



Combinatorics

Book 3

Fourth method: Decompose $F(x) = \frac{1+x}{1-x-x^2}$ using partial fractions.

Factor the denominator $1-x-x^2 = (1-\alpha x)(1-\beta x)$

The roots are the same as the roots of x^2+x-1

$$\text{i.e. } \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{1+4}}{2} = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

$$\text{The reciprocal roots are } \frac{2}{-1 \pm \sqrt{5}} \cdot \frac{-1 \mp \sqrt{5}}{-1 \mp \sqrt{5}} = \frac{2(-1 \mp \sqrt{5})}{1-5} = \frac{1 \mp \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

$$\alpha = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.618 \quad (\text{the golden ratio})$$

$$\beta = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx -0.618$$

Always use α, β in the algebraic simplification.

$$F(x) = \frac{1+x}{1-x-x^2} = \frac{1+x}{(1-\alpha x)(1-\beta x)} = \frac{A}{1-\alpha x} + \frac{B}{1-\beta x} = A \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\alpha x)^n + B \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\beta x)^n$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{(A\alpha^n + B\beta^n)}_{a_n} x^n$$

$a_n \sim A\alpha^n$ (exponential growth rate)

Note: The factors $1-\alpha x$, $1-\beta x$ reveal the reciprocal roots α, β . (The roots are $\frac{1}{\alpha}, \frac{1}{\beta}$.)

$$\alpha + \beta = 1$$

$$\alpha - \beta = \sqrt{5}$$

$$\alpha\beta = -1$$

α, β are reciprocal roots of x^2+x-1

$$\frac{1}{\alpha^2} + \frac{1}{\alpha} - 1 = 0$$

$$1 + \alpha - \alpha^2 = 0$$

$$\alpha^2 = \alpha + 1$$

$$\beta^2 = \beta + 1$$

Use partial fractions to find A, B such that

$$\frac{1+x}{1-x-x^2} = \frac{1+x}{(1-\alpha x)(1-\beta x)} = \frac{A}{1-\alpha x} + \frac{B}{1-\beta x}$$

$$\alpha^2 = \alpha + 1$$

$$\beta^2 = \beta + 1$$

$$1+x = A(1-\beta x) + B(1-\alpha x)$$

Evaluate at $x = \frac{1}{\alpha}$, then at $\frac{1}{\beta}$.

$$1 + \frac{1}{\alpha} = A(1 - \frac{\beta}{\alpha})$$

$$1 + \frac{1}{\beta} = B(1 - \frac{\alpha}{\beta})$$

$$\alpha^2 = \alpha + 1 = A(\alpha - \beta) = \sqrt{5}A \Rightarrow A = \frac{\alpha^2}{\sqrt{5}}$$

$$B = -\frac{\beta^2}{\sqrt{5}}$$

$\alpha \leftrightarrow \beta$ interchanged by algebraic conjugation

$$\sqrt{5} \leftrightarrow -\sqrt{5}$$

$$a_n = A\alpha^n + B\beta^n = \frac{\alpha^2}{\sqrt{5}}\alpha^n - \frac{\beta^2}{\sqrt{5}}\beta^n = \frac{\alpha^{n+2} - \beta^{n+2}}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{n+2} - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{n+2}}{\sqrt{5}}$$

As $n \rightarrow \infty$, $\beta^n \rightarrow 0$ since $|\beta| < 1$ so $a_n \sim A\alpha^n$ where $A = \frac{\alpha^2}{\sqrt{5}}$.

Asymptotics If $f(n), g(n) \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, we write $f(n) \sim g(n)$ (f is asymptotic to g) if $\frac{f(n)}{g(n)} \rightarrow 1$. This is different from \approx (approximately equal).

eg. $\sqrt{n^2 + 10n} \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$; $\sqrt{n^2 + 10n} \sim n$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

check: $\frac{\sqrt{n^2 + 10n}}{n} = \sqrt{1 + \frac{10}{n}} \rightarrow 1$. ($\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{1 + \frac{10}{n}} = 1$).

$$\sqrt{n^2 + 10n} - n = \left(\sqrt{n^2 + 10n} - n\right) \cdot \frac{\sqrt{n^2 + 10n} + n}{\sqrt{n^2 + 10n} + n} = \frac{10n}{\sqrt{n^2 + 10n} + 10n} = \frac{10}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{10}{n}} + 1} \rightarrow 5 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

$n^3 + 7n^2 \sim n^3$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ Since $\frac{n^3 + 7n^2}{n^3} = 1 + \frac{7}{n} \rightarrow 1$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$
 yet $(n^3 + 7n^2) - n^3 = 7n^2 \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$

In our case the convergence is stronger: not only is $a_n \sim A\alpha^n$ but moreover $a_n - A\alpha^n \rightarrow 0$. We can actually evaluate a_n by taking the closest integer to $A\alpha^n$.

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

Another example of partial fraction decomposition:

$$\frac{1+2x-3x^2}{1+x+4x^2+4x^3} = \frac{1+2x-3x^2}{(1+x)(1+4x^2)} = \frac{1+2x-3x^2}{(1+x)(1+2ix)(1-2ix)} = \frac{A}{1+x} + \frac{B}{1+2ix} + \frac{C}{1-2ix}$$

$$= A \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n x^n + B \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2i)^n x^n + C \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2i)^n x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{(A(-1)^n + B(-2i)^n + C(2i)^n)}_{a_n} x^n$$

OR

$$\frac{1+2x-3x^2}{1+x+4x^2+4x^3} = \frac{1+2x-3x^2}{(1+x)(1+4x^2)} = \frac{A}{1+x} + \frac{Bx+C}{1+4x^2}$$

since $\frac{1}{1+x} = \frac{x}{1+4x^2} + \frac{1}{1+4x^2}$

How fast does a_n grow? The reciprocal roots of $1+x+4x^2+4x^3$ are $-1, -2i, 2i$. $| -1 | = 1$
 $| \pm 2i | = 2$.

$a_n \sim c2^n$. From Maple it seems $a_n \sim \frac{1}{10} 2^n$.
No!
 look again: $a_n \sim \begin{cases} \frac{9}{5} 2^n & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}; \\ \frac{1}{10} 2^n & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}; \\ -\frac{3}{5} 2^n & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{4}; \\ -\frac{1}{10} 2^n & \text{if } n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$

$$F(x) = \frac{1+2x-3x^2}{(1+x)(1+4x^2)} = \frac{A}{1+x} + \frac{Bx+C}{1+4x^2} = \frac{-\frac{4}{5}}{1+x} + \frac{\frac{9}{5}x + \frac{9}{5}}{1+4x^2} = -\frac{4}{5}(1-x+x^2-x^3+x^4-x^5+\dots) + \left(\frac{9}{5}x + \frac{9}{5}\right)(1-4x^2+16x^4-64x^6+\dots)$$

Solve for A, B, C

$$\frac{1}{1-u} = 1+u+u^2+u^3+u^4+\dots$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$$

$$\text{where } a_n = (-1)^{n+1} \frac{4}{5} + \begin{cases} \frac{9}{5}(-4)^{\frac{n}{2}} & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ \frac{1}{5}(-4)^{\frac{n-1}{2}} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Alternatively,

(different constants A, B, C)

$$F(x) = \frac{A}{1+x} + \frac{B}{1+2ix} + \frac{C}{1-2ix} = \frac{-\frac{4}{5}}{1+x} + \frac{\frac{9}{5} - \frac{10}{5}i}{1+2ix} + \frac{\frac{9}{5} + \frac{10}{5}i}{1-2ix}$$

(Something like this... look at MAPLE session)

a_n "grows exponentially" (const. 2^n)

but $a_n \neq c2^n$. This happens because the denominator of $F(x)$ has two reciprocal roots of the same largest absolute value.

Another example in counting walks in a graph where this issue arises:



$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$w_n = w_n(1,1)$ = number of walks of length n from vertex 1 to itself.

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	...
w_n	1	0	2	0	4	0	8	...

$$W(x) = [I - xA]^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - x \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2x \\ -x & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{1-4x^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2x \\ x & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_{11}(x) & w_{12}(x) \\ w_{21}(x) & w_{22}(x) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad-bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

$$w(x) = w_{11}(x) = \frac{1}{1-4x^2} = 1 + 4x^2 + 16x^4 + 64x^6 + 256x^8 + \dots$$

$$w_n = w_n(r, 1) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ 2^n & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

Denominator $1-4x^2 = (1+2x)(1-2x)$ has two ^{reciprocal} roots ± 2 having the same absolute value?

Remarks: $\frac{1}{1-4x^2}$ is preferred over $\frac{-\frac{1}{4}}{x^2 - \frac{1}{4}}$ since we want to use the geometric

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

Exponential growth $f(n) \sim ca^n$ (c, a, k constants)

Polynomial growth $f(n) \sim cn^k$ eg. $4n^3 + 7n^2 + 11n + 59 \sim 4n^3$

Other counting problems leading to a sequence where generating functions are used to express the solution:

Let a_n be the number of permutations of $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ (i.e. the number of ways I can list n students in order). Then $a_n = n!$. Its generating function is



$$F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n! x^n = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 6x^3 + 24x^4 + 120x^5 + 720x^6 + 5040x^7 + \dots$$

$$G(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n!)^2 x^n = 1 + x + 4x^2 + 36x^3 + 576x^4 + \dots$$

$\binom{n}{k}$ is the number of k -subsets of an n -set

i.e. the number of bitstrings of length n having k 1's (and $n-k$ zeroes).

If $a_k = \binom{n}{k}$ where n is fixed then the generating function for the sequence a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots is

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

eg. $A_4(x) = \binom{4}{0} + \binom{4}{1}x + \binom{4}{2}x^2 + \dots = 1 + 4x + 6x^2 + 4x^3 + x^4 = (1+x)^4$

Binomial Theorem

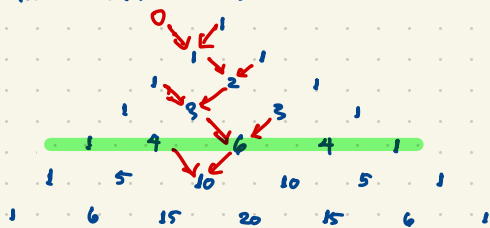
The Binomial Theorem $(1+x)^m = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{m}{n} x^n$ holds for all real values of m .

If m is a non-negative integer then $\binom{m}{n} = \frac{m!}{n!(m-n)!}$ is a non-negative integer (positive for $n=0, 1, 2, \dots, m$; zero for $n > m$) in which case $(1+x)^m$ is a polynomial in x of degree m . This is a special case of the Binomial Series.

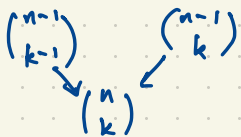
The Binomial coefficients are found by hand from Pascal's Triangle

$\binom{m}{n}$ = entry n in row m of Pascal's Triangle

eg. $\binom{4}{2}$ = entry 2 in row 4
(start counting at 0, 1, 2, ...)



The recursive formula for generating Pascal's Triangle is $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k-1} + \binom{n-1}{k}$



Three proofs of Pascal's formula $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k-1} + \binom{n-1}{k}$:

Combinatorial Proof (counting proof): Consider the n -set $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

Any k -subset $B \subseteq [n]$ is of one of the following two types:

(i) $n \in B$. In this case $B = \{n\} \cup B'$ where $B' \subseteq [n-1]$, $|B'| = k-1$.

There are $\binom{n-1}{k-1}$ ways to choose B' in this case.

(ii) $n \notin B$. In this case $B \subseteq [n-1]$. There are $\binom{n-1}{k}$ choices for B in this case.

The sum in cases (i) and (ii) must give $\binom{n}{k}$. \square

Generating Function Proof: Compare coefficients of x^k on both sides of

$$(1+x)^n = (1+x)(1+x)^{n-1}$$
$$1 + nx + \binom{n}{2}x^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{k}x^k + \dots + x^n = (1+x) \left(1 + (n-1)x + \dots + \binom{n-1}{k-1}x^{k-1} + \binom{n-1}{k}x^k + \dots + x^{n-1} \right)$$

which gives $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k-1} + \binom{n-1}{k}$. \square

Third Proof

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{n-1}{k-1} + \binom{n-1}{k} &= \frac{(n-1)!}{(k-1)!(n-k)!} + \frac{(n-1)!}{k!(n-1-k)!} \\ n! = n \cdot (n-1)! &= \frac{(n-1)! \cdot k}{(k-1)!(n-k)(n-k-1)!k} + \frac{(n-1)! \cdot (n-k)}{k \cdot (k-1)!(n-k-1)!(n-k)} \\ &= \frac{(n-1)!k + (n-1)!(n-k)}{(k-1)!(n-k-1)!k(n-k)} \\ &= \frac{n(n-1)!}{k!(n-k)!} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} = \binom{n}{k}. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

$$A_n(x) = (1+x)^n = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} x^i$$

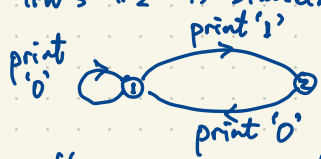
$$2^n = (1+1)^n = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} = \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} + \dots + \binom{n}{n} = \text{the sum of the entries in row } n \text{ of Pascal's triangle.}$$

A combinatorial explanation for this result is

$$2^n = \text{number of subsets of } [n] = \sum_{i=0}^n (\text{number of } i\text{-subsets of } [n]) = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i}$$

(or $2^n = \text{number of bitstrings of length } n$ which can be rewritten as $\sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i}$ where $\binom{n}{i}$ is the number of bitstrings of length n having exactly i 1's.)

#W3 #2 is similar to the example on the handout on Fibonacci numbers



$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

This directed graph is an example of a nondeterministic finite automaton with two states ①, ②.

How many walks are there starting at vertex 1? $w_n = w_n(1,1) + w_n(1,2)$

Printout 0101000 represents the walk (1,2,1,2,1,1,1,1) of length 7

The walks of length n starting at vertex 1 are in one-to-one correspondence with 11-free bitstrings of length n .

More generally, many counting problems (where recursion plays a role) are equivalent to counting walks in graphs.

Recall: Binomial Theorem $(x+y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^{n-k} y^k$ where $\binom{n}{k}$ (binomial coefficient "n choose k") equals the number of k -subsets of an n -set. $\binom{n}{k} = \begin{cases} \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} & \text{if } k \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

Multinomial Theorem $(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_r)^n = \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} \binom{n}{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_r} x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \dots x_r^{i_r}$ ($n \geq 0$ integer)

$$\binom{n}{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_r} = \frac{n!}{i_1! i_2! \dots i_r!} \quad \text{if } i_1, \dots, i_r \geq 0, i_1 + \dots + i_r = n; \quad 0 \text{ otherwise}$$

Multinomial Coefficient

eg. $(x+y+z)^3 = \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=3 \\ i,j,k \geq 0}} \binom{3}{i,j,k} x^i y^j z^k = x^3 + y^3 + z^3 + 3x^2y + 3xy^2 + 3x^2z + 3xz^2 + 3y^2z + 3yz^2 + 6xyz$

$$\binom{3}{3,0,0} = \frac{3!}{3!0!0!} = \frac{6}{6 \cdot 1 \cdot 1} = 1 = \binom{3}{0,3,0} = \binom{3}{0,0,3}$$

(Trinomial expansion)

$$\binom{3}{2,1,0} = \frac{6}{2 \cdot 1 \cdot 1} = 3 = \binom{3}{0,2,1} = \dots$$

Check: $3^3 = \underbrace{1+1+1}_3 + \underbrace{3+3+3}_6 + 6 = 27$

$$\binom{3}{1,1,1} = \frac{3!}{1!1!1!} = \frac{6}{1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1} = 6$$

(evaluating at $(1,1,1)$).

How many words can be formed by permuting the letters of MISSISSIPPI?
(Words are strings of letters where the order is important.)

$$\frac{11!}{1!4!4!2!} = \binom{11}{1,4,4,2} = 34,650.$$

How many words can be formed by permuting the bits in 01110010010?

$$\binom{11}{5,6} = \frac{11!}{5!6!} = \binom{11}{5} = \binom{11}{6} = 462$$

Say M&M's are made in 6 different colors. How many different ways can we have a handful of 10 M&M's? or n M&M's?

a_n = number of ways to have a handful of n M&M's?

n	0	1	2	...
a_n	1	6	21	...

If M&M's come in the colors red, blue, green, orange, yellow, brown, then there are $\binom{15}{5}$ ways to draw a handful of ten M&M's e.g.

R R X X G X O O O X Y X Br Br

"X" is a divider

* * X X * X * * * * X * X * * represents the color distribution

red

blue

green

orange

yellow

brown

2 red
0 blue

1 green

4 orange

1 yellow

2 brown

10 M&M's

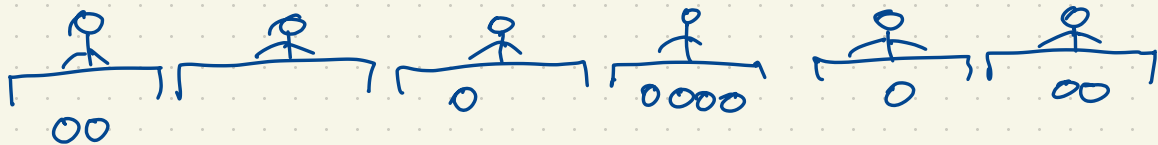
The possible color distributions for a handful of 10 M&M's are in one-to-one correspondence with the number of words of length 15 over a binary alphabet '*', 'X'. So the number of handfuls of 10 M&M's which come in 6 colors is $\binom{15}{5}$.

If M&M's come in k colors and we select n M&M's from this batch, the number of possible color distributions is $\binom{n+k-1}{k-1} = \binom{n+k-1}{n}$.

① Suppose I want to hand out n books (all different) to k students. How many ways can I do this?

$$\underbrace{k \times k \times \dots \times k}_{n \text{ times}} = k^n \text{ choices.}$$

② How many ways can I hand out n identical silver dollars to k students?
 Eg. I hand out 10 identical silver dollars to 6 students.



$$\binom{n+k-1}{n}$$

Answer: $\binom{15}{5} = \binom{15}{10}$

Note: Problem ① is counting functions $[n] \rightarrow [k]$.

In Problem ②, what if we require each student to get at least one of the silver dollars? Instead of $\binom{10+6-1}{10}$, the answer is $\binom{4+6-1}{4} = \binom{9}{4}$.

Suppose I want to hand out k different books to n students, in such a way that each student gets at most one book. How many ways can we distribute the books?

$$P(n, k) = n(n-1)(n-2)\cdots(n-k+1)$$

no. of choices of student to give book 1 to 2nd book 3rd k^{th} book

This equals zero if $k > n$.

$$P(n, k) = 0 \quad \text{if } k < n$$

$$P(n, k) = n! \quad \text{if } k = n$$

$P(n, k)$ is also denoted $n_{(k)}$ or various other notations

("descending factorial" or "falling factorial")

$P(n, k)$ is the number of one-to-one maps $[k] \rightarrow [n]$
(injections)

Question: How many surjections $[k] \rightarrow [n]$? (functions that are onto, i.e. how many ways can we hand out k different books to n students if we want every student to get at least one book)?

Binomial Theorem $(1+x)^m = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{m}{k} x^k$
 What if m is not an integer?

$$\binom{m}{k} = \frac{m!}{k!(m-k)!} = \frac{m \cdot (m-1) \cdot (m-2) \cdots (m-k+1) \cdot \cancel{(m-k)} \cdot \cancel{(m-k-1)} \cdots \cancel{1}}{k! \cdot \cancel{(m-k)} \cdot \cancel{(m-k-1)} \cdot \cancel{(m-k-2)} \cdots 1} = \frac{P(m, k)}{k!}$$

$P(m, k) = m(m-1)(m-2) \cdots (m-k+1)$ is defined for all $k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}$
 and m any real number.

$$P(m, 0) = 1$$

$$P(m, 1) = m$$

$$P(m, 2) = m(m-1)$$

eg. $\sqrt{1+x} = (1+x)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{\frac{1}{2}}{k} x^k = 1 + \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{1!} x + \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{2}-1)}{2!} x^2 + \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{2}-1)(\frac{1}{2}-2)}{3!} x^3 + \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{2}-1)(\frac{1}{2}-2)(\frac{1}{2}-3)}{4!} x^4 + \dots$

$= 1 + \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{8}x^2 + \frac{1}{16}x^3 + \dots$

Suppose I want to give out n identical silver dollars to 3 students x, y, z . How many ways can I do this? This is the same as counting bitstrings of length $n+2$ having 2 ones and n zeroes e.g.

$x^2 y z \uparrow \leftrightarrow 001010000$ represents one way to distribute 7 silver dollars to x, y, z

$\underbrace{\quad\quad}_x \quad \underbrace{\quad\quad}_y \quad \underbrace{\quad\quad}_z$

$$\binom{9}{2} = \frac{9 \cdot 8}{2 \cdot 1} = \frac{P(9, 2)}{2!} = 36 \text{ ways to distribute 7 identical silver dollars to 3 students}$$

Expand $\frac{1}{(1-x)(1-y)(1-z)} = \underbrace{(1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots)}_{\text{degree 1}} \underbrace{(1+y+y^2+y^3+\dots)}_{\text{degree 2}} \underbrace{(1+z+z^2+z^3+\dots)}_{\text{degree 3}}$

$$= 1 + x+y+z + x^2+y^2+z^2+xy+xz+yz + x^3+y^3+z^3+x^2y+xy^2+x^2z+xz^2+y^2z+yz^2+xyz + \dots$$

The term $x^i y^j z^k$ of degree $i+j+k$ represents how we can give i coins to x , j coins to y , k coins to z .

The number of ways to distribute n coins to 3 students is the number of terms of degree n in our expansion. To isolate terms of degree n in the expansion, do the following: replace x, y, z by tx, ty, tz .

$$\frac{1}{(1-tx)(1-ty)(1-tz)} = 1 + t(x+y+z) + t^2(x^2+y^2+z^2+xy+xz+yz) + t^3(x^3+y^3+\dots+xyz) + \dots$$

The coefficient of t^n in this series gives all the ways to distribute n coins to three students x, y, z . The number of ways to distribute n coins to 3 students, replace x, y, z by 1.

$$\frac{1}{(1-t)^3} = 1 + 3t + 6t^2 + 10t^3 + \dots$$

For this we can use the Binomial Theorem.

How many ways can we distribute n identical silver dollars to k students?

Call the students x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k .

$$\prod_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{1-x_i} = \frac{1}{(1-x_1)(1-x_2)\dots(1-x_k)} = \prod_{i=1}^k (1+x_i+x_i^2+x_i^3+\dots) = \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_k \geq 0} x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \dots x_k^{i_k}$$

In order to collect terms of each degree $a \geq 0$, replace x_1, \dots, x_k by tx_1, \dots, tx_k :

$$\prod_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{1-tx_i} = \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_k \geq 0} t^{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_k} x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \dots x_k^{i_k}$$

Now replace x_1, \dots, x_k by 1. $\prod_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{1-t} = \frac{1}{(1-t)^k} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{k+n-1}{n} t^n$

↖ number of monomials $x_1^{i_1} \dots x_k^{i_k}$
of degree $i_1+i_2+\dots+i_k=n$
= number of solutions of
 $i_1+i_2+\dots+i_k=n$
($i_1, \dots, i_k \geq 0$)
= number of ways to give
 i_1 coins to x_1 ,
 i_2 " " " x_2 ,
⋮
 i_k " " " x_k .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{(1-t)^k} &= (1-t)^{-k} = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \binom{-k}{r} (-t)^r = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-k)(-k-1)(-k-2)\dots(-k-r+1)}{r!} (-1)^r t^r \\ &= (1+(-t))^k \\ &= \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r k(k+1)(k+2)\dots(k+r-1)}{r!} (-1)^r t^r = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{\frac{P(k+r-1, r)}{r!}}_{\binom{k+r-1}{r}} t^r = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{n+k-1}{n} t^n \end{aligned}$$

Thus the number of ways to give k identical coins to k students is $\binom{n+k-1}{n} = \binom{n+k-1}{k-1}$.

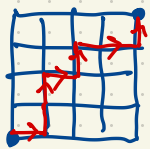
Number of ways to distribute 7 identical coins to 3 students is the coefficient of t^7 in

$$\frac{1}{(1-t)^3} = 1 + 3t + 6t^2 + 10t^3 + 15t^4 + 21t^5 + 28t^6 + 36t^7 + \dots \quad \binom{9}{2} = 36$$

The sequence of coefficients is $\binom{n}{2} = 1, 3, 6, 10, 15, 21, 28, 36, \dots$ is the triangular numbers
 $= 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n$



In a city downtown, all streets run north-south and east-west, forming a grid. How many ways can you travel from one intersection to another intersection that is n blocks north and n blocks east if we require a path of shortest distance ($2n$ blocks)?

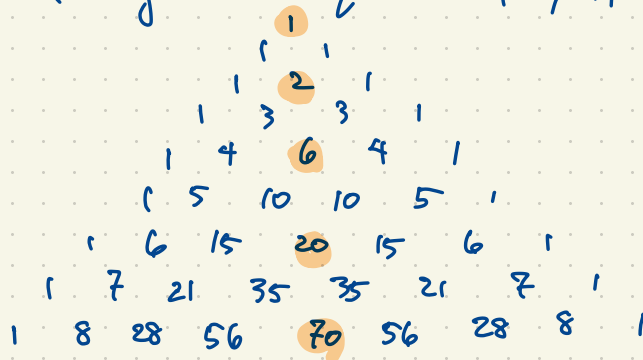


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eg. $\binom{8}{4} = 70$

words of length 8
over the binary
alphabet $\{E, N\}$

There are $\binom{2n}{n}$ shortest paths in the city grid to walk
 n blocks north and n blocks east.
This gives a sequence $1, 2, 6, 20, 70, \dots$



What is the generating function for this problem?

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{2n}{n} x^n = 1 + 2x + 6x^2 + 20x^3 + 70x^4 + \dots$$

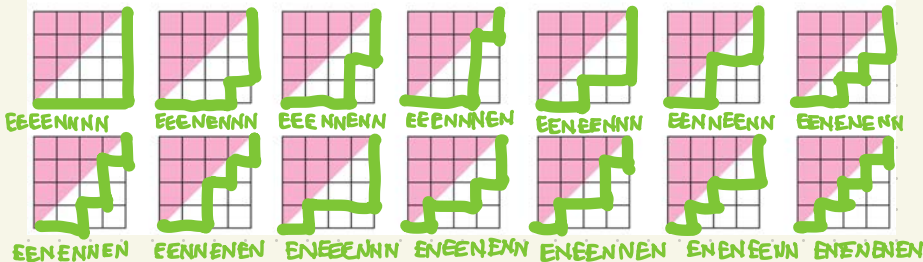
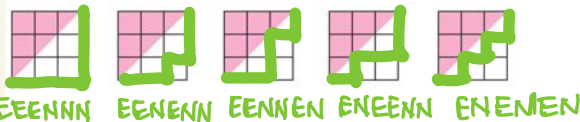
This is a warmup to our next problem. In both cases we can use the Binomial Theorem.

$$A(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{2n}{n} x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot \dots \cdot (2n)}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot n \cdot 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot n} x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot \dots \cdot (2n-1) \cdot 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdot \dots \cdot 2n}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot n \cdot 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot n} x^n$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot \dots \cdot (2n-1)}{n!} 2^n x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\frac{1}{2})(\frac{3}{2})(\frac{5}{2}) \dots (\frac{2n-1}{2})}{n!} (-4)^n x^n$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{P(-\frac{1}{2}, n)}{n!} (-4x)^n = (1 + (-4x))^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-4x}} = 1 + 2x + 6x^2 + 20x^3 + 70x^4 + \dots$$

This time count shortest paths (distance $2n$) in a city grid where we must walk n blocks north and n blocks east without going above the main diagonal " $y=x$ ":



C_n = number of solutions

n	0	1	2	3	4
C_n	1	1	2	5	14

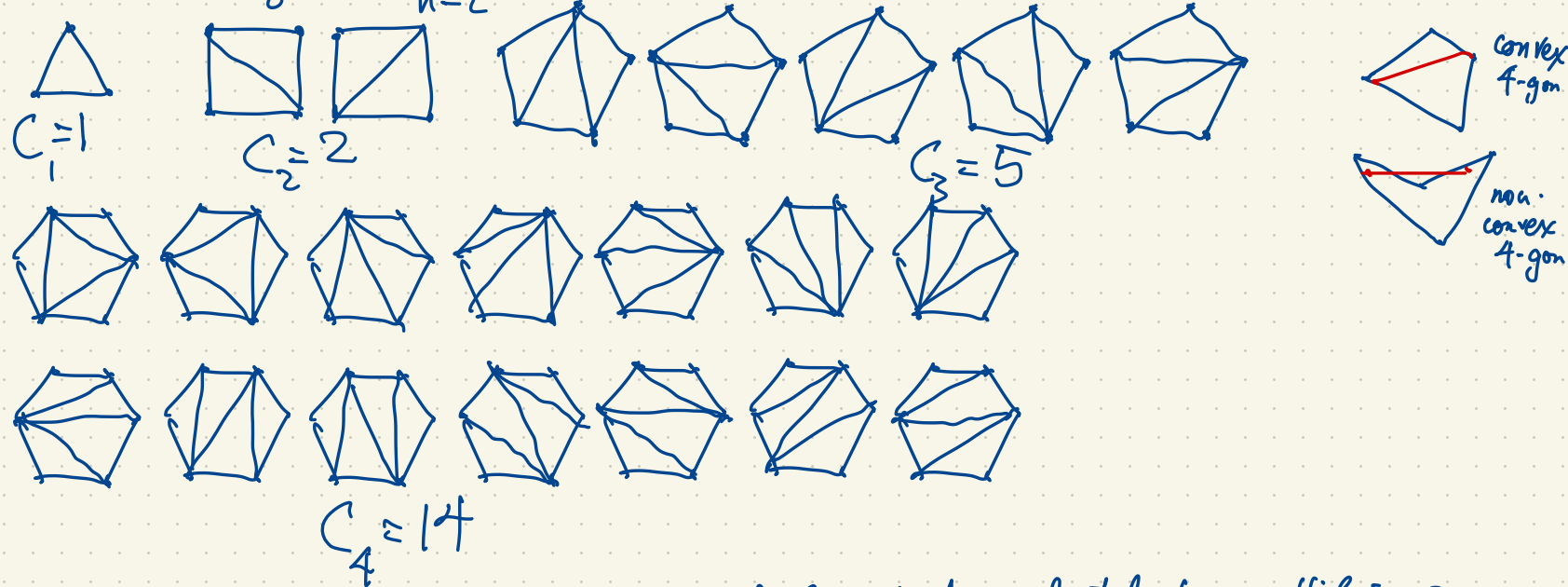
C_n is the n^{th} Catalan number.

C_n is the number of Dyck paths of length $2n$ defined above.

After observing $C_0 = 1$, we need a recurrence formula for C_n , for $n \geq 1$.

The Catalan numbers arise in many contexts.

Eg. How many ways can we join vertices of a convex n -gon to form a subdivision into $n-2$ triangles? C_{n-2}

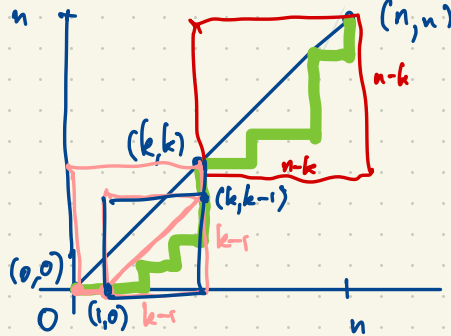


Consider a product of n factors u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n which is to be evaluated by multiplying 2 at a time. How many ways can the product be parenthesized to achieve the answer?

- $n=1$: (a) $C_0 = 1$ way
- $n=2$: (ab) $C_1 = 1$ way
- $n=3$: (ab)c, a(bc) $C_2 = 2$ ways
- $n=4$: (ab)(cd), ((ab)c)d, (a(bc))d, a((bc)d), a(b(cd)) $C_3 = 5$ ways

Recurrence formula for C_n , $n \geq 1$

(number of Dyck paths)



Let $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ be the first value for which the Dyck path returns to the line $y=x$ i.e. $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ is the smallest number for which (k,k) is in the Dyck path.

The number of choices for the portion of the Dyck path from (k,k) to (n,n) is C_{n-k} .

The number of choices for the portion of the path from $(0,0)$ to (k,k) is not exactly C_k since that would include paths that possibly hit the line $y=x$ before (k,k) . The first portion of the Dyck path consists of: one block east, then a Dyck path from $(1,0)$ to $(k,k-1)$, then one block north. There are C_{k-1} such Dyck paths in this $(k-1) \times (k-1)$ square.

$$S_{\odot} \quad C_n = \sum_{k=1}^n C_{k-1} C_{n-k} \quad \text{i.e.}$$

$$C_1 = C_0 C_0 = 1 \cdot 1 = 1$$

$$C_2 = C_0 C_1 + C_1 C_0 = 1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 1 = 2$$

$$C_3 = C_0 C_2 + C_1 C_1 + C_2 C_0 = 1 \cdot 2 + 1 \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot 1 = 5$$

$$C_4 = C_0 C_3 + C_1 C_2 + C_2 C_1 + C_3 C_0 = 5 \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 5 = 14$$

The generating function for C_n is

$$C(x) = C_0 + C_1x + C_2x^2 + C_3x^3 + C_4x^4 + \dots = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 5x^3 + 14x^4 + \dots$$

satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} C(x) &= (C_0 + C_1x + C_2x^2 + C_3x^3 + \dots)(C_0 + C_1x + C_2x^2 + C_3x^3 + C_4x^4 + \dots) \\ &= C_0C_0 + (C_0C_1 + C_1C_0)x + (C_0C_2 + C_1C_1 + C_2C_0)x^2 + (C_0C_3 + C_1C_2 + C_2C_1 + C_3C_0)x^3 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Compare:

$$(\sum a_n x^n)(\sum b_n x^n) = \sum \left(\sum_{k=0}^n a_{n-k} b_k \right) x^n$$

$(f * g)(x) = \int f(x-t)g(t)dt$ is the convolution of the two sequences a_n, b_n
is the convolution of f, g