

6.4 Generating Functions

Definition 8 (Generating Function)

Let $(a_n)_{n \geq 0}$ be a sequence. The corresponding

- ▶ **generating function** (Erzeugendenfunktion) is

$$F(z) := \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n z^n;$$

- ▶ **exponential generating function** (exponentielle Erzeugendenfunktion) is

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$$F(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} 1 \cdot z^n \quad \underline{\underline{= \frac{1}{1-z}}}.$$

6.4 Generating Functions

There are two different views:

A generating function is a **formal power series** (formale Potenzreihe).

Then the generating function is an **algebraic object**.

Let $f = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n z^n$ and $g = \sum_{n \geq 0} b_n z^n$.

- ▶ **Equality:** f and g are equal if $a_n = b_n$ for all n .
- ▶ **Addition:** $f + g := \sum_{n \geq 0} (a_n + b_n) z^n$.
- ▶ **Multiplication:** $f \cdot g := \sum_{n \geq 0} c_n z^n$ with $c_n = \sum_{p=0}^n a_p b_{n-p}$.

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$$\begin{array}{l} a_n z^n \quad b_0 \cdot z^0 = a_n b_0 z^n \\ a_{n-1} z^{n-1} \quad b_1 \cdot z^1 = a_{n-1} b_1 z^n \end{array}$$

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The arithmetic view:

We view a power series as a function $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$.

Then, it is important to think about convergence/convergence radius etc.

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What does $\sum_{n \geq 0} z^n = \frac{1}{1-z}$ mean in the algebraic view?

It means that the power series $1 - z$ and the power series $\sum_{n \geq 0} z^n$ are invers, i.e.,

$$(1 - z) \cdot \left(\sum_{n \geq 0} z^n \right) = 1 .$$

This is well-defined.

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$$\sum_{n \geq 0} z^n - \sum_{n \geq 0} z^{n+1}$$
$$\sum_{n \geq 1} z^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} z^n - 1$$

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$$\frac{0 \cdot (1-z)^{-2} + 2 \cdot (1-z)^{-3} \cdot (-1)}{(1-z)^2}$$

We can compute the derivative:

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Hence, the generating function of the sequence $a_n = n + 1$ is $1/(1-z)^2$.

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$$\sum_{n \geq 1} n(n+1)z^{n-1} = \frac{2}{(1-z)^3}$$

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Hence, the generating function of the sequence

$$a_n = (n+1)(n+2) \text{ is } \frac{2}{(1-z)^3} .$$

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Computing the k -th derivative of $\sum z^n$.

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$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{n \geq k} n(n-1) \cdot \dots \cdot (n-k+1)z^{n-k} &= \sum_{n \geq 0} (n+k) \cdot \dots \cdot (n+1)z^n \\ &= \frac{k!}{(1-z)^{k+1}}.\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{1}{1-z}$$

$(k-1)$ -st derivative $\frac{(k-1)!}{(1-z)^k}$

$$\frac{0 + \cancel{k} (1-z)^{\cancel{k-1}} \cdot \cancel{(-1)} \cdot (k-1)!}{(1-z)^{2k-k+1}}$$

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Hence:

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{k} z^n = \frac{1}{(1-z)^{k+1}}.$$

$$\frac{(n+k)!}{k! \cdot n!} = \frac{(n+n) \cdot \dots \cdot (n+1)}{n!}.$$

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The generating function of the sequence $a_n = \binom{n+k}{k}$ is $\frac{1}{(1-z)^{k+1}}$.

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The generating function of the sequence $a_n = n$ is $\frac{z}{(1-z)^2}$.

6.4 Generating Functions

We know

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} y^n = \frac{1}{1-y}$$

Hence,

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} a^n z^n = \frac{1}{1-az}$$

The generating function of the sequence $f_n = a^n$ is $\frac{1}{1-az}$.

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Example: $a_n = a_{n-1} + 1$, $a_0 = 1$

Suppose we have the recurrence $a_n = a_{n-1} + 1$ for $n \geq 1$ and $a_0 = 1$.

$A(z)$

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Hence, $a_n = n + 1$.

Some Generating Functions

| <i>n</i> -th sequence element | generating function |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
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Some Generating Functions

| <i>n</i> -th sequence element | generating function |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | $\frac{1}{1-z}$ |
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Some Generating Functions

| <i>n</i> -th sequence element | generating function |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | $\frac{1}{1-z}$ |
| $n + 1$ | $\frac{1}{(1-z)^2}$ |
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Some Generating Functions

| <i>n</i> -th sequence element | generating function |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | $\frac{1}{1-z}$ |
| $n + 1$ | $\frac{1}{(1-z)^2}$ |
| $\binom{n+k}{k}$ | $\frac{1}{(1-z)^{k+1}}$ |
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Some Generating Functions

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | $\frac{1}{1-z}$ |
| $n + 1$ | $\frac{1}{(1-z)^2}$ |
| $\binom{n+k}{k}$ | $\frac{1}{(1-z)^{k+1}}$ |
| n | $\frac{z}{(1-z)^2}$ |
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Some Generating Functions

| <i>n</i> -th sequence element | generating function |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | $\frac{1}{1-z}$ |
| $n+1$ | $\frac{1}{(1-z)^2}$ |
| $\binom{n+k}{k}$ | $\frac{1}{(1-z)^{k+1}}$ |
| n | $\frac{z}{(1-z)^2}$ |
| a^n | $\frac{1}{1-az}$ |
| | |
| | |

Some Generating Functions

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | $\frac{1}{1-z}$ |
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| $\binom{n+k}{k}$ | $\frac{1}{(1-z)^{k+1}}$ |
| n | $\frac{z}{(1-z)^2}$ |
| a^n | $\frac{1}{1-az}$ |
| n^2 | $\frac{z(1+z)}{(1-z)^3}$ |
| | |

Some Generating Functions

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | $\frac{1}{1-z}$ |
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| a^n | $\frac{1}{1-az}$ |
| n^2 | $\frac{z(1+z)}{(1-z)^3}$ |
| $\frac{1}{n!}$ | e^z |

Some Generating Functions

| <i>n</i> -th sequence element | generating function |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
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Some Generating Functions

| <i>n</i> -th sequence element | generating function |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| cf_n | cF |
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Some Generating Functions

| <i>n</i> -th sequence element | generating function |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| cf_n | cF |
| $f_n + g_n$ | $F + G$ |
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Some Generating Functions

| <i>n</i> -th sequence element | generating function |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| cf_n | cF |
| $f_n + g_n$ | $F + G$ |
| $\sum_{i=0}^n f_i g_{n-i}$ | $F \cdot G$ |
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Some Generating Functions

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} f_n z^{n+k} = \sum_{n \geq k} f_{n-k} \cdot z^n$$

| <i>n</i> -th sequence element | generating function |
|--|---------------------|
| cf_n | cF |
| $f_n + g_n$ | $F + G$ |
| $\sum_{i=0}^n f_i g_{n-i}$ | $F \cdot G$ |
| $f_{n-k} \ (n \geq k); \ 0 \text{ otw.}$ | $z^k F$ |

||

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} g_n \cdot z^n$$

$f_0 \ f_1 \ f_2 \ f_3 \ f_4$

\wedge

$0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ f_0 \ f_1 \ f_2$

$g_k \ g_{k+1}$

Some Generating Functions

| <i>n</i> -th sequence element | generating function |
|--|--|
| cf_n | cF |
| $f_n + g_n$ | $F + G$ |
| $\sum_{i=0}^n f_i g_{n-i}$ | $F \cdot G$ |
| f_{n-k} ($n \geq k$); 0 otw. | $z^k F$ |
| $\sum_{i=0}^n f_i$ | $\frac{F(z)}{1-z}$ |
| $ \begin{array}{cccccccc} & & & & & & & \\ \text{n-th} & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & \dots & \\ \text{element} & & & & & & & \\ \text{index} & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & & \\ \end{array} $ | $ \begin{array}{cc} & \\ \downarrow & \\ n+1 & \end{array} $ |

Some Generating Functions $z \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_n z^n \right)' = z \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \cdot f_n \cdot z^{n-1}$

| <i>n</i> -th sequence element | generating function |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| cf_n | cF |
| $f_n + g_n$ | $F + G$ |
| $\sum_{i=0}^n f_i g_{n-i}$ | $F \cdot G$ |
| f_{n-k} ($n \geq k$); 0 otw. | $z^k F$ |
| $\sum_{i=0}^n f_i$ | $\frac{F(z)}{1-z}$ |
| nf_n | $z \frac{dF(z)}{dz}$ |

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n f_n \cdot z^n$
 ||
 $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n f_n) z^n$

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| $c^n f_n$ | $F(cz)$ |

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6. The coefficients of the resulting power series are the a_n .

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$$A(z) = 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} (2a_{n-1})z^n$$

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$$\frac{1}{1-3z} + \frac{z}{(1-z)^2}$$

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$$A(z) = \frac{(1-z)^2 + z}{(1-3z)(1-z)^2}$$

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$$A(z) = \frac{(1-z)^2 + z}{(1-3z)(1-z)^2} = \frac{z^2 - z + 1}{(1-3z)(1-z)^2}$$

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$$\frac{z^2 - z + 1}{(1 - 3z)(1 - z)^2} \stackrel{!}{=} \frac{A}{1 - 3z} + \frac{B}{1 - z} + \frac{C}{(1 - z)^2}$$

$$\frac{A}{(x - \alpha_1)} + \frac{B}{(x - \alpha_2)} + \frac{C}{(x - \alpha_2)^2}$$

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This gives

$$z^2 - z + 1 = A(1 - z)^2 + B(1 - 3z)(1 - z) + C(1 - 3z)$$

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This gives

$$\begin{aligned} z^2 - z + 1 &= A(1 - z)^2 + B(1 - 3z)(1 - z) + C(1 - 3z) \\ &= A(1 - 2z + z^2) + B(1 - 4z + 3z^2) + C(1 - 3z) \end{aligned}$$

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This leads to the following conditions:

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which gives

$$A = \frac{7}{4} \quad B = -\frac{1}{4} \quad C = -\frac{1}{2}$$

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6. This means $a_n = \frac{7}{4}3^n - \frac{1}{2}n - \frac{3}{4}$.