

## Pascal's triangle of $C(n,k)$

Pascal published in 1653 'Traite du triangle arithmetique avec quelques autres'

In 1527 this  $C(n,k)$ -triangle was published by Petrus Apianus -- German mathematician-astronomer-cartographer)

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The numbers  $C(n,k)$  were also computed by Levi Ben Gershon, medieval French-Jewish philosopher (1321)

Binomial  $C(n,k)$  can be tracked to Omar Kayam (1048-1131), who claimed to know  $C(n,k)$  based on the grounds that he had algorithm to extract  $n$ -th roots, and for that you expand  $(a+b)^n$ .

Omar Kayam refers to Indian mathematicians for algorithm at  $n = 2$  and  $n=3$ , and claims new algorithms for  $n>3$ .

In China the arithmetic triangle of  $C(n,k)$  is attributed to Jai Xian (1010-1070) paper “Rújī Shìsuǒ” by mathematician Yang Hui (1238-1298) in his paper “Xiangjie Jiuzhang Suanfa” (1261).

The motivation of Yang Hui and Jai Xian seems to be the same as of Omar Kayam: give algorithms to extract  $n$ -th roots using binomial expansion of  $(a+b)^n$

The algorithm to construct the arithmetic triangle  $C(n,k)$  by the recursion  $C(n,k) = C(n-1,k-1) + C(n-1,k)$  is found in in the commentary “Mṛtasañjīvanī” written by Halayudha, in 10th century AD about a certain sentence in the paper “Chandaḥśāstra” by Acharya Pingala (circa 200 BC).



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