

Need to prove the following for $m < n$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} (-1)^k k^m = 0 \quad (1)$$

Begin from

$$(p + q)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} p^k q^{n-k} \quad (2)$$

Differentiate both sides with respect to p ,

$$p \frac{d}{dp} (p + q)^n = p n (p + q)^{n-1} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} k p^k q^{n-k} \quad (3)$$

Now we let $p = -1$ and $q = -1$ to give,

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} k (-1)^k = 0 \quad (4)$$

which corresponds to $m = 1$ and only holds true when $n > 1$. For the general case m , from Eq. 2 we apply a nested derivative such that

$$\left(p \frac{d}{dp} \right)^m (p + q)^n = p \frac{d}{dp} \left(p \frac{d}{dp} \left(\dots \left(p \frac{d}{dp} (p + q)^n \right) \right) \right) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} k^m (-1)^k \quad (5)$$

for $m=2$, the LHS becomes

$$p \frac{d^2}{dp^2} (p + q)^n = p n (p + q)^{n-1} + p^2 n (n - 1) (p + q)^{n-2} \quad (6)$$

Generally, all terms contain some form of the differential where

$$\frac{d^m}{dp^m} (p + q)^n = n (n - 1) \dots (n - m + 1) (p + q)^{n-m} \quad (7)$$

Since $p = -1$ and $q = 1$, for $m < n$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} k^m (-1)^k = 0 \quad (8)$$