

## Using MathCAD's iterated product to calculate Lagrange-like terms

$$x := \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad n := 4 \quad \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} x_j = 24$$

$$\underline{\underline{L(i)}} := \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} x_j \cdot \prod_{j=i+1}^{n-1} x_j$$

$$\underline{\underline{L(0)}} = \quad \underline{\underline{L(1)}} = 12 \quad \underline{\underline{L(2)}} = 8 \quad \underline{\underline{L(3)}} =$$

use "trace error" to see cause

$$\underline{\underline{L(i)}} := \begin{cases} \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} x_j & \text{if } i = 0 \\ \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} x_j & \text{if } i = n - 1 \\ \left( \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} x_j \cdot \prod_{j=i+1}^{n-1} x_j \right) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\underline{\underline{L(0)}} = 24 \quad \underline{\underline{L(1)}} = 12 \quad \underline{\underline{L(2)}} = 8 \quad \underline{\underline{L(3)}} = 6$$

Alternative:

$$\begin{array}{l} \underline{\underline{L(i)}} := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} L \leftarrow \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} x_j \quad \text{if } i = 0 \\ \text{otherwise} \\ \left\{ \begin{array}{l} L \leftarrow \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} x_j \quad \text{if } i = n - 1 \\ L \leftarrow \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} x_j \cdot \prod_{j=i+1}^{n-1} x_j \quad \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right. \\ \text{return } L \end{array}$$

$$L(0) = 24$$

$$L(1) = 12$$

$$L(2) = 8$$

$$L(3) = 6$$