

### Problem

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PROBLEM: Let  $k$  and  $n$  be positive integers, and let  $m = \min\{k, n\}$ . Prove that for each integer  $y \in [0, m]$ , we have

$$\sum_{x=y}^m \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ x \end{matrix} \right\} (x)_y (k-y)_{x-y} = \sum_{i=0}^y \binom{y}{i} (-1)^i (k-i)^n.$$

Here, for  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , we have  $(a)_b := a(a-1)\cdots(a-b+1)$  and  $(a)_0 := 1$ , and  $\left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ x \end{matrix} \right\}$  is the Stirling number of the second kind, i.e. the number of ways to partition the set  $[n] := \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  into  $x$  nonempty blocks.