

# Homework 1 (Due March 22, 2023)

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Justify all of your answers completely.

1.1 Let  $a, r, n \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $r \neq 1$ , and  $n \geq 2$ . Prove that

$$a + ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^n = \frac{a - ar^{n+1}}{1 - r}$$

*Proof.* Let  $S = a + ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^n$ . Then  $rS = ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^{n+1}$ . So  $S - rS = a - ar^{n+1} \implies S = \frac{a - ar^{n+1}}{1 - r}$ . ■

1.2 What happens to geometric sum in 1.1 when  $r = 1$ ?

If  $r = 1$ , then every term would become just  $a$ , and there are  $n + 1$  terms. So we will be left with  $a(n + 1)$ .

1.3 a) Find the sum of  $S = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^n}$ .

$$S = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^i = \frac{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = 1 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = \frac{2^n - 1}{2^n}$$

b) Find the sum of  $S = P_0(1 + r) + P_0(1 + r)^2 + \dots + P_0(1 + r)^n$ .

$$S = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} P_0(1 + r) \cdot (1 + r)^i = \frac{P_0(1 + r) - P_0(1 + r)(1 + r)^n}{1 - (1 + r)} = P_0 \left(1 + \frac{1}{r}\right) ((1 + r)^n - 1)$$

1.4 Multiply out  $(x - y)(x^{n-1} + x^{n-2}y + x^{n-3}y^2 + \dots + xy^{n-2} + y^{n-1})$  to see that you get  $x^n - y^n$ .

$$\begin{aligned} & (x - y)(x^{n-1} + x^{n-2}y + x^{n-3}y^2 + \dots + xy^{n-2} + y^{n-1}) \\ &= (x^n + x^{n-1}y + x^{n-2}y^2 + \dots + x^2y^{n-2} + xy^{n-1}) - (x^{n-1}y + x^{n-2}y^2 + x^{n-3}y^3 + \dots + xy^{n-1} + y^n) = x^n - y^n \end{aligned}$$

1.5 Prove  $x^n - y^n = (x - y)(\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} x^{n-1-k}y^k)$  with geometric sums.

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned}
 (x-y)\left(\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} x^{n-1-k} y^k\right) &= (x-y)\left(\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} x^{n-1}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^k\right) = (x-y)\frac{x^{n-1} - x^{n-1}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^n}{1 - \frac{y}{x}} \\
 &= (x-y)\frac{x^{n-1} - \frac{y^n}{x}}{1 - \frac{y}{x}} \cdot \frac{x}{x} = (x-y)\frac{x^n - y^n}{x-y} = x^n - y^n
 \end{aligned}$$

■

1.6 Let  $c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3 \in \mathbb{R}$ , and  $f(x) = c_3x^3 + c_2x^2 + c_1x + c_0$ . Simplify  $\frac{f(x)-f(a)}{x-a}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{c_3x^3 + c_2x^2 + c_1x + c_0 - (c_3a^3 + c_2a^2 + c_1a + c_0)}{x-a} &= \frac{c_3x^3 + c_2x^2 + c_1x - c_3a^3 - c_2a^2 - c_1a}{x-a} \\
 &= c_3\frac{x^3 - a^3}{x-a} + c_2\frac{x^2 - a^2}{x-a} + c_1\frac{x-a}{x-a} = c_3\frac{(x-a)(x^2 + xa + a^2)}{x-a} + c_2\frac{(x-a)(x+a)}{x-a} + c_1 \\
 &= c_3(x^2 + xa + a^2) + c_2(x+a) + c_1
 \end{aligned}$$

and so the limit as  $x$  approaches  $a$  is  $c_3(3a^2) + c_2(2a) + c_1$ .

1.7 Use summation notation to derive a formula for the sum of the series

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (a + kd)$$

*Proof.* Let  $S = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (a + kd) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (a + (n-1-k)d)$ . Then  $2S = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (a + kd) + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (a + (n-1-k)d) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (2a + (n-1)d) = (2a + (n-1)d)n \implies S = \frac{(2a + (n-1)d)n}{2}$  ■

1.9 Show  $\binom{n}{k} := \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \implies \binom{n}{k} = \binom{n}{n-k}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\binom{n}{k} := \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$ . Set  $k = n - k$ . We now have  $\frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \implies \frac{n!}{(n-k)!(n-(n-k))!} \implies \frac{n!}{(n-k)!(k)!} = \binom{n}{n-k}$  ■

1.10 Prove

$$\begin{aligned}
 \binom{n}{0} &= 1 \\
 \binom{n}{1} &= n \\
 \binom{n}{2} &= \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \\
 \binom{n}{3} &= \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{6}
 \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned}
\binom{n}{0} &= \frac{n!}{0!n!} = \frac{n!}{n!} = 1 \\
\binom{n}{1} &= \frac{n!}{1!(n-1)!} = \frac{n!}{(n-1)!} = n \\
\binom{n}{2} &= \frac{n!}{2!(n-2)!} = \frac{\frac{n(n-1)\dots(2)(1)}{(n-2)(n-3)\dots(2)(1)}}{2} = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \\
\binom{n}{3} &= \frac{n!}{3!(n-3)!} = \frac{\frac{n(n-1)\dots(2)(1)}{(n-3)(n-4)\dots(2)(1)}}{3!} = \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{6}
\end{aligned}$$

■

1.11 Prove

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1)}{k!} = \frac{n^k}{k!}$$

*Proof.*  $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} = \frac{(n-k+1)!}{k!} = \frac{n^k}{k!}$ . Like I don't know what else you want from me, it's that straight forward. ■

1.12 Prove that for  $k, n \in \mathbb{Z}, 1 \leq k \leq n$

$$\binom{n}{k-1} + \binom{n}{k} = \binom{n+1}{k}$$

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned}
\binom{n}{k-1} + \binom{n}{k} &= \frac{n!}{(k-1)!(n-k+1)!} + \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} = \frac{n!k + n!(n-k+1)}{(k)!(n-k+1)!} \\
&= \frac{n!(k+n-k+1)}{k!(n-k+1)!} = \frac{(n+1)!}{k!(n+1-k)!} = \binom{n+1}{k}
\end{aligned}$$

■

1.13 Let  $k, n$  be nonnegative integers with  $0 \leq k \leq n$ . Prove  $\binom{n}{k} \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof.* Let us induct on  $n$ .

**Base case:**  $n = 1$ ,  $\binom{1}{0} = \binom{1}{1} = 0$ .

**Induction Step:** Assume  $\forall k, n \in \mathbb{Z}, 0 \leq k \leq n, n \geq 1, \binom{n}{k} \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Consider  $n+1$ .  $\binom{n+1}{k} \in \mathbb{Z}$  when  $k = 0$  or  $k = n+1$  as those values will make the expression equal to 1. Now assume  $1 \leq k \leq n$ .

By Pascal's Identity,  $\binom{n+1}{k} = \binom{n}{k-1} + \binom{n}{k}$ . By the induction hypothesis, we know both  $\binom{n}{k-1}$  and  $\binom{n}{k}$  are integers, which means  $\binom{n+1}{k}$  is also an integer. So  $\binom{n+1}{k} \in \mathbb{Z}$  for all values  $0 \leq k \leq n+1$ . ■

1.17 Use induction and the Pascal Identity to prove the Binomial Theorem,  $(x + y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n-k}$ .

*Proof.* Let us induct on  $n$ .

**Base case:**  $n = 1$ ,  $(x + y)^1 = \binom{1}{0}x + \binom{1}{1}y = \sum_{k=0}^1 \binom{1}{k} x^k y^{1-k}$ .

**Induction Step:** Assume  $n \geq 1$ ,  $(x + y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n-k}$ .

Consider  $n + 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} (x+y)^{n+1} &= (x+y)(x+y)^n = (x+y) \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n-k} = x \left( \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n-k} \right) + y \left( \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n-k} \right) \\ &= \left( \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^{k+1} y^{n-k} \right) + \left( \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n-k+1} \right) = \left( \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} \binom{n}{k-1} x^k y^{n-k+1} \right) + \left( \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n-k+1} \right) \\ &= \left( \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} \binom{n}{k-1} x^k y^{n-k+1} \right) + \binom{n}{-1} x^0 y^{n+1} + \left( \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n-k+1} \right) + \binom{n}{n+1} x^{n+1} y^0 \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \binom{n}{k-1} x^k y^{n+1-k} + \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n+1-k} = \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \binom{n+1}{k} x^k y^{n+1-k} \end{aligned}$$

■

1. Show that  $x^3 = x^3 + 3x^2 + x^1$  and use it to find a formula for  $\sum_{k=1}^n k^3$ .

$$x^3 + 3x^2 + x^1 = (x)(x-1)(x-2) + 3(x)(x-1) + x = (x^3 - 3x^2 + 2x) + (3x^2 - 3x) + x = x^3$$

This makes computing  $\sum_{k=1}^n k^3$  easy with  $\frac{1}{p+1} x^{p+1}$  being the anti difference of  $x^p$ , along with the fundamental theorem of summations.

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^n k^3 &= \sum_{k=1}^n (k^3 + 3k^2 + k^1) = \frac{(n+1)^4}{4} + (n+1)^3 + \frac{(n+1)^2}{2} - \frac{(1)^4}{4} - (1)^3 - \frac{(1)^2}{2} \\ &= \frac{(n+1)(n)(n-1)(n-2)}{4} + (n+1)(n)(n-1) + \frac{(n+1)(n)}{2} \\ &= (n+1)(n) \left( \frac{(n-1)(n-2)}{4} + (n-1) + \frac{1}{2} \right) = (n+1)(n) \left( \frac{n^2 - 3n + 2 + (4n - 4) + 2}{4} \right) \\ &= \left( \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \right)^2 \end{aligned}$$