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Background:
Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

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The Weil Conjectures

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Background: Generating Functions

Fix q a prime and $\mathbb{F} := \mathbb{F}_q$ the (unique) finite field with q elements, along with its (unique) degree n extensions

$$\mathbb{F}_{q^n} = \left\{ x \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_q \mid x^{q^n} - x = 0 \right\} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 2}$$

Definition (Projective Algebraic Varieties)

Let $J = \langle f_1, \dots, f_M \rangle \trianglelefteq k[x_0, \dots, x_n]$ be an ideal, then a *projective algebraic variety* $X \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}}^n$ can be described as

$$X = V(J) = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}}^n \mid f_1(\mathbf{x}) = \dots = f_M(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0} \right\}$$

where J is generated by *homogeneous* polynomials in $n + 1$ variables, i.e. there is a fixed $d = \deg f_i \in \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 1}$ such that

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{l}=(i_1, \dots, i_n) \\ \sum_j i_j = d}} \alpha_{\mathbf{l}} \cdot x_0^{i_1} \cdots x_n^{i_n} \quad \text{and} \quad f(\lambda \cdot \mathbf{x}) = \lambda^d f(\mathbf{x}), \lambda \in \mathbb{F}^{\times}.$$

Point Counts

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- For a fixed variety X , we can consider its \mathbb{F} -points $X(\mathbb{F})$.
 - Note that $\#X(\mathbb{F}) < \infty$ is an integer
- For any L/\mathbb{F} , we can also consider $X(L)$
 - In particular, we can consider $X(\mathbb{F}_{q^n})$ for any $n \geq 2$.
 - We again have $\#X(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) < \infty$ and are integers for every such n .
- So we can consider the sequence

$$[N_1, N_2, \dots, N_n, \dots] := [\#X(\mathbb{F}), \#X(\mathbb{F}_{q^2}), \dots, \#X(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}), \dots].$$

- Idea: associate some generating function (a formal power series) encoding sequence, e.g.

$$F(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} N_n z^n = N_1 z + N_2 z^2 + \dots.$$

Why Generating Functions?

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Note that for such an ordinary generating functions, the coefficients are related to the real-analytic properties of F : we can easily recover the coefficients in the following way:

$$[z^n] \cdot F(z) = [z^n] \cdot T_{F,z=0}(z) = \frac{1}{n!} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right)^n F(z) \Big|_{z=0} = N_n.$$

They are also related to the complex analytic properties: using the Residue theorem,

$$[z^n] \cdot F(z) := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\mathbb{S}^1} \frac{F(z)}{z^{n+1}} dz = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\mathbb{S}^1} \frac{N_n}{z} dz = N_n.$$

The latter form is very amenable to computer calculation.

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An OGF is an infinite series, which we can interpret as an analytic function $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ – in nice situations, we can hope for a closed-form representation.

A useful example: by integrating a geometric series we can derive

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{1-z} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n && (= 1 + z + z^2 + \cdots) \\ \Rightarrow \int \frac{1}{1-z} &= \int \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int z^n \quad \text{for } |z| < 1 \quad \text{by uniform convergence} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n+1} z^{n+1} \\ \Rightarrow -\log(1-z) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n} && \left(= z + \frac{z^2}{2} + \frac{z^3}{3} + \cdots \right).\end{aligned}$$

For completeness, also recall that

$$\exp(z) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n!}$$

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Zeta Functions

Definition: Local Zeta Function

Problem: count points of a (smooth?) projective variety X/\mathbb{F} in all (finite) degree n extensions of \mathbb{F} .

Definition (Local Zeta Function)

The *local zeta function* of an algebraic variety X is the following formal power series:

$$Z_X(z) = \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} N_n \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \in \mathbb{Q}[[z]] \quad \text{where} \quad N_n := \#X(\mathbb{F}_n).$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} z \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \log Z_X(z) &= z \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(N_1 z + N_2 \frac{z^2}{2} + N_3 \frac{z^3}{3} + \cdots \right) \\ &= z (N_1 + N_2 z + N_3 z^2 + \cdots) \quad (\text{unif. conv.}) \\ &= N_1 z + N_2 z^2 + \cdots = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} N_n z^n, \end{aligned}$$

which is an *ordinary* generating function for the sequence (N_n) .

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Example: A Point

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Examples

Take $X = \{\text{pt}\} = V(\{f(x) = 0\})/\mathbb{F}$ a single point over \mathbb{F} , then

$$\#X(\mathbb{F}) := N_1 = 1$$

$$\#X(\mathbb{F}_2) := N_2 = 1$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\#X(\mathbb{F}_n) := N_n = 1$$

$$\vdots$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{\{\text{pt}\}}(z) &= \exp\left(1 \cdot z + 1 \cdot \frac{z^2}{2} + 1 \cdot \frac{z^3}{3} + \cdots\right) \\ &= \exp\left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n}\right) \\ &= \exp(-\log(1-z)) \\ &= \frac{1}{1-z}. \end{aligned}$$

*Notice: Z admits a closed form **and** is a rational function.*

Example: The Affine Line

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Examples

Take $X = \mathbb{A}^1/\mathbb{F}$ the affine line over \mathbb{F} , then We can write

$$\mathbb{A}^1(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = \left\{ \mathbf{x} = [x_1] \mid x_1 \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \right\}$$

as the set of one-component vectors with entries in \mathbb{F}_n , so

$$X(\mathbb{F}) = q$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_2) = q^2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_n) = q^n.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} Z_X(z) &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q^n \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(qz)^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp(-\log(1 - qz)) \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - qz}. \end{aligned}$$

Example: Affine m-space

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Take $X = \mathbb{A}^m/\mathbb{F}$ the affine line over \mathbb{F} , then We can write

$$\mathbb{A}^m(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = \left\{ \mathbf{x} = [x_1, \dots, x_m] \mid x_i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \right\}$$

as the set of one-component vectors with entries in \mathbb{F}_n , so

$$X(\mathbb{F}) = q^m$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_2) = (q^2)^m$$

$$\vdots$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_n) = q^{nm}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} Z_X(z) &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q^{nm} \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(q^m z)^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp(-\log(1 - q^m z)) \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - q^m z}. \end{aligned}$$

Example: Projective Line

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Take $X = \mathbb{P}^1/\mathbb{F}$, we can still count by enumerating coordinates:

$$\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = \left\{ [x_1 : x_2] \mid x_1, x_2 \neq 0 \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \right\} / \sim = \left\{ [x_1 : 1] \mid x_1 \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \right\} \coprod \{[1 : 0]\}.$$

Thus

$$X(\mathbb{F}) = q + 1$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_2) = q^2 + 1$$

$$\vdots$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_n) = q^n + 1.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} Z_X(z) &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (q^n + 1) \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q^n \frac{z^n}{n} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1 \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{(1 - qz)(1 - z)}. \end{aligned}$$

A Small Theorem

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Quick recap:

$$Z_{\{\text{pt}\}} = \frac{1}{1-z} \quad Z_{\mathbb{P}^1}(z) = \frac{1}{1-qz} \quad Z_{\mathbb{A}^1}(z) = \frac{1}{(1-z)(1-qz)}.$$

Note that $\mathbb{P}^1 = \mathbb{A}^1 \amalg \{\infty\}$ and correspondingly $Z_{\mathbb{P}^1}(z) = Z_{\mathbb{A}^1}(z) \cdot Z_{\{\text{pt}\}}(z)$.
This works in general:

Lemma (Excision)

*If $Y/\mathbb{F}_q \subset X/\mathbb{F}_q$ is a closed subvariety, for $U = X \setminus Y$,
 $Z_X(z) = Z_Y(z) \cdot Z_U(z)$.*

Proof: Let $N_n = \#Y(\mathbb{F}_{q^n})$ and $M_n = \#U(\mathbb{F}_{q^n})$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_X(z) &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (N_n + M_n) \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} N_n \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} N_n \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \cdot \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} \right) = \zeta_Y(z) \cdot \zeta_U(z). \end{aligned}$$