



# Factorial fun

## Problem

We denote the product of the first 20 natural numbers by  $20!$  and call this 20 factorial.

- (a) What is the highest power of 5 which is a divisor of 20 factorial? Just how many factors does  $20!$  have altogether?
- (b) Show that the highest power of  $k$  that divides  $500!$ , where  $k$  is an integer and  $k(t+1) > 500 > kt$  is

$$[500/k] + [500/k^2] + \dots + [500/k^t],$$

where the square brackets are used to denote the integer part of the number inside.

- (c) How many factors does  $n!$  have?

## Relevance

**NA3** What are highest common factors and why do they matter?