

Problem 11899

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Proposed by J. Sorel (Romania).

Show that for any positive integer n ,

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} \binom{2n+1}{k} + \sum_{k=n+1}^{2n+1} \binom{2n+1}{k} \binom{2n}{k-1} = \binom{4n+1}{2n} + \binom{2n}{n}^2.$$

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", via della Ricerca Scientifica, 00133 Roma, Italy.

We have that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LHS} &= 1 + \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{2n}{k} \left(\binom{2n}{k} + \binom{2n}{k-1} \right) + \sum_{k=n+1}^{2n} \left(\binom{2n}{k} + \binom{2n}{k-1} \right) \binom{2n}{k-1} + 1 \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k}^2 + \sum_{k=1}^{2n} \binom{2n}{k} \binom{2n}{k-1} + \sum_{k=n+1}^{2n+1} \binom{2n}{k-1}^2 \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k}^2 + \sum_{k=1}^{2n} \binom{2n}{k} \binom{2n}{k-1} + \sum_{k=n}^{2n} \binom{2n}{k}^2 \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{2n} \binom{2n}{k} \binom{2n}{n-k} + \sum_{k=1}^{2n} \binom{2n}{2n-k} \binom{2n}{k-1} + \binom{2n}{n}^2 \\ &= \binom{4n}{2n} + \binom{4n}{2n-1} + \binom{2n}{n}^2 = \binom{4n+1}{2n} + \binom{2n}{n}^2. \end{aligned}$$

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