

**MATH 201
HOMEWORK 2
WRITTEN PROBLEMS**

8. Prove that

$$\binom{n+m}{r} = \binom{n}{0}\binom{m}{r} + \binom{n}{1}\binom{m}{r-1} \\ + \cdots + \binom{n}{r}\binom{m}{0}$$

Hint: Consider a group of n men and m women. How many groups of size r are possible?

11. The following identity is known as Fermat's combinatorial identity:

$$\binom{n}{k} = \sum_{i=k}^n \binom{i-1}{k-1} \quad n \geq k$$

Give a combinatorial argument (no computations are needed) to establish this identity. *Hint:* Consider the set of numbers 1 through n . How many subsets of size k have i as their highest numbered member?

13. Show that, for $n > 0$,

$$\sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \binom{n}{i} = 0$$

Hint: Use the binomial theorem.