

**Definition of factorial**

$$n! = n * (n - 1) * (n - 2) * (n - 3) * \dots 1$$

$$\text{Fact}_0 = 0! = 1$$

$$\text{Fact}_1 = 1! = 1$$

$$\text{Fact}_2 = 2! = 2*1 = 2$$

$$\text{Fact}_3 = 3! = 3*2*1 = 6$$

$$\text{Fact}_4 = 4! = 4*3*2*1 = 24$$

$$\text{Fact}_n = n! = n * (n-1) * (n-2) * (n-3) * \dots 1 \text{ (for } n \geq 1)$$

**Base case:**

if (n == 1) //smallest possible case inside the range of the factorial definition

return 1

if (n == 0) (non-recursive case)

return 1

**Inductive step**

Assume:

That  $\text{fact}(n - 1) * n$  correctly computes the product of the  $n^{\text{th}}$  factorial number for  $n \geq 1$

Then:

$$\text{fact}(n) = \text{fact}(n-1) * n$$

$$\rightarrow n! = (n-1)! * n$$

$$\rightarrow n! = n * (n-1) * (n-2) * \dots 1$$

Therefore  $n!$  or  $\text{fact}(n)$  is correct