

Binomial Theorem

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1. What is Binomial?

Expression that contain 2 terms

2. Pascal Triangle

Power	Pascal Triangle pattern																						
0	1																						
1	1						1																
2	1					2					1												
3	1				3				3				1										
4	1			4			6			4			1										
5	1		5		10		10		5		1												
6	1		6		15		20		15		6		1										
7	1		7		21		35		35		21		7		1								
8	1		8		28		56		70		56		28		8		1						
9	1		9		36		84		126		126		84		36		9		1				
10	1		10		45		120		210		252		210		120		45		10		1		
11	1		11		55		165		330		462		462		330		165		55		11		1

3. Example Observe Expansion of Power and its' coefficient

Power	Expand	Number of terms
$(a + b)^0$	1	1
$(a + b)^1$	$a + b$	2
$(a + b)^2$	$a^2 + 2ab + b^2$	3
$(a + b)^3$	$a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3$	4
$(a + b)^4$	$a^4 + 4a^3b + 6a^2b^2 + 4ab^3 + b^4$	5
$(a + b)^5$	$a^5 + 5a^4b + 10a^3b^2 + 10a^2b^3 + 5ab^4 + b^5$	6

The coefficient follows the patterns of Pascal Triangle!

4. Exercise – Expand the following (basic)

$$(x + y)^4 = x^4 + 4x^3y + 6x^2y^2 + 4xy^3 + y^4$$

$$(a + b)^6 = a^6 + 6a^5b + 15a^4b^2 + 20a^3b^3 + 15a^2b^4 + 6ab^5 + b^6$$

5. Exercise – Expand the following (patterns)

a. $(a + b)^n \rightarrow a$ and b can be any value

$$(2 + 3x)^4 = 2^4 + 4(2^3)(3x) + 6(2^2)(3x)^2 + 4(2)(3x)^3 + (3x)^4$$

$$= 16 + 96x + 216x^2 + 216x^3 + 81x^4$$

b. Any term = 1, can be ignored

$$\left(1 + \frac{x}{2}\right)^4 = 1^4 + 4(1^3)\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) + 6(1^2)\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^2 + 4(1)\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^4$$

$$= 1 + 2x + \frac{3}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{2}x^3 + \frac{1}{16}x^4$$

c. $(a - b)^n = (a + (-b))^n$, expand in the same way, but with alternating signs

$$\left(1 - \frac{x}{2}\right)^4 = 1^4 - 4(1^3)\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) + 6(1^2)\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^2 - 4(1)\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^4$$

$$= 1 - 2x + \frac{3}{2}x^2 - \frac{1}{2}x^3 + \frac{1}{16}x^4$$

6. Limitations of Pascal Triangle

- Pascal triangle can only do this much, how about the power of 20? Or 30?
- It becomes tedious and not practical to memorize the patterns

a. nC_r is the key

n = the power of expansion

r = the term of the Pascal triangle of power n , starts from 0

Example:

$$5C_0, \quad 5C_1, \quad 5C_2, \quad 5C_3, \quad 5C_4, \quad 5C_5$$

$$1, \quad 5, \quad 10, \quad 10, \quad 5, \quad 1$$

Calculate nC_r by using factorial:

a. Factorial

Term	Formula	Result
0!	1	1
1!	1	1
2!	2 * 1	2
3!	3 * 2 * 1	6
4!	4 * 3 * 2 * 1	24
5!	5 * 4 * 3 * 2 * 1	120
n!	n * (n-1) * (n-2) * ... * 1	

b. nC_r General Formula:

$$nC_r = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$

Use your calculator to calculate nC_r

c. Binomial Theorem Full Formula

$$(a + b)^n =$$

$$a^n + nC_1 a^{n-1}b^1 + nC_2 a^{n-2}b^2 + \dots + nC_r a^{n-r}b^r + \dots + nC_n b^n$$

$nC_0 = nC_n = 1$, it will always be 1 as seen from pascal triangle

d. Binomial Theorem General Formula

$$\therefore a^n + nC_1 a^{n-1}b^1 + nC_2 a^{n-2}b^2 + \dots + nC_r a^{n-r}b^r + \dots + b^n$$

7. Exercises

$$\left(x + \frac{1}{x^2}\right)^6 = x^6 + 6x^5 \frac{1}{x^2} + 15x^4 \left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right)^2 + 20x^3 \left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right)^3 + 15x^2 \left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right)^4 + 6x \left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right)^5 + \left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right)^6$$

$$= x^6 + 6x^3 + 15 + \frac{20}{x^3} + \frac{15}{x^6} + \frac{6}{x^9} + \frac{1}{x^{12}}$$

$$6C_2 = \frac{6!}{2!4!} = \frac{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{2 \cdot 1 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = \frac{6 \cdot 5}{2 \cdot 1} = \frac{30}{2} = 15$$

$$10C_6 = \frac{10!}{6!4!} = \frac{10 \cdot 9 \cdot 8 \cdot 7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = \frac{10 \cdot 9 \cdot 8 \cdot 7}{4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = \frac{5040}{24} = 210$$

8. Application I

a. Simplify the 1st 3 term of $(1 - 2x)^7$, use the expansion to estimate $(0.98)^7$

$$(1 - 2x)^7 = 1 + 7C_1(-2x) + 7C_2(-2x)^2 + \dots$$

$$= 1 - 14x + 84x^2 + \dots$$

$$1 - 2x = 0.98 \rightarrow x = 0.01$$

$$1 - 14(0.01) + 84(0.01)^2 = 0.8684$$

$$\text{check } (0.98)^7 = 0.86812553324672$$

b. Simplify the 1st 4 term of $\left(2 + \frac{x}{2}\right)^8$, estimate $(2.01)^8$ to 3 decimal places

$$\left(2 + \frac{x}{2}\right)^8 = 2^8 + 8C_1 2^7 \left(\frac{x}{2}\right) + 8C_2 2^6 \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^2 + 8C_3 2^5 \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^3 + \dots$$

$$= 256 + 8(128) \frac{x}{2} + 28 \cdot 64 \frac{x^2}{4} + 56 \cdot 32 \frac{x^3}{8} + \dots$$

$$= 256 + 512x + 448x^2 + 224x^3 + \dots$$

$$2 + \frac{x}{2} = 2.01 \rightarrow x = 0.005$$

$$256 + 512(0.005) + 448(0.005)^2 + 224(0.005)^3 = 258.571228 \approx 258.571$$

$$\text{check } (2.01)^8 = 266.4210032449121601$$

c. Obtain 1st 4 term of $(1 + p)^6$, and then substitute $p = x - x^2$, estimate $(1.099)^6$ up to the term x^2

$$(1 + p)^6 = 1^6 + 6p + 15p^2 + 20p^3$$

$$1 + 6(x - x^2) + 15(x - x^2)^2 + 20(x - x^2)^3$$

$$= 1 + 6x - 6x^2 + 15x^2 - 30x^3 + 15x^4 + \dots$$

$$1 + x - x^2 = 1.099 \rightarrow x(1 - x) = 0.099$$

$$x = 0.099, \quad 0.901 = x$$

$$1 + 6(0.099) - 9(0.099)^2 = 1.0609$$

9. Application II – Solve for Unknown

- a. 1st 4 term of $(4 + bx)^6$, the coefficient of $x^2 = x^3$, find b

$$(4 + bx)^6 = 4^6 + 6(4^5)bx + 15(4^4)b^2x^2 + 20(4^3)b^3x^3 + \dots$$

$$= 4096 + 6144bx + 3840b^2x^2 + 1280b^3x^3 + \dots$$

$$3840b^2 = 1280b^3 \rightarrow \frac{3840}{1280} = b \rightarrow b = 3$$

- b. in $\left(1 + \frac{1}{4}\right)^n$, the 3rd term is 2 times the 4th term, find n , and then evaluate the middle term.

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{4}\right)^n = 1 + nC_1 \frac{1}{4} + nC_2 \frac{1^2}{4} + nC_3 \frac{1^3}{4} + \dots = 1 + nC_1 \frac{1}{4} + nC_2 \frac{1}{16} + nC_3 \frac{1}{64} + \dots$$

$$nC_2 \frac{1}{16} = 2nC_3 \frac{1}{64} \rightarrow \frac{n(n-1)}{2 \cdot 1} \frac{1}{16} = \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} \frac{1}{32}$$

$$\frac{n(n-1)}{2 \cdot 1} \frac{1}{16} = \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} \frac{1}{32} \rightarrow 1 = \frac{n-2}{6}$$

$$6 = n - 2 \rightarrow n = 8$$

$$8C_4 \frac{1^4}{4} = \frac{70}{256}$$

- c. Write the 1st 3 term of $(1 + ax)^5$, Given that the 1st 3 term of $(b + 2x)(1 + ax)^5$ is $3 - 28x + cx^2$, find the value of a, b, c

$$(1 + ax)^5 = 1 + 5ax + 10a^2x^2 + \dots$$

$$(b + 2x)(1 + ax)^5 = (b + 2x)(1 + 5ax + 10a^2x^2 + \dots)$$

$$= b + 5abx + 10ba^2x^2 + 2x + 10ax^2 + 20a^2x^3$$

$$\rightarrow b + (5ab + 2)x + (10ba^2 + 10a)x^2 + 20a^2x^3 = 3 - 28x + cx^2$$

$$\text{coeff}^n \text{ of } x^0 \rightarrow b = 3$$

$$\text{coeff}^n \text{ of } x \rightarrow 15a + 2 = -28 \rightarrow a = -2$$

$$\text{coeff}^n \text{ of } x^2 \rightarrow (10(3)(-2)^2 + 10(-2)) = c \rightarrow c = 100$$

10. Application III A – Finding the specific term or coefficient

- a. Write the 1st 3 term of $(1 - 2x)^7$, Obtain the coefficient of x^2 in the expansion of $(2 + x)(1 - 2x)^7$

$$(1 - 2x)^7 = 1 - 14x + 84x^2 + \dots$$

$$(2 + x)(1 - 2x)^7 = (2 + x)(1 - 14x + 84x^2)$$

$$= 2 - 28x + 168x^2 + x - 14x^2 + 84x^3$$

$$\text{coeff}^n \text{ of } x^2 = 154$$

- b. Find in ascending powers of x , the 1st 4 terms in the expansion,

$$(1 + 3x)^6, \quad (1 - 4x)^5$$

hence find the coeff^n of x^2 in the expansion of $(1 + 3x)^6(1 - 4x)^5$

$$(1 + 3x)^6 = 1 + 6C_1 3x + 6C_2 (3x)^2 + 6C_3 (3x)^3 + \dots$$

$$= 1 + 18x + 135x^2 + 540x^3$$

$$(1 - 4x)^5 = 1 + 6C_1 - 4x + 6C_2 (-4x)^2 + 6C_3 (-4x)^3 + \dots$$

$$= 1 - 20x + 160x^2 - 640x^3$$

$$(1 + 18x + 135x^2 + 540x^3)(1 - 20x + 160x^2 - 640x^3)$$

$$\text{coeff}^n \text{ of } x^2 \rightarrow 160 - 360 + 135 = -65$$

11. Application III B – Finding the specific term or coefficient using formulae (r+1)

$(r + 1)^{th}$ term formulae

Recall:

$$(a + b)^n = a^n + nC_1 a^{n-1}b^1 + nC_2 a^{n-2}b^2 + \dots + nC_r a^{n-r}b^r + \dots + nC_n b^n$$

- a. $r = 0$, 1st term $\rightarrow a^n$
- b. $r = 1$, 2nd term $\rightarrow nC_1 a^{n-1}b^1$
- c. $r = 2$, 3rd term $\rightarrow nC_2 a^{n-2}b^2$
- d. $r = 3$, 4th term $\rightarrow nC_3 a^{n-3}b^3$

$$(r + 1)^{th} \text{ term} = nC_r a^{n-r}b^r$$

- a. Find the term in x^4 in the expansion of $(3 + 2x)^7$

a. Method 1 by expansion:

$$(3 + 2x)^7 = 3^7 + 7C_1 3^6 2x + 7C_2 3^5 (2x)^2 + 7C_3 3^4 (2x)^3 + 7C_4 3^3 (2x)^4 + \dots$$

$$\text{coeff}^n x^4 = 7C_4 3^3 (2x)^4 = 15120x^4$$

b. Method 2 by r+1:

$$(r + 1)^{th} \text{ term} = nC_r a^{n-r}b^r$$

$$(3 + 2x)^7 \text{ term} = 7C_r 3^{7-r}(2x)^r$$

$$\text{for term } x^4 \rightarrow x^r = x^4 \rightarrow r = 4$$

$$5th \text{ term} \rightarrow 7C_4 3^{7-4}(2x)^4 = 15120x^4$$

- b. Find the coeffⁿ of x^5 in the expansion of $(1 - 3x)^8$

$$(1 - 3x)^8 = 8C_r 1^{8-r}(-3x)^r$$

$$\text{for term } x^5 \rightarrow x^r = x^5 \rightarrow r = 5$$

$$r = 5, \quad 6th \text{ term} \rightarrow 8C_5 1^{7-5}(-3x)^5 = -13608x^5$$

- c. in the expansion of $\left(2x^2 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^9$

a. The term independent of x

$$\begin{aligned} \left(2x^2 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^9 &= 9C_r (2x^2)^{9-r} \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^r = 9C_r 2^{9-r} x^{18-2r} x^{-r} \\ &= 9C_r 2^{9-r} x^{18-3r} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{for term } x^0 \rightarrow x^{18-3r} = x^0 \rightarrow 18 - 3r = 0, \quad r = 6$$

$$r = 6, \quad \rightarrow 9C_6 2^{9-6} x^{18-3(6)} = 672$$

b. the coeffⁿ of x^3

$$\text{for term } x^3 \rightarrow x^{18-3r} = x^3 \rightarrow 18 - 3r = 3, \quad r = 5$$

$$r = 5, \quad \rightarrow 9C_5 2^{9-5} x^{18-3(5)} = 9C_5 2^4 x^3 = 2016x^3$$

12. Exercise

a. Expand the following

a. $(2 + x)^5$

$$= 2^5 + 5C_1 2^4 x + 5C_2 2^3 x^2 + 5C_3 2^2 x^3 + 5C_4 2x^4 + x^5$$

$$= 32 + 80x + 80x^2 + 40x^3 + 10x^4 + x^5$$

b. $(3 - x)^4$

$$3^4 + 4C_1 (3)^3 (-x) + 4C_2 (3)^2 (-x)^2 + 4C_3 (3) (-x)^3 + (-x)^4$$

$$= 81 - 108x + 54x^2 - 12x^3 + x^4$$

b. Expand the 1st 3 term

a. $(1 - 2x^2)^7$

$$1 + 7C_1 (-2x^2) + 7C_2 (-2x^2)^2 + \dots$$

$$= 1 - 14x^2 + 84x^4$$

b. $\left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^8$

$$1 + 8C_1 \left(\frac{1}{x}\right) + 8C_2 \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^2 + \dots$$

$$= 1 + \frac{8}{x} + \frac{28}{x^2}$$

c. $\left(x + \frac{1}{2x}\right)^7$

$$x^7 + 7C_1 (x)^6 \left(\frac{1}{2x}\right) + 7C_2 (x)^5 \left(\frac{1}{2x}\right)^2 + \dots$$

$$= x^7 + \frac{7x^6}{2x} + \frac{21x^5}{4x^2}$$

$$= x^7 + \frac{7x^5}{2} + \frac{21x^3}{4}$$

c. Expand $\left(2 + \frac{x}{4}\right)^8$ to 1st 4 term. Find Approximate value for $(2.0025)^8$ to 3 d.p.

$$\left(2 + \frac{x}{4}\right)^8 = 2^8 + 8C_1 (2)^7 \left(\frac{x}{4}\right) + 8C_2 (2)^6 \left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^2 + 8C_3 (2)^5 \left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^3 + \dots$$

$$= 256 + 256x + 112x^2 + 28x^3$$

$$2 + \frac{x}{4} = 2.0025 \rightarrow x = 0.01$$

$$256 + 256(0.01) + 112(0.01)^2 + 28(0.01)^3 = 258.571$$

d. Expand $(2 + x)^5$, find $(2 + \sqrt{3})^5$ in surd form $a + b\sqrt{3}$

$$(2 + x)^5 = 2^5 + 5C_1 (2)^4 (x) + 5C_2 (2)^3 (x)^2 + 5C_3 (2)^2 (x)^3 + 5C_4 2(x)^4 + x^5$$

$$= 32 + 80x + 80x^2 + 40x^3 + 10x^4 + x^5$$

$$\rightarrow 32 + 80\sqrt{3} + 80(\sqrt{3})^2 + 40(\sqrt{3})^3 + 10(\sqrt{3})^4 + (\sqrt{3})^5$$

$$= 32 + 80\sqrt{3} + 240 + 120\sqrt{3} + 90 + 9\sqrt{3} = 362 + 200\sqrt{3}$$

- e. Expand $(2 + a)^5$, find coeffⁿ of x^2 where $a = 2x - 5x^2$

$$\begin{aligned}(2 + a)^5 &= 32 + 80(2x - 5x^2) + 80(2x - 5x^2)^2 + 40(2x - 5x^2)^3 + 10(2x - 5x^2)^4 + (2x - 5x^2)^5 \\ &= 32 + 160x - 400x^2 + 80(4x^2 - 20x^3 + 25x^4) \\ &= 32 + 160x - 400x^2 + 320x^2\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{coeff}^n \text{ of } x^2 = -80$$

- f. Expand $(1 - p)^5$, $p = x + x^2$, to the coeffⁿ of x^3 ,

Find Approximate value for $(0.9899)^5$ to 3 d.p.

$$(1 - p)^5 = 1^5 + 5C_1(-p) + 5C_2(-p)^2 + 5C_3(-p)^3 + 5C_4(-p)^4 + -p^5$$

$$= 1 - 5p + 10p^2 - 10p^3 + 5p^4 - p^5$$

$$= 1 - 5(x + x^2) + 10(x + x^2)^2 - 10(x + x^2)^3 + 5(x + x^2)^4 - (x + x^2)^5$$

$$= 1 - 5x - 5x^2 + 10x^2 + 10x^3 + \dots$$

$$= 1 - 5x + 5x^2 + 10x^3$$

$$1 - x + x^2 = (0.9899) \rightarrow x^2 + x - 0.0101 = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{1^2 - 4(1)(-0.0101)}}{2(1)} \rightarrow x = 0.01, -1.01(\text{NA})$$

$$(0.9899)^5 = 1 - 5(0.01) + 5(0.01)^2 + 10(0.01)^3 = 0.951$$

- g. Find in terms of a the coeffⁿ of x^2 in the expansion of $(1 - 3x)(1 + ax)^6$,
Given that the coeffⁿ of $x^2 = 24, a > 0$

- a. Find a

$$(1 + ax)^6 = 1^6 + 6C_1(ax) + 6C_2(ax)^2 + 6C_3(ax)^3 + \dots$$

$$= 1 + 6ax + 15a^2x^2 + \dots$$

$$(1 - 3x)(1 + ax)^6 = (1 - 3x)(1 + 6ax + 15a^2x^2)$$

$$= 1 + 6ax + 15a^2x^2 - 3x - 18ax^2 - 45a^2x^3$$

$$\rightarrow 15a^2 - 18a = 24$$

$$a = \frac{-(-18) \pm \sqrt{(-18)^2 - 4(15)(-24)}}{2(15)} \rightarrow a = 2, -\frac{4}{5}$$

- b. Find coeffⁿ of x

$$\rightarrow x = 6a - 3 = 9$$

h. Write down the middle term of $\left(2x + \frac{1}{3}\right)^8$ and simplify it

$$\left(2x + \frac{1}{3}\right)^8 = {}^8C_r (2x)^{8-r} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^r, \quad 5th \text{ term} \rightarrow r = 4$$

$${}^8C_4 (2x)^4 \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^4 = \frac{1120x^4}{81} = 13\frac{67}{81}x^4$$

i. 3rd term of $\left(3 + \frac{1}{10}\right)^n$ is 10 times the 4th term, calculate n

$${}^nC_2 (3)^{n-2} \left(\frac{1}{10}\right)^2 = 10 {}^nC_4 (3)^{n-4} \left(\frac{1}{10}\right)^4$$

$$\frac{n(n-1)}{1 * 2} \frac{(3)^2 (3)^n}{100} = \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{1 * 2 * 3} \frac{(3)^{-3} (3)^n}{100}$$

$$\frac{(3)^{-2}}{100} = \frac{(n-2)}{3} \frac{(3)^{-3}}{100}$$

$$\frac{1}{900} = \frac{n-2}{8100}$$

$$8100 = 900n - 1800$$

$$n = 11$$