

Lecture 5: August 27

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### 5.1 Bivariate Generating Functions

Still considering the set of binary strings without adjacent 1's:  $0^*(100^*)(\epsilon v1)$ . Consider the generating function (denoted g.f.) for two variables

$$f(x, y) = \sum_{f_{n,k}} x^n y^k \tag{5.1}$$

Where  $f(x, y) = \#$  of binary strings of length  $n$  with exactly  $k$  1's (still without adjacent 1's), and both  $n, k$  are finite.

**Exercise:** Suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are combinatorial classes, with each having weight  $w$  and length  $l$  defined. That is each object has a non-negative integer weight and non-negative integer length and  $\mathcal{A}_{n,k} = \{\text{objects with weight } n \text{ and length } k\}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_{n,k} = \{\text{objects with weight } n \text{ and length } k\}$ .

$\|\mathcal{A}_{n,k}\|$  finite for each pair of  $n, k$

$\|\mathcal{B}_{n,k}\|$  finite for each pair of  $n, k$

If  $\mathcal{A}$  has bivariate generating function  $f(x, y)$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  has bivariate generating function  $g(x, y)$ , then  $\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{B}$  with obvious weight and length  $w_p = w_1 + w_2$  and  $l_p = l_1 + l_2$ . Has bivariate generating function  $f(x, y)g(x, y)$ . Once this exercise is complete we can do the following:

$$\begin{aligned} 0^* \text{ has g.f. : } & \frac{1 + x^2 + x^3 + \dots}{1 - x} \\ 100^* \text{ has g.f. : } & \frac{x^2y + x^3y + x^4y + \dots = x^2y}{1 - x} \\ (100^*)^k \text{ has g.f. : } & \left(\frac{x^2y}{1 - x}\right)^k \end{aligned}$$

Since these sets of strings are all disjoint

$$\begin{aligned} (100^*)^* \text{ has g.f. : } & 1 + \frac{x^2y}{1 - x} + \frac{x^2y^2}{1 - x} + \frac{x^2y^3}{1 - x} + \dots = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{x^2y}{1 - x}} \\ (\epsilon v1) \text{ has g.f. : } & 1 + xy \\ \text{Hence } 0^*(100^*)(\epsilon v1) \text{ has g.f. : } & \frac{1}{1 - x} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{x^2y}{1 - x}} (1 + xy) = \frac{1 + xy}{1 - x - x^2y} \end{aligned}$$

How do we get coefficients out of this?

$$\begin{aligned}
& [y^k] \frac{1+xy}{1-x-x^2y} \\
&= [y^k] \frac{1}{1-x} \frac{1}{1-\frac{x^2y}{1-x}} \\
&= \frac{1}{1-x} [y^k] \frac{1}{1-\frac{x^2y}{1-x}} \\
&= \left( \frac{1}{1-x} [y^k] \frac{1}{1-\frac{x^2y}{1-x}} \right) + \left( \frac{x}{1-x} [y^{k-1}] \frac{1}{1-\frac{x^2y}{1-x}} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{1-x} \left( \frac{x^2}{1-x} \right)^k + \frac{x}{1-x} \left( \frac{x^2}{1-x} \right)^{k-1}
\end{aligned}$$

As an aside, note that:

$$\begin{aligned}
& [x^m] \frac{1}{1-x^k} \\
&= [x^m] (1-x)^{-k} \\
&= \binom{-k}{m} (-1)^m
\end{aligned}$$

Where we need to interpret  $\binom{-k}{m}$  properly! That is

$$\begin{aligned}
\binom{n}{m} &= \frac{n!}{m!(n-m)!} \\
&= \frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-m+1)}{m!}
\end{aligned}$$

This expression makes sense even if  $n$  is not a positive integer.

**Definition 5.1** Let  $z$  be an object which can be added or multiplied (i.e. in some ring). Then:

$$\binom{z}{m} := \frac{z(z-1)\dots(z-m+1)}{m!}$$

So, for example

$$\begin{aligned}
& \binom{-k}{m} (-1)^{-1} \\
&= \frac{-k(-k-1)\dots(-k-m+1)}{m!} (-1)^m \\
&= \frac{k(k+1)\dots(k+m-1)}{m!} \\
&= \frac{(k+m-1)(k+m-2)\dots(k+1)k}{m!} \\
&= \frac{(k+m-1)!}{m!(k-1)!} \\
&= \binom{k+m-1}{m} \\
&= \binom{k+m-1}{k-1}
\end{aligned}$$

**Note:**

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{(1-x)^2} \\
&= \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{1-x} \right) \\
&= \frac{d}{dx} (1+x+x^2+\dots) \\
&= 1+2x+3x^2+\dots \Rightarrow [x^m] \frac{1}{(1-x)^2} \\
&= m+1
\end{aligned}$$

Let's continue this:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left( \frac{d}{dx} \right)^2 \frac{1}{1-x} = \frac{2}{(1-x)^3} \\
& \left( \frac{d}{dx} \right)^3 \frac{1}{1-x} = \frac{(2)(3)}{(1-x)^4} \\
& \left( \frac{d}{dx} \right)^n \frac{1}{1-x} = \frac{n!}{(1-x)^{n+1}} \\
& \text{so, } \frac{1}{(1-x)^k} = \frac{1}{(k-1)!} \left( \frac{d}{dx} \right)^{k-1} \frac{1}{1-x} \\
& \text{but } \left( \frac{d}{dx} \right)^{k-1} x^r = r(r-1)\dots(r-k+2)x^{r-k+1}
\end{aligned}$$

so,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{(k-1)!} \left(\frac{d}{dx}\right)^{k-1} x^r &= \frac{r(r-1)\cdots(r-k+2)}{(k-1)!} x^{r-k+1} \\ &= \binom{r}{k-1} x^{r-k+1} \end{aligned}$$

so,

$$[x^m] \frac{1}{(1-x)^k} = \binom{k+m-1}{k-1}$$

**Theorem 5.2**

$$[x^n](1+x)^z = \binom{z}{n} \text{ where } \binom{z}{n} = \frac{z(z-1)\cdots(z-m+1)}{n!} \quad (5.2)$$

Back to coefficients,

$$[x^n y^k] f(x, y) = [x^n] \left( \frac{1}{1-x} \left(\frac{x^2}{1-x}\right)^k + \frac{x}{1-x} \left(\frac{x^2}{1-x}\right)^{k-1} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} [x^n] \frac{x^{2k}}{(1-x)^{k+1}} &= [x^{n-2k}] \frac{1}{(1-x)^{k+1}} \\ &= \binom{n-2k+k}{k} \\ &= \binom{n-k}{k} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} [x^n] \frac{x^{2k-1}}{(1-x)^k} &= [x^{n-2k+1}] \frac{1}{(1-x)^k} \\ &= \binom{n-2k+k}{k-1} \\ &= \binom{n-k}{k-1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_{n,k} &= \binom{n-k}{k} + \binom{n-k}{k-1} \\ &= \binom{n-k+1}{k} \\ &\Rightarrow F_n = f_{n,0} + f_{n,1} + f_{n,2} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

So this expresses Fibonacci numbers in terms of binomial terms

$$F_n = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor} \binom{n-k+1}{k}$$

**Exercise:** Give a combinatorial proof that  $f_{n,k} = \binom{n-k+1}{k}$