



Math for the people, by the people.

double factorial

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The *double factorial* of a positive integer  $n$  is the product  $n!!$  of the positive integers less than or equal to  $n$  that have the same parity as  $n$ , that is,

$$n!! = n(n-2)(n-4) \cdots k_n$$

where  $k_n$  denotes 1 if  $n$  is an odd number and 2 if  $n$  is an even number.

For example,

$$7!! = 7 \cdot 5 \cdot 3 \cdot 1 = 105$$

$$10!! = 10 \cdot 8 \cdot 6 \cdot 4 \cdot 2 = 3840$$

Note that  $n!!$  is not the same as  $(n!)!$ .

Observe that  $(2n)!! = 2^n n!$  and  $(2n+1)!! = \frac{(2n+1)!}{2^n n!}$ .