

138 (factorial) In natural variables  $n$  and  $f$  prove

$f := n! \iff \mathbf{if\ } n=0 \mathbf{\ then\ } f:=1 \mathbf{\ else\ } n:=n-1.\ f:=n!.\ n:=n+1.\ f:=f \times n \mathbf{\ fi}$

where  $n! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times \dots \times n$ . The occurrence of  $f := n!$  on the right side is a recursive call.

After trying the question, scroll down to the solution.

§ Proof by cases.

	$n=0 \wedge (f:=1)$	expand assignment
=	$n=0 \wedge f'=1 \wedge n'=n$	use context from left conjunct to change middle conjunct
=	$n=0 \wedge f'=n! \wedge n'=n$	contract assignment
=	$n=0 \wedge (f:=n!)$	specialization
$\Rightarrow$	$f:=n!$	

	$n \neq 0 \wedge (n:=n-1. f:=n!. n:=n+1. f:=f \times n)$	
$\Rightarrow$	$n:=n-1. f:=n!. n:=n+1. f'=f \times n \wedge n'=n$	specialize (drop conjunct) and expand last assignment substitution
=	$n:=n-1. f:=n!. f'=f \times (n+1) \wedge n'=n+1$	substitution
=	$n:=n-1. f'=n! \times (n+1) \wedge n'=n+1$	simplify
=	$n:=n-1. f'=(n+1)! \wedge n'=n+1$	substitution
=	$f'=n! \wedge n'=n$	definition of assignment
=	$f:=n!$	