

# Commutative Ring Theory Days 2010

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## FACTORIALS IN SEVERAL VARIABLES

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There is no need to introduce the factorial sequence  $\{n!\}_{n \geq 0}$ , and its arithmetic properties are well known

- For each  $k, l \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $k!!$  divides  $(k + l)!$ .
- For any sequence  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n$  of integers, the product  $\prod_{0 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_j - x_i)$  is divisible by  $1! \cdots n!$ .

We can also give some properties connecting polynomials and factorials:

- For every polynomial  $f \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ , with unitary content and of degree  $n$ ,  $d(f) = \gcd\{f(k) \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  divides  $n!$ .
- Every integer-valued polynomial  $f$  (that is,  $f(\mathbb{Z}) \subset \mathbb{Z}$ ), of degree  $n$ ,

$$n!f(X) \in \mathbb{Z}[X].$$

Bhargava introduced the notion of factorial sequence of a subset  $S$  of a Dedekind domain  $D$ , which generalizes the usual notion of  $n!$ , since it has arithmetical properties similar to the classical factorials. He introduced the factorial sequence of a subset  $S$ , in a local way, thanks to the notion of  $v$ -orderings of  $S$ . On the other hand, such a sequence may be defined in a global way, thanks to the notion of integer-valued polynomial on  $S$ . In this talk, we define factorials in several variables using both, integer-valued polynomials with  $d$  indeterminates and  $v$ -orderings of subsets of  $D^d$ . We will see that these factorial sequences still generalize some arithmetical properties of the factorial sequence  $n!$ .

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