Zbl 401.10003

Erdős, Paul; Szekeres, G.

Some number theoretic problems on binomial coefficients. (In English) Aust. Math. Soc. Gaz. 5, 97-99 (1978). [0311-0729]

In this paper some problems which are simple to state but probably difficult to solve are posed concerning binomial coefficients. Let P(m, n) denote the greatest prime factor of (m, n). Then the authors conjecture that if $1 \le j \le n/2$ then $P(\binom{n}{i}, \binom{n}{j}] \ge i$ with equality holding only in a few special cases (several of which are given). If $f(n) = \min_{1 \le j \le n/2} (n, [\binom{n}{j}))$ it is not difficult to show that $f(n) \ge p(n)$ is the smallest prime factor of n, and that if n is not a prime power then $f(n) \le n/P(n)$ where P(n) is the greatest prime power which divides n. The authors remark that it would be of interest to characterize those n for which f(n) = n/P(n). (For example, f(30) = 6.) They also mention that it seems likely that $f(n) > \sqrt{n}$ for infinitely many n.

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Classification:

11A05 Multiplicative structure of the integers05A10 Combinatorial functions11A41 Elementary prime number theory00A07 Problem books

Keywords:

binomial coefficients; prime factors