

Generating Function

Introduction

Generating functions is another way of representing the complexity functions of algorithms.

This was introduced by the famous mathematician De Moire.

Abraham De Moire used generating functions to derive the Fibonacci numbers. Leonardo Euler used these functions for partition integers; Pierre Simon Laplace used them extensively and in 1754 published his work on the calculus of generating functions. Generating functions have many applications such as in counting and solving recurrence equations.

The primary use of a generating function is to solve recurrence equations , even when the recurrence is very complex.

Formally , a generating function represents a given sequence as a power series.

Let $a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n$ be finite sequence of numbers, the generating function can be expressed as a power series in the following way:

$$G(z) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k z^k$$

$$= a_0 z^0 + a_1 z^1 + a_2 z^2 + a_3 z^3 + \dots + a_k z^k$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k z^k$$

Here `z` is an intermediate variable .The closed form of this sequence is given as follows:

$$a_n = \frac{1}{1 - az}$$

For example, for the sequence 1, 3, 5, 7, ..., the generating function can be written as follows:

$$G(z) = 1 + 3z + 5z^2 + 7z^3 + \dots$$

***Lets observe some closed form of some important
Generating function:***

$$\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} x^r = x^0 + x^1 + x^2 + \dots = 1 + x + x^2 + \dots = \frac{1}{1-x}$$

Where $a_0, a_1, \dots = 1$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} (-1)^r x^r &= (-1)^0 \times x^0 + (-1)^1 \times x^1 + (-1)^2 \times x^2 + \dots \\ &= 1 - x + x^2 - x^3 + \dots = \frac{1}{1 - (-1)x} = \frac{1}{1+x} \end{aligned}$$

Where $a_0, a_1, \dots = -1$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} (r+1)x^r \\ = (0+1) \times x^0 + (1+1) \times x^1 + (2+1) \times x^2 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$= 1 + 2x + 3x^2 + \dots = \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$$

Where $a_0, a_1, \dots = r+1$

Also,

$$\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} (-1)(r+1)x^r = \frac{1}{(1+(-1)x)^2} = \frac{1}{(1+x)^2}$$

Other some very useful closed form of generating function is given below:

$$\begin{array}{l} 1. (a+x)^n = \sum_{r=0}^n n_{C_r} a^{n-r} x^r \\ 2. (a-x)^n = \sum_{r=0}^n (-1)n_{C_r} a^{n-r} x^r \end{array} \left. \vphantom{\sum_{r=0}^n} \right\} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{Binomial Theorem}}$$

$$3. \frac{1}{(1-x)^n} = 1 + \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{n(n+1)(n+2) \dots (n+r-1)}{r!} \times x^r$$

$$4. \frac{1}{(1+x)^n}$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} (-1)^r \frac{n(n+1)(n+2) \dots (n+r-1)}{r!} \times x^r$$

$$5. \log(1+x) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^r}{r!}$$
