

NOTE:

- (i) The rule or formula of a binomial for expansion raised to any positive integral power n .
- (ii) It is finite series.
- (iii) Number of terms in the expansion of $(a + x)^n$ is $n + 1$.
- (iv) $\binom{n}{0}, \binom{n}{1}, \binom{n}{2}, \dots, \binom{n}{n}$ are called binomial coefficients.
- (v) $\binom{n}{0}, \binom{n}{2}, \binom{n}{4}, \dots, \binom{n}{n}$ are called even binomial coefficients.
- (vi) $\binom{n}{1}, \binom{n}{3}, \binom{n}{5}, \dots, \binom{n}{n-1}$ are called odd binomial coefficients.

SUM OF BINOMIAL COEFFICIENTS

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

SUM OF EVEN BINOMIAL COEFFICIENTS

$$\binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{2} + \binom{n}{4} + \dots + \binom{n}{n} = 2^{n-1}$$

SUM OF ODD BINOMIAL COEFFICIENTS

$$\binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{3} + \binom{n}{5} + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} = 2^{n-1}$$

REMARK

Sum of even binomial coefficients = Sum of odd binomial coefficients.

EXERCISE 8.2**Q.1 Using binomial theorem, expand the following:**

(i) $(a + 2b)^5$

(ii) $\left(\frac{x}{2} - \frac{2}{x^2}\right)^6$

(iii) $\left(3a - \frac{x}{3a}\right)^4$

(iv) $\left(2a - \frac{x}{a}\right)^7$

(v) $\left(\frac{x}{2y} - \frac{2y}{x}\right)^8$

(vi) $\left[\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} - \sqrt{\frac{x}{a}}\right]^6$

Solution:

(i) $(a + 2b)^5$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \binom{5}{0} a^5 (2b)^0 + \binom{5}{1} a^4 (2b)^1 + \binom{5}{2} a^3 (2b)^2 + \binom{5}{3} a^2 (2b)^3 + \binom{5}{4} a^1 (2b)^4 + \binom{5}{5} a^0 (2b)^5 \\
 &= a^5 + 5a^4 (2b) + 10a^3 (4b^2) + 10a^2 (8b^3) + 5a (16b^4) + 32b^5 \\
 &= a^5 + 10a^4 b + 40a^3 b^2 + 80a^2 b^3 + 80a b^4 + 32b^5
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(ii)} \quad & \left(\frac{x}{2} - \frac{2}{x^2}\right)^6 \\
 &= \binom{6}{0} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^6 - \binom{6}{1} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{6-1} \left(\frac{2}{x^2}\right)^1 + \binom{6}{2} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{6-2} \left(\frac{2}{x^2}\right)^2 - \binom{6}{3} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{6-3} \left(\frac{2}{x^2}\right)^3 \\
 &\quad + \binom{6}{4} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{6-4} \left(\frac{2}{x^2}\right)^4 - \binom{6}{5} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{6-5} \left(\frac{2}{x^2}\right)^5 + \binom{6}{6} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{6-6} \left(\frac{2}{x^2}\right)^6 \\
 &= \frac{x^6}{64} - 6 \times \frac{x^5}{32} \times \frac{2}{x^2} + 15 \times \frac{x^4}{16} \times \frac{4}{x^4} - 20 \times \frac{x^3}{8} \times \frac{8}{x^6} + 15 \times \frac{x^2}{4} \times \frac{16}{x^8} - 6 \times \frac{x}{2} \times \frac{32}{x^{10}} + \frac{64}{x^{12}} \\
 &= \frac{x^6}{64} - \frac{3}{8} x^3 + \frac{15}{4} - \frac{20}{x^3} + \frac{60}{x^6} - \frac{96}{x^9} + \frac{64}{x^{12}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(iii)} \quad & \left(3a - \frac{x}{3a}\right)^4 \\
 &= \binom{4}{0} (3a)^4 \left(\frac{x}{3a}\right)^0 - \binom{4}{1} (3a)^{4-1} \left(\frac{x}{3a}\right)^1 + \binom{4}{2} (3a)^{4-2} \left(\frac{x}{3a}\right)^2 - \binom{4}{3} (3a)^{4-3} \left(\frac{x}{3a}\right)^3 \\
 &\quad + \binom{4}{4} (3a)^{4-4} \left(\frac{x}{3a}\right)^4 \\
 &= 81a^4 - 4 \times 27a^3 \times \frac{x}{3a} + 6 \times 9a^2 \times \frac{x^2}{9a^2} \times \frac{x^2}{9a^2} - 4 \times 3a \times \frac{x^3}{27a^3} + \frac{x^4}{81a^4} \\
 &= 81a^4 - \frac{108}{3} a^2 x + 6x^2 - \frac{4x^3}{9a^2} + \frac{x^4}{81a^4} \\
 &= 81a^4 - 36a^2 x + 6x^2 - \frac{4x^3}{9a^2} + \frac{x^4}{81a^4}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(iv)} \quad & \left(2a - \frac{x}{a}\right)^7 \\
 &= \binom{7}{0} (2a)^7 - \binom{7}{1} (2a)^6 \left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^1 + \binom{7}{2} (2a)^5 \left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^2 - \binom{7}{3} (2a)^4 \left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^3 \\
 &\quad + \binom{7}{4} (2a)^3 \left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^4 - \binom{7}{5} (2a)^2 \left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^5 + \binom{7}{6} (2a)^1 \left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^6 - \binom{7}{7} (2a)^0 \left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^7 \\
 &= 128a^7 - 7(64a^6) \left(\frac{x}{a}\right) + 21 \times 32a^5 \frac{x^2}{a^2} - 35(16a^4) \left(\frac{x^3}{a^3}\right) \\
 &\quad + 35(8a^3) \left(\frac{x^4}{a^4}\right) - 21(4a^2) \left(\frac{x^5}{a^5}\right) + 7(2a) \left(\frac{x^6}{a^6}\right) - \frac{x^7}{a^7} \\
 &= 128a^7 - 448x a^5 + 672a^3 x^2 - 560a x^3 + \frac{280x^4}{a} - \frac{84x^5}{a^3} + \frac{14x^6}{a^5} - \frac{x^7}{a^7}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(v)} \quad & \left(\frac{x}{2y} - \frac{2y}{x} \right)^8 \\
 &= \binom{8}{0} \left(\frac{x}{2y} \right)^8 - \binom{8}{1} \left(\frac{x}{2y} \right)^7 \left(+ \frac{2y}{x} \right) + \binom{8}{2} \left(\frac{x}{2y} \right)^6 \left(\frac{2y}{x} \right)^2 - \binom{8}{3} \left(\frac{x}{2y} \right)^5 \left(\frac{2y}{x} \right)^3 \\
 &\quad + \binom{8}{4} \left(\frac{x}{2y} \right)^4 \left(\frac{2y}{x} \right)^4 - \binom{8}{5} \left(\frac{x}{2y} \right)^3 \left(\frac{2y}{x} \right)^5 + \binom{8}{6} \left(\frac{x}{2y} \right)^2 \left(\frac{2y}{x} \right)^6 \\
 &\quad - \binom{8}{7} \left(\frac{x}{2y} \right)^1 \left(\frac{2y}{x} \right)^7 + \binom{8}{8} \left(\frac{x}{2y} \right)^0 \left(\frac{2y}{x} \right)^8 \\
 &= \frac{x^8}{256y^8} - 8 \frac{x^7}{128y^7} \times \frac{2y}{x} + 28 \left(\frac{x^6}{64y^6} \right) \left(\frac{4y^2}{x^2} \right) - 56 \left(\frac{x^5}{32y^5} \right) \left(\frac{8y^3}{x^3} \right) \\
 &\quad + 70 \left(\frac{x^4}{16y^4} \right) \left(\frac{16y^4}{x^4} \right) - 56 \left(\frac{x^3}{8y^3} \right) \left(\frac{32y^5}{x^5} \right) + 28 \frac{x^2}{4y^2} \times \frac{64y^6}{x^6} - 8 \times \frac{x}{2y} \times \frac{128y^7}{x^7} + \frac{256y^8}{x^8} \\
 &= \frac{x^8}{256y^8} - \frac{x^6}{8y^6} + \frac{7x^4}{16y^4} - 14 \frac{x^2}{y^2} + 70 - \frac{224y^2}{x^2} + \frac{448y^4}{x^4} - \frac{512y^6}{x^6} + \frac{256y^8}{x^8}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(vi)} \quad & \left[\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} - \sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right]^6 \\
 &= \binom{6}{0} \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^6 - \binom{6}{1} \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^{6-1} \left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right)^1 \\
 &\quad + \binom{6}{2} \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^{6-2} \left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right)^2 - \binom{6}{3} \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^{6-3} \left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right)^3 \\
 &\quad + \binom{6}{4} \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^{6-4} \left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right)^4 - \binom{6}{5} \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^{6-5} \left(-\sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right)^5 + \binom{6}{6} \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^0 \left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right)^6 \\
 &= \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^6 - 6 \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^5 \left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right)^1 + 15 \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^4 \left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right)^2 \\
 &\quad - 20 \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^3 \left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right)^3 + 15 \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^2 \left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right)^4 - 6 \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right) \left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right)^5 + \left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right)^6 \\
 &= \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^6 - 6 \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^4 + 15 \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^2 - 20 \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^0 \\
 &\quad + 15 \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^{-2} - 6 \left(\sqrt{\frac{a}{x}} \right)^{-4} + \left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{a}} \right)^6 \\
 &= \left(\frac{a}{x} \right)^{6/2} - 6 \left(\frac{a}{x} \right)^{4/2} + 15 \left(\frac{a}{x} \right) - 20 + 15 \left(\frac{a}{x} \right)^{-2/2} - 6 \left(\frac{a}{x} \right)^{-4/2} + \left(\frac{x}{a} \right)^{6/2} \\
 &= \frac{a^3}{x^3} - 6 \frac{a^2}{x^2} + 15 \frac{a}{x} - 20 + 15 \left(\frac{a}{x} \right)^{-1} - 6 \left(\frac{a}{x} \right)^{-2} + \left(\frac{x}{a} \right)^3 \\
 &= \frac{a^3}{x^3} - 6 \frac{a^2}{x^2} + 15 \frac{a}{x} - 20 + 15 \frac{x}{a} - 6 \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{x^3}{a^3}
 \end{aligned}$$

Q.2 Calculate the following by means of binomial theorem.

(i) $(0.97)^3$ (Lahore Board 2010)

(ii) $(2.02)^4$ (Lahore Board 2011)

(iii) $(9.98)^4$

(iv) $(2.9)^5$

Solution:

(i) $(0.97)^3 = (1 - 0.03)^3$

$$= \binom{3}{0}(1)^3 - \binom{3}{1}(1)^2(.03)^1 + \binom{3}{2}(1)^1(.03)^2 - \binom{3}{3}(1)^0(.03)^3$$

$$= 1 - 0.09 + 0.0027 - 0.000027$$

$$= 0.9127$$

(ii) $(2.02)^4 = (2 + 0.02)^4$

$$= \binom{4}{0}(2)^4 + \binom{4}{1}(2)^3(.02)^1 + \binom{4}{2}(2)^2(.02)^2 + \binom{4}{3}(2)^1(.02)^3 + \binom{4}{4}(2)^0(.02)^4$$

$$= 16 + 4(8)(.02) + 6(4)(0.0004) + 4(2)(0.000008) + 0.00000016$$

$$= 16.64 + 0.0096 + 0.000064$$

$$= 16.64$$

(iii) $(9.98)^4 = (10 - 0.02)^4$

$$= \binom{4}{0}(10)^4(.02)^0 - \binom{4}{1}(10)^3(.02)^1 + \binom{4}{2}(10)^2(.02)^2 - \binom{4}{3}(10)^1(.02)^3 + \binom{4}{4}(10)^0(.02)^4$$

$$= 10000 - 80 + 600(0.0004) - 40(0.000008) + 0.00000016$$

$$= 9920.24$$

(iv) $(2.9)^5 = (3 - 0.1)^5$

$$= \binom{5}{0}(3)^5 - \binom{5}{1}(3)^4(.01) + \binom{5}{2}(3)^3(.01)^2 - \binom{5}{3}(3)^2(.01)^3 + \binom{5}{4}(3)^1(.01)^4 - \binom{5}{5}(3)^0(.01)^5$$

$$= 243 - 4.05 + 10(27)(0.0001) - 10(9)(0.000001) + 15(0.00000001) - 0.0000000001$$

$$= 24.3 + 5 \times 81 - 0.01 + 10 \times 8 \times 0.0001$$

$$= 205.2$$

Q.3 Expand and simplify the following:

(i) $(a + \sqrt{2}x)^4 + (a - \sqrt{2}x)^4$

(ii) $(2 + \sqrt{3})^5 + (2 - \sqrt{3})^5$

(iii) $(2 + i)^5 - (2 - i)^5$

(iv) $(x + \sqrt{x^2 - 1})^3 + (x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1})^3$

Solution:

(i) $(a + \sqrt{2}x)^4 + (a - \sqrt{2}x)^4$

$$= \binom{4}{0}a^4 + \binom{4}{1}(a)^3(\sqrt{2}x)^1 + \binom{4}{2}(a)^2(\sqrt{2}x)^2 + \binom{4}{3}a(\sqrt{2}x)^3 + \binom{4}{4}a^0(\sqrt{2}x)^4$$

$$(a + \sqrt{2}x)^4 = a^4 + 4a^3\sqrt{2}x + 6a^2(\sqrt{2}x)^2 + 4a(\sqrt{2}x)^3 + (\sqrt{2}x)^4 \quad \dots\dots\dots (i)$$

$$(a - \sqrt{2}x)^4 = a^4 - 4a^3\sqrt{2}x + 6a^2(\sqrt{2}x)^2 - 4a(\sqrt{2}x)^3 + (\sqrt{2}x)^4 \quad \dots\dots\dots (ii)$$

By adding (i) and (ii)

$$\begin{aligned} (a + \sqrt{2}x)^4 + (a - \sqrt{2}x)^4 &= 2a^4 + 12a^2(\sqrt{2}x)^2 + 2(\sqrt{2}x)^4 \\ &= 2a^4 + 12a^2(2x^2) + 2(4x^4) \\ &= 2a^4 + 24a^2x^2 + 8x^4 \end{aligned}$$

(ii) $(2 + \sqrt{3})^5 + (2 - \sqrt{3})^5$

$$\begin{aligned} (2 + \sqrt{3})^5 &= \binom{5}{0}(2)^5 + \binom{5}{1}(2)^4(\sqrt{3})^1 + \binom{5}{2}(2)^3(\sqrt{3})^2 + \binom{5}{3}(2)^2(\sqrt{3})^3 \\ &\quad + \binom{5}{4}(2)(\sqrt{3})^4 + \binom{5}{5}(2)^0(\sqrt{3})^5 \\ &= 32 + 5 \times 16\sqrt{3} + 10 \times 8(\sqrt{3})^2 + 10 \times 4(\sqrt{3})^3 + 5(2)(\sqrt{3})^4 + (\sqrt{3})^5 \\ &= 32 + 80\sqrt{3} + 80(\sqrt{3})^2 + 40(\sqrt{3})^3 + 10(\sqrt{3})^4 + (\sqrt{3})^5 \\ (2 - \sqrt{3})^5 &= 32 - 80\sqrt{3} + 80(\sqrt{3})^2 - 40(\sqrt{3})^3 + 10(\sqrt{3})^4 - (\sqrt{3})^5 \end{aligned}$$

Adding

$$(2 + \sqrt{3})^5 + (2 - \sqrt{3})^5 = 64 + 480 + 180 = 724$$

(iii) $(2 + i)^5 - (2 - i)^5$

$$\begin{aligned} (2 + i)^5 &= \binom{5}{0}(2)^5 + \binom{5}{1}(2)^4(i) + \binom{5}{2}(2)^3(i)^2 + \binom{5}{3}(2)^2(i)^3 \\ &\quad + \binom{5}{4}(2)^1(i)^4 + \binom{5}{5}(2)^0(i)^5 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= 32 + 5 \times 16 (i) + 10 \times 8 \times (i)^2 + 10 \times 4 (i)^3 + 5 \times 2 (i)^4 + i^5 \\
&= 32 + 80i + 80i^2 + 40i^3 + 10i^4 + i^5 \\
(2-i)^5 &= 32 - 80i + 80i^2 - 40i^3 + 10i^4 - i^5 \\
&\quad - \quad + \quad - \quad + \quad - \quad +
\end{aligned}$$

Subtracting

$$\begin{aligned}
(2+i)^5 - (2-i)^5 &= 160i + 80i^3 + 2i^5 \\
&= 160i - 80i + 2i = 82i
\end{aligned}$$

$$(iv) \quad (x + \sqrt{x^2 - 1})^3 + (x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1})^3$$

First we take $(x + \sqrt{x^2 - 1})^3$

$$= x^3 + \binom{3}{1}(x)^{3-1}(\sqrt{x^2 - 1}) + \binom{3}{2}(x)^1(\sqrt{x^2 - 1})^2 + \binom{3}{3}(x)^0(\sqrt{x^2 - 1})^3$$

$$(x + \sqrt{x^2 - 1})^3 = x^3 + 3x^2\sqrt{x^2 - 1} + 3x(x^2 - 1) + (\sqrt{x^2 - 1})^3$$

$$(x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1})^3 = x^3 - 3x^2\sqrt{x^2 - 1} + 3x(x^2 - 1) - (\sqrt{x^2 - 1})^3$$

Adding

$$\begin{aligned}
(x + \sqrt{x^2 - 1})^3 + (x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1})^3 &= 2x^3 + 6x(x^2 - 1) \\
&= 2x^3 + 6x^3 - 6x \\
&= 8x^3 - 6x
\end{aligned}$$

Q.4 Expand the following in ascending power of x

(i) $(2 + x - x^2)^4$

(ii) $(1 - x + x^2)^4$

(iii) $(1 - x - x^2)^4$

Solution:

(i) $(2 + x - x^2)^4$

Let $2 + x = y$

$$\begin{aligned}
(y - x^2)^4 &= \binom{4}{0}(y)^4(x^2)^0 - \binom{4}{1}(y^3)(x^2)^1 + \binom{4}{2}(y^2)(x^2)^2 - \binom{4}{3}(y)(x^2)^3 + \binom{4}{4}(y)^0(x^2)^4 \\
&= y^4 - 4y^3x^2 + 6y^2x^4 - 4yx^6 + x^8
\end{aligned}$$

Putting value $y = 2 + x$ again

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (2 + x)^4 - 4(2 + x)^3x^2 + 6(2 + x)^2x^4 - 4(2 + x)x^6 + x^8 \\
&= \left[\binom{4}{0}(2)^4 + \binom{4}{1}(2)^3(x) + \binom{4}{2}(2)^2(x)^2 + \binom{4}{3}(2)^1(x)^3 + \binom{4}{4}(2)^0(x)^4 \right] \\
&\quad - 4[8 + x^3 + 6x^2 + 12x]x^2 + 6(4 + x^2 + 4x)x^4 - (8 + 4x)x^6 + x^8 \\
&= 16 + 32x - 8x^2 - 40x^3 + x^4 + 20x^5 - 2x^6 - 4x^7 + x^8
\end{aligned}$$

(ii) $(1 - x + x^2)^4$

Let $1 - x = y$

$$(y + x^2)^4 = \binom{4}{0} y^4 + \binom{4}{1} y^3 x^2 + \binom{4}{2} y^2 (x^2)^2 + \binom{4}{3} y (x^2)^3 + \binom{4}{4} y^0 (x^2)^4$$

$$= y^4 + 4y^3 x^2 + 6y^2 x^4 + 4y x^6 + x^8$$

Putting value of y

$$= (1 - x)^4 + 4(1 - x)^3 x^2 + 6(1 - x)^2 x^4 + 4(1 - x) x^6 + x^8$$

$$= \left[\binom{4}{0} (1)^4 (x)^0 - \binom{4}{1} (1)^3 (x)^1 + \binom{4}{2} (1)^2 (x)^2 - \binom{4}{3} (1)^1 (x)^3 + \binom{4}{4} (1)^0 (x)^4 \right]$$

$$+ 4[1 - x^3 - 3x + 3x^2] x^2 + 6(1 + x^2 - 2x) x^4 + 4(x^6 - x^7) + x^8$$

$$= 1 - 4x + 6x^2 - 4x^3 + x^4 + 4x^2 - 12x^3 + 12x^4 - 4x^5 + 6x^4 - 12x^5 + 10x^6 - 4x^7 + x^8$$

$$= 1 - 4x + 10x^2 - 16x^3 + 19x^4 - 4x^5 + 10x^6 - 4x^7 + x^8$$

(iii) $(1 - x - x^2)^4$

Let $1 - x = y$

$$(y - x^2)^4 = \binom{4}{0} y^4 - \binom{4}{1} (y^3) x^2 + \binom{4}{2} (y^2) (x^2)^2 - \binom{4}{3} y (x^2)^3 + \binom{4}{4} y^0 (x^2)^4$$

$$= y^4 - 4y^3 x^2 + 6y^2 x^4 - 4x^6 y + x^8$$

Putting value of y

$$= (1 - x)^4 - 4(1 - x)^3 x^2 + 6(1 - x)^2 x^4 - 4x^6 (1 - x) + x^8$$

$$= \left[\binom{4}{0} (1)^4 - \binom{4}{1} (1)^3 (x) + \binom{4}{2} (1)^2 (x)^2 - \binom{4}{3} (1) (x)^3 + \binom{4}{4} (1)^0 (x)^4 \right]$$

$$- 4[1 - x^3 - 3x + 3x^2] x^2 + 6(1 + x^2 - 2x) x^4 - 4(x^6 - x^7) + x^8$$

$$= 1 - 4x + 6x^2 - 4x^3 + x^4 - 4x^2 (1 - 3x + 3x^2 - x^3) + 6x^4 - 12x^5 + 6x^6 - 4x^6 + 4x^7 + x^8$$

$$= 1 - 4x + 2x^2 + 8x^3 - 5x^4 - 8x^5 + 2x^6 + 4x^7 + x^8$$

Q.5 Expand the following in descending power of x

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

(ii) $\left(x - 1 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^3$

Solution:

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

Let $x - 1 = y \Rightarrow (x^2 + y)^3$

$$= \binom{3}{0} (x^2)^3 + \binom{3}{1} (x^2)^2 (y) + \binom{3}{2} (x^2) (y)^2 + \binom{3}{3} (x^2)^0 (y)^3$$

$$(x^2 + y)^3 = x^6 + 3x^4 y + 3x^2 y^2 + y^3$$

Putting value of y

$$\begin{aligned}
 (x^2 + x - 1)^3 &= x^6 + 3x^4(x-1) + 3x^2(x-1)^2 + (x-1)^3 \\
 &= x^6 + 3x^5 - 3x^4 + 3x^2(x^2 + 1 - 2x) + x^3 - 1 - 3x^2 + 3x \\
 &= x^6 + 3x^5 - 3x^4 + 3x^4 + 3x^2 - 6x^3 + x^3 - 1 - 3x^2 + 3x \\
 &= x^6 + 3x^5 - 5x^3 + 3x - 1
 \end{aligned}$$

(i) $\left(x - 1 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^3$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Let } x - 1 &= y \Rightarrow \left(y - \frac{1}{x}\right)^3 \\
 &= \binom{3}{0}(y^3) - \binom{3}{1}(y^2)\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) + \binom{3}{2}(y)\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^2 - \binom{3}{3}(y)^0\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^3 \\
 &= y^3 - \frac{3y^2}{x} + \frac{3y}{x^2} - \frac{1}{x^3}
 \end{aligned}$$

Putting value of y

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left(x - 1 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^3 &= (x-1)^3 - \frac{3(x-1)^2}{x} + \frac{3(x-1)}{x^2} - \frac{1}{x^3} \\
 &= x^3 - 1 - 3x^2 + 3x - \frac{3}{x}(x^2 + 1 - 2x) + \frac{1}{x^2}(3x - 3) - \frac{1}{x^3} \\
 &= x - 3x^2 + 5 - \frac{3}{x^2} - \frac{1}{x^3}
 \end{aligned}$$

GENERAL TERM OF EXPANSION $(a + x)^n$

$$T_{r+1} = \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r$$

Q.6 Find the term involving:

(i) x^4 in the expansion of $(3 - 2x)^7$ (Lahore Board 2008)

(ii) x^{-2} in the expansion of $\left(x - \frac{2}{x^2}\right)^{13}$

(iii) a^4 in the expansion of $\left(\frac{2}{x} - a\right)^9$ (Lahore Board 2004)

(iv) y^3 in the expansion of $(x - \sqrt{y})^{11}$

Solution:

(i) x^4 in the expansion of $(3 - 2x)^7$

We know that general term formula is

$$T_{r+1} = \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r$$

Since $n = 7$, $a = 3$, $x = (-2x)$

$$T_{r+1} = \binom{7}{r} a^{7-r} (-2x)^r$$

$$T_{r+1} = \binom{7}{r} 3^{7-r} (-2)^r x^r \quad \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

We have to find term involving x^4 , so comparing the powers of x , we have $r = 4$

Putting $r = 4$ in (1)

$$T_{4+1} = \binom{7}{4} 3^{7-4} (-2)^4 x^4$$

$$= 35 \times 27 \times 16x^4$$

$$T_{4+1} = 15120 x^4$$

(ii) x^{-2} in the expansion of $\left(x - \frac{2}{x^2}\right)^{13}$

We know that general term formula

$$T_{r+1} = \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r$$

$$a = x, n = 13, x = \left(-\frac{2}{x^2}\right)$$

$$T_{r+1} = \binom{13}{r} (x)^{13-r} \left(-\frac{2}{x^2}\right)^r$$

$$= \binom{13}{r} x^{13-r-2r} (-2)^r$$

$$= \binom{13}{r} x^{13-3r} (-2)^r \quad \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

We have to find term involving x^{-2} so comparing the power of x in (1)

$$13 - 3r = -2$$

$$13 + 2 = 3r$$

$$15 = 3r$$

$$\boxed{r = 5}$$

Put in (1)

$$T_{5+1} = \binom{13}{5} x^{13-3(5)} (-2)^5$$

$$T_6 = 1287 \times x^{-2} \times -32 = -41184 x^{-2}$$

(iii) a^4 in the expansion of $\left(\frac{2}{x} - a\right)^9$

We know that general term formula

$$T_{r+1} = \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r$$

$$n = 9, a = \frac{2}{x}, x = (-a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= \binom{9}{r} \left(\frac{2}{x}\right)^{9-r} (-a)^r \\ &= \binom{9}{r} \left(\frac{2}{x}\right)^{9-r} (-1)^r a^r \quad \dots\dots\dots (1) \end{aligned}$$

We have to find term involving a^4 , so comparing the powers of a , we get

$$\begin{aligned} T_{4+1} &= \binom{9}{4} \left(\frac{2}{x}\right)^{9-4} (-1)^4 (a)^4 \\ &= (126) \times \frac{2^5}{x^5} \times 1 \times a^4 = 126 \times \frac{32}{x^5} a^4 \\ T_5 &= 4032 \frac{a^4}{x^5} \end{aligned}$$

(iv) y^3 in the expansion of $(x - \sqrt{y})^{11}$

$$a = x, x = (-\sqrt{y}), n = 11$$

We know that general term formula

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r \\ T_{r+1} &= \binom{11}{r} (x)^{11-r} (-\sqrt{y})^r \\ &= \binom{11}{r} x^{11-r} (-1)^r y^{r/2} \quad \dots\dots\dots (1) \end{aligned}$$

We have to find term involving y^3 , so comparing the powers of y we get

$$\frac{r}{2} = 3 \Rightarrow r = 6 \text{ Put in (1)}$$

$$T_{6+1} = \binom{11}{6} x^{11-6} (-1)^6 y^{6/2}$$

$$T_7 = 462 x^5 \times 1 \times y^3$$

$$T_7 = 462 x^5 y^3$$

Q.7 Find the coefficient of

(i) x^5 in the expansion of $\left(x^2 - \frac{3}{2x}\right)^{10}$

(ii) x^n in the expansion of $\left(x^2 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^{2n}$

Solution:

(i) x^5 in the expansion of $\left(x^2 - \frac{3}{2x}\right)^{10}$

(Lahore Board 2003-04)

We know that general term formula

$$T_{r+1} = \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r$$

$$n = 10, a = x^2, x = \left(-\frac{3}{2x}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= \binom{10}{r} (x^2)^{10-r} \left(-\frac{3}{2x}\right)^r \\ &= \binom{10}{r} (x)^{20-2r} \left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)^r \frac{1}{x^r} \\ &= \binom{10}{r} (x)^{20-2r-r} \left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)^r \\ &= \binom{10}{r} (x)^{20-3r} \left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)^r \quad \dots\dots\dots (1) \end{aligned}$$

we have to find the coefficient of x^5 , so comparing the powers of x , we get

$$20 - 3r = 5$$

$$15 = 3r \Rightarrow \boxed{r = 5}$$

Put in (1)

$$T_{5+1} = \binom{10}{5} x^{20-15} \left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)^5$$

$$T_6 = 252 \times x^5 \times \frac{-243}{32} = \frac{-15309}{8} x^5$$

$$\text{Coefficient of } x^5 \text{ is } \frac{-15309}{8}$$

(ii) x^n in the expansion of $\left(x^2 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^{2n}$

We know that general term formula is

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r \\ T_{r+1} &= \binom{2n}{r} (x^2)^{2n-r} \left(-\frac{1}{x}\right)^r \\ &= \binom{2n}{r} (x)^{4n-2r} \frac{(-1)^r}{x^r} \\ &= \binom{2n}{r} x^{4n-3r} (-1)^r \dots\dots\dots (1) \end{aligned}$$

we have to find the coefficient of x^n , so comparing the powers of x , we get

$$4n - 3r = n$$

$$4n - n = 3r$$

$$3n = 3r$$

$$\boxed{n = r}$$

Put in (1)

$$\begin{aligned} T_{n+1} &= \binom{2n}{n} x^{4n-3n} (-1)^n = \frac{(2n)!}{n! (2n-n)!} x^n (-1)^n \\ &= \frac{(2n)!}{n! n!} x^n (-1)^n \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Coefficient of } x^n \text{ is } \frac{(-1)^n (2n)!}{(n!)^2}$$

Q.8 Find 6th term in the expansion of $\left(x^2 - \frac{3}{2x}\right)^{10}$

Solution:

$$a = x^2, \quad x = \frac{-3}{2x}, \quad n = 10, \quad r = 5$$

We know by general term formula

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r \\ T_{5+1} &= \binom{10}{5} (x^2)^{10-5} \left(\frac{-3}{2x}\right)^5 \\ T_6 &= 252 \times x^{10} \times \frac{-243}{32 x^5} \\ T_6 &= \frac{-15309}{8} x^5 \end{aligned}$$

Q.9 Find the term independent of x in the following expansions.

(i) $\left(x - \frac{2}{x}\right)^{10}$ (Gujranwala Board 2003, Lahore Board 2008)

(ii) $\left(\sqrt{x} + \frac{1}{2x^2}\right)^{10}$

(iii) $(1 + x^2)^3 \left(1 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right)^4$

Solution:

(i) $\left(x - \frac{2}{x}\right)^{10}$

$a = x, \quad x = \frac{-2}{x} \quad n = 10, \quad r = ?$

We know that general term formula is

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r \\ &= \binom{10}{r} x^{10-r} \left(\frac{-2}{x}\right)^r \\ &= \binom{10}{r} x^{10-r} \frac{(-2)^r}{x^r} \\ &= \binom{10}{r} x^{10-r-r} (-2)^r \\ &= \binom{10}{r} x^{10-2r} (-2)^r \quad \dots\dots\dots (1) \end{aligned}$$

We have to find the term independent of x i.e., x^0 so comparing the powers of x , we have

$$10 - 2r = 0$$

$$10 = 2r \Rightarrow \boxed{r = 5} \quad \text{Put in (1)}$$

$$T_{5+1} = \binom{10}{5} x^{10-2(5)} (-2)^5$$

$$T_6 = 252 \times x^{10-10} \times (-32) = -8064 x^0 = -8064$$

Equating Index of x to 0 to get expression independent of x

$$(ii) \quad \left(\sqrt{x} + \frac{1}{2x^2} \right)^{10}$$

$$a = \sqrt{x}, \quad x = \frac{1}{2x^2}, \quad n = 10, \quad r = ?$$

We know that general term formula

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r \\ &= \binom{10}{r} (\sqrt{x})^{10-r} \left(\frac{1}{2x^2} \right)^r \\ &= \binom{10}{r} x^{\frac{10-r}{2}} \frac{1}{2^r x^{2r}} \\ &= \binom{10}{r} x^{\frac{10-r}{2} - 2r} \left(\frac{1}{2^r} \right) \quad \dots\dots\dots (1) \end{aligned}$$

We have to find independent of x i.e., x^0 so comparing the powers of ' x ', we get

$$\frac{10-r}{2} - 2r = 0$$

$$10 - r - 4r = 0$$

$$10 - 5r = 0$$

$$10 = 5r$$

$$2 = r \quad \text{Put in (1)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_{2+1} &= \binom{10}{2} x^{\frac{10-2}{2} - 2(2)} \left(\frac{1}{2^2} \right) \\ &= 45 x^{4-4} \left(\frac{1}{4} \right) = \frac{45}{4} x^0 = \frac{45}{4} \end{aligned}$$

$$(iii) \quad (1 + x^2)^3 \left(1 + \frac{1}{x^2} \right)^4$$

$$\begin{aligned} (1 + x^2)^3 \left(1 + \frac{1}{x^2} \right)^4 &= (1 + x^2)^3 \frac{(1 + x^2)^4}{x^8} \\ &= \frac{1}{x^8} (1 + x^2)^7 \quad \dots\dots\dots (1) \end{aligned}$$

Now $(1 + x^2)^7$, we have $a = 1$, $x = x^2$, $n = 7$, $r = ?$

We know that general term formula is

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r = \binom{7}{r} (1)^{7-r} (x^2)^r \\ &= \binom{7}{r} x^{2r} \quad \text{equation (1) becomes} \\ &= \frac{1}{x^8} \binom{7}{r} x^{2r} \\ &= \left(\frac{7}{r}\right) x^{2r-8} \quad \dots\dots\dots (2) \end{aligned}$$

We have to find term independent of x .

i.e., x^0 so, comparing the powers of x .

$$2r - 8 = 0$$

$$2r = 8 \Rightarrow r = 4 \text{ put in (2).}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{7}{4} x^{8-8} &= \frac{7!}{4! \times (7-4)!} x^0 \\ &= \frac{7!}{4! \times 3!} \\ &= \frac{7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4!}{4! \times 3 \times 2 \times 1} = 35 \end{aligned}$$

MIDDLE TERM

(1) If n is even then $\left(\frac{n}{2} + 1\right)^{\text{th}}$ term will be only one middle term.

(2) If n is odd then $\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)^{\text{th}}$ and $\left(\frac{n+3}{2}\right)^{\text{th}}$ terms will be the two middle terms.

Q.10 Determine the middle term in the following expansions.

(i) $\left(\frac{1}{x} - \frac{x^2}{2}\right)^{12}$

(ii) $\left(\frac{3}{2}x - \frac{1}{3x}\right)^{11}$

(iii) $\left(2x - \frac{1}{2x}\right)^{2m+1}$

Solution:

(i) $\left(\frac{1}{x} - \frac{x^2}{2}\right)^{12}$

Since $n = 12$ is even so $\left(\frac{n}{2} + 1\right)^{\text{th}}$ term i.e.,

$$\left(\frac{12}{2} + 1\right)^{\text{th}} \text{ term} = 7^{\text{th}} \text{ term is the middle term}$$

Thus $r = 6$. Also $a = \frac{1}{x}$, $x = \left(\frac{-x^2}{2}\right)$, $n = 12$

We know that the general formula is

$$T_{r+1} = \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_{6+1} &= \binom{12}{6} \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^{12-6} \left(\frac{-x^2}{2}\right)^6 \\ &= 924 \frac{1}{x^6} \frac{x^{12}}{64} \end{aligned}$$

$$T_7 = \frac{231}{16} x^6$$

(ii) $\left(\frac{3}{2}x - \frac{1}{3x}\right)^{11}$

Since $n = 11$ is odd so $\left(\frac{11+1}{2}\right)^{\text{th}}$ term and $\left(\frac{11+3}{2}\right)^{\text{th}}$ term i.e., 6^{th} & 7^{th} terms will be the two middle terms.

$$T_{r+1} = \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r$$

$$T_{5+1} = \binom{11}{5} \left(\frac{3}{2}x\right)^{11-5} \left(-\frac{1}{3x}\right)^5$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_6 &= 462 \times \left(\frac{3}{2}x\right)^6 \frac{(-1)^5}{(3x)^5} \\ &= 462 \times \frac{(3x)^{6-5}}{64} \times -1 \\ &= \frac{-462 \times 3x}{64} = \frac{-693x}{32} \end{aligned}$$

$$T_{r+1} = \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_{6+1} &= \binom{11}{6} \left(\frac{3}{2}x\right)^{11-6} \left(-\frac{1}{3x}\right)^6 \\ &= 462 \times \frac{(3x)^5}{(2)^5} \times \frac{1}{(3x)^6} \end{aligned}$$

$$= 462 \times \frac{1}{32} \times \frac{1}{(3x)^{6-5}}$$

$$T_6 = \frac{462}{32 \times 3x} = \frac{77}{16x}$$

Hence two middle terms are $-\frac{693x}{32}$ and $\frac{77}{16x}$

$$(iii) \quad \left(2x - \frac{1}{2x}\right)^{2m+1}$$

As $2m + 1$ is odd, so there are two middle terms i.e., $\left(\frac{2m+1+1}{2}\right)$ and $\left(\frac{2m+1+3}{2}\right)$ are two middle terms.

$(m+1)^{th}$ and $(m+2)^{th}$ terms

For $(m+1)^{th}$ term

$$r = m, \quad n = 2m + 1, \quad a = 2x, \quad x = \left(-\frac{1}{2x}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_{m+1} &= \binom{2m+1}{m} (2x)^{2m+1-m} \left(-\frac{1}{2x}\right)^m \\ &= \frac{(2m+1)!}{m! [2m+1-m]!} (2x)^{m+1-m} (-1)^m \\ &= \frac{(2m+1)!}{m! (m+1)!} 2x (-1)^m \end{aligned}$$

$$T_{m+1} = 2 (-1)^m \frac{(2m+1)!}{m! (m+1)!} x$$

For $(m+2)^{th}$ term

$$r = m + 2 - 1 = m + 1$$

$$n = 2m + 1, \quad a = 2x, \quad x = \left(-\frac{1}{2x}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r \\ &= \binom{2m+1}{m+1} (2x)^{2m+1-m-1} \left(-\frac{1}{2x}\right)^{m+1} \\ &= \frac{(2m+1)!}{(m+1)! [(2m+1-m-1)]!} (2x)^m \frac{(-1)^{m+1}}{(2x)^{m+1}} = \frac{(2m+1)!}{(m+1)! (m)!} \frac{(-1)^{m+1}}{(2x)^{m+1-m}} \\ T_{m+2} &= \frac{(2m+1)! (-1)^{m+1}}{m! (m+1)! 2x} \end{aligned}$$

T_{m+1} and T_{m+2} are two middle terms.

Q.11 Find $(2n + 1)^{\text{th}}$ term from the end in the expansion of $\left(x - \frac{1}{2x}\right)^{3n}$

Solution:

To find $(2n + 1)^{\text{th}}$ terms, we have $r = 2n$

And for the term from the end, we have

$$a = -\frac{1}{2x} \quad \text{and} \quad x = x$$

By general term formula

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r \\ T_{2n+1} &= \binom{3n}{2n} \left(-\frac{1}{2x}\right)^{3n-2n} (x)^{2n} \\ &= \frac{3n!}{2n! (3n-2n)!} \left(-\frac{1}{2x}\right)^n x^{2n} \\ &= \frac{3n!}{(2n)! n!} \frac{(-1)^n}{2^n x^n} x^{2n} \\ &= \frac{3n! (-1)^n}{2n! n! 2^n} x^{2n-n} \\ &= \frac{(3n)! (-1)^n x^n}{2n! n! 2n} \end{aligned}$$

Q.12 Show that middle term of $(1 + x)^{2n}$ is $\frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \dots (2n-1)}{n!} 2^n \cdot x^n$

Solution:

As $2n$ is even so $\left(\frac{2n}{2} + 1\right)^{\text{th}}$ term is the middle term i.e., $(n + 1)^{\text{th}}$ term $r = n$

General term formula is

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= \binom{n}{r} a^{n-r} x^r \\ T_{n+1} &= \binom{2n}{n} (1)^{2n-n} x^n \\ &= \frac{(2n)!}{n! [2n-n]!} (1)^n x^n = \frac{(2n)!}{n! n!} x^n \\ &= \frac{(2n) (2n-1) (2n-2) (2n-3) (2n-4) \dots 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}{n! n!} x^n \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{[(2n)(2n-2)(2n-4) \dots 4 \times 2][(2n-1)(2n-3)(2n-5) \dots 5 \times 3 \times 1] x^n}{n! n!} \\
&= \frac{[2^n (n)(n-1)(n-2) \dots (n-2) \dots \times 2 \times 1][(2n-1)(2n-3) \dots 5 \times 3 \times 1] x^n}{n! n!} \\
&= \frac{2^n n! [(2n-1)(2n-3) \dots 5 \times 3 \times 1] x^n}{n! n!} \\
T_{n+1} &= \frac{2^n [1 \times 3 \times 5 \times \dots (2n-3)(2n-1)] x^n}{n!}
\end{aligned}$$

Q.13 Show that: $\binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{3} + \binom{n}{5} + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} = 2^{n-1}$

Solution:

We know that

$$(1+x)^n = \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1}x + \binom{n}{2}x^2 + \binom{n}{3}x^3 + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1}x^{n-1} + \binom{n}{n}x^n \quad (1)$$

Put $x = 1$ in equation (1)

$$\begin{aligned}
(1+1)^n &= \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} + \binom{n}{3} + \binom{n}{4} + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} + \binom{n}{n} \\
2^n &= \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} + \binom{n}{3} + \binom{n}{4} + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} + \binom{n}{n} \quad (2)
\end{aligned}$$

Next put $x = -1$ in equation (1)

$$(1-1)^n = \binom{n}{0} - \binom{n}{1}(-1) + \binom{n}{2}(-1)^2 + \binom{n}{3}(-1)^3 + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1}(-1)^{n-1} + \binom{n}{n}(-1)^n$$

if n is even then

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= \binom{n}{0} - \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} - \binom{n}{3} + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} \binom{n}{n-1} + (-1)^n \binom{n}{n} \\
&\quad \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{2} + \binom{n}{4} + \dots + \binom{n}{n} = \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{3} + \binom{n}{5} + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} \dots (3)
\end{aligned}$$

We can write (2) as.

$$2^n = \left\{ \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{2} + \binom{n}{4} + \dots + \binom{n}{n} \right\} + \left\{ \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{3} + \binom{n}{5} + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} \right\} \quad (4)$$

Using (3) in (4)

$$\begin{aligned}
2^n &= \left\{ \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{3} + \binom{n}{5} + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} \right\} + \left\{ \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{3} + \binom{n}{5} + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} \right\} \\
2^n &= 2 \left\{ \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{3} + \binom{n}{5} + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} \right\} \\
\frac{2^n}{2} &= \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{3} + \binom{n}{5} + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} \\
\Rightarrow \quad &\binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{3} + \binom{n}{5} + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} = 2^{n-1}
\end{aligned}$$

Q.14 Show that $\binom{n}{0} + \frac{1}{2}\binom{n}{1} + \frac{1}{3}\binom{n}{2} + \frac{1}{4}\binom{n}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n+1}\binom{n}{n} = \frac{2^{n+1}-1}{n+1}$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{L. H. S.} &= \binom{n}{0} + \frac{1}{2}\binom{n}{1} + \frac{1}{3}\binom{n}{2} + \frac{1}{4}\binom{n}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n+1}\binom{n}{n} \\ &= \frac{n!}{0!(n-0)!} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{n!}{1!(n-1)!} + \frac{1}{3} \frac{n!}{2!(n-2)!} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{n!}{3!(n-3)!} + \dots + \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{n!}{n!(n-n)!} \end{aligned}$$

Taking common $n!$

$$= n! \left[\frac{1}{n!} + \frac{1}{2!(n-1)!} + \frac{1}{3!(n-2)!} + \frac{1}{4!(n-3)!} + \dots + \frac{1}{(n+1)n!} \right]$$

Now multiplying and dividing by $n+1$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{(n+1)n!}{(n+1)} \left[\frac{1}{n!} + \frac{1}{2!(n-1)!} + \frac{1}{3!(n-2)!} + \frac{1}{4!(n-3)!} + \dots + \frac{1}{(n+1)n!} \right] \\ &= \frac{(n+1)!}{n+1} \left[\frac{1}{n!} + \frac{1}{2!(n-1)!} + \frac{1}{3!(n-2)!} + \frac{1}{4!(n-3)!} + \dots + \frac{1}{(n+1)n!} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{n+1} \left[\frac{(n+1)!}{n!} + \frac{(n+1)!}{2!(n-1)!} + \frac{(n+1)!}{3!(n-2)!} + \frac{(n+1)!}{4!(n-3)!} + \dots + \frac{(n+1)!}{(n+1)n!} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{n+1} \left[\binom{n+1}{1} + \binom{n+1}{2} + \binom{n+1}{3} + \binom{n+1}{4} + \dots + \binom{n+1}{n+1} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Adding and subtracting $\binom{n+1}{0}$

$$= \frac{1}{n+1} \left[\binom{n+1}{0} + \binom{n+1}{1} + \binom{n+1}{2} + \binom{n+1}{3} + \dots + \binom{n+1}{n+1} - \binom{n+1}{0} \right] \quad (1)$$

We know that

$$\binom{n+1}{0} + \binom{n+1}{1} + \binom{n+1}{2} + \binom{n+1}{3} + \dots + \binom{n+1}{n+1} = 2^{n+1}$$

and $\binom{n+1}{0} = 1$

So (1) becomes

$$\frac{1}{n+1} [2^{n+1} - 1] = \frac{2^{n+1} - 1}{n+1} = \text{R.H.S.}$$

Hence proved.