

ALGORITHM 94
COMBINATION

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procedure COMBINATION (*J*, *N*, *K*); **value** *N*, *K*; **integer**
array *J*; **integer** *N*, *K*;**comment** This procedure generates the next combination of *N* integers taken *K* at a time upon being given *N*, *K* and the previous combination. The *K* integers in the vector $J(1) \cdots J(K)$ range in value from 0 to $N - 1$, and are always monotonically strictly increasing with respect to themselves in input and output format. If the vector *J* is set equal to zero, the first combination produced is $N - K, \cdots, N - 1$. That initial combination is also produced after 0, 1, $\cdots, N - 1$, the last value in that cycle;**begin** **integer** *B*, *L*;*B* := 1;mainbody: **if** $J(B) \geq B$ **then begin** *A* := $J(B) - B - 1$;
for *L* := 1 **step** 1 **until** *B* **do** $J(L) := L + A$;
go to exit **end**;**if** *B* = *K* **then go to** initiate;*B* := *B* + 1; **go to** mainbody;initiate: **for** *B* := 1 **step** 1 **until** *K* **do** $J(B) := N - K - 1 + B$ exit: **end** COMBINATION

$K > N$ and if the initial value of *J* is correct. These two possibilities were investigated and it was found that improper *J*'s are generated.

CERTIFICATION OF ALGORITHM 94

COMBINATION [J. Kurtzberg, *Comm. ACM*, June 1962]

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Algorithm 94 was translated into FORTRAN for the IBM 1620 and run successfully with no corrections. The variable *A*, however, has not been declared.

CERTIFICATION OF ALGORITHM 94

COMBINATION [J. Kurtzberg, *Comm. ACM*, June, 1962]

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Four changes were required in the algorithm.

1. The last sentence in the comment should read: That initial combination is also produced after 0, 1, $\cdots, K - 1$, the last value in that cycle;
2. The integer *A* was declared;
3. Parentheses were replaced by brackets in the subscript expressions;
4. A semicolon was inserted at the end of the initiate statement.

After the above changes were made the body of Algorithm 94 was tested on an LGP-30 computer using the Dartmouth College ALGOL-30 translator. The body tested satisfactorily and the time required to generate one *J* when $K = 5$ and $N = 15$ was 30 seconds.

Various tests should be included if this algorithm is to be used as a procedure. These tests might include a statement to check if