

# Shuffling a set

## The full permutation

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# The $k$ -element permutation

- We have seen the  $k$ -element permutation
  - on some  $n$ -set  $S$
  - choose  $k$  **distinct** elements from  $S$ 
    - **without replacement**
  - record them **in order**
- What do we mean by a **permutation** on  $S$ ?

# Permutations of a set

- A permutation on  $S$ 
  - you permute (order) the entire set
  - it is an  $n$ -permutation on an  $n$ -set

*When you shuffle a deck of cards, you make a random permutation.*

# Counting permutations

*How many distinct permutations exist on an  $n$ -set?*

- The number of  $k$ -permutations is  $\frac{n!}{(n-k)!}$
- Insert  $n = k$  to get  $\frac{n!}{(n-n)!}$
- Denominator  $0!$ .
- Convention:  $0! = 1$  (empty product)
- Thus we get  $n!$  distinct permutations.