

$$\text{Evaluation of } Y(n) = \prod_{k=1}^n k^{(n+1-k)}$$

Recently, while evaluating the function $f(n) = \frac{\sigma(n) - n - 1}{n}$, we came up with a new point function $J(n)$ defined as-

$$J(n) = \prod_{k=1}^n \text{ithprime}(k)^{\text{ithprime}(n+1-k)}$$

In studying this rather complicated expansion, we now realize that there is a much simpler related expression-

$$Y(n) = \prod_{k=1}^n k^{(n+1-k)}$$

Evaluating this new function for $n=1, 2, 3, 4$ and 5 produces-

$$Y(1) = 1$$

$$Y(2) = 2$$

$$Y(3) = 12$$

$$Y(4) = 288$$

$$Y(5) = 34560$$

It is seen to be a rapidly increasing sequence of n with $Y(\text{inf.}) = \text{infinity}$. We wish in this note to examine the most important properties of this point function.

One notices first of all that-

$$Y(n) = n! Y(n-1)$$

so that $Y(6) = 6! 34560 = 2488320$. We also have that-

$$Y(n) = \prod_{k=1}^n k! = 1! * 2! * 3! * \dots * (n-1)! * n!$$

This form for expressing $Y(N)$ is much simpler since it requires no exponents other than one. With this last form we can construct the following interesting pattern-

$$6! 5! 4! 3! 2! 1! = 2488329$$

$$5! 4! 3! 2! 1! = 34560$$

$$4! 3! 2! 1! = 288$$

$$3! 2! 1! = 12$$

$$2! 1! = 2$$

$$1! = 1$$

The factorial form of $Y(n)$ above at first glance looks completely different from the exponential form we started with. To further prove that they are identical we have constructed the following four column table-

n	$\prod_{k=1}^n k^{(n+1-k)}$	$Y(n)$	$\prod_{k=1}^n k!$
1	1^1	1	$1=1$
2	$1^2 \times 2^1 = 2$	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
3	$1^3 \times 2^2 \times 3^1 = 12$	12	$1 \times 2 \times 6 = 12$
4	$1^4 \times 2^3 \times 3^2 \times 4^1 = 288$	288	$1 \times 2 \times 6 \times 24 = 288$
5	$1^5 \times 2^4 \times 3^3 \times 2^2 \times 1^1 = 34560$	34560	$1 \times 2 \times 6 \times 24 \times 120 = 34560$

A related number product function is-

$$T(n) = \prod_{k=1}^n (k!)^2$$

For $n=1,2,3,4,5$ it reads-

$$T(1)=1$$

$$T(2)=4$$

$$T(3)=144$$

$$T(4)=82944$$

$$T(5)=1194393600$$

From this we see at once that $T(n)=Y(n)^2$.

As another related function we can also look at-

$$R(n) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n k!}{\prod_{k=1}^n k!}$$

The first few $R(n)$ look as follows-

$$R(1)=1$$

$$R(2)=3/2$$

$$R(3)=2/3$$

$$R(4)=1/9$$

$$R(5)=17/3840$$

This ratio point function goes to zero as n becomes infinite.

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Happy New Year