

Claim: the recursive binomial coefficient (n, K) function correctly computes $nC_K, n \geq K$

Proof: We can prove this by using generalized strong mathematical induction on (n, K) .

Base Case: $K=0$. We know, $nC_0 = \frac{n!}{(n-0)!0!} = 1$. We have correctly

returned 1 in line 4. now

• ~~Base~~ $n=K$. We know, $nC_K = \frac{n!}{(n-K)!K!} = \frac{n!}{n!0!} = 1$. We have correctly returned 1 in line 6.

Induction hypothesis: ~~for all $n, K \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \geq K$, the recursive binomial coefficient function correctly computes nC_K .~~

Let, ~~for all $n, K \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \geq K$, the recursive binomial coefficient function correctly computes nC_K .~~ $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{N}, a \geq n$ and $b \geq K$, the recursive binomial coefficient (a, b) function correctly computes $aC_b, a \geq b$.

Induction Step: Let, $a=n+1$ and $b=K+1$. $\because a \neq b$, we compute line 7 as: recursive binomial coefficient $(a, b) =$ recursive binomial coefficient $(a-1, b) +$ recursive binomial coefficient $(a-1, b-1)$

or, recursive binomial coefficient $(n+1, K+1) =$ recursive binomial coefficient $(n, K+1) +$ recursive binomial coefficient (n, K)

• By induction hyp, recursive binomial coefficient $(n, K) = nC_K$

• ~~By induction hyp~~ We need to compute recursive binomial coefficient $(n, K+1)$. When, it is called, it is computed as:

recursive binomial coefficient $(n, K+1) =$ recursive binomial coefficient $(n-1, K+1) +$ recursive binomial coefficient $(n-1, K)$

\hookrightarrow By I.H., $n-1C_K$.