



Math for the people, by the people.

some formulas involving rising factorial

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Recall that, for  $a \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $n$  a nonnegative integer, the rising factorial  $(a)_n$  is defined by

$$(a)_n = \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} (a + k).$$

The following results hold regarding the rising factorial:

- For all  $a \in \mathbb{C}$ , we have  $(a)_0 = 1$ .
- For all nonnegative integers  $n$ , we have  $(1)_n = n!$ .
- The binomial coefficients are given by

$$\binom{a}{n} = \frac{(-1)^n (-a)_n}{n!}.$$

- The rising factorial relates to the gamma function. One relation is given by the formula

$$(a)_n = \frac{\Gamma(a + n)}{\Gamma(a)}.$$

This formula can be used to extend the definition of rising factorial so that  $n$  can be any complex number provided that  $a + n$  is not a nonpositive integer.

- Another relation between the rising factorial and the gamma function is given by

$$\Gamma(a) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n! n^{a-1}}{(a)_n}.$$