Generating Function – Example – 3

Example: Solve the following recurrence equation of the towers of Hanoi method using the generating function method:

$$t_0 = 0$$

$$t_n - 2t_{n-1} = 1$$
 for $n = 1, 2, 3, ...$

Solution:

The corresponding generating function for this recurrence equation would be :

$$G(z) = a_0 + a_1 z + a_2 z^2 + a_3 z^3 + \cdots$$
$$2z \times G(z) = 2a_{1-1} z^1 + 2a_{2-1} z^2 + 2a_{3-1} z^3$$

$$G(z) = a_0 + a_1 z + a_2 z^2 + a_3 z^3 + \cdots$$

$$5z \times G(z) = 2a_0 z + 2a_1 z^2 + 2a_2 z^3$$

$$G(z) - (2z \times G(z)) = a_0 + (a_1z - 2a_0z) + (a_2z^2 - 2a_1z^2) + (a_3z^3 - 2a_2z^3) + \cdots$$

$$(1-2z)(G(z)) = a_0 + (a_1 - 2a_0)z + (a_2 - 2a_1)z^2 +$$

 $(a_3 - 2a_2)z^3 + \cdots$

As given $t_n - 2t_{n-1} = 1$, therefore,

$$(1-2z)(G(z)) = a_0 + 1z + 1z^2 + 1z^3 + \cdots$$

And $t_0 = 0$, then:

$$(1-2z)(G(z)) = 0 + z + z^2 + z^3 + \cdots$$

$$(1-2z)(G(z)) = z + z^2 + z^3 + \cdots$$

$$(1-2z)(G(z))=z(1+z+z^2+\cdots)$$

$$\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} z^r = \frac{1}{1-z}$$

$$(1-2z)(G(z)) = z(z^0 + z^1 + z^2 + \cdots)$$

$$(1-2z)(G(z))=z\left(\sum_{r=0}^{\infty}z^{r}\right)$$

$$(1-2z)\big(G(z)\big)=z\left(\frac{1}{1-z}\right)$$

$$(1-2z)\big(G(z)\big)=\frac{z}{1-z}$$

$$G(z) = \frac{z}{(1-z)(1-2z)}$$

Using the partial function:

We observe
$$(1-z) - (1-2z) = 2z - z = z$$
, hence

Therefore,

$$\frac{(1-z)}{(1-z)(1-2z)} - \frac{(1-2z)}{(1-z)(1-2z)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{(1-2z)} - \frac{1}{(1-z)}$$

Now,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2^n z^n = 2z^0 + 4z^1 + 8z^2 + \dots = \frac{1}{1 - 2z}$$

Also,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n = \frac{1}{(1-z)}$$

Hence,

$$=\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}2^nz^n-\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}z^n$$

$$= 2^n - 1$$

It is the general form of recurrence equation.

Thus generating functions are useful in finding solutions of many recurrence equations.

Even if the normal methods fail, the genrating function method can be relied upon.
