01204211 Discrete Mathematics Lecture 15: Binomial Coefficients (2)

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The binomial coefficients¹

There is a reason why the term $\binom{n}{k}$ is called the binomial coefficients. In this lecture, we will discuss

identities on binomial coefficients.

Identities in the Triangle

Odd and even subsets

Let's try to prove this identity with the Pascal's triangle

$$\binom{n}{0} - \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} + \dots + (-1)^n \binom{n}{n} = 0.$$

A more formal proof

$$\binom{n}{0} - \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} + \dots + (-1)^n \binom{n}{n} = 0.$$

$$1^2 = 1$$

$$1^2 = 1$$
$$1^2 + 1^2 = 2$$

$$1^{2} = 1$$

$$1^{2} + 1^{2} = 2$$

$$1^{2} + 2^{2} + 1^{2} = 6$$

$$1^{2} = 1$$

$$1^{2} + 1^{2} = 2$$

$$1^{2} + 2^{2} + 1^{2} = 6$$

$$1^{2} + 3^{2} + 3^{2} + 1^{2} = 20$$

$$1^{2} = 1$$

$$1^{2} + 1^{2} = 2$$

$$1^{2} + 2^{2} + 1^{2} = 6$$

$$1^{2} + 3^{2} + 3^{2} + 1^{2} = 20$$

$$1^{2} + 4^{2} + 6^{2} + 4^{2} + 1^{2} = 70$$

Theorem:

$$\binom{n}{0}^2 + \binom{n}{1}^2 + \binom{n}{2}^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{n}^2 = \binom{2n}{n}.$$

Another identity

Another identity

This suggests

$$\binom{n}{0} + \binom{n+1}{1} + \binom{n+2}{2} + \dots + \binom{n+k}{k} = \binom{n+k+1}{k}.$$

Theorem:

$$\binom{n}{0} + \binom{n+1}{1} + \binom{n+2}{2} + \dots + \binom{n+k}{k} = \binom{n+k+1}{k}.$$