

**Solution of 12022. (Proposed by Mircea Merca), by Shalosh B. Ekhad,  
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Let  $F(n, k)$  be the summand. We have to prove that  $a(n) := \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} F(n, k)$  equals  $n$ . We cleverly come up with  $G(n, k) = -(1 - x^n) \cdots (1 - x^{n-k+1})$ , that satisfies

$F(n+1, k) - F(n, k) = G(n, k+1) - G(n, k)$  (check!) . Hence

$$a(n+1) - a(n) = F(n+1, n) + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (F(n+1, k) - F(n, k)) = F(n+1, n) + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (G(n, k+1) - G(n, k))$$

$$= F(n+1, n) + G(n, n) - G(n, 0) = (1 - x^n) \cdots (1 - x) + (-(1 - x^n) \cdots (1 - x)) - (-1) = 1 \quad .$$

Since  $a(0) = 0$ , we have  $a(n) = n$ . The second identity is obtained from the first by replacing  $x$  by  $1/x$  and simplifying.