

We are asked to show for integer $n \geq 0$

$$(0) \quad \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{r+k}{k} = \binom{r+n+1}{n}$$

Before proceeding any further we would do well to express this sum in a notation more amenable to manipulation.

Consider the formula $\binom{n}{k}$. This is an asymmetric function of the sum of two arguments and one of the two arguments. We observe

$$\begin{aligned} & \binom{n}{k} \\ &= \{n, k := i + j, j\} \\ & \binom{i+j}{j} \\ &= \{\text{definition of } \binom{n}{k}\} \\ & (i + j)! / i! * j! \end{aligned}$$

We define

$$(1) \quad P.i.j = (i + j)! / i! * j!$$

We have

$$(2) \quad P.i.j = P.j.i$$

$$(3) \quad P.i.j = (i + j)/j * P.i.(j - 1)$$

$$(4) \quad j * P.i.j = (i + j) * P.i.(j - 1)$$

$$(5) \quad i * P.i.j = (i + j) * P.(i - 1).j$$

$$(6) \quad P.i.j = P.(i - 1).j + P.i.(j - 1)$$

and (0) becomes the much nicer

$$(7) \quad P.(i + 1).j = \langle \Sigma k : 0 \leq k \leq j : P.i.j \rangle$$

Since our formulae are in terms of $P.i.j$ we perform the substitution $i := i - 1$ to get

$$(8) \quad P.i.j = \langle \Sigma k : 0 \leq k \leq j : P.(i - 1).k \rangle$$

and it is this that we shall prove, by induction on j .

Base case

$$\begin{aligned} P.i.0 &= \langle \Sigma k : 0 \leq k \leq 0 : P.(i - 1).k \rangle \\ &= \{\text{definition of } P.i.j, \text{ empty range}\} \\ & i! / i! = 1 \\ &= \{\text{algebra}\} \\ & true \end{aligned}$$

Inductive step

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \Sigma k : 0 \leq k \leq j + 1 : P.(i - 1).k \rangle \\ = & \quad \{\text{split off term}\} \\ & \langle \Sigma k : 0 \leq k \leq j : P.(i - 1).k \rangle + P.(i - 1).(j + 1) \\ = & \quad \{\text{induction hypothesis}\} \\ & P.i.j + P.(i - 1).(j + 1) \\ = & \quad \{(6) \text{ with } j := j + 1\} \\ & P.i.(j + 1) \end{aligned}$$

And we're done.

[0] Edsger Dijkstra, A stupid notation, EWD782 .

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