

# Chapter 8

## 1 Section 8.2

**Example 1.1.** Recall the Binomial Theorem:

$$(1+x)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k.$$

Note that  $(1+x)^n$  encodes all the different combinations where you choose from  $n$  objects. If you want to determine how many ways there are to choose  $k$  objects from a set of  $n$  objects, you look at the coefficient of  $x^k$ .

We thus say that  $(1+x)^n$  is the **generating function** for the sequence of choosing  $k$  objects from a set of  $n$  objects.

**Definition 1.2.** Let  $S = \{a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots\}$  be a sequence of numbers. We say that a power series  $F(x)$  is a **generating function** of  $S$  if for every  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  we have that  $a_k$  is the coefficient of  $x^k$  in  $F(x)$ . That is,

$S = (a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots)$

i.f.  
 $S = a_0x^0 + a_1x^1 + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots$

$$F(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^k.$$

$$(1+x)^5 = \binom{5}{0}x^0 + \binom{5}{1}x^1 + \binom{5}{2}x^2 + \binom{5}{3}x^3 + \binom{5}{4}x^4 + \binom{5}{5}x^5 + 0x^6 + 0x^7 + \dots$$

↑  
this is the  
generating  
function for  
the # of ways  
to choose  $k$  objects  
from a set of 5

how many  
ways are  
there to  
choose  
2 objects from  
a set of 5?

I go to the  
term whose  
degree is 2  
1  
Look at its coefficient  
 $\binom{5}{2}$ , which is the answer.

Why do we like generating functions? They preserve information under multiplication.

$f(x)$  is the generating function for the # of ways to do this

$g(x)$  is the g.f. for the # of ways to do that

$\Rightarrow f(x) \cdot g(x)$  the g.f. for the # of ways to do this ~~or~~ that and



Exercise 1.3. You are packing for a trip. You can pick from 4 red shirts, 4 blue shirts, and 4 green shirts. Write the generating function for the number of ways to pack  $k$  shirts? (Assume that shirts of the same color are identical.)

Idea: Split ~~into~~ task of choosing  $k$  shirts of any color into the simpler task of choosing  $k$  shirts of just one color.

g.f. for # of ways to pack red shirts  $R(x) = 1x^0 + 1x^1 + 1x^2 + 1x^3 + 1x^4 + 0x^5 + 0x^6 + \dots$   
 $= (1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4)$

g.f.'s for picking  $B(x)$  just blue shirts or  $G(x)$  just green shirts will be the same

$$\begin{cases} = B(x) \\ = G(x) \end{cases}$$

so our answer will be

Exercise 1.4. How does the above generating function change if you now can pick from up to 7 red shirts, and you have to pack at least 1 blue shirt?

Same strategy as in 1.3:

compute  $R(x)$ ,  $G(x)$ ,  $B(x)$

individually, then multiply all three together.

$$G(x) = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4$$

$$R(x) = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^5 + x^6 + x^7$$

$$B(x) = 0x^0 + 1x^1 + 1x^2 + 1x^3 + 1x^4$$

$$= x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4$$

so answer

$$G(x)R(x)B(x) = (1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4)(1 + x + \dots + x^7)(x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4)$$

$$B(x) \cdot G(x) \cdot R(x) = (1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4)^3$$

Why multiply: In above answer, look at # of ways to choose 3 shirts (regardless of color)? Many combinations of colors:

1 red, 2 blue, 0 green ( $x^1 \cdot x^2 \cdot 1$ )  
 0 red, 1 blue, 2 green ( $1 \cdot x^1 \cdot x^2$ )  
 3 red, 0 blue, 0 green ( $x^3 \cdot 1 \cdot 1$ )  
 1 red, 1 blue, 1 green ( $x^1 \cdot x^1 \cdot x^1$ )  
 ...



$$(1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots) \left( \binom{5}{0}x + \binom{5}{1}x^2 + \binom{5}{2}x^3 + \dots \right) (1^2+2^2x+3^2x^2+4^2x^3)$$

What about extracting the coefficients from a generating function? Especially a generating function written in closed form like this:

Things To Remember:

- $\frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k$  (closed form)
- $\frac{1}{1+x} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k x^k$
- $\frac{1}{1-x^2} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{2k}$
- $\frac{1}{1-x^n} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{nk}$

Advantage: easy to manipulate

Advantage: can look up coefficients of  $x^k$ 's

geometric series

series form

derivative trick

$$\frac{1}{(1-x)^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{1-x} \right) = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k \right) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kx^{k-1}$$

$$\frac{1}{(1-x)^3} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \left( \frac{1}{1-x} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k \right) = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{2} k(k-1) \right) x^{k-2}$$

$$\frac{1}{(1-x)^4} = \frac{1}{3!} \frac{d^3}{dx^3} \left( \frac{1}{1-x} \right) = \frac{1}{3!} \frac{d^3}{dx^3} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k \right) = \sum_{k=3}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{3!} k(k-1)(k-2) \right) x^{k-3}$$

$$\frac{1}{(1-x)^n} = \frac{1}{(n-1)!} \frac{d^{n-1}}{dx^{n-1}} \left( \frac{1}{1-x} \right) = \frac{1}{(n-1)!} \frac{d^{n-1}}{dx^{n-1}} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k \right) = \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{(n-1)!} k(k-1)(k-2) \dots (k-n+2) \right) x^{k-n+1}$$

• Build up generating function as a product of many simpler g.f.'s.  $\rightarrow$  gives us a product of power series

• Want to combine the multiple power series into one big power series.

To do that, we convert to closed form, multiply together, then convert back to power series form

power series form of

$$\frac{1+x}{(1-x^2)} = (1+x) \frac{1}{(1-x^2)} \in \text{geom. series}$$

$$= (1+x) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (x^2)^k$$

$$= (1+x) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{2k}$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{2k} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{2k+1}$$

$\Rightarrow$  back



cont'd from front

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{2k} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{2k+1} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{2k} + \cancel{x^{2k+1}} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{2k} = (x^0 + x^2 + x^4 + x^6 + \dots)$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{2k+1} = (x^1 + x^3 + x^5 + x^7 + \dots)$$

What is the coeff. of ~~x~~  $x^5$  in  $\frac{1+x}{(1-x)^2}$ ?

$$(1+x) \cdot \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$$

$$1-x=u$$

$$-dx=du$$

$$\frac{1}{u^2} (-du)$$

$$= (1+x) \frac{d}{dx} \left[ \frac{1}{1-x} \right]$$

$$= u^{-2} (-du)$$

$$= (1+x) \frac{d}{dx} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k \right)$$

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

$$= (1+x) \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kx^{k-1} \right)$$

$$= 1 + 2x + 3x^2 + 4x^3 + \dots$$

$$= 1x^0 + 2x^1 + 3x^2 + \dots$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1)x^k$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kx^{k-1} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kx^k$$

add together will  
get our  
answer

find coeff.  
of  $x^5$  here

find coeff.  
of  $x^5$  here

$x^5$  when  $k-1=5$   
 $\Rightarrow k=6$   
so coeff. is  $\boxed{6}$

$k=5$  gets  
us  $x^5$  term,  
so coeff. is  $\boxed{5}$

$$6+5 = \boxed{11}$$

$$1+x+x^2+x^3+x^4+\dots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k = \frac{1}{1-x} \quad \text{[Bonus Trick \#1]}$$

$$x^5+x^6+x^7+x^8+\dots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{k+5} = x^5 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k = \frac{x^5}{1-x}$$

Why  $\frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k$ ?

$$\frac{1}{1-x} (1-x)(1+x+x^2+x^3+x^4+\dots)$$

$$= (1+x+x^2+x^3+x^4+\dots) - (x+x^2+x^3+x^4+\dots)$$

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

$$= 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{1-x} = (1+x+x^2+x^3+x^4+\dots)$$

$$1+x+x^2+x^3+x^4+\dots+x^{10}$$

[Bonus Trick \#2]

$$= (1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots) - (x^{11}+x^{12}+x^{13}+x^{14}+\dots)$$

$$= \frac{1}{1-x} - \frac{x^{11}}{1-x} = \frac{(1-x^{11})}{1-x}$$



**Exercise 1.5** (Exercise 8.5 from textbook). Find the way to create a bunch of  $n$  balloons selected from white, gold, and blue balloons so that the bunch contains at least one white balloon, at least one gold balloon, and at most two blue balloons. How many ways are there to create a bunch of 10 balloons subject to these requirements?

- 1) Find the generating function for # of bunches of balloons according to these restrictions.
- 2) Find the # of bunches of 10 balloons subj. to the restrictions,

$$g(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} b_k x^k$$

$b_k$  is the # of bunches of  $k$  balloons

Split into simpler components:

$G(x)$  = g.f. for # of bunches of gold balloons subj. to at least one gold balloon

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

$W(x)$  = g.f. for # of bunches of white balloons subj. to at least one white balloon

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

$B(x)$  = g.f. for # " " " blue " " subj. to ~~at least~~ at most two blue balloons

$$= 1 + x + x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow g(x) = (1 + x + x^2) \frac{x^2}{(1-x)^2}$$

back  $\Rightarrow$

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

convert to power series form,  
then pick out the term  $x^{10}$

$$\begin{aligned} &\cancel{=x} \\ &= (x^2+x^3+x^4) \frac{1}{(1-x)^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\int \frac{1}{(1-x)^2} dx$$

$$1-x = u$$

$$-dx = du$$

$$= (x^2+x^3+x^4) \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{1-x} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \frac{1}{u^2} (-du)$$

$$\Rightarrow - \int u^{-2} du$$

$$\Rightarrow (-) \frac{1}{-1} u^{-1} = u^{-1} = \frac{1}{1-x}$$

$$= (x^2+x^3+x^4) \frac{d}{dx} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k \right)$$

$$= (x^2+x^3+x^4) \frac{d}{dx} (1+x+x^2+x^3+x^4+\dots)$$

$$= (x^2+x^3+x^4) (1+2x+3x^2+4x^3+\dots)$$

$$= (\cancel{x^2+x^3+x^4}) \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1)x^k \right)$$

equivalent to

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kx^{k-1}$$

$$= (x^2+x^3+x^4) \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1)x^k \right)$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1)x^{k+2} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1)x^{k+3} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1)x^{k+4}$$

← extract coefficients from all three then add together

coeff. of  $x^{10}$   
 $k+2=10$   
 $k=8$   
coeff.  $k+1=9$

coeff. of  $x^{10}$   
 $k+3=10$   
 $k=7$   
coeff.  $k+1=8$

coeff. of  $x^{10}$   
 $k+4=10$   
 $k=6$   
coeff.  $k+1=7$

$$[9+8+7] = [24]$$