

Math 239 - Lecture #5

Recall on generating series: $\Phi_S(x) = \sum_{\sigma \in S} x^{w(\sigma)} = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n$

Last Ex:

$S =$ all binary strings; w of a string is its length
 $\Phi_S(x) = 1 + 2x + 4x^2 + 8x^3 + 16x^4 + \dots$ a power series!

Notes on:
G-Series

(1) Given a counting problem, define appropriate set and weight function so that the answers are encoded in the coefficients of the generating series.

(2) " x " is a literal, we almost never put in values for x . Treat it as a variable we don't touch!

(3) We will face problems where it is "easy" to find the generating series first, and then possibly determine its coefficients.

Ex: How many binstr of length n have no "111"? (3 consec)
 Using tools we learn, we will see that the answer is $[x^n] \frac{1+x+x^2}{1-x-x^2-x^3}$ set $S =$ all binstr with no 111, $w(\sigma)$ is the length.

Formal:
Power
Series

Definition - Let (a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots) be a sequence of numbers. Then the formal power series associated with $\{a_n\}$ is

$$A(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + a_3 x^3 + \dots = \sum_{k \geq 0} a_k x^k$$

where a_i s are well defined.

We say a_k is the coefficient of x^k , denoted $[x^k] A(x)$.

$$\text{Let } A(x) = \sum_{i \geq 0} a_i x^i, \quad B(x) = \sum_{j \geq 0} b_j x^j$$

Equality: $A(x) = B(x)$ if and only if $a_i = b_i$ for all $i \geq 0$. (coeff are equal)

Addition: $A(x) + B(x) = \sum_{i \geq 0} (a_i + b_i) x^i$

i.e. $[x^i] A(x) + [x^i] B(x)$

- The addition of 2 power series is a power series, "closed under addition"

Multiplication: Ex - $(1 + 2x + 3x^2)(1 - 3x + 5x^2)$

Constant term: $1 \cdot 1 = 1$

x^1 term: $(1 \cdot -3x) + (1 \cdot 2x) = -x$

x^2 term: $(1 \cdot 3x^2) + (1 \cdot 5x^2) = 8x^2$

x^3 term: $(-3x \cdot 3x^2) + (2x \cdot 5x^2) = x^3$

x^4 term: $(3x^2 \cdot 5x^2) = 15x^4$

$$A(x)B(x) = \left(\sum_{i \geq 0} a_i x^i \right) \left(\sum_{j \geq 0} b_j x^j \right) = \sum_{i \geq 0} \sum_{j \geq 0} (a_i x^i) (b_j x^j)$$

$$= \sum_{i \geq 0} \sum_{j \geq 0} (a_i b_j) x^{i+j}$$

$$= \sum_{n \geq 0} \left(\sum_{i=0}^n a_i b_{n-i} \right) x^n$$

collecting similar terms
want: $(i+j)$ s.t. $i+j=n$
 $(0,n) (1,n-1) \dots (n,0)$

$0 \leq i \leq n, j = n-i$

$$(a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots) (b_0 + b_1 x + b_2 x^2 + \dots b_{n-1} x^{n-1} + b_n x^n) \text{ etc}$$

x^n : Coeff is $a_1 b_n + a_1 b_{n-1} + \dots + a_n b_0$

Example:

$$A(x) = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots = \sum_{i \geq 0} 1 \cdot x^i$$

$$B(x) = 1 + 2x + 3x^2 + 4x^3 + \dots = \sum_{j \geq 0} (j+1) x^j$$

$$[x^n] A(x)B(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n ([x^i] A(x)) ([x^{n-i}] B(x))$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^n (1)(n-i+1) = (n+1) + n + (n-1) + \dots + (2) + 1$$

$$= \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2} = \binom{n+2}{2}$$

• The coeff of x^n in $A(x)B(x)$ is a sum of $n+1$ finite numbers, which is finite.

$$A(x)B(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+2}{2} x^n$$

closed under mult