

Chapter 07

PERMUTATIONS AND COMBINATIONS

FACTORIAL NOTATION:

The notation ' $n!$ ' or ' \underline{n} ' represents the product of first ' n ' natural numbers.

Example:

The product $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times \dots \times (n-1) \times n$ is denoted by ' $n!$ ' or ' \underline{n} ' we read their symbol as "n factorial".

Thus, $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times \dots \times (n-1) \times n = n!$

$$1 = 1!$$

$$1 \times 2 = 2!$$

$$1 \times 2 \times 3 = 3!$$

$$1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 = 4! \text{ and so on.}$$

We define $0! = 1$

Clearly, for a natural number ' n '.

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

$$= n(n-1)(n-2)! \text{ (provided } n \geq 2)$$

$$= n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)! \text{ (provided } n \geq 3)$$

and so on....