

**Proposition:** For all  $n, m, p \in \mathbb{Z}$  where  $n, m, p \geq 0$ , it follows that

$$S_n : \sum_{i=0}^p \binom{m}{i} \binom{n}{p-i} = \binom{m+n}{p}.$$

*Proof.* (Induction).

**Basis step.** Suppose  $n = 0$  and  $m, p \in \mathbb{Z}$  where  $m, p \geq 0$ .

Observe that  $\sum_{i=0}^p \binom{m}{i} \binom{0}{p-i} = \binom{m}{p} \binom{0}{p-p} = \binom{m}{p} (1) = \binom{m+0}{p}$ . Thus  $S_0$ .

**Inductive step.** Suppose  $S_n$  for any  $n, m, p \in \mathbb{Z}$  where  $n, m, p \geq 0$ .

We now show  $S_n$  implies  $S_{n+1}$ . Observe that

$$\binom{m+n+1}{p} = \binom{m+n}{p} + \binom{m+n}{p-1} \quad (\text{Def. of Pascal's triangle}) \quad (1)$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^p \binom{m}{i} \binom{n}{p-i} + \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} \binom{m}{i} \binom{n}{p-i-1} \quad (\text{Inductive hypothesis}) \quad (2)$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^p \left[ \binom{m}{i} \binom{n}{p-i} + \binom{n}{i} \binom{n}{p-i-1} \right] - \binom{m}{p} \binom{n}{p-p-1} \quad (3)$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^p \binom{m}{i} \left( \binom{n}{p-i} + \binom{n}{p-i-1} \right) - \binom{m}{p} (0) \quad (4)$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^p \binom{m}{i} \binom{n+1}{p-i}. \quad (5)$$

Thus  $S_{n+1}$ .

It follows by mathematical induction that  $S_n$  for all  $n, m, p \in \mathbb{Z}$  where  $n, m, p \geq 0$ . ■