UCF ICPC Training Camp Lecture II: FFT Variants

Christian Yongwhan Lim Saturday, March 30, 2024

Christian Yongwhan Lim









Education





Part-time Jobs







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Workshops















Coach/Judge





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- Currently:
 - o **CEO** (Co-Founder) in a Stealth Mode Startup;
 - Co-Founder in Christian and Grace Consulting;
 - ICPC Internship Manager;
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Today's Format

10:30am ET - 12:00pm ET **Lecture: FFT Variants**

12pm ET - 12:30pm ET **Lunch**

12:45pm ET - 5:45pm ET Saturday Practice Contest

Fast Fourier Transform [Cooley and Tukey, 1965]

• Multiply two polynomials of length n in $O(n \log n)$ time, which is better than the trivial multiplication which takes $O(n^2)$ time.

Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT)

$$w_{n,k}=e^{rac{2k\pi i}{n}} \qquad w_{n,k}=(w_n)^k.$$

$$egin{aligned} ext{DFT}(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}) &= (y_0, y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}) \ &= (A(w_{n,0}), A(w_{n,1}), \dots, A(w_{n,n-1})) \ &= (A(w_n^0), A(w_n^1), \dots, A(w_n^{n-1})) \end{aligned}$$

Inverse Discrete Fourier Transform (Inverse DFT)

InverseDFT
$$(y_0, y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}) = (a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1})$$

Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT)

$$(A \cdot B)(x) = A(x) \cdot B(x).$$

$$DFT(A \cdot B) = DFT(A) \cdot DFT(B)$$

$$A \cdot B = \text{InverseDFT}(\text{DFT}(A) \cdot \text{DFT}(B))$$

$$egin{align} A(x) &= a_0 x^0 + a_1 x^1 + \dots + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} \ A_0(x) &= a_0 x^0 + a_2 x^1 + \dots + a_{n-2} x^{rac{n}{2}-1} \ A_1(x) &= a_1 x^0 + a_3 x^1 + \dots + a_{n-1} x^{rac{n}{2}-1} \ A(x) &= A_0(x^2) + x A_1(x^2). \ \end{pmatrix}$$

$$ig(y_k^0ig)_{k=0}^{n/2-1} = \mathrm{DFT}(A_0) \qquad ig(y_k^1ig)_{k=0}^{n/2-1} = \mathrm{DFT}(A_1)$$

$$y_k = y_k^0 + w_n^k y_k^1, \quad k = 0 \dots \frac{n}{2} - 1.$$

$$egin{aligned} y_{k+n/2} &= A\left(w_n^{k+n/2}
ight) \ &= A_0\left(w_n^{2k+n}
ight) + w_n^{k+n/2}A_1\left(w_n^{2k+n}
ight) \ &= A_0\left(w_n^{2k}w_n^n
ight) + w_n^kw_n^{n/2}A_1\left(w_n^{2k}w_n^n
ight) \ &= A_0\left(w_n^{2k}
ight) - w_n^kA_1\left(w_n^{2k}
ight) \ &= y_k^0 - w_n^ky_k^1 \end{aligned}$$

$$y_k = y_k^0 + w_n^k y_k^1, \qquad \qquad k = 0 \dots rac{n}{2} - 1, \ y_{k+n/2} = y_k^0 - w_n^k y_k^1, \qquad \qquad k = 0 \dots rac{n}{2} - 1.$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} w_n^0 & w_n^0 & w_n^0 & w_n^0 & w_n^0 & \cdots & w_n^0 \\ w_n^0 & w_n^1 & w_n^2 & w_n^3 & \cdots & w_n^{n-1} \\ w_n^0 & w_n^2 & w_n^4 & w_n^6 & \cdots & w_n^{2(n-1)} \\ w_n^0 & w_n^3 & w_n^6 & w_n^9 & \cdots & w_n^{3(n-1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ w_n^0 & w_n^{n-1} & w_n^{2(n-1)} & w_n^{3(n-1)} & \cdots & w_n^{(n-1)(n-1)} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \\ \vdots \\ a_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y_0 \\ y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \\ \vdots \\ y_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

Vandermonde matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \\ \vdots \\ a_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} w_n^0 & w_n^0 & w_n^0 & w_n^0 & \cdots & w_n^0 \\ w_n^0 & w_n^1 & w_n^2 & w_n^3 & \cdots & w_n^{n-1} \\ w_n^0 & w_n^2 & w_n^4 & w_n^6 & \cdots & w_n^{2(n-1)} \\ w_n^0 & w_n^3 & w_n^6 & w_n^9 & \cdots & w_n^{3(n-1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ w_n^0 & w_n^{n-1} & w_n^{2(n-1)} & w_n^{3(n-1)} & \cdots & w_n^{(n-1)(n-1)} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} y_0 \\ y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \\ \vdots \\ y_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$rac{1}{n}egin{pmatrix} w_n^0 & w_n^0 & w_n^0 & w_n^0 & \cdots & w_n^0 \ w_n^0 & w_n^{-1} & w_n^{-2} & w_n^{-3} & \cdots & w_n^{-(n-1)} \ w_n^0 & w_n^{-2} & w_n^{-4} & w_n^{-6} & \cdots & w_n^{-2(n-1)} \ w_n^0 & w_n^{-3} & w_n^{-6} & w_n^{-9} & \cdots & w_n^{-3(n-1)} \ dots & dots & dots & dots & dots & dots \ w_n^0 & w_n^{-(n-1)} & w_n^{-2(n-1)} & w_n^{-3(n-1)} & \cdots & w_n^{-(n-1)(n-1)} \ \end{pmatrix}$$

$$a_k = rac{1}{n} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} y_j w_n^{-kj}$$

$$y_k = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} a_j w_n^{kj}$$

Fast Fourier Transform: Implementation

```
using cd = complex<double>;
const double PI = acos(-1);
void fft(vector<cd> & a, bool invert) {
    int n = a.size();
    if (n == 1) return;
    vector<cd> a0(n / 2), a1(n / 2);
    for (int i = 0; 2 * i < n; i++)
        a0[i] = a[2*i], a1[i] = a[2*i+1]:
    fft(a0, invert), fft(a1, invert);
```

Fast Fourier Transform: Implementation

```
double ang = 2 * PI / n * (invert ? -1 : 1);
cd w(1), wn(cos(ang), sin(ang));
for (int i = 0; 2 * i < n; i++) {
    a[i] = a0[i] + w * a1[i];
    a[i + n/2] = a0[i] - w * a1[i];
    if (invert)
        a[i] /= 2, a[i + n/2] /= 2;
    w *= wn:
```

Fast Fourier Transform: Multiplying Two Polynomials

```
vector<int> multiply(vector<int> const& a,
                      vector<int> const& b) {
    vector<cd> fa(a.begin(), a.end()),
               fb(b.begin(), b.end());
    int n = 1:
    while (n < a.size() + b.size()) n <<= 1;</pre>
    fa.resize(n), fb.resize(n);
    fft(fa, false), fft(fb, false);
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) fa[i] *= fb[i]:
    fft(fa, true);
```

Fast Fourier Transform: Multiplying Two Polynomials

```
vector<int> result(n);
for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
    result[i] = round(fa[i].real());
return result;
}</pre>
```

 The NTT is a generalization of the classic DFT to finite fields (e.g., a polynomial with coefficients modulo a prime P).

- A fast convolutions on integer sequences can be performed <u>without any</u> <u>round-off errors</u>, guaranteed.
 - Useful for multiplying large numbers or long polynomials
 - NTT is faster than Karatsuba.

- Suppose the input vector is a sequence of n non-negative integers.
- Choose a minimum working modulus M such that 1≤n<M and every input value is in the range [0,M).
- Select some integer k≥1 and define P=kn+1 as the working modulus. We require P is a prime number at least M.
 - Dirichlet's theorem guarantees that for any n and M, there exists some choice of k to make P a prime.
 - Sometimes, for convenience, we pick $P := 2^k c + 1$ where P is a prime with some positive integers k and c.

- Because P is a prime, the multiplicative group of \mathbb{Z}_P has size $\phi(P)=P-1=kn$. Also, the group must have at least one generator g, which is also a primitive $(P-1)^{th}$ root of unity.
- Define $\omega \equiv g^k \mod P$. We have $\omega^n = g^{kn} = g^{P-1} = g^{\phi(P)} \equiv 1 \mod P$ due to **Euler's theorem**. Also, because g is a generator, we know that $\omega^i = g^{ik} \neq 1$ for $1 \leq i < n$ because ik < nk = N-1. Hence ω is a primitive n^{th} root of unity, as required by the DFT of length n.

- The rest of the procedure for the forward and inverse transforms is identical to the complex DFT.
 - Moreover, the NTT can be modified to implement a FFT algorithm such as Cooley–Tukey.

FFT + Generating Functions

Often, the power of FFT comes from coupling it with generating functions.

• In particular, the ith coefficients of the generating function encodes the information about the ith term in a combinatorial object.

Generating Function

• a way of encoding an infinite sequence of numbers (a_n) by treating them as the **coefficients** of a formal **power series**.

Ordinary Generating Function (OGF)

$$G(a_n;x)=\sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n x^n.$$

$$G(a_{m,n};x,y)=\sum_{m,n=0}^\infty a_{m,n}x^my^n$$

Exponential Generating Function (EGF)

$$\mathrm{EG}(a_n;x) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n rac{x^n}{n!}$$

Generating Function: Example: Geometric Series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x^n = rac{1}{1-x}$$
 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, ...

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (ax)^n = rac{1}{1-ax}$$
 1, a, a², a³, a⁴, a⁵, ...

Generating Function: Common Series

$$\frac{1}{1-x} = 1 + x + x^2 + \ldots = \sum_{n \ge 0} x^n$$

$$-\ln(1-x) = x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} + \ldots = \sum_{n \ge 1} \frac{x^n}{n}$$

$$e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \ldots = \sum_{n \ge 0} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

$$(1-x)^{-k} = {\binom{k-1}{0}} x^0 + {\binom{k}{1}} x^1 + {\binom{k+1}{2}} x^2 + \ldots = \sum_{n} {\binom{n+k-1}{n}} x^n$$

Example #1: OGF of Fibonacci Number

• Consider the sequence f_n defined by $f_0=0$, $f_1=1$ and $f_n=f_{n-1}+f_{n-2}$ for $n \ge 2$.

• Find the OGF of *f* (we usually denote it with a capital letter, say *F*).

Example #1: OGF of Fibonacci Number: Solution

- Clearly, f_n is the nth Fibonacci number. We will use the recurrence relation to find the OGF of f_n .
- Firstly, we need to make the terms of the series appear. The easiest way to do this is to multiply the recurrence relation by x^n to obtain $f_n x^n = f_{n-1} x^n + f_{n-2} x^n$.
- Next, we sum up the terms on both sides over all valid n (in this case $n \ge 2$) to obtain:

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} f_n x^n = x \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} f_{n-1} x^{n-1} + x^2 \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} f_{n-2} x^{n-2}$$

Example #1: OGF of Fibonacci Number: Solution (con't)

This is equivalent to:

$$F(x) - f_0 x^0 - f_1 x^1 = x(F(x) - f_0 x^0) + x^2 F(x)$$

$$\circ F(x) - x = (x + x^2)F(x)$$

$$\circ$$
 $F(x)(1-x-x^2)=x$

$$\circ$$
 $F(x)=x/(1-x-x^2)$

Example #2: OGF of Catalan Number

• The Catalan numbers c_n are defined by c_0 =1 and c_{n+1} = $\sum c_i c_{n-i}$ for $n \ge 0$.

• Find the OGF of c_n .

Example #2: OGF of Catalan Number: Solution

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_{n+1} x^{n+1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=0}^{n} c_i c_{n-i} x^{n+1} = x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=0}^{n} c_i x^i c_{n-i} x^{n-i}$$

- The LHS is just C(x)-1.
- The RHS is just $xC(x)^2$.
 - Consider the expansion of $C(x)^2$.
 - If we look at $C(x)^2 = (c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + ...)(c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + ...)$, we see that we can only obtain x^n by picking $c_i x^i$ from the first bracket and $c_{n-i} x^{n-i}$ from the second bracket.
 - Hence, the coefficient of x^n in $C(x)^2$ is $\sum c_i c_{n-i}$, as desired.

Example #2: OGF of Catalan Number: Solution (con't)

- Hence, we get $C(x)-1=xC(x)^2$.
- Using the quadratic formula, we can obtain:

$$C(x) = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 - 4x}}{2x}$$

- C(x) can be expanded as a power series at x=0; so, C(x) should converge at x=0. If we choose **+ sign**, then, as $x \to 0$, (numerator) $\to 2$ while the denominator $\to 0$; so, the ratio will become infinite at 0.
- Thus, we should choose the sign to obtain:

$$C(x) = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4x}}{2x}$$

Trick #1: Multiplication by n

• For both OGF and EGF, C(x)=xC'(x) generates the sequence $c_n=na_n$.

Trick #2: Left/Right Shifting

- For OGF, $C(x)=x^kA(x)$ generates the sequence $c_n=a_{n-k}$ where $a_i=0$ for i<0.
- For EGF, you need to integrate the series A(x) k times to get the same effect.

- For OGF, $C(x)=(A(x)-(a_0+a_1x+a_2x^2+...+a_{k-1}x^{k-1})) / x^k$ generates the sequence $c_n=a_{n+k}$.
- For EGF, $C(x)=A^{(k)}(x)$ generates the sequence $c_n=a_{n+k}$, where $A^{(k)}(x)$ denotes A differentiated k times.

Trick #3: Convolution

• For OGF, C(x)=A(x)B(x) generates the sequence $c_n=\sum a_k b_{n-k}$.

- For EGF, C(x)=A(x)B(x) generates the sequence $c_n=\sum c(n,k)a_kb_{n-k}$.
 - o EGF is useful for recurrences with binomial coefficients or factorials.

Trick #4: Power of Generating Function

• For OGF, $C(x)=A(x)^k$ generates the sequence

$$c_n = \sum_{i[1]+i[2]+...+i[k]=n} a_{i[1]} a_{i[2]} ... a_{i[k]}$$

• For EGF, $C(x)=A(x)^k$ generates the sequence

$$c_n = \sum_{i[1]+i[2]+...+i[k]=n} n! / (i[1]!i[2]!...i[k]!) \ a_{i[1]} a_{i[2]}...a_{i[k]}$$

Trick #5: Prefix Sum Trick

- This only works for OGF.
- Suppose want to generate the sequence $c_n = a_0 + a_1 + ... + a_n$.
- We can take C(x)=1/(1-x) A(x).
 - If we expand, we get $(1+x+x^2+...)A(x)$.
 - To obtain the coefficient of x_n , c_n , we need to choose x^i from the first bracket and $a_{n-1}x^{n-i}$ from A(x).
 - Summing over all *i* gives us, $c_n = a_0 + a_1 + ... + a_n$.

Exercise #0 (Warm-Up): A+B Problem

Given N integers in the range $[-50\,000, 50\,000]$, how many ways are there to pick three integers a_i , a_j , a_k , such that i, j, k are pairwise distinct and $a_i + a_j = a_k$? Two ways are different if their ordered triples (i, j, k) of indices are different.

Input

The first line of input consists of a single integer N ($1 \le N \le 200\,000$). The next line consists of N space–separated integers a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_N .

Output

Output an integer representing the number of ways.

Exercise #0 (Warm-Up): A+B Problem (con't)

Sample Input 1

Sample Output 1

4 1 2 3 4

4

Sample Input 2

Sample Output 2

6 1 1 3 3 4 6

10

Exercise #0 (Warm-Up): A+B Problem (con't)

• Any idea?

Write a generating function with a solution for n encoded in the nth term.

• Write a generating function with a solution for n encoded in the nth term.

Square the polynomial (using Fast Fourier Transform)!

• Write a generating function with a solution for n encoded in the nth term.

Square the polynomial (using Fast Fourier Transform)!

Since i and j should be different, subtract the terms that have them same.

• Write a generating function with a solution for n encoded in the nth term.

Square the polynomial (using Fast Fourier Transform)!

Since i and j should be different, subtract the terms that have them same.

Read off the correct coefficients; to remove negatives, use offset!

Exercise #1

• Count the number of permutations of length n with k cycles.

Stirling numbers of the first kind

• Let $c_n = (n-1)!$ be the number of permutations of length n which is a cycle.

• Let $C(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (c_n/n!)x_n$ denote the EGF of c.

• Let f_n be our answer and F(x) be its EGF.

- The key observation here is that $F(x)=(1/k!)C(x)^k$.
 - \circ Suppose for a moment our cycles are labelled from 1 to k.
 - For every permutation, label each element with the label of the cycle it is in. Let's fix the length of cycle i to be a_i (so $\sum a_i = n$).
 - Then, there are c_{ai} ways to permute the elements in the i^{th} cycle and $n!/(a_1!a_2!...a_k!)$ ways to assign cycle labels to the elements of the permutation.
 - \circ Finally, in our actual problem, the order of cycles doesn't matter, so we need to divide by k! in the end.

The answer is:

$$\sum_{\substack{a_1+a_2+\ldots+a_k=n}} \frac{c_{a_1}c_{a_2}\ldots c_{a_k}}{a_1!a_2!\ldots a_k!}$$

• Now, you can check: $[x^n]C(x)^k$ is:

$$\sum_{a_1+a_2+\ldots+a_k=n} \frac{c_{a_1}c_{a_2}\ldots c_{a_k}}{a_1!a_2!\ldots a_k!}$$

• So, we get: $F(x)=(1/k!)C(x)^k$

• Now, for a CP problem with (n,k), we can do it in O(n log n).

• Now, for a CP problem with (n,k), we can do it in O(n log n).

• All you need to do is to use $P(x)^k = \exp(k \ln(P(x)))!$

Exercise #2

• Count the number of permutations of length *n* such that all cycle lengths are in a fixed set of positive integers *S*.

• We use the same trick as the previous problem, but let c_i =0 if i is not in S.

• Because we need to sum over all values of *k* (number of cycles):

$$[x^n] \sum_{k>0} \frac{1}{k!} C(x)^k = [x^n] \exp(C(x))$$

Exercise #3

• Find the expected number of cycles of a permutation of length n.

• To compute the expected number of cycles, we count the sum of number of cycles over all permutations of length n.

• Let g_n denote the sum of number of cycles over all permutations of length n and G(x) as the EGF of g.

• Using the same function C in the previous problems, we need to find:

$$[x^n]G(x) = [x^n] \sum_{k>0} \frac{k}{k!} C(x)^k = [x^n]C(x) \sum_{k>1} \frac{1}{(k-1)!} C(x)^{k-1} = [x^n]C(x) \exp(C(x))$$

$$[x^n]G(x) = [x^n] \sum_{k>0} \frac{k}{k!} C(x)^k = [x^n]C(x) \sum_{k>1} \frac{1}{(k-1)!} C(x)^{k-1} = [x^n]C(x) \exp(C(x))$$

but,

$$C(x) = \sum_{k \ge 1} \frac{(k-1)!}{k!} x^k = \sum_{k \ge 1} \frac{x^k}{k} = -\ln(1-x)$$

So,

$$C(x) \exp(C(x)) = -\frac{\ln(1-x)}{(1-x)}$$

Now,

$$[x^n](-\ln(1-x)) = \frac{1}{n}$$

• By prefix sum trick, we have:

$$[x^n]^{\frac{-\ln(1-x)}{1-x}} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n}$$

So,

$$[x^n]G(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n}$$

• Since $g_n/n!$ is the expected number of cycles of a permutation of length n, the answer is 1+1/2+...+1/n, the nth Harmonic number!

Exercise #4

• Find the number of ways to partition the set $\{1,2,...,n\}$ into k subsets.

Stirling numbers of the second kind.

• Denote the answer by f(n,k).

• Consider the following **Deck polynomial**:

$$D(x) = \sum_{n \ge 1} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

• What is $D(x)^k$?

$$[x^n]D(x)^k = \sum_{a_1+a_2+\ldots+a_k=n, a_i\geq 1} \frac{1}{a_1!a_2!\ldots a_k!}$$

- This sum has a similar combinatorial interpretation as the ones in the previous problems.
- Let's assume the partition sets are labelled from 1 to k.
- Then, a_i denotes the size of the i^{th} set and there are $n!/(a_1!a_2!...a_k!)$ ways to assign a set to each element by the multinomial theorem.
- However, we have counted each partition *k*! times, since in our final answer the sets shouldn't be ordered. So,

$$k! f(n, k) = n! [x^n] D(x)^k$$

• So, rearranging:

$$\frac{f(n,k)}{n!} = \frac{[x^n]D(x)^k}{k!}$$

• Therefore,

$$\sum_{n\geq 0} \frac{f(n,k)}{n!} x^n = \frac{D(x)^k}{k!}$$

• Introducing the variable y to correspond to the variable k, we have:

$$\sum_{k\geq 0} \sum_{n\geq 0} \frac{f(n,k)}{n!} x^n y^k = \sum_{k\geq 0} \frac{[D(x)y]^k}{k!} = \exp(D(x)y)$$

We call the following polynomial a hand enumerator:

$$H(x,y) = \sum_{k\geq 0} \sum_{n\geq 0} f(n,k) \frac{x^n}{n!} y^k$$

• Thus, we have the simple formula $H(x,y) = \exp(D(x)y)$.

• We know:

$$D(x) = \sum_{n \ge 1} \frac{x^n}{n!} = e^x - 1$$

Therefore,

$$H(x, y) = e^{(e^x - 1)y}$$

• Finally,

$$n![x^ny^k]H(x,y) = n![x^n]\frac{(e^x-1)^k}{k!}$$

So, we are back to polynomial operations!

Check the references for more details!

Programming Exercise #1: Call It What You Want

https://www.acmicpc.net/problem/18559

Programming Exercise #1: Solution Idea

- Mobius Inversion
- FFT

Programming Exercise #2: Rock Paper Scissors

https://www.acmicpc.net/problem/14958

Programming Exercise #2: Solution Idea

• FFT

Programming Exercise #3 [2400] Lucky Tickets

https://codeforces.com/contest/1096/problem/G

Programming Exercise #3: Solution Idea

NTT

Programming Exercise #4: Many Easy Problems

https://atcoder.jp/contests/agc005/tasks/agc005_f

Programming Exercise #4: Solution Idea

- NTT
- https://img.atcoder.jp/data/agc/005/editorial.pdf

Programming Exercise #5: The Child and Binary Tree

https://codeforces.com/problemset/problem/438/E

Programming Exercise #5: Solution Idea

- Generating functions
- Catalan numbers
- FFT

References

- Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)
 - https://cp-algorithms.com/algebra/fft.html
- Number Theoretic Transform (NTT)
 - https://www.nayuki.io/page/number-theoretic-transform-integer-dft
 - https://codeforces.com/blog/entry/48798

- Generating Function
 - https://codeforces.com/blog/entry/77468
 - https://codeforces.com/blog/entry/77551



Generating Functions in Counting Problems

Generating functions is a powerful tool in enumerative combinatorics.

 Here, I will show you a classic example using Catalan numbers, to illustrate the counting problems involving generating functions.

We found the ordinary generating function for Catalan number is:

$$C(x) = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4x}}{2x}$$

- We want to "expand" our generating function C(x), but there is a troublesome square root in our way. We can use **generalized binomial theorem**.
- Let's derive:

$$c_n = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$$

• Let r be any complex number and n be a nonnegative integer. Then,

$$\binom{r}{n} = \frac{r(r-1)...(r-(n-1))}{n!}$$

 This is the same as the usual binomial coefficients, but now we no longer require the first term to be a nonnegative integer.

• Let r be a real number and n be a nonnegative integer. Then,

$$(1+x)^r = \sum_{n\geq 0} \binom{r}{n} x^n$$

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

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

$$= \sum_{n\geq 0} \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{-1}{2} \cdot \frac{-3}{2} \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{-(2n-3)}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{n!} \cdot (-4)^n x^n$$

$$=1+\sum_{n\geq 1}\frac{(-1)^{n-1}(1\cdot 3\cdot \ldots \cdot (2n-3))}{2^n}\cdot \frac{(-4)^n}{n!}x^n$$

$$\sqrt{1 - 4x} = (1 - 4x)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{n \ge 0} {\frac{1}{2} \choose n} (-4x)^n$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{n \ge 1} -2^n \cdot \frac{(2n - 2)!}{2^{n-1}(n-1)!} \cdot \frac{1}{n!} x^n$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{n \ge 1} \frac{-2 \cdot (2n - 2)!}{(n-1)!n!} x^n$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{n \ge 1} -\frac{2}{n} \cdot {\binom{2n-2}{n-1}} x^n.$$

$$C(x) = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4x}}{2x} = \frac{1}{2x} \left[1 - 1 - \sum_{n \ge 1} -\frac{2}{n} \cdot \binom{2n - 2}{n - 1} x^n \right]$$

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$$= \sum_{n\geq 1} \frac{1}{n} \cdot {2n-2 \choose n-1} x^{n-1} = \sum_{n\geq 0} \frac{1}{n+1} {2n \choose n} x^n$$

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$$= \sum_{n\geq 1} \frac{1}{n} \cdot \binom{2n-2}{n-1} x^{n-1} = \sum_{n\geq 0} \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n} x^n$$