

Sets, Subsets and Tuples

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definition:

mathematical set: collection of unique elements

- no duplicates
- order irrelevant

Subsets

subset of a set:

- elements are unique, no repetitions
- order *does not* matter

subset of a set:

- elements are unique, no repetitions
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examples:

- $\{A, B\} = \{B, A\} \subset \{A, B, C\}$
- $\{1, 2, 7, 206342\} = \{7, 1, 206342, 2\} \subset \mathbf{N}$
- $\{\text{apple, pear, cherry}\} = \{\text{pear, cherry, apple}\}$
 $\subset \{\text{apple, pear, cherry, banana, pineapple, passion fruit}\}$
- $\{\text{HI, MDH, GPH}\} \subset \{\text{studies at ECRI}\}$

Tuples

tuple:

- elements can repeat
- order *does* matter

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examples:

- $(A, B) \neq (B, A)$
- $(1, 2, 7, 206342, 2) \neq (2, 7, 1, 206342, 2)$
- $(\text{apple}, \text{pear}, \text{cherry}) \neq (\text{apple}, \text{cherry}, \text{pear})$
- $(\text{HI}, \text{MDH}, \text{GPH}) \neq (\text{MDH}, \text{HI}, \text{GPH})$

Tuples

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- order *does* matter

permutation:

a reordering of the elements in a tuple

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- elements can repeat
- order *does* matter

permutation:

a reordering of the elements in a tuple

example:

- (B, A, C) is a permutation of (A, B, C)
- (3, 2, 1) is a permutation of (1, 2, 3)

How many permutations N_{perm} does a k-tuple have?

1st element: k possibilities

2nd element: $k - 1$ possibilities remaining

...

2nd to last element: 2 possibilities remaining

last element: 1 possibility remaining

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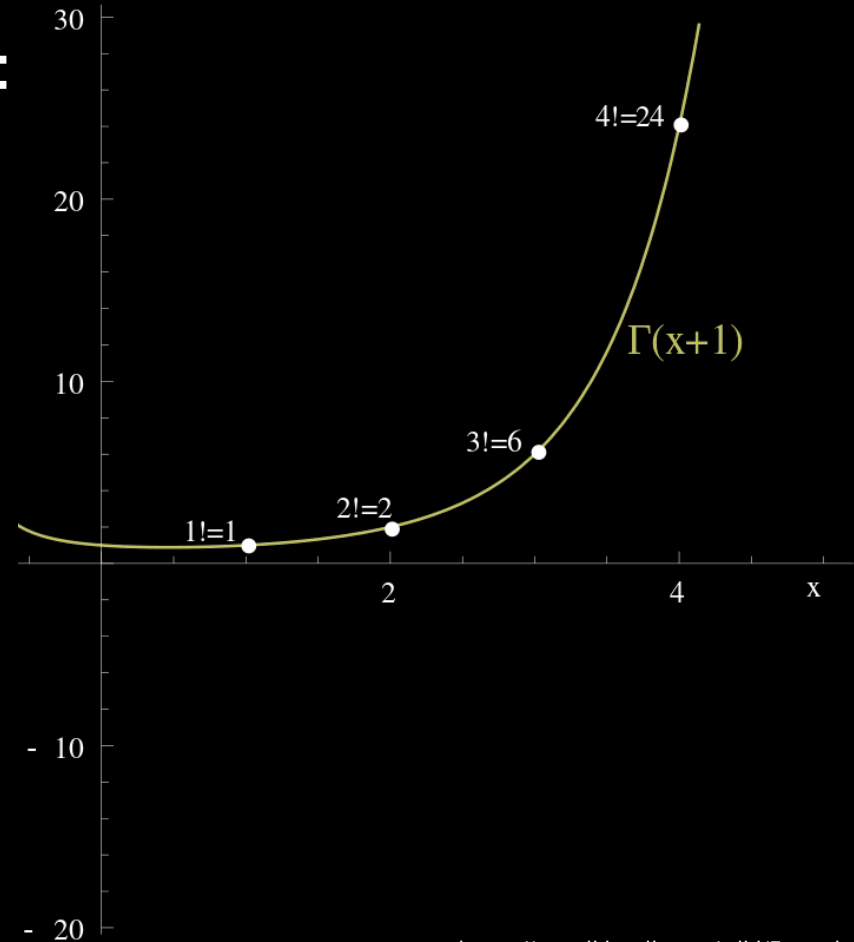
altogether:
$$N_{\text{perm}} = k \cdot (k - 1) \cdot (k - 2) \cdot \dots \cdot 2 \cdot 1$$
$$= k! \text{ possibilities}$$

recursive definition of the **factorial**:

- $0! = 1$
- $k! = k \cdot (k - 1)!$

explicitly:

- $0! = 1$
- $1! = 1 \cdot 1 = 1$
- $2! = 2 \cdot 1 = 2$
- $3! = 3 \cdot 2 = 6$
- $4! = 4 \cdot 6 = 24$



Summary

- subsets: no repetitions, order irrelevant
- tuples: repetitions allowed, order relevant
- tuple of length k : k -tuple
- permutations: putting a tuple into a different order
- number of permutations: factorial