

1. What is your name?
2. Following is our definition of a *permutation* of a finite set:

34-B. Definition of a *permutation* of a finite set:

Given $A \in \{ \text{finite sets} \}$, $(f \in \{ \text{permutations of } A \} \Leftrightarrow f: A \xrightarrow[\text{onto}]{1:1} A)$

- A Is this definition compatible with your concept of a permutation? Indicate your response by circling one of the following words:

☒ Yes

☐ “No”

- B. Write a paragraph that explains why you circled “Yes” or why you circled “No.”

Sample paragraph:

I struggled to formulate a definition for a permutation. And even after I formulated this one and checked it out with some of my colleagues, I felt compelled to try out examples of a permutation on a finite set that defied my definition. Now, I’m comfortable with it but that doesn’t mean I’ll remain comfortable with it. Here is why I think it compatible with my notion of a permutation as an ordering of elements of a set:

$$A \in \{ \text{finite sets} \} \Rightarrow \exists n \in \mathbb{N} \ni A = \{ a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n \} \ni |A| = n.$$

Thus, $f: A \xrightarrow[\text{onto}]{1:1} A \Rightarrow f$ is some ordering of A ’s elements. Here is one possible f that I’ll call “ f' ” since there can be more than one such f :

$$f' = \{ (a_1, a_2), (a_2, a_3), (a_3, a_4), \dots, (a_{n-1}, a_n), (a_n, a_1) \}$$

Here’s another permutation:

$$f'' = \{ (a_1, a_1), (a_2, a_2), (a_3, a_3), \dots, (a_{n-1}, a_{n-1}), (a_n, a_n) \}$$

And here’s is a specific, example:

Suppose $B = \{ 1, 2, 3 \}$, then all of the permutations of B are as follows:

$$\{ (1, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3) \}, \{ (1, 1), (2, 3), (3, 2) \}, \{ (1, 2), (2, 3), (3, 1) \}, \\ \{ (1, 2), (2, 1), (3, 3) \}, \{ (1, 3), (2, 1), (3, 2) \}, \{ (1, 3), (2, 2), (3, 1) \}$$

Notice that ${}_3P_3 = 3! = 6$ and that we have 6 sets just above.

3. Smile. 😊