



Why

We want language and notation for selecting some of the entries (possibly, with reordering—i.e. permuting) from a list.

Definition

An *index list* of order n and length $r \leq n$ is a list of *distinct* elements of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. Its *i-index* is the i th coordinate, where $i = 1, \dots, r$.

Examples

Here are some index lists of order 5: $(1, 2, 3)$, $(3, 2, 1)$, $(4, 5, 1)$, $(5, 4, 3, 2, 1)$, $(3,)$. These have lengths 3, 3, 3, 7 and 1, respectively. The 3-index of the first is 3, and of the second is 1.

Induced sublist

The *sublist* of an length- n list x *induced* by a length- r index list α is the length- r list y whose i th entry is the value x_{α_i} . In other words,

$$y_i = x_{\alpha_i}$$

For example, define $x = (6, 4, 5, 3, 9)$. The sublists associated with the example index lists above are $(6, 4, 5)$, $(5, 4, 6)$, $(3, 9, 6)$, $(9, 3, 5, 4, 6)$ and $(5,)$.

For a particular case, the third holds because

$$(3, 9, 6) = (x_4, x_5, x_1) = (x_{\alpha_1}, x_{\alpha_2}, x_{\alpha_3})$$

Notation

We denote the induced sublist of list x induced by index list α by x_α . This is a slight abuse of notation, since we have so far defined a list with a subscript symbol mean the subscript-symbol term of that list. This ambiguity is avoided in our discussion if we keep in mind the types of the objects.

Index sets

An *index set* $S \subset 1, \dots, n$ can be associated with an index list in a natural way. It corresponds to the length- $|S|$ index list which has the elements of S in their natural order. We denote the induced sublist by x_S .

