

Topic 4 Recursion and Generating Functions

BY YUEJIAN MO

April 1, 2018

Given a sequence $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ of complex number, we define

$$f(x) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n,$$

the ordinary generating function of $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$,

$$g(x) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \frac{x^n}{n!},$$

the exponential generating function. We can use the

- Generating function can be used to prove and/or discover identities.
- Generating function can be used to solve recursion
- Generating function can be used to prove recursion

Example 14.4. A formal bookkeeping device to list all possible configurations is to let the named one correspond to the term $x_1^{r_1} x_2^{r_2} x_3^{r_3} \cdots x_k^{r_k}$ in the product

$$(1 + x_1 + x_1^2 + \cdots)(1 + x_2 + x_2^2 + \cdots) \cdots (1 + x_k + x_k^2 + \cdots)$$

We can collect all the terms involving exactly n balls by taking $x_i = x$ for all i , and considering the terms equal to x^n . Therefore we find that the number of ways to divide n balls over k distinguishable boxes is the coefficient of x^n in the expansion of $(1 - x)^{-k}$.

What is field?

$\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ is a field = $\{ \}$

Field: let α be the a root of $x^2 + x + 1$ in $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$. What is the size of field

$d \geq 1$, N_d = the # of irreducible monic polys of degree d in $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}[x]$.

$$x^d + a_{n-1}x^{d-1} + \cdots + a_1x + a_0$$

UFD

N_2

$$p^2 - \sum z$$

List all monic irred polys of $\deg \geq 1$ over $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ as follows:

$$f_1(x), \dots,$$

$$\deg, d_1, d_2, \dots$$

Given any sequence i_1, i_2, i_3 all but finitely we can define

$$f(x) = f_1(x)^{i_1} + f_2(x)^{i_2} + \dots$$

Conversely V of monic polys of deg n can be obtained uniquely in this way (UFD)

We have just established a 1-to-1 correspondence between

the set of monic polys of deg $n \longleftrightarrow$ the set of tuples (i_1, \dots)

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

Example 14.6

Square free

$M_n = \#$ of monic square free polys of deg n in $Z/pZ[x]$

$$f(x) = f_1(x)^{c_1} + f_2(x)^{c_2} + \dots$$

$$i_1 \leq 1, i_2 \leq 1$$

$$\sum M_n x^n = (1 + x^{d_1})(1 + x^{d_2}) + (1 + x^{d_3}) \dots$$

$$= \prod_{d \geq 1} \left(\frac{1 - x^{2d}}{1 - x^d} \right)^{N_d} = \frac{1 - px^2}{1 - px}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 - px} - \frac{px^2}{1 - px}$$

$$= 1 + px + (px)^2 + \dots + (px)^n + \dots$$

$$M_n = p^n - p^{n+1} \quad \forall n \geq 2$$

Let $n \geq 0$, let $f_2(n) =$ the $\#$ of pairs of monic deg n polys in $Z/pZ[x]$ where relative

$$= \# \{ (f(x), g(x)) : f(x), g(x) \text{ monic deg } n \text{ in } Z/pZ, \gcd(f, g) = 1 \}$$

$M_n = \#$ of monic square free polys of deg n in $Z/pZ[x]$

$$f(x) = f_1(x)^{c_1} + f_2(x)^{c_2} + \dots$$

$$i_1 \leq 1, i_2 \leq 1$$

$$\sum M_n x^n = (1 + x^{d_1})(1 + x^{d_2}) + (1 + x^{d_3}) \dots$$

$$= \prod_{d \geq 1} \left(\frac{1 - x^{2d}}{1 - x^d} \right)^{N_d} = \frac{1 - px^2}{1 - px}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 - px} - \frac{px^2}{1 - px}$$

$$= 1 + px + (px)^2 + \dots + (px)^n + \dots$$

$$M_n = p^n - p^{n+1} \quad \forall n \geq 2$$

$$\frac{1}{1-qx^2} = \Pi_{d \geq 1} \left(\frac{1}{1-x^{2d}} \right)^{N_d}$$

$$\frac{1-9x^6}{(1-9x^2)(1-9x^3)} = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} 9^m x^{2m+1} + \sum_{m \geq 0}^{\infty} q^m x^{2m+1}$$

$$n = \begin{cases} \text{even} \\ \text{odd} \end{cases}$$

$$P(n) = q^{\frac{n}{2}-1} - q^{\frac{n-1}{3}}$$

$$u_n = \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n-2}{n-1}$$

are called *Catalan numbers*.

Example 14.8. Consider a walk in the x - y plane, where each step is

$$U: (x, y) \longrightarrow (x+1, y+1) \text{ or } D: (x, y) \longrightarrow (x+1, y-1)$$

From $(0, 0)$, how many ways can we reach $(2n, 0)$ without cross with x -axis.

By reflecting the part of the path between A and the 1st meeting C of the path with x -axis. Consider walks in the $X-Y$ plane, where each step if we find a path from the reflected at pt to A' to B . This establishes a 1-to-1 correspondence between $(A \longrightarrow B)$ and $(A' \longrightarrow B)$.

$\binom{n}{2} = \#$ of paths between A and B which do not meet x -axis.

Q1. How many do not meet

$$\frac{1}{n} \binom{2n-2}{n-1}$$

Q2. How many pathways from $(0,0)$ to $(2n,0)$ are there no (you can touch, but no cross)

$$\binom{2n-2}{n-1} - \binom{2n-2}{n-2}$$

Reflection principle: We consider two points A and B in the upper half plane, and a possible path between them which meet and/or cross the x -axis.

(H. Wilf Generationfunctionology)

Don't try to evaluate the sum that you are looking at. Instead, find the g.f. of the whole parameter family of them, then read off the coefficients.

- Identify the free variable, call it n (free index), that the sum depends on. Give a name to the sum that you are looking at, say $f(n)$.
- From the g.f. of $f(n)$, $F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n)x^n$
- Interchange the order of two summations
- Identify the coefficient of the g.f.

Useful techniques

$$\binom{x}{m} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } m < 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x < m \end{cases}$$

$$x^{-r}(1+x)^n = \sum_k \binom{n}{r+k} x^k, \forall n \geq 1$$

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

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n} x^n = \frac{1}{2x} (1 - \sqrt{1-4x})$$

Ex 1

$$f(n) = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{k}{n-k}, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n) x^n = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k \left(\sum_{n \geq k} \binom{k}{n-k} x^{n-k} \right) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k (1+x)^k = \frac{1}{1-x-x^2} = F_0 + F_1 + F_2 + \dots$$

Ex 2

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} ()()$$

$$\begin{aligned} F(x) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n) x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{n+k}{n+2k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \right) x^n = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{2k+1}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} x^{-k} \frac{x^{m+1k}}{(1-x)^{m+2k+1}} = \\ &= \frac{x^m}{(1-x)^{m+1}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k+1} \binom{2k}{k} \left(\frac{-x}{(1-x)^2} \right)^k = \frac{x^m}{(1-x)^{m+1}} \frac{1}{2 \frac{-x}{(1-x)^2}} \left(1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{4x}{(1-x)^2}} \right) = \frac{x^m}{(1-x)^m} = \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \binom{m+j-1}{j} x^j = \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Let } m+j=n, \text{ then } \binom{n-1}{m-1}$$

Compute can prove the WZ problem.?