

L 22/01

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Formal power series

term is redundant

We could define a **formal power series**

over a ring  $R$  to be a function from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $R$ .

More traditionally, it is given as a sum

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} a_k t^k$$

could be a field,  
or the ring of  
matrices over  
a field

where  $a_k \in R$ ; the terms in the sum are elements of  
the polynomial ring  $R[t]$ .

Any polynomial in  $\mathbb{R}[t]$  is a power series,  
and the addition and multiplication rules are the  
rules we use for polynomials. By

$[t^k, A(t)]$

$\circledast$

we denote the coefficient of  $t^k$  in the series  $A(t)$ .

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$$A(t) = \sum a_k t^k, \quad B(t) = \sum b_k t^k,$$

then  $[t^k, A(t) + B(t)] = [t^k, A(t)] + [t^k, B(t)] = a_k + b_k$

and

$$[t^k, A(t)B(t)] = \sum_{i=0}^k [t^i, A(t)][t^{k-i}, B(t)]$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^k a_i b_{k-i}$$

We define the order  $\text{ord}(f)$  of a power series to be the least integer  $i$  such that  $[t^i, f] \neq 0$ .

The norm  $\|f\|$  of  $f$  is  $2^{-\text{ord}(f)}$ . *large powers of  $p$  are small*

This is a norm in the usual sense. We have

(a)  $\|f\| \geq 0$ , & if  $\|f\| = 0$  then  $f = 0$ .

(b) if  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ , then  $\|\alpha f\| = \alpha \|f\|$  and  $\|\alpha f\| = \alpha \|f\|$

(c)  $\|f + g\| \leq \min\{\|f\|, \|g\|\} \leq \|f + g\|$

*non-Archimedean*

As  $\text{ord}(fg) = \text{ord}(f) + \text{ord}(g)$ , we have

$$\|fg\| \leq \|f\| \|g\|$$

note:  $R$  might have  
divisors of zero  
so  $\neq$ , not =



Let  $V$  be a metric space. A sequence  $(v_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is **Cauchy** if, for each real  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is an integer  $N$  such that  $|v_m - v_n| < \varepsilon$  if  $m, n \geq N$ . Two Cauchy sequences are **equivalent** if their difference converges to 0. The equivalence classes of Cauchy sequences form the completion of  $V$  with respect to the metric.

**Theorem** The ring of formal power series  $R[[t]]$  is the completion of the ring of polynomials  $R[t]$ .

## Completions

Let  $R$  be a ring. Then

(a)  $R^{\mathbb{N}}$  is a ring

(b) Given a metric on  $R^{\mathbb{N}}$ , the Cauchy sequences form a subring of  $R^{\mathbb{N}}$ ; calling  $\mathcal{B}(R)$

(c) The Cauchy sequences that converge to zero form an ideal  $\mathcal{I}$  in  $\mathcal{B}(R)$ . The quotient  $\mathcal{B}(R)/\mathcal{I}$  is the completion.

**Theorem** Let  $(f_r)_{r \geq 0}$  be a sequence of power series.

If  $\|f_r\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , then  $\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} f_r$  is defined.  $\square$

**Lemma** Let  $f$  be a power series with constant

term 0. Then series  $1 + f + f^2 + \dots$  is defined

and is the multiplicative inverse of  $1 - f$ .  $\square$

So a power series is invertible if & only if its

constant term is invertible.

# Generating Functions

Let  $\Omega$  be a set (e.g. of strings formed from  $a$  &  $b$ )

and let  $\text{wt}: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be a function from  $\Omega$  to  $\mathbb{N}$

s.t. for all non-negative integers  $i$ ,

$$|\{\alpha \in \Omega: \text{wt}(\alpha) = i\}| < \infty.$$

We call  $\text{wt}$  a **weight function**. Then the sum

$$\sum_{\alpha \in \Omega} t^{\text{wt}(\alpha)}$$

is the **generating function** for  $(\Omega, \text{wt})$ .

# Rules

(a) sum

(b) product

(c) sequences

**Sum:** Suppose  $\Omega_1 \cap \Omega_2 = \emptyset$ , and the weight functions are  $w_1, w_2$  respectively. Define  $w$  on  $\Omega_1 \cup \Omega_2$  by

$$w(\alpha) = \begin{cases} w_1(\alpha), & \alpha \in \Omega_1; \\ w_2(\alpha), & \alpha \in \Omega_2. \end{cases}$$

If the generating functions for  $\Omega_1$  &  $\Omega_2$  are respectively  $A_1$  &  $A_2$ , the generating function for  $(\Omega, w)$  is  $A_1 + A_2$ .

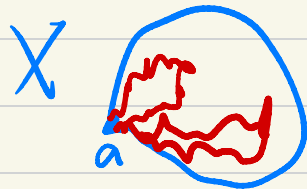


**Products:** We define a weight function on  $\Omega_1 \times \Omega_2$

by

$$wt(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) = wt_1(\alpha_1) + wt_2(\alpha_2)$$

If  $A_1$  &  $A_2$  are the generating functions for  $\Omega_1$  &  $\Omega_2$ , the generating function for  $(\Omega_1 \times \Omega_2, wt)$  is  $A_1 A_2$ .



## Sequences

Assume no element of  $\Omega$  has weight zero. The set

$$\bigcup_{n \geq 0} \Omega^n$$

has generating function  $\frac{1}{1-A}$ . We may

denote this by  $W^*$ .

## Examples

(a) Assume  $\Omega = \{a, b\}$  &  $wt(a) = wt(b) = 1$ . The generating function for  $\Omega$  is  $2t$ . The generating function

$$\text{for } \Omega^* = \frac{1}{1-2t} = \sum_n 2^n t^n$$

(b) Assume  $\Omega = \{a, b\}$  &  $wt(a) = 1, wt(b) = 2$ .

Then the generating function for  $\Omega$  is  $t+t^2$  and

the generating function for  $\Omega^* = \frac{1}{1-t-t^2} =: A(t)$

Note that  $[t^k, A(t)]$  is the number of ways we can write  $k$  as a sum of a sequence of 1's & 2's.

If  $A(t) = \sum_{r \geq 0} a_r t^r$  then  $1 = (1 - t - t^2)A(t)$ . We

have

$$[t^k, (1 - t - t^2)A(t)] = a_k - a_{k-1} - a_{k-2} \quad (k \geq 2)$$

and

$$[t^k, 1] = \begin{cases} 1, & k=0; \\ 0, & k>0. \end{cases}$$

$$a_0 = 1 \quad a_1 = ?$$

$$\Rightarrow a_k = a_{k-1} + a_{k-2} \quad k \geq 2$$

It follows (after some work) that  $a_k$  is the  $k$ -th Fibonacci number.

(c) Suppose  $a_{k+1} = a_k + a_{k-1}$  ( $k \geq 1$ ). Then

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{k+1} \\ a_k \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_k \\ a_{k-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{F}$$

and hence

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{k+1} \\ a_k \end{pmatrix} = A^k \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_0 \end{pmatrix} \quad k \geq 0$$

So

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} t^k \begin{pmatrix} a_{k+1} \\ a_k \end{pmatrix} = \sum_{k \geq 0} t^k F^k \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_0 \end{pmatrix} = (I - tF)^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} t^k a_k = e_2^T \left[ (I - tF)^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_0 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

$$(I - t \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix})^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1-t & -t \\ -t & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{1-t-t^2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t \\ t & 1-t \end{pmatrix}$$

Walk generating functions

The  $ij$ -entry of  $A^k$  is the number of walks from  $i$  to  $j$  in  $X$  with length  $k$ . If we fix  $i$  &  $j$ , the generating function for the sequence  $((A^k)_{i,j})_{k \geq 0}$  is  $((I - tA)^{-1})_{i,j}$ . So we define

$$W(X, t) = (I - tA)^{-1}$$

and call it the **walk generating function** of  $X$



The matrix  $(tI-A)^{-1}$  is the **resolvent** of  $A$  and plays a key role in spectral theory. If the eigenvalues of  $A$  are  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_d$  with corresponding spectral idempotents  $E_1, \dots, E_d$ , the spectral decomposition of  $(tI-A)^{-1}$  is

$$(tI-A)^{-1} = \sum_{r=1}^d \frac{1}{t-\theta_r} E_r$$

Hence

$$\left( (tI-A)^{-1} \right)_{ij} = \sum_r \frac{(E_r)_{ij}}{t-\theta_r}$$

A walk is **closed** if its first & last vertices are equal. The generating function for closed walks in  $X$  starting at  $u$  is  $W(X, t)_{uu}$ ; we denote it by  $C_u(X, t)$  and use  $C(X, t)$  to denote  $\sum_{u \in V(X)} C_u(X, t)$ , the generating function for all closed walks in  $X$ . Finally  $C_u^{(1)}(X, t)$  is the generating function for closed walks on  $u$  that return just once.

**Lemma**  $C_u(X, t) = \frac{1}{1 - C_u^{(1)}(X, t)}$

**Proof** A closed walk starting at  $u$  is a sequence of closed walks that start at  $u$  and return exactly once.

The lemma follows. □

**Remarks:**

(a) If  $u$  has valency  $k$  then  $C_u^{(1)}(X, t) = kt^2 + \dots$

(b)  $C_u^{(1)}(X, t) = 1 - \frac{1}{C_u(X, t)}$

We have  $C_u(X, b) = (I - bA)_{u,u}^{-1}$  and so

$$b^{-1} C_u(X, b^{-1}) = ((tI - A)_{u,u}^{-1})$$

By Cramer's rule

$$(tI - A)_{u,u}^{-1} = \frac{\det(bI - A(X_{-u}))}{\det(tI - A(X))} = \frac{\varphi(X_{-u}, b)}{\varphi(X, t)}$$

**Lemma**  $b^{-1} C_u(X, b^{-1}) = \frac{\varphi(X_{-u}, b)}{\varphi(X, t)}$

If  $A$  has eigenvalues  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_d$  with respective multiplicities  $m_1, \dots, m_d$ , then

$$\text{tr}(A^k) = \sum_{r=1}^d m_r \theta_r^k$$

and hence

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} t^k \text{tr}(A^k) = \sum_{k,r} m_r \theta_r^k t^k = \sum_r \frac{m_r}{1-t\theta_r}.$$

But LHS is

$$\text{tr}(I - tA)^{-1} = \sum_{u \in V(X)} c_u(X, t) = \sum_u \frac{t^{-1} \theta(X, u, t^{-1})}{\theta(X, t^{-1})}$$

Now if  $p(t)$  is a polynomial with zeros  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_d$  and respective multiplicities  $m_1, \dots, m_d$  then

$$\frac{p'(t)}{p(t)} = \sum_r \frac{m_r}{t - \theta_r} \quad (\text{exercise})$$

So

$$\sum_r \frac{m_r}{1 - t\theta_r} = t^{-1} \sum_r \frac{m_r}{t^{-1} - \theta_r} = t^{-1} \frac{\Phi'(X, t^{-1})}{\Phi(X, t^{-1})}$$

and therefore  $\sum_{u \in V} \theta(X - u, t) = \Phi'(X, t)$ .

