



Math for the people, by the people.

## sum of powers of binomial coefficients

Canonical name	SumOfPowersOfBinomialCoefficients
Date of creation	2013-03-22 14:25:43
Last modified on	2013-03-22 14:25:43
Owner	Andrea Ambrosio (7332)
Last modified by	Andrea Ambrosio (7332)
Numerical id	7
Author	Andrea Ambrosio (7332)
Entry type	Result
Classification	msc 05A10
Classification	msc 11B65

Some results exist on sums of powers of binomial coefficients. Define  $A_s$  as follows:

$$A_s(n) = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i}^s$$

for  $s$  a positive integer and  $n$  a nonnegative integer.

For  $s = 1$ , the binomial theorem implies that the sum  $A_1(n)$  is simply  $2^n$ .

For  $s = 2$ , the following result on the sum of the squares of the binomial coefficients  $\binom{n}{i}$  holds:

$$A_2(n) = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i}^2 = \binom{2n}{n}$$

that is,  $A_2(n)$  is the  $n$ th central binomial coefficient.

**Proof:** This result follows immediately from the Vandermonde identity:

$$\binom{p+q}{k} = \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{p}{i} \binom{q}{k-i}$$

upon choosing  $p = q = k = n$  and observing that  $\binom{n}{n-i} = \binom{n}{i}$ .

Expressions for  $A_s(n)$  for larger values of  $s$  exist in terms of hypergeometric functions.