

ANALYTIC COMBINATORICS

Philippe FLAJOLET

Bologna, June 2010

1

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

Counting...



Counting (and asymptotics)

Binary trees => Catalan numbers

Formula is

$$C_n = \frac{1}{n+1} {\binom{2n}{n}} = \frac{(2n)!}{n!(n+1)!}$$

 $C_n \sim \frac{4}{\sqrt{\pi n}}$

Growth rate is (asymptotics)

Counting (and probabilities)



Counting (methods)

E.g. binary trees: 1, 1, 2, 5, 14, 42,



Bijective combinatorics = first principles

✓ Generating function methods …

Algebraic methods (e.g., symmetric fns, operator)

Generating Functions (GFs)

Combinatorial class C; counting sequence (C_n) :

$$\mathcal{C} \implies \begin{cases} C(z) = \sum C_n z^n \quad (OGF) \\ \hat{C}(z) = \sum C_n \frac{z^n}{n!} \quad (EGF) \end{cases}$$

• Get GFs

combinatorics ~> algebra of special fns

• Look at GFs as mappings of complex plane, $z \in \mathbb{C}$ algebra of special fns \rightsquigarrow complex analysis

• For parameters, add extra variables

complex analysis \rightsquigarrow perturbation theory

A Calculus of Discrete Structures



Discrete

Continuous

(a digital tree aka trie of size 500) (a generating function in the complex plane)



Analytic Combinatorics

Philippe Flajolet and Robert Sedgewick

CAMBRIDGE



Analytic Combinatorics

A. Combinatorial structures
 B. Analytic structures
 C. Randomness properties

for objects given by constructions



Quotations (1)

- Laplace discovered the remarkable correspondence between set theoretic operations and operations on formal power series and put it to great use to solve a variety of combinatorial problems. — G.–C. ROTA
- La méthode des fonctions génératrices, qui a exercé ses ravages pendant un siècle, est tombée en désuétude... – Claude BERGE

Quotations (2)

- Despite all appearances they [generating functions] belong to algebra and not to analysis.
- Combinatorialists use recurrence, generating functions, and such transformations as the Vandermonde convolution;

others to my horror, use contour integrals, differential equations, and other resources of mathematical analysis. — John RIORDAN

Symbolic Methods

*1. Unlabelled structures & OGFs
* 2. Labelled structures and EGFs
* 3. Parameters and multivariate GFs

Embed a fragment of set theory into a language of constructions; map to algebra(s) of special functions.

Chapter I Unlabelled structures and OGFs

Symbolic Methods

Embed a fragment of set theory into a language of constructions;

map combinatorics to algebra(s) of special functions.

1 UNLABELLED STRUCTURES AND OGFS

Ordinary Generating Function (OGF)

$$(f_n) \longrightarrow f(z) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_n z^n.$$

 (f_n) is number sequence, e.g., counting sequence.

Later: Exponential Generating function (EGF): $(f_n) \longrightarrow f(z) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_n \frac{z^n}{n!}$.

💹 🍸 Symbolic approach

 An object of size n is viewed as composed of n atoms (with additional structure): words, trees, graphs, permutations, etc.

- Replace each atom by symbolic weight z:
- Class: \sum objects. Object: $\gamma \rightsquigarrow z^{|\gamma|}$.

Gives the Ordinary Generating Function (OGF):

$$C \longrightarrow C(z) := \sum_{\gamma \in \mathcal{C}} z^{|\gamma|} \equiv \sum_n C_n z^n.$$

E.g.: a class of graphs enumerated by # vertices



Principle (Symbolic method)

The OGF of a class: (i) encodes the counting sequence; (ii) is nothing but a reduced form of the class itself.

How many binary trees B_n with n external nodes?



Figure 3.1 All binary trees with 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 external nodes

 $\mathcal{B} = \Box + \bullet, (\mathcal{B} \times \mathcal{B}).$ Euler-Segner (1743): Recurrence $B_n = \sum B_k B_{n-k}.$ Form OGF: $B(z) = z + (B(z) \times B(z))$. Solve equation (quadratic): $B(z) = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \sqrt{1 - 4z}) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}(1 - 4z)^{1/2}.$ Expand: $B_n = \frac{1}{n} \begin{pmatrix} 2n-2\\ n-1 \end{pmatrix}$ (Catalan numbers)

Analogy:
$$\mathcal{B} = \Box + (\bullet \mathcal{B} \times \mathcal{B}) \rightsquigarrow B(z) = z + (B(z) \times B(z))$$



Define a collection of constructions

union, product, sequence, set, cycle, ...

allowing for recursive definitions.

meta-THM1: OGFs are automatically computable (equations!) meta-THM2: Counting sequences are automatically computable in time $O(n^2)$, and even $O(n^{1+\epsilon})$.

meta-THM3: Random generation is fast in $O(n \log n)$ arithmetic op'ns.

Several set-theoretic constructions translate into GFs.



There is a micro-dictionary:

disjoint union $C = A \cup B \implies C(z) = A(z) + B(z)$ cartesian product $C = A \times B \implies C(z) = A(z) \cdot B(z)$



 \mathcal{E} or 1: "neutral class" formed with element of size $0 \mapsto E(z) = 1$. \mathcal{Z} : "atomic class" formed with element of size $1 \mapsto E(z) = 1$.

$$\begin{split} & \operatorname{Exp}(g(z)) = \operatorname{exp}\left(\sum_{k \ge 1} \frac{1}{k} g(z^k)\right); \widehat{\operatorname{Exp}}(g(z)) = \operatorname{exp}\left(\sum_{k \ge 1} \frac{(-1)^k}{k} g(z^k)\right); \\ & \operatorname{Log}(g(z)) = \sum_{k \ge 1} \frac{\varphi(k)}{k} g(z^k) \text{ with } \varphi(k) \text{= Euler totient.} \end{split}$$

SEQUENCE

$$G = Seq(A)$$

$$C(g) = \frac{1}{1 - A(z)}$$

$$(i) \quad G = \mathbf{1} + (A \times G)$$

$$(ii) \quad \frac{1}{4 - f} = 1 + f + f^{2} + \dots$$

$$SET$$

$$G = Set(A)$$

$$C(g) = exp(A(t) - A(z^{2}) + \dots)$$

$$a \in A$$

$$C(z) = TT(A + faz)$$

$$C(z) = exp(A(t) - A(z^{2}) + \dots)$$

$$R = 1$$

$$C(z) = TT(A + z^{n})^{A_{n}} = exp(\sum_{n} A_{n} \log(A + z^{n})) = \dots$$

$$MultiseT$$

$$G = MSEt(A) \cong TT Seq(faz)$$

$$C(z) = TT(A - z^{n})^{-A_{n}} = exp(A(z) + \frac{1}{2}A(z^{2}) + \dots)$$

$$R = 1$$

$$Frid of Proof$$

Wednesday, June 2, 2010



Theorem (Symbolic method)

A dictionary translates constructions into generating functions:

Union	+
Product	×
Sequence	$\frac{1}{1-\cdots}$
Set	Exp
Cycle	Log

This theorem permits us to mite Automatically
for binary trees
$$B = (3^{3}B)$$
$$\downarrow$$
$$B(z) = Z + B(z)^{2}$$

Roots...



A modicum of Pólya theory (1937)
 Schützenberger: languages and GFs (~1960)
 Rota-Stanley = MIT School (1970s)
 Goulden-Jackson = constructions (~1980)
 Joyal's theory of species +BLL (1980s)

Example 1. Binary words

$$\mathcal{W} = \operatorname{SEQ}(\{a, b\}) \implies W(z) = \frac{1}{1 - 2z}.$$

Get $W_n = 2^n$ (!?). Words starting with b and < 4 consecutive a's:

$$\mathcal{W}^{\bullet} \cong \operatorname{SEQ}(b \times (1 + a + aa + aaa)) \implies W^{\bullet}(z) = \frac{1}{1 - (z + z^2 + z^3 + z^4)}$$

Longest run statistics lead to rational functions (Feller).

Example 2. Plane trees ("general" = all degrees allowed)

$$P_{1}=1 | P_{2}=1 | P_{3}=2 | P_{4}=5$$

$$P(z) = \frac{z}{1-P(z)} \implies P(z) = \frac{1-\sqrt{1-4}z}{2} P_{n} = \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n-2}{n-1}$$

P= Z'x Seq (P)

Catalan numbers again!

Example 3. Nonplane trees (all degrees allowed) $\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{Z} \times \text{MSET}(\mathcal{U})$. $U_1 = 1, U_2 = 1, U_3 = 2, U_4 = 5$.

$$U(z) = z \exp\left(\frac{1}{1}U(z) + \frac{1}{2}U(z^2) + \frac{1}{3}U(z^3) + \cdots\right)$$

Cayley: recurrences; Pólya: asymptotics of this infinite functional equation.

Exercise: computable in polynomial time ($O(n^2)$).

Example 4. Words containing a pattern (*abb*)



 $\mathcal{L}_j :=$ language accepted from state j.

$$\{\mathcal{L}_0 = a\mathcal{L}_1 + b\mathcal{L}_0, \ \mathcal{L}_1 = a\mathcal{L}_1 + b\mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{L}_2 = a\mathcal{L}_1 + b\mathcal{L}_3, \ldots\}$$

Theorem. Regular language (finite automaton) has rational GF.

 $Reg \mapsto \mathbb{Q}(z).$

Patterns of all sorts in words. Applications in pattern matching algorithms and computational biology.

Example 5. Walks and excursions.



Simple families of plane trees.

Let $\Omega \subseteq Z_{\geq 0}$ be the set of allowed (out)degrees. Define

$$\phi(y) := \sum_{w \in \Omega} y^{\omega}.$$

Then the simple family $\mathcal Y$ has OGF:

$$Y(z) = z\phi(Y(z)).$$

If ϕ is finite, get an algebraic function.

Lagrange Inversion Theorem.

$$[z^n]Y(z) = \frac{1}{n}\operatorname{coeff}[w^n]\phi(w)^n.$$

If ϕ is finite, get multinomial sums.



Some constructible families and generating fuctions

- Regular languages, FA, paths in graphs: →
- Unambiguous context-free languages
- Terms trees ↔ [+Pólya operators]



rational fns

algebraic functions

implicit functions

Algebraic functions (1)

- Arise from specifications (CF grammars),
 with +, x, Seq
- *Elimination*: system -> single equation
 P(x,y)=0
- ✓ Coefficients are "<u>combinatorial sums</u>"

[e.g., Sokal, *SLC* 2009]

Algebraic functions (2)

- MAPS: Tutte's <u>quadratic method</u>; cf Cori, Bousquet-Mélou et al., Bordeaux School...
- EXCURSIONS: the kernel method;
 cf Lalley 1993, Banderier-F 2001, MBM

$$F(z, u) = 1 + z(u^{-2} + u^0 + u^3)F(z, u) - \operatorname{coeff}[u^{<0}]u^{-2}F(z, u)$$

$$\implies \text{ solve } 1 - z(u^{-2} + u^0 + u^3) = 0.$$

Chapter 2 Labelled structures and EGFs

2 LABELLED STRUCTURES AND EGFS

EGF = exponential generating function

$$(f_n) \longrightarrow f(z) = \sum_{n \ge 0} f_n \frac{z^n}{n!}.$$

A labelled object has atoms that bear distinct integer labels (canonically numbered on [1 ... n]).

Example. How many (undirected) graphs on *n* (distinguishable) vertices? $G^n = 2^{n(n-1)/2}$.

Graphs: unlabelled problem is harder (Pólya theory). In general, can get unlabelled by identification of labelled.
PERMUTATIONS = typical labelled objects: write
$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \cdots & n \\ \sigma_1 & \sigma_2 & \cdots & \sigma_n \end{pmatrix}$$

as $\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_n$ and view as linear digraph that is labelled:
 $\varepsilon_1 & \varepsilon_2 & \varepsilon_2 & \varepsilon_3 & \varepsilon_4 & \varepsilon_4$

ROOTED TREES (graphs) nonplane and labelled

$$T_{n} = ??$$

$$T_{1} = 1, \quad T_{2} = 2, \quad T_{3} = 9, \quad (T_{4} = 64..)$$

$$\gg \text{Unlabelled:}$$

$$U_{1} = 1, \quad U_{2} = 1, \quad U_{3} = 2, \quad U_{4} = 4, \cdots$$

Labelled product. Let A and B be labelled classes. Then the cartesian product $A \times B$ is *not* well-labelled (why?).

Given (β, γ) form all possible *relabellings* that preserve the order structure within β, γ , while giving rise to well-labelled objects.



Labelled product of two objects.

$$(\alpha \star \beta) := \left\{ \gamma \mid \gamma = (\alpha', \beta') \right\},\$$

where γ is well-labelled and $\alpha' \equiv_{\text{order}} \alpha$ and $\beta' \equiv_{\text{order}} \beta$.

• Labelled product of two classes.

$$\mathcal{C} := \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}, \beta \in \mathcal{B}} (\alpha \star \beta).$$

 $C_n = A \times B$ $C_n = \sum_{k=0}^{m} {\binom{n}{k}} A_k B_{n-k}$ $\frac{Cn}{n!} = \frac{\sum AR}{R!} \frac{Bn-R}{(n-R)!}$

 $\Rightarrow \hat{C}(z) = \hat{A}(z) \cdot \hat{B}(z) \leftarrow EGF$

Sequences, Sets, Cycles

- \mathcal{E} (or 1): neutral class.
- \mathcal{Z} : atomic class $\equiv 1$.
- Define SEQ(A), SET(A), CYC(A) by relabellings:

$$SEQ(\mathcal{A}) = \mathbf{1} + \mathcal{A} + (\mathcal{A} \star \mathcal{A}) + \cdots$$

Sets: quotient up to perms. Cyc: up to cyclic perms.

Theorem. There exists a dictionary:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Construction} & \mbox{EGF} \\ \hline {\cal C} = {\cal A} + {\cal B} & C(z) = A(z) + B(z) \\ {\cal C} = {\cal A} \star {\cal B} & C(z) = A(z) \cdot B(z) \\ \hline {\cal C} = {\rm SEQ}({\cal A}) & C(z) = \frac{1}{1 - A(z)} \\ \hline {\cal C} = {\rm SET}({\cal A}) & C(z) = \exp(A(z)) \\ \hline {\cal C} = {\rm CYC}({\cal A}) & C(z) = \log \frac{1}{1 - A(z)} \end{array}$$

 \mathcal{E} or 1: "neutral class" formed with element of size $0 \mapsto E(z) = 1$. \mathcal{Z} : "atomic class" formed with element of size $1 \mapsto E(z) = 1$.

SEQ: $1 + A + A^2 + \cdots = \frac{1}{1 - 4}$. SET: $1 + \frac{A}{1!} + \frac{A^2}{2!} + \dots = \exp(A).$ CYC: $1 + \frac{A}{1} + \frac{A^2}{2} + \dots = \log \frac{1}{1 - A}$.

(End of proof of Theorem)

$$\begin{array}{l} -\operatorname{Perms} \mathcal{P} \cong \operatorname{SEQ}(\mathcal{Z}) \\ -\operatorname{Urn} \mathcal{U} \cong \operatorname{SET}(\mathcal{Z}) \\ -\operatorname{Circulars} \operatorname{graphs} \mathcal{K} \cong \operatorname{Cyc}(\mathcal{Z}) \\ m \text{ times} \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{l} -m - \operatorname{functions:} \mathcal{F}^{[m]} \cong \overbrace{\mathcal{U} \star \cdots \star \mathcal{U}}^{[m]} \cong \operatorname{SEQ}_m(\mathcal{U}) \\ -m - \operatorname{surjections:} \operatorname{SEQ}(\mathcal{V}), \ \mathcal{V} = \operatorname{SET}_{\geq 1}(\mathcal{Z}) \\ -\operatorname{Set} \text{ partitions:} \operatorname{SET}(\operatorname{SET}_{\geq 1}(\mathcal{Z})) \\ -\operatorname{Lab.} \text{ trees:} \ \mathcal{T} = \mathcal{Z} \star \operatorname{SET}(T). \end{array}$$

Example 1. Permutations and cycles:

$$\mathcal{P} = \operatorname{SET}(\operatorname{CYC}(\mathcal{Z})) \implies P(z) = \exp\left(\log\frac{1}{1-z}\right) = \frac{1}{1-z}.$$

Derangements (no fixed point)

$$\mathcal{D} = \operatorname{SET}(\operatorname{CYC}(\mathcal{Z}) \setminus \mathcal{Z}) \implies D(z) = \exp\left(\log \frac{1}{1-z} - z\right) \equiv \frac{e^{-z}}{1-z}.$$

Thus
$$\left| \frac{D_n}{n!} = 1 - \frac{1}{1!} + \frac{2}{2!} - \dots + \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \right| \sim e^{-1}$$

Example 2. Labelled (Cayley) trees:

$$T = \mathcal{Z} \star \operatorname{SET}(T) \implies T(z) = z e^{T(z)}.$$

Thus $T_n = n^{n-1}$ by Lagrange Inversion Th.





Bell numbers:
$$B_n = e^{-1} \sum_{k \ge 0} \frac{k^n}{k!}$$

Example 4. Allocations to [1 . . m]:

Exercise: Birthday Problem and Coupon Collector.

$$\mathbb{E}(B) = \int_0^\infty \left(1 + \frac{t}{m}\right)^m e^{-t} dt, \qquad \mathbb{E}(C) = \int_0^\infty \left(e^t - (e^{t/m} - 1)^m\right) e^{-t} dt.$$

Multiple birthdays, multiple collections. (Cf Poissonization.)

Example 5. Mappings aka functional graphs = endofunctions of finite set.

$$\begin{cases} m = Set(K) \\ K = Gycle(T) \\ T = Z + Set(T) \end{cases}$$

$$T = ze^T$$
, $K = \log(1-T)^{-1}$, $M = e^K$: $M_n = n^n$. $\mathbb{P}(\text{connected}) = O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\right)$

Exercise: A binary functional graph is such that each x has either 0 or 2 preimages (cf $x^2 + a \mod p$). **Q1.** Construct; **Q2.** enumerate.

Exercise: All graphs $G(z) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2^{n(n-1)/2} z^n / n!$. **Q1.** EGF K(z) of connected graphs? **Q2.** Probability of connectedness. **Q3*** Prove not constructible.

• Additional constructions: substitution, pointing, order constraints:

$$f \circ g, \quad \partial f, \quad \int f.$$





Get nonempty island by joining two islands by means of a gluing element.

→ wide encompassing extensions of original analyses [F-Poblete-Viola, Pittel, Knuth 1998, Janson, Chassaing-Marckert, ...].



Chapter 3. Parameters and Multivariate GFs



Discrete Probablistic Model

2

1×



X=6 x=5 X=4 X=3 XXX X=2 XX XXX X=1

-> Enumeration / Counting

$$P_{F} \{ X = k \} = \frac{E_{N, k}}{E_{N}},$$
$$E[X] = \sum_{i} k \cdot \frac{E_{N, k}}{E_{N}},$$
$$E_{N} = \sum_{i} k \cdot \frac{E_{N, k}}{E_{N}},$$

+ variance, etc.

Bivariate GF (ordinary)
$$(E_{n,k}) \rightarrow E(z,u) = \sum_{n,k} E_{n,k} u^k z^n$$
.
Bivariate GF (exponential) $(E_{n,k}) \rightarrow E(z,u) = \sum_{n,k} E_{n,k} u^k \frac{z^n}{n!}$.

• BGF encodes exact distributions. hence, moments.

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}_n}\left[\chi\right] = \sum_k k \cdot \frac{E_{n,k}}{E_n} = \frac{1}{E_n} \operatorname{coeff}[z^n] \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial u} E(z,u) \right|_{u=1}.$$

Variance & moment of order 2: second derivative, etc.

Chebyshev inequalities: $\sigma_n/\mu_n \rightarrow 0$ implies convergence in probability.



• BGF is reduction of combinatorial structure. Thus expect **multivariate dictionaries.**

PRINCIPLE: Add variables marking parameters at appropriate places and recycle:

Theorem (Symbolic method)

A dictionary translates constructions into generating functions:

Union	+
Product	×
Sequence	$\frac{1}{1-\cdots}$
Set	Exp
Cycle	Log

Conclusions (Part I)

 [Chapter 3]: Multivariate GFs give access to parameters; those that can be obtained by "marking" in combinatorial constructions.

[Chapters 1-2-3]: Exploit all this asymptotically?
 counting; mean, variance, distribution?