Generating Functions

Section 8.4

Generating Functions

Definition: The *generating function for the sequence* $a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_k, \ldots$ of real numbers is the infinite series

$$G(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + \cdots + a_k x^k + \cdots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^k.$$

Examples:

- The sequence $\{a_k\}$ with $a_k = 3$ has the generating function $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 3x^k.$
- The sequence $\{a_k\}$ with $a_k = k + 1$ has the generating function has the generating function $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1)x^k.$
- The sequence $\{a_k\}$ with $a_k = 2^k$ has the generating function has the generating function $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 2^k x^k.$

Generating Functions for Finite Sequences (continued)

Example: What is the generating function for the sequence 1,1,1,1,1,1?

Solution: The generating function of 1,1,1,1,1,1 is

$$1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^5.$$

By Theorem 1 of Section 2.4, we have

$$(x^6 - 1)/(x - 1) = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^5$$

when $x \neq 1$.

Consequently $G(x) = (x^6 - 1)/(x - 1)$ is the generating function of the sequence.

Infinite sequence

- the sequence 1,1,1,1,1,1.......
- $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k$
- $\lim(x^{\mathrm{k}} - 1)/(x - 1)$
- If |x|<1, this sum is 1/(1-x)
- Solving counting problem, convergence are often ignored. If we want to use some important results, be attention to its convergence.

Extended binomial coefficient

- Definition Let u be a real number and k a nonnegative integer. Then the extended binomial coefficient $\binom{u}{k}$ is defined by

- $\binom{u}{k}=\begin{cases} \frac{u(u-1)\ldots.u-k+1}{k!} & if\ k>0 \\ 1 & if\ \ k=0 \end{cases}$

Extended binomial coefficient

- Example : when the top parameter is a negative integer, the extended binomial coefficient can be expressed in terms of an ordinary binomial coefficient.
- $\binom{-n}{r}=(-1)^r C(n+r-1, r)$

Extended binomial theorem

- Let x be a real number with |x|<1 and let u be a real number. Then

$$(1+x)^u = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{u}{k} x^k$$

Useful Generating Functions

TABLE 1 **Useful Generating Functions.**

$G(x)$	a_k
$(1+x)^n = \sum_{k=0}^{n} C(n,k)x^k = 1 + C(n,1)x + C(n,2)x^2 + \cdots + x^n$	$C(n,k)$
$(1+ax)^n = \sum_{k=0}^{n} C(n,k)a^k x^k = 1 + C(n,1)ax + C(n,2)a^2x^2 + \cdots + a^n x^n$	$C(n,k)a^k$
$(1+x^r)^n = \sum_{k=0}^{n} C(n,k)x^{rk} = 1 + C(n,1)x^r + C(n,2)x^{2r} + \cdots + x^{rn}$	$C(n,k/r)$ if $r \mid k$; 0 otherwise
$\frac{1-x^{n+1}}{1-x} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} x^k = 1 + x + x^2 + \cdots + x^n$	1 if $k \le n$; 0 otherwise
$\frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k = 1 + x + x^2 + \cdots$	1
$\frac{1}{1-ax} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a^k x^k = 1 + ax + a^2x^2 + \cdots$	a^k
$\frac{1}{1-x^r} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{rk} = 1 + x^r + x^{2r} + \cdots$	1 if $r \mid k$; 0 otherwise
$\frac{1}{(1-x)^2} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1)x^k = 1 + 2x + 3x^2 + \cdots$	$k+1$
$\frac{1}{(1-x)^n} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} C(n+k-1,k)x^k = 1 + C(n,1)x + C(n+1,2)x^2 + \cdots$	$C(n+k-1,k) = C(n+k-1,n-1)$
$\frac{1}{(1+x)^n} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} C(n+k-1,k)(-1)^k x^k = 1 - C(n,1)x + C(n+1,2)x^2 - \cdots$	$(-1)^k C(n+k-1,k) = (-1)^k C(n+k-1,n-1)$
$\frac{1}{(1-ax)^n} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} C(n+k-1,k)a^k x^k = 1 + C(n,1)ax + C(n+1,2)a^2x^2 + \cdots$	$C(n+k-1,k)a^k = C(n+k-1,n-1)a^k$
$e^x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!} = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \cdots$	$1/k!$
$\ln(1+x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{k} x^k = x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \cdots$	$(-1)^{k+1}/k$

Note: The series for the last two generating functions can be found in most calculus books when power series are discussed.

Example: Find the number of solutions of

$$e_1 + e_2 + e_3 = 17,$$

where e_1, e_2, and e_3 are nonnegative integers with $2 \le e_1 \le 5$, $3 \le e_2 \le 6$, and $4 \le e_3 \le 7$.

Solution: The number of solutions is the coefficient of x^{17} in the expansion of

$$(x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^5)\,(x^3 + x^4 + x^5 + x^6)\,(x^4 + x^5 + x^6 + x^7).$$

This follows because a term equal to is obtained in the product by picking a term in the first sum x^{e_1}, a term in the second sum x^{e_2}, and a term in the third sum x^{e_3}, where $e_1 + e_2 + e_3 = 17$.

There are three solutions since the coefficient of x^{17} in the product is 3.

Example

- In how many different ways can eight identical cookies be distributed among three distinct children if each child receives at least two cookies and no more than four cookies?

Solution: Because each child receives at least two but no more than four cookies, for each child there is a factor equal to

$$(x^2 + x^3 + x^4)$$

in the generating function for the sequence $\{c_n\}$, where c_n is the number of ways to distribute n cookies. Because there are three children, this generating function is

$$(x^2 + x^3 + x^4)^3.$$

We need the coefficient of x8 in this product

Example

Suppose that a valid codeword is an n-digit number in decimal notation containing an even number of 0s. Let a_n denote the number of valid codewords of length n. In Example 4 of Section 8.1 we showed that the sequence $\{a_n\}$ satisfies the recurrence relation

$$a_n = 8a_{n-1} + 10^{n-1}$$

and the initial condition $a_1 = 9$. Use generating functions to find an explicit formula for a_n.

Solution: To make our work with generating functions simpler, we extend this sequence by setting $a_0 = 1$; when we assign this value to a_0 and use the recurrence relation, we have $a_1 = 8a_0 + 10^0 = 8 + 1 = 9$, which is consistent with our original initial condition. (It also makes sense because there is one code word of length 0—the empty string.)

We multiply both sides of the recurrence relation by x^n to obtain

$$a_n x^n = 8a_{n-1}x^n + 10^{n-1}x^n.$$

Let $G(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ be the generating function of the sequence $a_0, a_1, a_2, \ldots$. We sum both sides of the last equation starting with $n = 1$, to find that

$$\begin{aligned}
G(x) - 1 &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n x^n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (8a_{n-1}x^n + 10^{n-1}x^n) \\
&= 8\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n-1}x^n + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 10^{n-1}x^n \\
&= 8x\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + x\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 10^{n-1}x^{n-1} \\
&= 8x\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n + x\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 10^n x^n \\
&= 8xG(x) + x/(1 - 10x),
\end{aligned}$$

Solving for $G(x)$ shows that

$$G(x) = \frac{1 - 9x}{(1 - 8x)(1 - 10x)}.$$

Expanding the right-hand side of this equation into partial fractions (as is done in the integration of rational functions studied in calculus) gives

$$G(x) = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{1 - 8x} + \frac{1}{1 - 10x}\right).$$

Using Example 5 twice (once with $a = 8$ and once with $a = 10$) gives

$$\begin{aligned} G(x) &= \frac{1}{2}\left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 8^n x^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 10^n x^n\right) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2}(8^n + 10^n)x^n. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, we have shown that

$$a_n = \frac{1}{2}(8^n + 10^n).$$

Inclusion-Exclusion

Section 8.5

Principle of Inclusion-Exclusion

- In Section 2.2, we developed the following formula for the number of elements in the union of two finite sets:

$$|A \cup B| = |A| + |B| - |A \cap B|$$

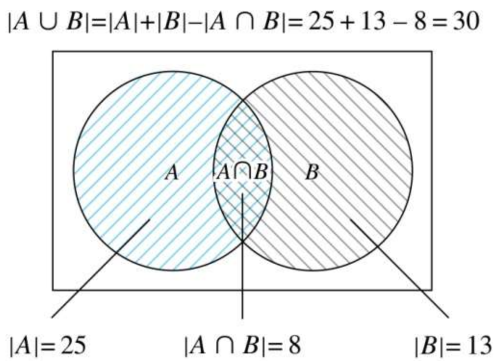
- We will generalize this formula to finite sets of any size.

Two Finite Sets

Example: In a discrete mathematics class every student is a major in computer science or mathematics or both. The number of students having computer science as a major (possibly along with mathematics) is 25; the number of students having mathematics as a major (possibly along with computer science) is 13; and the number of students majoring in both computer science and mathematics is 8. How many students are in the class?

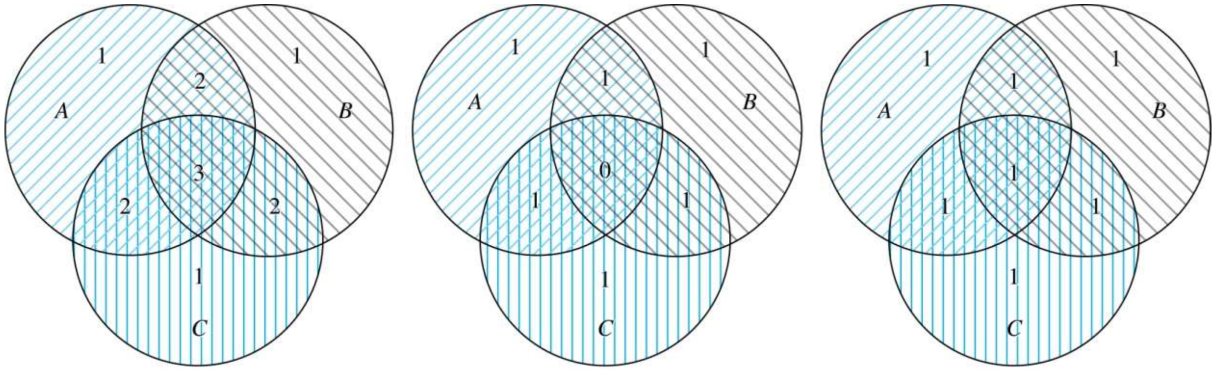
Solution: $|A \cup B| = |A| + |B| - |A \cap B|$

$$= 25 + 13 - 8 = 30$$



Three Finite Sets

$$|A \cup B \cup C| =$$
$$|A| + |B| + |C| - |A \cap B| - |A \cap C| - |B \cap C| + |A \cap B \cap C|$$



(a) Count of elements by $|A|+|B|+|C|$

(b) Count of elements by $|A|+|B|+|C|-|A\cap B|-|A\cap C|-|B\cap C|$

(c) Count of elements by $|A|+|B|+|C|-|A\cap B|-|A\cap C|-|B\cap C|+|A\cap B\cap C|$

Three Finite Sets Continued

Example: A total of 1232 students have taken a course in Spanish, 879 have taken a course in French, and 114 have taken a course in Russian. Further, 103 have taken courses in both Spanish and French, 23 have taken courses in both Spanish and Russian, and 14 have taken courses in both French and Russian. If 2092 students have taken a course in at least one of Spanish French and Russian, how many students have taken a course in all 3 languages.

Solution: Let *S* be the set of students who have taken a course in Spanish, *F* the set of students who have taken a course in French, and *R* the set of students who have taken a course in Russian. Then, we have

$|S| = 1232$, $|F| = 879$, $|R| = 114$, $|S \cap F| = 103$, $|S \cap R| = 23$, $|F \cap R| = 14$, and $|S \cup F \cup R| = 2092$.

Using the equation

$$|S \cup F \cup R| = |S| + |F| + |R| - |S \cap F| - |S \cap R| - |F \cap R| + |S \cap F \cap R|,$$

we obtain $2092 = 1232 + 879 + 114 - 103 - 23 - 14 + |S \cap F \cap R|$.

Solving for $|S \cap F \cap R|$ yields 7.

The Principle of Inclusion-Exclusion

Theorem 1. The Principle of Inclusion-Exclusion: Let A_1, A_2, …, A_n be finite sets. Then:

$$|A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \cdots \cup A_n| =$$

$$\sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} |A_i| - \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq n} |A_i \cap A_j| +$$

$$\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq k \leq n} |A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k| - \ldots + (-1)^{n+1} |A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \ldots \cap A_n|$$

Homework

- 8.4

8(a,c,e) 12(a,c,e) 17 23 36

- 8.5

9 10