

Assignment 11 IPFCE

Prove the recursive factorial function by induction:

```
/* Factorial function definition */
int fact(int n)
{
    /* pre-condition */
    assert (n >= 1);

    /* post-condition */
    if (n > 1)
        return n * fact(n - 1);
    else
        return 1;
}
```

Base case:

$\text{fact}(1) = 1$, which is consistent with $(1!)$

Inductive step:

Assume $\text{fact}(n-1)$ correctly computes the $(n-1)^{\text{th}}$ factorial number for integer $n > 1$ denoted as F_{n-1} .

Then: $\text{fact}(n) = n \cdot \text{fact}(n-1)$

Which is the definition of the n^{th} factorial F_n

So if we take $\text{fact}(5)$, we get $\text{fact}(5-1)$ which is $\text{fact}(4-1)$ all the way down.