

1.(3 points) Prove the following binomial identity:  $\binom{2n}{n} = \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j}^2$ .

*Hint:* Consider an urn with  $n$  red balls and  $n$  blue balls inside. Show that each side of the equation equals the number of ways to choose  $n$  balls from the urn.

2.(2 points) Find two sequences of positive real numbers,  $\{a_n\}$  and  $\{b_n\}$ , such that  $a_n \sim b_n$  but  $a_n^n \not\sim b_n^n$ .

**Bonus** (+2 points) Prove:  $\binom{2n}{n} < 4^n$ . Do NOT use Stirling's formula. Your proof should be just one line.