

## Pascal's triangle

To study various properties of binomial coefficients, the following picture is very useful. We arrange all binomial coefficients into a triangular scheme: in the “zeroeth” row we put  $\binom{0}{0}$ , in the first row, we put  $\binom{1}{0}$  and  $\binom{1}{1}$ , in the third row,  $\binom{2}{0}$ ,  $\binom{2}{1}$  and  $\binom{2}{2}$  etc. In general, the  $n$ -th row contains the numbers  $\binom{n}{0}, \binom{n}{1}, \dots, \binom{n}{n}$ . We shift these rows so that their midpoints match; this way we get a pyramid-like scheme, called the Pascal Triangle (named after the French mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal, 1623-1662). The Figure below shows only a finite piece of the Pascal Triangle.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc}
 & & & & & & & \binom{0}{0} & & & & & & & & \\
 & & & & & & \binom{1}{0} & & \binom{1}{1} & & & & & & & \\
 & & & & \binom{2}{0} & & \binom{2}{1} & & \binom{2}{2} & & & & & & & \\
 & & \binom{3}{0} & & \binom{3}{1} & & \binom{3}{2} & & \binom{3}{3} & & & & & & & \\
 & \binom{4}{0} & & \binom{4}{1} & & \binom{4}{2} & & \binom{4}{3} & & \binom{4}{4} & & & & & & \\
 \binom{5}{0} & & \binom{5}{1} & & \binom{5}{2} & & \binom{5}{3} & & \binom{5}{4} & & \binom{5}{5} & & & & & 
 \end{array}$$

We can replace each binomial coefficient by its numerical value, to get another version of Pascal's Triangle.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccccccccccc}
 & & & & & & & 1 & & & & & & & & \\
 & & & & & & 1 & & 1 & & & & & & & \\
 & & & & 1 & & 2 & & 1 & & & & & & & \\
 & & & 1 & & 3 & & 3 & & 1 & & & & & & \\
 & & 1 & & 4 & & 6 & & 4 & & 1 & & & & & \\
 & & 1 & & 5 & & 10 & & 10 & & 5 & & 1 & & & \\
 & 1 & & 6 & & 15 & & 20 & & 15 & & 6 & & 1 & & \\
 & 1 & & 7 & & 21 & & 35 & & 35 & & 21 & & 7 & & 1 \\
 1 & & 8 & & 28 & & 56 & & 70 & & 56 & & 28 & & 8 & & 1
 \end{array}$$