove by induction on m that

$$f_m(x) = \frac{m!}{\prod_{0 \leq k \leq m} (x+k)}.$$

If $m = 0$, clearly

$$\begin{aligned} f_0(x) &= \int_0^1 (1-t)^0 t^{x-1} dt \\ &= \int_0^1 t^{x-1} dt \\ &= \left. \frac{t^x}{x} \right|_0^1 \\ &= \frac{1^x}{x} - \frac{0^x}{x} \\ &= \frac{1-0}{x} \\ &= \frac{1}{x} \\ &= \frac{0!}{\prod_{0 \leq k \leq 0} (x+k)}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, assuming

$$f_m(x) = \frac{m!}{\prod_{0 \leq k \leq m} (x+k)},$$

we must show that

$$f_{m+1}(x) = \frac{(m+1)!}{\prod_{0 \leq k \leq m+1} (x+k)}.$$

But by integration by parts, since $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{t^x}{x} = t^{x-1}$ and $\frac{d}{dt}(1-t)^{m+1} = -(m+1)(1-t)^m$,

$$\begin{aligned} f_{m+1}(x) &= \int_0^1 (1-t)^{m+1} t^{x-1} dt \\ &= (1-t)^{m+1} \frac{t^x}{x} \Big|_0^1 - \int_0^1 -(m+1)(1-t)^m \frac{t^x}{x} dt \\ &= (1-1)^{m+1} \frac{1^x}{x} - (1-0)^{m+1} \frac{0^x}{x} + \frac{m+1}{x} \int_0^1 (1-t)^m t^x dt \\ &= 0 - 0 + \frac{m+1}{x} \int_0^1 (1-t)^m t^x dt \\ &= \frac{m+1}{x} f_m(x+1). \end{aligned}$$

And so, by the inductive hypothesis,

$$\begin{aligned} f_{m+1}(x) &= \frac{m+1}{x} f_m(x+1) \\ &= \frac{m+1}{x} \frac{m!}{\prod_{0 \leq k \leq m} (x+1+k)} \\ &= \frac{(m+1)m!}{x \prod_{1 \leq k \leq m+1} (x+k)} \\ &= \frac{(m+1)!}{\prod_{0 \leq k \leq m+1} (x+k)}, \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$f_m(x) = \frac{m!}{\prod_{0 \leq k \leq m} (x+k)}.$$

Finally

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^m \left(1 - \frac{t}{m}\right)^m t^{x-1} dt &= m^x \int_0^1 (1-t)^m t^{x-1} dt \\ &= m^x f_m(x) \\ &= m^x \frac{m!}{\prod_{0 \leq k \leq m} (x+k)} \\ &= \frac{m^x m!}{\prod_{0 \leq k \leq m} (x+k)} \\ &= \Gamma_m(x) \end{aligned}$$

as we needed to show. □

20. [HM21] Using the fact that $0 \leq e^{-t} - (1-t/m)^m \leq t^2 e^{-t}/m$, if $0 \leq t \leq m$, and the previous exercise, show that $\Gamma(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{x-1} dt$, if $x > 0$.

Proposition. $\Gamma(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{x-1} dt$, if $x > 0$.

Proof. Let x be an arbitrary positive real number such that $x > 0$. We must show that

$$\Gamma(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{x-1} dt.$$

Let

$$g(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{x-1} dt.$$

It is sufficient to show that $g(x) - \Gamma(x) = 0$.

Note that if $0 \leq t \leq m$,

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + x \leq e^x &\iff 1 \pm t/m \leq e^{\pm t/m} \\ &\iff (1 \pm t/m)^m \leq e^{\pm t} \end{aligned}$$

and from exercise 1.2.1-9,

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-t} &\geq (1 - t/m)^m \\ &= e^{-t}(1 - t/m)^m e^t \\ &\geq e^{-t}(1 - t/m)^m (1 + t/m)^m \\ &= e^{-t}(1 - t^2/m^2)^m \\ &\geq e^{-t}(1 - t^2/m) \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$0 \leq e^{-t} - (1 - t/m)^m \leq t^2 e^{-t}/m.$$

Then since $x + 1 \geq 2$,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq e^{-t} - (1 - t/m)^m \leq t^{x+1} e^{-t}/m \\ &\iff 0 \leq \int_0^m e^{-t} - (1 - t/m)^m dt \leq \frac{1}{m} \int_0^m t^{x+1} e^{-t} dt < \frac{1}{m} \int_0^\infty t^{x+1} e^{-t} dt \\ &\iff 0 \leq \int_0^\infty e^{-t} - (1 - t/m)^m dt \leq \frac{1}{m} \int_0^\infty t^{x+1} e^{-t} dt \\ &\iff 0 \leq \int_0^\infty e^{-t} - (1 - t/m)^m dt \leq 0 \\ &\iff \int_0^\infty e^{-t} - (1 - t/m)^m dt = 0 \\ &\iff \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{x-1} dt - \int_0^\infty (1 - t/m)^m t^{x-1} dt = 0 \\ &\iff g(x) - \Gamma(x) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

as we needed to show. □

21. [HM25] (L. F. A. Arbogast, 1800.) Let $D_x^k u$ represent the k th derivative of a function u with respect to x . The chain rule states that $D_x^1 w = D_u^1 w D_x^1 u$. If we apply this to second derivatives, we find $D_x^2 w = D_u^2 w (D_x^1 u)^2 + D_u^1 w D_x^2 u$. Show that the general formula is

$$D_x^n w = \sum_{j=0}^n \sum_{\substack{k_1+k_2+\dots+k_n=j \\ k_1+2k_2+\dots+nk_n=n \\ k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n \geq 0}} D_u^j w \frac{n!}{k_1!(1!)^{k_1} \dots k_n!(n!)^{k_n}} (D_x^1 u)^{k_1} \dots (D_x^n u)^{k_n}.$$

Proposition. $D_x^n f = \sum_{0 \leq j \leq n} \sum_{\substack{k_1+k_2+\dots+k_n=j \\ k_1+2k_2+\dots+nk_n=n \\ k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n \geq 0}} n! D_g^j f \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} \frac{(D_x^i g)^{k_i}}{k_i!(i!)^{k_i}}.$

Proof. Let f be an arbitrary function of g , g an arbitrary function of x , and n a positive integer. We must show that that the n th derivative of f with respect to x is

$$D_x^n f = \sum_{0 \leq j \leq n} \sum_{\substack{k_1+k_2+\dots+k_n=j \\ k_1+2k_2+\dots+nk_n=n \\ k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n \geq 0}} n! D_g^j f \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} \frac{(D_x^i g)^{k_i}}{k_i!(i!)^{k_i}}.$$

As done by T. A.¹, it suffices to analyze the coefficients for any function f . Let $f = e^{pg(x)}$. By Taylor's theorem for an arbitrary h ,

$$e^{pg(x+h)} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{h^n}{n!} D_x^n f.$$

But also, by expanding $g(x+h)$ and developing the product,

$$\begin{aligned} e^{pg(x+h)} &= e^{pg(x)} \prod_{n \geq 1} e^{p D_x^n g \frac{h^n}{n!}} \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} h^n \sum_{0 \leq j \leq n} p^j e^{pg(x)} \sum_{\substack{k_1+k_2+\dots+k_n=j \\ k_1+2k_2+\dots+nk_n=n \\ k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n \geq 0}} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} \frac{(D_x^i g)^{k_i}}{k_i! (i!)^{k_i}} \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} h^n \sum_{0 \leq j \leq n} D_g^j f \sum_{\substack{k_1+k_2+\dots+k_n=j \\ k_1+2k_2+\dots+nk_n=n \\ k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n \geq 0}} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} \frac{(D_x^i g)^{k_i}}{k_i! (i!)^{k_i}}. \end{aligned}$$

Equating these two yields

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{h^n}{n!} D_x^n f &= \sum_{n \geq 0} h^n \sum_{0 \leq j \leq n} D_g^j f \sum_{\substack{k_1+k_2+\dots+k_n=j \\ k_1+2k_2+\dots+nk_n=n \\ k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n \geq 0}} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} \frac{(D_x^i g)^{k_i}}{k_i! (i!)^{k_i}} \\ \iff \frac{1}{n!} D_x^n f &= \sum_{0 \leq j \leq n} D_g^j f \sum_{\substack{k_1+k_2+\dots+k_n=j \\ k_1+2k_2+\dots+nk_n=n \\ k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n \geq 0}} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} \frac{(D_x^i g)^{k_i}}{k_i! (i!)^{k_i}} \\ \iff D_x^n f &= \sum_{0 \leq j \leq n} \sum_{\substack{k_1+k_2+\dots+k_n=j \\ k_1+2k_2+\dots+nk_n=n \\ k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n \geq 0}} n! D_g^j f \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} \frac{(D_x^i g)^{k_i}}{k_i! (i!)^{k_i}} \end{aligned}$$

and hence the result. □

[*Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* **44** (1938), 395–398]

[*Du Calcul des Dérivations* (Strasbourg: 1800), §52]

[*Quarterly J. Math.* **1** (1857), 359-360]

... see the paper by I. J. Good, *Annals of Mathematical Statistics* **32** (1961), 540–541.

► **22.** [HM20] Try to put yourself in Euler's place, looking for a way to generalize $n!$ to noninteger values of n . Since $(n + \frac{1}{2})!/n!$ times $((n + \frac{1}{2}) + \frac{1}{2})!/(n + \frac{1}{2})!$ equals $(n + 1)!/n! = n + 1$, it seems natural that $(n + \frac{1}{2})!/n!$ should be approximately \sqrt{n} . Similarly, $(n + \frac{1}{3})!/n!$ should be $\approx \sqrt[3]{n}$. Invent a hypothesis about the ratio $(n + x)!/n!$ as n approaches infinity. Is your hypothesis correct when x is an integer? Does it tell anything about the appropriate value of $x!$ when x is not an integer?

¹T. A. [J. F. C. Tiburce Abadie], Sur la différentiation des fonctions de fonctions, *Nouvelles Annales de Mathématiques* **9** (1850) 119-125.

Observing that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{(n + \frac{1}{2})!}{n!} &\approx \sqrt{n} \text{ and} \\ \frac{(n + \frac{1}{3})!}{n!} &\approx \sqrt[3]{n},\end{aligned}$$

we might hypothesize that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+x)!}{n!n^x} = 1.$$

When x is an integer, the equality holds, as

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+x)!}{n!n^x} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq x} (n+k)}{n^x} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^x \prod_{1 \leq k \leq x} (1 + \frac{k}{n})}{n^x} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{1 \leq k \leq x} \left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right) \\ &= 1.\end{aligned}$$

It tells us something about the appropriate value of $x!$ when x is not an integer as well, since

$$\begin{aligned}1 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+x)!}{n!n^x} = x! \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} (x+k)}{n!n^x} \\ \iff x! &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^x n!}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} (x+k)} = \Gamma(x+1).\end{aligned}$$

23. [HM20] Prove (16), given that $\pi z \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - z^2/n^2) = \sin \pi z$.

Proposition. $(-z)!\Gamma(z) = \frac{\pi}{\sin \pi z}$ for z not an integer.

Proof. Let z be an arbitrary real number, not an integer. We must show that

$$(-z)!\Gamma(z) = \frac{\pi}{\sin \pi z}.$$

But given

$$\begin{aligned}\pi z \prod_{m \geq 1} \left(1 - \frac{z^2}{m^2}\right) &= \sin \pi z \\ \iff \frac{\pi z}{\sin \pi z} &= \frac{1}{\prod_{m \geq 1} \left(1 - \frac{z^2}{m^2}\right)}\end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
z(-z)!\Gamma(z) &= z \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m^{-z}m!}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq m} (-z+k)} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m^z m!}{z \prod_{1 \leq k \leq m} (z+k)} \\
&= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m^{-z}m!m^z m!}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq m} (-z+k)(z+k)} \\
&= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(m!)^2}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq m} k^2 \left(1 - \frac{z}{k}\right) \left(1 + \frac{z}{k}\right)} \\
&= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(m!)^2}{(m!)^2 \prod_{1 \leq k \leq m} \left(1 - \frac{z}{k}\right) \left(1 + \frac{z}{k}\right)} \\
&= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq m} \left(1 - \frac{z^2}{k^2}\right)} \\
&= \frac{1}{\prod_{m \geq 1} \left(1 - \frac{z^2}{k^2}\right)} \\
&= \frac{\pi z}{\sin \pi z}.
\end{aligned}$$

Finally, dividing both sides by z yields

$$(-z)!\Gamma(z) = \frac{\pi}{\sin \pi z}$$

as we needed to show. □

► **24.** [HM21] Prove the handy inequalities

$$\frac{n^n}{e^{n-1}} \leq n! \leq \frac{n^{n+1}}{e^{n-1}}, \quad \text{integer } n \geq 1.$$

[Hint: $1+x \leq e^x$ for all real x ; hence $(k+1)/k \leq e^{1/k} \leq k/(k-1)$.]

Proposition. $\frac{n^n}{e^{n-1}} \leq n! \leq \frac{n^{n+1}}{e^{n-1}}$ for integer $n \geq 1$.

Proof. Let n be an arbitrary integer such that $n \geq 1$. We must show that

$$\frac{n^n}{e^{n-1}} \leq n! \leq \frac{n^{n+1}}{e^{n-1}}.$$

Note that since $1+x \leq e^x$ for all real x ,

$$\begin{aligned}
1 + \frac{1}{k} \leq e^{\frac{1}{k}} &\iff \frac{k+1}{k} \leq e^{\frac{1}{k}} \\
&\iff \frac{(k+1)^k}{k^k} \leq e,
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
1 - \frac{1}{k+1} \leq e^{-\frac{1}{k+1}} &\iff \frac{k}{k+1} \leq e^{-\frac{1}{k+1}} \\
&\iff \frac{k^{k+1}}{(k+1)^{k+1}} \leq e^{-1} \\
&\iff \frac{(k+1)^{k+1}}{k^{k+1}} \geq e.
\end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{n^n}{n!} &= \frac{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} n}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} k} \\
 &= \frac{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} nk^{k-1}}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} kk^{k-1}} \\
 &= \frac{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} nk^{k-1}}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} k^k} \\
 &= \frac{n^n \prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} k^{k-1}}{n^n \prod_{1 \leq k \leq n-1} k^k} \\
 &= \frac{\prod_{2 \leq k \leq n} k^{k-1}}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n-1} k^k} \\
 &= \frac{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n-1} (k+1)^k}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n-1} k^k} \\
 &= \prod_{1 \leq k \leq n-1} \frac{(k+1)^k}{k^k} \\
 &\leq \prod_{1 \leq k \leq n-1} e \\
 &= e^{n-1},
 \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\frac{n^n}{e^{n-1}} \leq n!.$$

Then also

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{n^{n+1}}{n!} &= \frac{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n+1} n}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} k} \\
 &= \frac{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n+1} nk^k}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} kk^k} \\
 &= \frac{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n+1} nk^k}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} k^{k+1}} \\
 &= \frac{n^{n+1} \prod_{1 \leq k \leq n} k^k}{n^{n+1} \prod_{1 \leq k \leq n-1} k^{k+1}} \\
 &= \frac{\prod_{2 \leq k \leq n} k^k}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n-1} k^{k+1}} \\
 &= \frac{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n-1} (k+1)^{k+1}}{\prod_{1 \leq k \leq n-1} k^{k+1}} \\
 &= \prod_{1 \leq k \leq n-1} \frac{(k+1)^{k+1}}{k^{k+1}} \\
 &\geq \prod_{1 \leq k \leq n-1} e \\
 &= e^{n-1},
 \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$n! \leq \frac{n^{n+1}}{e^{n-1}}.$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{n^n}{e^{n-1}} \leq n! \leq \frac{n^{n+1}}{e^{n-1}}$$

as we needed to show. \square

25. [M20] Do factorial powers satisfy a law analogous to the ordinary law of exponents, $x^{m+n} = x^m x^n$?

Factorial powers satisfy laws analogous to the ordinary law of exponents. In particular,

$$\begin{aligned} x^{\overline{m+n}} &= x^{\overline{m}}(x-m)^{\overline{n}} \\ x^{\overline{m+n}} &= x^{\overline{m}}(x+m)^{\overline{n}}, \end{aligned}$$

since

$$\begin{aligned} x^{\overline{m+n}} &= \frac{x!}{(x-(m+n))!} \\ &= \frac{x!}{(x-m-n)!} \\ &= \frac{x!}{(x-m-n)!} \frac{(x-m)!}{(x-m)!} \\ &= \frac{x!}{(x-m)!} \frac{(x-m)!}{(x-m-n)!} \\ &= x^{\overline{m}}(x-m)^{\overline{n}} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} x^{\overline{m+n}} &= \frac{\Gamma(x+m+n)}{\Gamma(x)} \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(x+m+n)}{\Gamma(x)} \frac{\Gamma(x+m)}{\Gamma(x+m)} \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(x+m)}{\Gamma(x)} \frac{\Gamma(x+m+n)}{\Gamma(x+m)} \\ &= x^{\overline{m}}(x+m)^{\overline{n}}. \end{aligned}$$