

Analysis of Algorithms — Tutorial

**Problem 9-1**

Compute the generating functions of the following series:

1.  $a_n = 2^n + 3^n$     2.  $b_n = (n + 1)2^{n+1}$     3.  $c_n = \alpha^n \binom{k}{n}$   
 4.  $d_n = n - 1$     5.  $e_n = (n + 1)^2$

**Solution:**

- The generating function of  $(\alpha^n)$  is  $\sum_{n \geq 0} \alpha^n z^n$ , which yields  $\frac{1}{1-\alpha z}$  in closed form. The generating function of  $a_n = 2^n + 3^n$  is thus simply  $\frac{1}{1-2z} + \frac{1}{1-3z}$ .
- We start with  $(2^n)$  and  $\frac{1}{1-2z}$ . Derivating yields  $b_n = (n + 1)2^{n+1}$  with generating function  $\frac{2}{(1-2z)^2}$ .
- The series  $\binom{k}{n}$  has the generating function  $(1 + z)^k$ . Scaling with  $\alpha$  results in  $c_n = \alpha^n \binom{k}{n}$  with corresponding generating function  $(1 + \alpha z)^k$ .
- We already know that the series  $(n + 1) = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$  belongs to the generating function  $\frac{1}{(1-z)^2}$ . In order to obtain  $d_n = -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , we first shift this twice to the right. This yields  $0, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$  with generating function  $\frac{z^2}{(1-z)^2}$ . Now we subtract  $1, 0, 0, \dots$  and obtain  $d_n$  with generating function  $\frac{z^2}{(1-z)^2} - 1$ .
- Recall that  $(n + 1) = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$  has the generating function  $\frac{1}{(1-z)^2}$ . We shift to the right and obtain  $(n)$  as well as  $\frac{z}{(1-z)^2}$ . Derivating yields the desired series  $e_n = (n + 1)^2$  with generating function  $\frac{z+1}{(1-z)^3}$ .

**Problem 9-2**

Compute:

- (a)  $[z^n] \frac{1}{1+2z}$     (b)  $[z^n] \frac{z+1}{z-1}$     (c)  $[z^n] \left(\frac{z+1}{z-1}\right)^2$     (d)  $[z^n] \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{5+z}}$

**Solution:**

- (a)  $(-2)^n$     (b)  $-2 + (n = 0)$     (c)  $4n + (n = 0)$     (d)  $\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{5}} \binom{-\frac{1}{3}}{n} 5^{-n}$

### Homework Assignment 9-1 (10 points)

Find  $[z^n]$  for each of the following ordinary generating functions:

$$(1) [z^n] \frac{1}{(1-3z)^4} \quad (2) [z^n] (1-z)^2 \ln \frac{1}{1-z} \quad (3) [z^n] \frac{1}{(1-2z^2)^2}$$

1. One may write  $1/(1-3z)^4$  as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{(1-3z)^4} &= (1-3z)^{-4} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{-4}{n} (-3z)^n \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{-4}{n} (-3)^n z^n. \end{aligned}$$

The coefficient of  $z^n$  is therefore  $\binom{-4}{n} (-3)^n$ .

2. The Taylor series expansion of  $\ln(1-z)$  is

$$\ln(1-z) = - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n}.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} (1-z)^2 \ln \frac{1}{1-z} &= (1-z)^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n} \\ &= (1-2z-z^2) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2z^{n+1}}{n} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^{n+2}}{n} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n} - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{2z^n}{n-1} - \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n-2} \\ &= z - \frac{3}{2}z^2 + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{2}{n-1} - \frac{1}{n-2} \right) z^n. \end{aligned}$$

The coefficients of  $z^0$ ,  $z^1$ , and  $z^2$  are, respectively, 0, 1, and  $-3/2$ . For  $n \geq 3$ , the coefficient of  $z^n$  is

$$\frac{1}{n} - \frac{2}{n-1} - \frac{1}{n-2}.$$

3. As in exercise (1),

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{(1-2z^2)^2} &= (1-2z^2)^{-2} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{-2}{n} (-2z^2)^n \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{-2}{n} (-2)^n z^{2n}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$[z^n] \frac{1}{(1-2z^2)^2} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd;} \\ \binom{-2}{n/2} (-2)^{n/2}, & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

### Homework Assignment 9-2 (10 Points)

Compute the corresponding series of the following generating functions:

1.  $A(z) = 3^z$
2.  $B(z) = 1/\sqrt{1-z/2}$
3.  $C(z) = (1+z)/(1-z)$

### Solution:

1.  $A(z) = 3^z = e^{z \ln 3} = \sum_{0 \leq n} \frac{(\ln 3)^n z^n}{n!}$ . The corresponding series is  $1, \ln 3, \frac{(\ln 3)^2}{2}, \frac{(\ln 3)^3}{3!}, \dots$
2. We apply the Newton formula and scale with  $-1/2$ , which yields  $(-\frac{1}{2})^n \binom{-\frac{1}{2}}{n}$ . This can be rewritten as:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \binom{-\frac{1}{2}}{n} &= \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = \frac{1}{n! 4^n} 1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdots (2n-1) \\ &= \frac{(2n)!}{n! 4^n} \frac{1}{2^n n!} = \binom{2n}{n} \frac{1}{8^n} \end{aligned}$$

3. We add the series  $1, 1, 1, \dots$  and the same series shifted to the right  $0, 1, 1, 1, \dots$ . This yields  $1, 2, 2, 2, \dots$