

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

$$S_n : (x + y)^n = \binom{n}{0}x^n + \binom{n}{1}x^{n-1}y + \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2}y^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1}xy^{n-1} + \binom{n}{n}y^n.$$

Proof. (Induction).

(1) Let $n = 0$. Observe that $(x + y)^n = (x + y)^0 = 1 = 1 + 0 * 1 = \binom{0}{0}x^0 + \binom{0}{1}y^0$. Thus S_1 .

(2) Let $n = k$ where $k \geq 0$. Suppose S_k .

Note that we have $k + 1$ terms on RHS of S_k .

We now show S_k implies S_{k+1} . Observe that

$$(x + y)^{k+1} = (x + y)(x + y)^k \tag{1}$$

$$= (x + y) \left(\binom{k}{0}x^k + \binom{k}{1}x^{k-1}y + \binom{k}{2}x^{k-2}y^2 + \dots + \binom{k}{k-1}xy^{k-1} + \binom{k}{k}y^k \right) \tag{2}$$

$$= (x + y) \binom{k}{0}x^k + (x + y) \binom{k}{1}x^{k-1}y + (x + y) \binom{k}{2}x^{k-2}y^2 + \dots + (x + y) \binom{k}{k-1}xy^{k-1} + (x + y) \binom{k}{k}y^k \tag{3}$$

$$= \binom{k}{0}x^{k+1} + \binom{k}{0}x^ky + \binom{k}{1}x^ky + \binom{k}{1}x^{k-1}y^2 + \dots + \binom{k}{k-1}x^2y^{k-1} + \binom{k}{k-1}xy^k + \binom{k}{k}xy^k + \binom{k}{k}y^{k+1} \tag{4}$$

$$\text{(Note that we now have } 2(k+1) \text{ terms on RHS, so we group terms as such,)} \tag{5}$$

$$= \binom{k}{0}x^{k+1} + \left(\binom{k}{0}x^ky + \binom{k}{1}x^ky \right) + \dots + \left(\binom{k}{k-1}xy^k + \binom{k}{k}xy^k \right) + \binom{k}{k}y^{k+1} \tag{6}$$

$$= \binom{k}{0}x^{k+1} + x^ky \left(\binom{k}{0} + \binom{k}{1} \right) + \dots + xy^k \left(\binom{k}{k-1} + \binom{k}{k} \right) + \binom{k}{k}y^{k+1} \tag{7}$$

$$\text{(Applying } \binom{k+1}{i+1} = \binom{k}{i} + \binom{k}{i+1} \text{ from def. of Pascal's triangle,)} \tag{8}$$

$$= \binom{k}{0}x^{k+1} + \binom{k+1}{1}x^ky + \dots + \binom{k+1}{k}xy^k + \binom{k}{k}y^{k+1} \tag{9}$$

$$\text{(Applying } \binom{k}{0} = \binom{k}{k} = 1 = \binom{k+1}{0} = \binom{k+1}{k+1} \text{ rule,)} \tag{10}$$

$$= \binom{k+1}{0}x^{k+1} + \binom{k+1}{1}x^ky + \dots + \binom{k+1}{k}xy^k + \binom{k+1}{k+1}y^{k+1}. \tag{11}$$

Thus S_{k+1} .

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