

**POW2011-24** -  $(n - k)$  choose  $k$

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Let  $g(x)$  be a generating function of the given sum. then

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \left( \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{n-k}{k} (-4)^{n-k} \right) x^n \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \left( \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{k}{n-k} (-4)^k \right) x^n \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} (-4)^k x^k \left( \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{k}{n-k} x^{n-k} \right) \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} (-4)^k x^k (1+x)^k \\ &= \frac{1}{1+4x+4x^2} = \frac{1}{(1+2x)^2} = \frac{-1}{2} \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{1+2x} \right) \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} (n+1)(-2x)^n \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the given sum is exactly  $(n+1)(-2)^n$ .