

CoCoA-5 - Design #939

Rename Fact to factorial?

10 Oct 2016 15:21 - John Abbott

Status:	Closed	Start date:	10 Oct 2016
Priority:	Normal	Due date:	
Assignee:	John Abbott	% Done:	100%
Category:	Renaming	Estimated time:	0.00 hour
Target version:	CoCoA-5.2.2	Spent time:	0.70 hour
Description I suggest renaming Fact to factorial , the same name as used in CoCoALib. This change is not backward-compatible.			
Related issues:			
Related to CoCoA-5 - Design #868: Der, Bin: why the capital letter?		Closed	17 Apr 2016
Related to CoCoA-5 - Support #940: Check all fns in packages work even without...		Closed	10 Oct 2016

History

#1 - 10 Oct 2016 15:21 - John Abbott

- Related to Design #868: Der, Bin: why the capital letter? added

#2 - 10 Oct 2016 15:28 - John Abbott

In [#868](#) (comment 3) Anna pointed out that the name **Fact** could easily be seen as ambiguous (short for **factorial** or **factor**?)

I do not usually like longer names, but in this case, to avoid the ambiguity, I do not see any good solution (unless we want to implement as postfix operator called **!**, but I'm not willing to do that).

The name **factorial** is surely clear and unambiguous.

I am thinking of moving **Fact** into `obsolete.cpkg5`; what do you think?

#3 - 10 Oct 2016 16:04 - Anna Maria Bigatti

No need to do any change: the official name is indeed factorial.
I'd rather keep Fact working smoothly for some more time.

#4 - 10 Oct 2016 21:04 - John Abbott

- Related to Support #940: Check all fns in packages work even without BackwardCompatible.cpkg5 added

#5 - 23 Jul 2017 16:04 - John Abbott

- Status changed from New to In Progress
- % Done changed from 0 to 10

How about making **Fact** obsolescent?

#6 - 24 Jul 2017 09:05 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- Status changed from In Progress to Feedback
- Target version changed from CoCoA-5.?.? to CoCoA-5.2.2

- % Done changed from 10 to 80

Fact is in BackwardCompatible.cpkg5, and not in the manual.
factorial is the official name.

Should we close this issue leaving everything as it is?
I see no need to make it obsolescent.

#7 - 13 Nov 2017 15:53 - John Abbott

- % Done changed from 80 to 90

Why not make Fact obsolescent?
Surely it is a good idea to encourage users to move away from Fact to factorial, isn't it?

#8 - 13 Nov 2017 18:10 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- Assignee set to John Abbott

John Abbott wrote:

Why not make Fact obsolescent?
Surely it is a good idea to encourage users to move away from Fact to factorial, isn't it?

Seem a gratuitous backward-incompatibility, but after all we have already removed it from the manual (and Bin, similarly).

#9 - 15 Nov 2017 17:23 - John Abbott

The advantage of moving Fact (and Factorial?) to obsolescent.cpkg5 is that users will get a message telling them to update their code (by replacing the fn name with @factorial). Leaving Fact and Factorial in BackwardCompatible.cpkg produces no such "useful message".

#10 - 15 Nov 2017 17:40 - John Abbott

- Status changed from Feedback to Closed

- % Done changed from 90 to 100

Moved. Closing.