

Question -

Prove that

$$2^k \binom{n}{0} \binom{n}{k} - 2^{k-1} \binom{n}{1} \binom{n-1}{k-1} + 2^{k-2} \binom{n}{2} \binom{n-2}{k-2} - \dots \\ + (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} \binom{n-k}{0} = \binom{n}{k} \quad (\text{2003, 4 M})$$

Solution -

To show that

$$2^{k \cdot n} C_0 \cdot {}^n C_k - 2^{k-1 \cdot n} C_1 \cdot {}^{n-1} C_{k-1} \\ + 2^{k-2 \cdot n} C_2 \cdot {}^{n-2} C_{k-2} - \dots + (-1)^k {}^n C_k \cdot {}^{n-k} C_0 = {}^n C_k$$

Taking LHS

$$2^{k \cdot n} C_0 \cdot {}^n C_k - 2^{k-1 \cdot n} C_1 \cdot {}^{n-1} C_{k-1} + \dots + (-1)^k {}^n C_k \cdot {}^{n-k} C_0 \\ = \sum_{r=0}^k (-1)^r \cdot 2^{k-r \cdot n} \cdot {}^n C_r \cdot {}^{n-r} C_{k-r} \\ = \sum_{r=0}^k (-1)^r \cdot 2^{k-r} \cdot \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!} \cdot \frac{(n-r)!}{(k-r)!(n-k)!} \\ = \sum_{r=0}^k (-1)^r \cdot 2^{k-r} \cdot \frac{n!}{(n-k)! \cdot k!} \cdot \frac{k!}{r!(k-r)!} \\ = \sum_{r=0}^k (-1)^r \cdot 2^{k-r} \cdot {}^n C_k \cdot {}^k C_r = 2^{k \cdot n} C_k \left\{ \sum_{r=0}^k (-1)^r \cdot \frac{1}{2^r} \cdot {}^k C_r \right\} \\ = 2^{k \cdot n} C_k \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \right)^k = {}^n C_k = \text{RHS}$$