

Finding the term containing x^k and the term free of x in the expansion $(x+a)^n$

Example 1

In the expansion of $(\frac{x}{3} - \frac{3}{2x})^8$
 Find ① The term contains x^{-6}

② The term Free of x

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= {}^8C_r \left(\frac{-3}{2x}\right)^r \left(\frac{x}{3}\right)^{8-r} \\ &= {}^8C_r (-1)^r (3)^r (2)^{-r} (x^{-r}) (x^{8-r}) (3^{-8+r}) \\ &= {}^8C_r (-1)^r (3)^r (2)^{-r} (3^{-8+r}) x^{8-2r} \end{aligned}$$

① Put $8-2r = -6 \rightarrow -2r = -6-8 \rightarrow -2r = -14 \rightarrow r=7$

$$\therefore T_8 = {}^8C_7 (-1)^7 (3^7) (2^{-7}) (3^{-8+7}) x^{-6}$$

$$\therefore T_8 = \frac{-7 \cdot 29}{16} x^{-6}$$

② To find the term Free of x put $8-2r=0 \rightarrow r=4$

$$\therefore T_5 = {}^8C_4 (-1)^4 (3^4) (2^{-4}) (3^{-8+4}) x^0 = \frac{35}{8}$$

Example 2

In the expansion $(2x^2 + \frac{1}{x})^{12}$
 Find ① The term contains x^9

② The term free of x

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= {}^{12}C_r \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^r (2x^2)^{12-r} \\ &= {}^{12}C_r (x^{-r}) (2^{12-r}) (x^{24-2r}) \end{aligned}$$

$$T_{r+1} = {}^{12}C_r (2^{12-r}) (x^{24-3r})$$

① Put $24-3r=9 \rightarrow -3r=9-24 \rightarrow -3r=-15 \rightarrow r=5$

$$\therefore T_6 = {}^{12}C_5 (2^{12-5}) (x^{24-3 \times 5}) = 101376 x^9$$

② To Find the term free of x Put $24-3r=0 \rightarrow r=8$

$$\therefore T_9 = {}^{12}C_8 (2^{12-8}) (x^{24-3 \times 8}) = 7920$$

Example [3]

In the expansion of $(2x - \frac{1}{2x^2})^9$ find:

- ① the coefficient of x^3
- ② The term free of x
- ③ Prove that the term does not contain x^2

Solution

$$T_{r+1} = {}^9C_r \left(\frac{-1}{2x^2}\right)^r (2x)^{9-r} = {}^9C_r (-1)^r (2)^{-r} (2)^{9-r} x^{-2r} x^{9-r}$$

$$T_{r+1} = {}^9C_r (-1)^r (2)^{9-2r} x^{9-3r}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \text{ Put } 9-3r=3 \rightarrow -3r=3-9 \rightarrow -3r=-6 \rightarrow r=2$$

$$\therefore T_3 = {}^9C_2 (-1)^2 (2)^{9-4} x^{9-3 \times 2} = 1152 x^3$$

\therefore the coefficient of x^3 is 1152

$$\textcircled{2} \text{ Put } 9-3r=0 \rightarrow r=3$$

$$\therefore T_4 = {}^9C_3 (-1)^3 (2)^{9-2 \times 3} x^{9-3 \times 3} = -672$$

$$\textcircled{3} \text{ Put } 9-3r=2 \rightarrow -3r=2-9 \rightarrow -3r=-7 \rightarrow r=\frac{7}{3} \notin \mathbb{N}$$

\therefore this expansion does not contain x^2

Example [4]

In the expansion of $(ax + \frac{1}{bx})^{10}$ according to the descending power of x , if the term free of x equals the coefficient of the seventh term, Prove that $6ab=5$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= {}^{10}C_r \left(\frac{1}{bx}\right)^r (ax)^{10-r} \\ &= {}^{10}C_r (b^{-r}) (x^{-r}) (a)^{10-r} (x^{10-r}) \\ &= {}^{10}C_r (b^{-r}) (a)^{10-r} (x)^{10-2r} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{For the term free of } x \rightarrow 10-2r=0 \rightarrow r=5$$

$$\therefore \text{Term free of } x = T_6 = {}^{10}C_5 (b)^{-5} (a)^{10-5} (x)^{10-2 \times 5} = 252 a^5 b^{-5}$$

$$T_7 = {}^{10}C_6 (b^{-6}) (a^{10-6}) x^{10-2 \times 6} = {}^{10}C_6 a^4 b^{-6} x^{-2}$$

$$\text{Coefficient of } T_7 = 210 a^4 b^{-6}$$

$$\therefore 252 a^5 b^{-5} = 210 a^4 b^{-6} \rightarrow \div 42 a^4 b^{-6} \Rightarrow \therefore 6ab=5$$

Example 5

If n is positive integer, prove that there is no term free of x in the expansion of $(x^5 + \frac{1}{x^2})^n$ except if n is a multiple of 7, then find this term in the case of $n=7$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r+1} &= {}^n C_r \left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right)^r (x^5)^{n-r} \\ &= {}^n C_r x^{-2r} x^{5n-5r} \\ &= {}^n C_r x^{5n-7r} \end{aligned}$$

For the term free of x $5n - 7r = 0 \rightarrow 7r = 5n \rightarrow r = \frac{5n}{7}$

$\frac{5n}{7} \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ if n is a multiple of 7

$$\therefore r = \frac{5n}{7} \rightarrow \text{put } n=7 \rightarrow r=5 \therefore T_6 = {}^7 C_5 = 21$$

Example 6

In the expansion of $(x^2 + \frac{1}{x})^{3n}$ Find:

- The coefficient of the term which contains x^{3n}
- If $n=6$, find the ratio between the coefficient of the term containing x^{3n} and the coefficient of the middle term

Solution

$$T_{r+1} = {}^{3n} C_r \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^r (x^2)^{3n-r}$$

$$T_{r+1} = {}^{3n} C_r (x^{-r}) (x^{6n-2r})$$

$$T_{r+1} = {}^{3n} C_r x^{6n-3r}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \text{ put } 6n - 3r = 3n \rightarrow \therefore 3n = 3r \therefore r = n$$

\therefore the coefficient of the term containing x^{3n} is ${}^{3n} C_n$

$$\textcircled{2} \text{ when } n=6 \text{ the coefficient of the term containing } x^{3n} = {}^{3n} C_n = {}^{18} C_6$$

the expansion $(x^2 + \frac{1}{x})^{18} \rightarrow T_{10}$ is the middle term

$$\therefore T_{10} = {}^{18} C_9 \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^9 (x^2)^9 = {}^{18} C_9 (x^{-9}) (x^{18}) = {}^{18} C_9 x^9$$

$$\therefore \text{the ratio} = {}^{18} C_6 \div {}^{18} C_9 = \frac{21}{55}$$

Example 7

In the expansion $(2 + \frac{x}{3})^9$, find the value of x which makes the two middle terms equal

Solution

The order of the two middle terms $\frac{9+1}{2}$, $\frac{9+3}{2}$ are T_5, T_6
 $\therefore T_5 = T_6 \quad \therefore \cancel{9} C_4 (\frac{x}{3})^4 (2)^5 = \cancel{9} C_5 (\frac{x}{3})^5 (2)^4 \rightarrow \div (\frac{x}{3})^4 (2)^4$
 $2 = \frac{x}{3} \rightarrow x = 6$ [or] Put $2 = \frac{x}{3}$
 $\therefore x = 6$

Example 8

Find the coefficient of the middle term in the expansion $(1 + 3x + 3x^2 + x^3)^4$

Solution

$(1 + 3x + 3x^2 + x^3)^4 = [(1+x)^3]^4 = (1+x)^{12}$
 the order of the middle term is $\frac{12}{2} + 1 = 7$
 $T_7 = {}^{12}C_6 x^6 \rightarrow \therefore$ coefficient of $T_7 = {}^{12}C_6 = 924$

Example 9

Find the term free of x in the expansion

$\frac{2}{x} (\frac{3}{x^2} + 2x)^{10}$

Solution

$T_{r+1} = (\frac{2}{x}) \times {}^{10}C_r (2x)^r (\frac{3}{x^2})^{10-r}$
 $T_{r+1} = {}^{10}C_r (2)^r (x)^r (3^{10-r}) (x^{-2})^{10-r} (2)(x^{-1})$
 $= {}^{10}C_r (2)^{r+1} (3)^{10-r} (x)^{3r-21}$
 put $3r-21 = 0 \rightarrow r = 7$
 $\therefore T_8 = {}^{10}C_7 (2)^8 (3)^3 = 829440$

Example 10

Find the value of term free of x in the expansion

$(2+x)^5 + (1-x)^9$

Solution

the value of the term free of x is $2^5 + 1^9 = \boxed{33}$

Example (III)

In the expansion $(x^K + \frac{1}{x})^{12}$ such that $K \in \mathbb{Z}^+$
 Find ① the values of K for the expansion to have a term free of x
 ② the ratio between the term free of x and the coefficient of the middle term for the greatest value of K obtained

Solution

① let the term free of x T_{r+1}

$$T_{r+1} = {}^{12}C_r \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^r (x^K)^{12-r} = {}^{12}C_r (x)^{-r} (x)^{12K-Kr}$$

$$\therefore T_{r+1} = {}^{12}C_r (x)^{12K-Kr-r}$$

put $12K - Kr - r = 0$

$$\therefore 12K - Kr = r$$

$$K(12-r) = r$$

$$\therefore K = \frac{r}{12-r}, \quad K \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \qquad \therefore K < 12$$

- $r=11 \rightarrow K = \frac{11}{12-11} = 11 \quad \therefore T_{12}$ free of x
- $r=10 \rightarrow K = \frac{10}{12-10} = 5 \quad \therefore T_{11}$ " " "
- $r=9 \rightarrow K = \frac{9}{12-9} = 3 \quad \therefore T_{10}$ " " "
- $r=8 \rightarrow K = \frac{8}{12-8} = 2 \quad \therefore T_9$ " " "
- $r=7 \rightarrow K = \frac{7}{12-7} = \frac{7}{5} \notin \mathbb{Z}^+$
- $r=6 \rightarrow K = \frac{6}{12-6} = 1 \quad \therefore T_7$ " " "

② the greatest value of K obtained = 11 at $r=11$

\therefore the term free of x is $T_{12} = {}^{12}C_{11} = {}^{12}C_1 = 12$

\therefore the order of the middle term = T_7 its coeff ${}^{12}C_6 = 924$

$$\therefore \frac{\text{Term free of } x}{\text{coeff of middle term}} = \frac{12}{924} = \frac{1}{77}$$

Example (12)

Find ① the coefficient of x^2 in $(1-2x)^5(1+x)^{10}$
 ② the coeff of x^2 in the exp $(1+x-2x^2)^8$

Solution

① $(1-2x)^5(1+x)^{10}$
 $= (1 + {}^5C_1(-2x) + {}^5C_2(-2x)^2 + {}^5C_3(-2x)^3 + \dots)$
 $\times (1 + {}^{10}C_1x + {}^{10}C_2x^2 + {}^{10}C_3x^3 + \dots)$

\therefore the term contains x^2 is:

$1 \times {}^{10}C_2 x^2 + {}^5C_1(-2x) \times {}^{10}C_1 x + {}^5C_2(-2x)^2 \times 1$
 $= 45x^2 + 5x(-2x) \times 10x + 10 \times 4x^2$
 $= 45x^2 - 100x^2 + 40x^2 = -15x^2$

\therefore the coefficient of x^2 is -15

another solution

$(1-2x)^5 \rightarrow T_{r+1} = {}^5C_r (-2x)^r = {}^5C_r (-2)^r x^r, r \leq 5$
 $(1+x)^{10} \rightarrow T_{m+1} = {}^{10}C_m (x)^m, m \leq 10$

$\therefore T_{r+1} \times T_{m+1} = {}^5C_r (-2)^r (x)^r \times {}^{10}C_m (x)^m$
 $= {}^5C_r \times {}^{10}C_m (-2)^r (x)^{r+m}$

put $r+m=2$

\therefore the coeff of $x^2 = {}^5C_r \times {}^{10}C_m (-2)^r$

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| r | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| m | 2 | 1 | 0 |

\therefore the coefficient of $x^2 = {}^5C_0 \times {}^{10}C_2 \times (-2)^2 + {}^5C_1 \times {}^{10}C_1 \times (-2)^1 + {}^5C_2 \times {}^{10}C_0 \times (-2)^2 = 45 + (-100) + 40 = -15$

② $[1+x(1-2x)]^8$ its general term $T_{r+1}, r \leq 8$

$T_{r+1} = {}^8C_r [x(1-2x)]^r = {}^8C_r (x)^r (1-2x)^r \rightarrow$ ①

$(1-2x)^r \rightarrow$ its general term $T_{m+1} \rightarrow m \leq r$

$T_{m+1} = {}^rC_m (-2x)^m = {}^rC_m (-2)^m (x)^m$ by substitution ①

$T_{r+1} = {}^8C_r (x)^r \times {}^rC_m (-2)^m (x)^m = {}^8C_r \times {}^rC_m (-2)^m (x)^{r+m}, m, r \leq 8$

put $r+m=2$

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| r | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| m | 0 | 1 | 2 |

\therefore the coeff of the term containing $x^2 = {}^8C_2 {}^2C_0 (-2)^0 + {}^8C_1 {}^1C_1 (-2)^1 = 12$

Ratio between consecutive terms in the binomial expansion $(x+a)^n$

$$\frac{T_{r+1}}{T_r} = \frac{n-r+1}{r} \times \frac{a}{x}$$

Proof

$$T_{r+1} = {}^n C_r (a)^r (x)^{n-r}$$

$$T_r = {}^n C_{r-1} (a)^{r-1} (x)^{n-r+1}$$

$$\frac{T_{r+1}}{T_r} = \frac{{}^n C_r (a)^r (x)^{n-r}}{{}^n C_{r-1} (a)^{r-1} (x)^{n-r+1}} = \frac{n-r+1}{r} \times \frac{a}{x}$$

Remark

$$\frac{\text{Coefficient of } T_{r+1}}{\text{Coefficient of } T_r} = \frac{n-r+1}{r} \times \frac{\text{Coefficient of 2nd}}{\text{Coefficient of 1st}}$$

Notice the difference between

$$\frac{{}^n C_r}{{}^n C_{r-1}} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{T_{r+1}}{T_r}$$

$$\frac{{}^n C_r}{{}^n C_{r-1}} = \frac{n-r+1}{r} = \frac{n - (\text{the greater}) + 1}{\text{the greater}}$$

$$\text{eg: } \frac{{}^7 C_5}{{}^7 C_4} = \frac{7-5+1}{5} = \frac{3}{5}$$

$$\frac{T_{r+1}}{T_r} = \frac{n-r+1}{r} \times \frac{\text{second}}{\text{first}} = \frac{n - (\text{the smaller}) + 1}{\text{the smaller}} \times \frac{\text{second}}{\text{first}}$$

$$\text{eg: In the expansion of } (x+5)^7$$

$$\frac{T_5}{T_4} = \frac{7-4+1}{4} \times \frac{5}{x} = \frac{5}{x}$$

Example 1 In the expansion $(x+2y)^{12}$ find each of

① $\frac{T_3}{T_2}$

② $\frac{T_8}{T_9}$

③ $\frac{\text{Coefficient of } T_7}{\text{Coefficient of } T_8}$

④ $\frac{T_6}{T_4}$

⑤ $\frac{\text{Coefficient of } T_8}{\text{Coefficient of } T_6}$

Solution

$$\textcircled{1} \frac{T_3}{T_2} = \frac{12-2+1}{2} \times \frac{2y}{x} = \frac{11}{2} \times \frac{2y}{x} = \frac{11y}{x}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \frac{T_8}{T_9} = \frac{8}{12-8+1} \times \frac{x}{2y} = \frac{8}{5} \times \frac{x}{2y} = \frac{x}{y}$$

$$\textcircled{3} \frac{\text{Coefficient of } T_7}{\text{Coefficient of } T_8} = \frac{7}{12-7+1} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{7}{12}$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad \frac{T_6}{T_4} = \frac{T_6}{T_5} \times \frac{T_5}{T_4} = \frac{12-5+1}{5} \times \frac{2y}{x} \times \frac{12-4+1}{4} \times \frac{2y}{x} = \frac{72y^2}{5x^2}$$

$$\textcircled{5} \quad \frac{\text{coefficient of } T_8}{\text{coefficient of } T_6} = \frac{\text{coefficient of } T_8}{\text{coefficient of } T_7} \times \frac{\text{coefficient of } T_7}{\text{coefficient of } T_6}$$

$$= \frac{12-7+1}{7} \times \frac{2}{1} \times \frac{12-6+1}{6} \times \frac{2}{1} = 4$$

Example 2

In the expansion $(x^2 + \frac{2}{x})^8$

First: Find the ratio between the fifth and the sixth terms. If this ratio equals 8:25, find the value of x

Second: Prove that this expansion does not have a term free of x

Solution

$$\frac{T_6}{T_5} = \frac{8-5+1}{5} \times \frac{\frac{2}{x}}{x^2} = \frac{25}{8}$$

$$\frac{4}{5} \times \frac{2}{x^3} = \frac{25}{8}$$

$$\frac{2}{x^3} = \frac{25}{8} \div \frac{4}{5} \Rightarrow \frac{2}{x^3} = \frac{125}{32} \therefore x = \frac{4}{5}$$

$$T_{r+1} = {}^8C_r \left(\frac{2}{x}\right)^r (x^2)^{8-r}$$

$$= {}^8C_r (2)^r (x)^{-r} (x)^{16-2r}$$

$$= {}^8C_r (2)^r (x)^{16-3r}$$

put $16-3r=0 \rightarrow r = \frac{16}{3} \notin \mathbb{N} \therefore$ there is no term free of x.

Example 3

In the expansion of $(x+y)^8$ if $2T_5 = T_4 + T_6$

find $\frac{x}{y}$ numerically

Solution

$$2T_5 = T_4 + T_6 \rightarrow \div T_5$$

$$\frac{T_4}{T_5} + \frac{T_6}{T_5} = 2$$

$$\frac{4}{8-4+1} \left(\frac{x}{y}\right) + \frac{8-5+1}{5} \left(\frac{y}{x}\right) = 2$$

$$\frac{4}{5} \times \frac{x}{y} + \frac{4}{5} \times \frac{y}{x} = 2 \rightarrow x^2 - 5xy + y^2 = 0$$

$$\frac{4}{5} \times \frac{x}{y} \times 5xy + \frac{4}{5} \times \frac{y}{x} \times 5xy = 10xy$$

$$4x^2 + 4y^2 = 10xy \rightarrow \div 2$$

$$2x^2 - 5xy + 2y^2 = 0$$

$$(2x - y)(x - 2y) = 0$$

$$2x - y = 0$$

$$2x = y$$

$$\frac{x}{y} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$x - 2y = 0$$

$$x = 2y$$

$$\frac{x}{y} = 2$$

Example (4) In the expansion of $(\sqrt{x} + \frac{1}{x})^8$, If $T_4, T_5, 25T_7$ and T_6 are proportional, find the value of x

Solution

$$\therefore \frac{T_4}{T_5} = \frac{25T_7}{T_6} \Rightarrow \frac{4}{8-4+1} \times \frac{\sqrt{x}}{\frac{1}{x}} = \frac{25(8-6+1)}{6} \times \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{\sqrt{x}}$$

$$\frac{4}{5} \sqrt{x} \times x = 25 \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{x\sqrt{x}} \rightarrow x \log x \sqrt{x}$$

$$8x^2 \times x = 125 \rightarrow x^3 = \frac{125}{8} \rightarrow x = \frac{5}{2}$$

Example (5) If the coefficients of three consecutive terms of the expansion of $(1+x)^n$ are 35, 21, 7 according to the ascending power of x , find the value for each of n and the orders of these three terms.

Solution.

Let the terms are T_r, T_{r+1}, T_{r+2}

$$\frac{\text{Coefficient of } T_{r+1}}{\text{Coefficient of } T_r} = \frac{n-r+1}{r} = \frac{21}{35}$$

$$\therefore \frac{n-r+1}{r} = \frac{3}{5}$$

$$\therefore 5n - 5r + 5 = 3r$$

$$\therefore 5n - 8r = -5 \rightarrow \textcircled{1}$$

$$\frac{\text{Coefficient of } T_{r+2}}{\text{Coefficient of } T_{r+1}} = \frac{n-(r+1)+1}{r+1} = \frac{7}{21}$$

$$\therefore \frac{n-r}{r+1} = \frac{1}{3} \rightarrow 3n - 3r = r+1$$

$$\therefore 3n - 4r = 1 \rightarrow \textcircled{2}$$

$$\text{from } \textcircled{1} \text{ \& } \textcircled{2} \therefore \begin{cases} 5n - 8r = -5 \\ 3n - 4r = 1 \end{cases} \text{ solve}$$

$$n = 7, r = 5$$

Example (6) If the third, fourth and fifth terms of the expansion $(x+y)^n$ are 112, 448, 1120 respectively

Find the value of each of n, y, x .

Solution

$$\therefore \frac{T_4}{T_3} = \frac{448}{112} \rightarrow \therefore \frac{n-3+1}{3} \times \frac{y}{x} = 4 \rightarrow x^3$$

$$\therefore (n-2) \left(\frac{y}{x}\right) = 12 \rightarrow \textcircled{1}$$

$$\frac{T_5}{T_4} = \frac{1120}{448} \rightarrow \therefore \frac{n-4+1}{4} \times \frac{y}{x} = \frac{5}{2} \rightarrow x^4$$

$$(n-3) \left(\frac{y}{x}\right) = 10 \rightarrow \textcircled{2}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \div \textcircled{2}$$

$$\frac{n-2}{n-3} = \frac{6}{5}$$

$$6n - 18 = 5n - 10$$

$$n = 8$$

$$\text{from } \textcircled{1} (8-2)\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) = 12 \rightarrow \frac{y}{x} = 2 \rightarrow \therefore y = 2x$$

$$\therefore T_3 = {}^8C_2 (y^2)(x)^6 = 112$$

$$\frac{8 \times 7}{2 \times 1} (4x^2)x^6 = 112$$

$$112x^8 = 112 \rightarrow x^8 = 1 \rightarrow x = \pm 1 \rightarrow \therefore y = \pm 2$$

Finding the greatest term

Example 7

Find the coefficient of the greatest term in the expansion

① $(1+x)^{10}$ ② $(1-x)^{17}$ ③ $(2x+3y)^{10}$ ④ $(1+\frac{1}{x})^9$

Solution

① $(1+x)^{10} \rightarrow$ even \rightarrow the greatest coeff = coeff. of the middle term $T_6 = {}^{10}C_5 = 252$

② $(1-x)^{17} \rightarrow$ odd \rightarrow the greatest coeff = the coefficient of the two middle terms

middle terms = $\frac{17+1}{2}, \frac{17+3}{2}$

coeff ${}^{17}C_8, {}^{17}C_9$

= ${}^{17}C_8 = {}^{17}C_9$

= 24310

③ $(2x+3y)^{10}$

Put $\frac{T_{r+1}}{T_r} \geq 1 \rightarrow \therefore \frac{10-r+1}{r} \times \frac{3}{2} \geq 1 \rightarrow \therefore \frac{33-3r}{2r} \geq 1 \rightarrow \therefore 33-3r \geq 2r$

$\therefore 33 \geq 2r+3r \rightarrow \therefore 33 \geq 5r \rightarrow \therefore r \leq \frac{33}{5} = 6.6$

$\therefore r \leq 6.6 \notin \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \therefore r = 6$

$\therefore T_{6+1} = T_7$ has the greatest coefficient

\therefore the greatest coefficient = ${}^{10}C_6 \times (3)^5 (2)^4 = 2449440$

④ $(1+\frac{1}{x})^9$

Put $\frac{T_{r+1}}{T_r} \geq 1 \rightarrow \therefore \frac{9-r+1}{r} \times \frac{1}{1} \geq 1 \rightarrow \therefore \frac{10-r}{r} \geq 1 \rightarrow \therefore 10-r \geq r$

$\therefore 2r \leq 10 \rightarrow \therefore r \leq 5 \in \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow r = 5 \text{ or } r = 4$

$\therefore T_{4+1} = T_{5+1}$ and they are the greatest term (have the greatest coeff)

$\therefore T_5 = {}^9C_4 \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^4 (1)^5 = 126 \times \frac{1}{x^4} \rightarrow \therefore$ the greatest coeff = 126

Example 8

In the expansion $(2 + \frac{x}{3})^9$

- ① find the value of x for which the two middle terms are equal
- ② find the coefficient of the greatest term

Solution

① The two middle terms are $T_{\frac{9+1}{2}}$, $T_{\frac{9+3}{2}} \rightarrow T_5, T_6$

$$T_6 = T_5 \quad \therefore$$

$$\therefore \frac{T_6}{T_5} = 1 \rightarrow \frac{9-5+1}{5} \times \frac{\frac{x}{3}}{2} = 1 \rightarrow \therefore \frac{x}{6} = 1 \rightarrow x = 6$$

$$\textcircled{2} \text{ Put } \frac{T_{r+1}}{T_r} \geq 1 \rightarrow \frac{9-r+1}{r} \times \frac{1}{3} \geq 1 \rightarrow \frac{10-r}{r} \times \frac{1}{6} \geq 1$$

$$\frac{10-r}{6r} \geq 1 \rightarrow 10-r \geq 6r \rightarrow 10 \geq 7r \rightarrow r \leq \frac{10}{7}$$

$$\therefore r \leq 1.4 \notin \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow r = 1 \rightarrow T_{1+1} = T_2 \text{ has the greatest coeff.}$$

$$T_2 = {}^9C_1 \left(\frac{x}{3}\right)^1 (2)^8 = 9(x)(3^{-1})(2^8) = 768x$$

\therefore the coefficient of the greatest term is 768

Remarks

① the sum of the coefficients of the expansion of $(ax \pm by)^n$ is $(a \pm b)^n$ or put $x = 1, y = 1$ then calculate:

② To find the term free of $x \rightarrow$ find the general term then put the power of $x = 0$

or directly: the order of the term free of x

$$= \frac{\text{Power of binomial} \times \text{Power of the first term}}{\text{Power of first term} - \text{Power of 2nd term}} + 1$$

eg: the order of the term free of x in the binomial $(x^2 - \frac{1}{x^4})^{12}$

$$\text{is } \frac{12 \times 2}{2 - (-4)} + 1 = 5 \therefore \text{the } T_5 \text{ is free of } x$$

Ans. Ex. (1.2)

1) a) 14

2) d) 3

$$(1+x)^5 = 1024$$

$$(1+x)^5 = (4)^5$$

$$1+x=4$$

$$x=3$$

3) d) Zero

4) c) $16^{10} C_4$

$$T_5 = {}^{10}C_4 (1)^6 (2x)^4 = 16^{10} C_4 (x)^4$$

$$\therefore \text{Coeff.} = 16^{10} C_4$$

5) b) T_4

$$24 - 4r = 12$$

$$24 - 12 = 4r$$

$$4r = 12$$

$$\therefore r = 3$$

$$\therefore T_{r+1} = T_4$$

6) d) $a=2b$

7) b) 2

The middle term $\frac{n+2}{2}$

$$\frac{8n+2}{2} = 9$$

$$8n+2 = 18$$

$$8n = 16$$

$$n = 2$$

8) c) ${}^9C_5 b^5$

$$T_6 = {}^9C_5 (bx)^5$$

$$= {}^9C_5 (b)^5 (x)^5$$

$$\therefore \text{Coeff.} = {}^9C_5 (b)^5$$

9) a) $(a-b)^{12}$

$$\therefore \text{no. of terms equal to } =$$

$$7+6=13 \text{ terms}$$

$$\therefore \text{power} = n = 13 - 1 = 12$$

$$\therefore \text{terms are positive \&}$$

$$\text{negative} \therefore \text{sign is negative}$$

second:

$$10) (1+x)^8 = 256$$

$$(1+x)^8 = (2)^8$$

$$\therefore 1+x=2$$

$$x=1$$

$$(1+x)^8 = 256$$

$$(1+x)^8 = (-2)^8$$

$$1+x=-2$$

$$x=-3$$

$$11) a) (1.003)^5 = (1+0.003)^5 = 1 + {}^5C_1 (0.003) + {}^5C_2 (0.003)^2 + {}^5C_3 (0.003)^3 + {}^5C_4 (0.003)^4 + (0.003)^5 = 1.0151$$

$$b) (0.998)^7 = (1-0.002)^7 = 1 - {}^7C_1 (0.002) + {}^7C_2 (0.002)^2 - {}^7C_3 (0.002)^3 + {}^7C_4 (0.002)^4 - \dots = 0.986$$

$$c) (1+0.01)^6 + (1-0.01)^6 = 2(T_1 + T_3 + T_5 + T_7)$$

$$= 2({}^6C_0 (0.01)^0 + {}^6C_2 (0.01)^2 + {}^6C_4 (0.01)^4 + {}^6C_6 (0.01)^6)$$

$$\approx 2.003$$

$$d) (1+0.02)^8 - (1-0.02)^8 = 2(T_2 + T_4 + T_6 + T_8)$$

$$= 2({}^8C_1 (0.02) + {}^8C_3 (0.02)^3 + {}^8C_5 (0.02)^5 + {}^8C_7 (0.02)^7)$$

$$\approx 0.321$$

$$12) (1+\sqrt{3})^6 - (1-\sqrt{3})^6 = 480\sqrt{3} x$$

$$2(T_2 + T_4 + T_6) = 480\sqrt{3} x$$

$$2({}^6C_1 (\sqrt{3}) + {}^6C_3 (\sqrt{3})^3 + {}^6C_5 (\sqrt{3})^5) = 480\sqrt{3} x$$

$$240\sqrt{3} = 480\sqrt{3} x \quad \therefore x = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$14) a) \left(\frac{2}{x} + \frac{x}{4} \right)^4$$

$$= \left(\frac{2}{x} \right)^4 + {}^4C_1 \left(\frac{2}{x} \right)^3 \left(\frac{x}{4} \right) + {}^4C_2 \left(\frac{2}{x} \right)^2 \left(\frac{x}{4} \right)^2 + {}^4C_3 \left(\frac{2}{x} \right) \left(\frac{x}{4} \right)^3 + \left(\frac{x}{4} \right)^4$$

$$= \frac{16}{x^4} + \frac{16}{x^2} + 6 + x^2 + \frac{1}{16} x^4$$

$$b) \left(x - \frac{1}{x} \right)^5 = x^5 - {}^5C_1 (x)^4 \left(\frac{1}{x} \right) + {}^5C_2 (x)^3 \left(\frac{1}{x} \right)^2 - {}^5C_3 (x)^2 \left(\frac{1}{x} \right)^3$$

$$+ {}^5C_4 (x) \left(\frac{1}{x} \right)^4 - \left(\frac{1}{x} \right)^5 = x^5 - 5x^3 + 10x - \frac{10}{x} + \frac{5}{x^3} - \frac{1}{x^5}$$

$$c) (x + \sqrt{2})^4 + (x - \sqrt{2})^4 = 2(T_1 + T_3 + T_5)$$

$$= 2({}^4C_0 (x)^4 + {}^4C_2 (x)^2 (\sqrt{2})^2 + {}^4C_4 (\sqrt{2})^4) = 2x^4 + 24x^2 + 8$$

$$d) (\sqrt{3} + 2x)^5 - (\sqrt{3} - 2x)^5 = 2(T_2 + T_4 + T_6)$$

$$= 2({}^5C_1 (2x) (\sqrt{3})^4 + {}^5C_3 (2x)^3 (\sqrt{3})^2 + {}^5C_5 (2x)^5)$$

$$= 2(90x + 240x^3 + 32x^5) = 180x + 480x^3 + 64x^5$$

$$15) T_5 = {}^nC_4 x^4 = 1120$$

$$70x^4 = 1120$$

$$x^4 = 16$$

$$\therefore x = \pm 2$$

$$T_3 = 28x^2$$

$${}^nC_2 x^2 = 28x^2$$

$${}^nC_2 = 28$$

$$\therefore n = 8$$

$$16) T_6 = {}^nC_5 (x)^5, T_{10} = {}^nC_9 (x)^9$$

$${}^nC_5 = {}^nC_9$$

$$n = 14$$

$$17) T_6 = {}^{10}C_5 (b)^5 (ax)^5 = {}^{10}C_5 (b)^5 (a)^5 (x)^5$$

$$\therefore {}^{10}C_5 (b)^5 (a)^5 = \frac{63}{8} \rightarrow 252 (ab)^5 = \frac{63}{8}$$

$$(ab)^5 = \frac{1}{32} \rightarrow \therefore ab = \frac{1}{2} \quad \therefore 2ab = 1$$

$$18) \text{ middle term} = \frac{n}{2} + 1 = \frac{12}{2} + 1 = 7$$

$$T_7 = {}^{12}C_6 (2x^2)^6 \left(\frac{1}{2x}\right)^6 = 924 x^6$$

$$19) \text{ The middle terms are: } \frac{n+1}{2} \text{ , } \frac{n+3}{2} \quad \therefore \frac{n+1}{2} = \frac{11+1}{2} = 6$$

$$\frac{n+3}{2} = \frac{11+3}{2} = 7$$

$$T_6 = {}^{11}C_5 \left(\frac{x^2}{2}\right)^6 \left(\frac{-2}{x}\right)^5 = -231 x^7, \quad T_7 = {}^{11}C_6 \left(\frac{x^2}{2}\right)^5 \left(\frac{-2}{x}\right)^6 = 924 x^4$$

20) T_4 from the end = T_7 from the beginning

$$T_7 = {}^9C_6 (x)^3 \left(\frac{-1}{x}\right)^6 = {}^9C_6 (x^3) (x^{-6}) = {}^9C_6 (x^{-3})$$

$$x^4 \cdot T_7 = {}^9C_6 (x^{-3})(x^4) = {}^9C_6 x = 84x$$

$$21) \text{ The middle term is } = \frac{n}{2} + 1 = \frac{10}{2} + 1 = 6$$

$$T_6 = {}^{10}C_5 (x^2)^5 \left(\frac{1}{2x}\right)^5 = {}^{10}C_5 (x)^{10} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^5 (x)^{-5} = 252 x \frac{1}{32} (x)^5$$

$$= \frac{63}{8} x^5$$

$$\therefore \frac{63}{8} x^5 = \frac{28}{7} \rightarrow x^5 = \frac{32}{243} \quad \therefore x = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$22) \text{ middle term is: } \frac{n}{2} + 1 = \frac{10}{2} + 1 = 6$$

$$\frac{T_6}{T_5} = \frac{{}^{10}C_5 \left(\frac{2x}{3}\right)^5 \left(\frac{3}{2x}\right)^5}$$

$${}^{10}C_4 \left(\frac{2x}{3}\right)^6 \left(\frac{3}{2x}\right)^4$$

then put $x=3$

$$\frac{T_6}{T_5} = \frac{{}^{10}C_5 (2)^5 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^5}{{}^{10}C_4 (2)^6 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^4} = \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{252}{210} = \frac{3}{10}$$

$$23) \frac{T_5}{T_4} = -\frac{16}{15}$$

$$T_5 = {}^{15}C_4 (x)^{11} \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^4 = {}^{15}C_4 (x)^{11} (x^{-1})^4 = {}^{15}C_4 (x)^7$$

$$T_4 = {}^{14}C_3 (x)^{11} \left(\frac{-1}{x^2}\right)^3 = -{}^{14}C_3 (x)^{11} (x)^{-6} = -{}^{14}C_3 x^5$$

$$\frac{T_5}{T_4} = \frac{{}^{15}C_4 (x)^7}{{}^{14}C_3 (x)^5} = -\frac{{}^{15}C_4}{{}^{14}C_3} x^2$$

$$\therefore \frac{T_5}{T_4} = -\frac{16}{15}$$

$$\therefore \frac{{}^{15}C_4}{{}^{14}C_3} x^2 = -\frac{16}{15} \quad \frac{1365}{364} x^2 = \frac{16}{15}$$

$$\therefore x^2 = \frac{64}{225} \quad \therefore x = \pm \frac{8}{15}$$