

Binomial theorem  
Pascal Triangular  
Generating Function  
2-8

Sequence

# Power Series

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

- A very powerful enumerative tool
- encoding the values of a sequence

$$\{a_n : n \geq 0\}$$

- they can be manipulated just like ordinary functions, i.e., they can be added, subtracted and multiplied, and for our purposes, we generally will not care if the power series con-verges,

# Basic Notation and Terminology

With a sequence  $\sigma = \{a_n : n \geq 0\}$  of real numbers, we associate a “function”  $F(x)$  defined by

$$F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n.$$

- The word “function” is put in quotes as we do not necessarily care about substituting
- a value of  $x$  and obtaining a specific value for  $F(x)$ .  
In other words, we consider  $F(x)$
- as a formal power series and frequently ignore issues of convergence



# Example

$$\sigma = \{a_n : n \geq 0\} \text{ with } a_n = 1 \text{ if } n \text{ is even and } 0 \text{ if } n \text{ is odd}$$

- $F(x) = ?$

# Constant Sequence

$$F(x) = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^5 + x^6 + \dots$$

Operations: Addition, Subtraction and multiplication



$$\overline{F}(x) = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots$$

$$- x \overline{F}(x) = x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots$$

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$$(1-x)\overline{F}(x) = 1$$

$$\therefore \overline{F}(x) = \frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$$

# Maclaurin series

$$F(x) = 1 + x + x^2 + \dots = \frac{1}{1-x}$$

$$F'(x) = 1 + 2x + 3x^2 + \dots$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n x^{n-1}$$

$$= \frac{0 - (-1)}{(1-x)^2} = \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$$

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{1-x} = 1 + x + x^2 + \dots$$

$$F(-x) = \frac{1}{1+x} = 1 - x + x^2 - \dots$$

$$\int F(-x) dx = \log(1+x)$$
$$= x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x^3 - \frac{1}{4}x^4 \dots$$

# Product of Two Power Sequences

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

$$B(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^n$$

$$C(x) = A(x) \cdot B(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$$

$$c_n = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k b_{n-k}$$

# Example

- how many ways are there to distribute  $n$  apples to one child so that each child receives at least one apple?
- Let  $a_n$  denote the answer

$$F(x) = x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots$$

denotes a generating  
function for  $\{a_n : n \geq 1\}$

$$F(x) = x(1 + x + x^2 + \dots) = \frac{x}{1-x}$$



$$\underbrace{(x+x^2+\dots)}_{\text{green}} \underbrace{(x+x^2+\dots)}_{\text{red}} \underbrace{(x+x^2+\dots)}_{\text{green}} \underbrace{(x+x^2+\dots)}_{\text{red}} \underbrace{(x+x^2+\dots)}_{\text{green}}$$

$$a_6 x^6 = \binom{5}{4}$$

$$a_n x^n = a_n x^{k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4 + k_5}$$

where  $n = k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4 + k_5$

$$k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4, k_5 \geq 1$$

- Returning to the general question here, we're really dealing with distributing  $n$  apples to 5 children, and since  $k_i > 0$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 5$ , we also have the guarantee that each child receives at least one apple, so the product of the generating function for one child gives the generating function for five children

$$(x+x^2+\dots)(x+x^2+\dots)(x+x^2+\dots)(x+x^2+\dots)(x+x^2+\dots)$$

$$= \frac{x^5}{(1-x)^5} = \frac{x^5}{4!} \frac{d^4}{dx^4} \left( \frac{1}{1-x} \right)$$

$$= \frac{x^5}{4!} \frac{d^4}{dx^4} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$$

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

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

coefficient on  $x^n$  in this series  $C(n-1, 4)$ ,

# Example

- A grocery store is preparing holiday fruit baskets for sale. Each fruit basket will have 20 pieces of fruit in it, chosen from apples, pears, oranges, and grapefruit. How many different ways can such a basket be prepared if there must be at least one apple in a basket, a basket cannot contain more than three pears, and the number of oranges must be a multiple of four

at least one Apple

$$\frac{x}{1-x}$$

three pears at most

$$1+x+x^2+x^3$$

unrestricted grapefruits

$$\frac{1}{1-x}$$

0, 4, 8, 12, ... oranges

$$\frac{1}{1-x^4}$$

$$\frac{x}{1-x} (1+x+x^2+x^3) \left(\frac{1}{1-x^4}\right) \left(\frac{1}{1-x}\right)$$

$$= \frac{x}{1-x} \frac{(1-x^4)}{1-x} \frac{1}{1-x^4} \frac{1}{1-x}$$

$$= x \cdot \frac{1}{(1-x)^3} = \frac{x}{2} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \frac{1}{1-x}$$

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

Answer:  $C(n+1, 2)$

# Example

- Find the number of integer solutions to the equation

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = n$$

( $n \geq 0$  an integer) with  $x_1 \geq 0$  even,  $x_2 \geq 0$ , and  $0 \leq x_3 \leq 2$ .



generating functions are

$$\frac{1}{1-x^2} \text{ for } X_1$$

$$\frac{1}{1-x} \text{ for } X_2$$

$$1+x+x^2 \text{ for } X_3$$

$$\frac{1 + x + x^2}{(1 - x)(1 - x^2)} = \frac{1 + x + x^2}{(1 + x)(1 - x)^2}.$$

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

$$1 + x + x^2 = A(1 - x)^2 + B(1 - x^2) + C(1 + x).$$

$$1 = A + B + C$$

$$1 = -2A + C$$

$$1 = A - B$$

$$A = 1/4, B = -3/4, \text{ and } C = 3/2. \quad \square$$

$$\frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{1+x} - \frac{3}{4} \frac{1}{1-x} + \frac{3}{2} \frac{1}{(1-x)^2} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n x^n - \frac{3}{4} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n + \frac{3}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n x^{n-1}.$$

$$\frac{(-1)^n}{4} - \frac{3}{4} + \frac{3(n+1)}{2},$$

# The Binomial Theorem

- The coefficient of  $x^{n-k} y^k$  in the expansion

- of  $(x + y)^n$  is  $\binom{n}{k}$

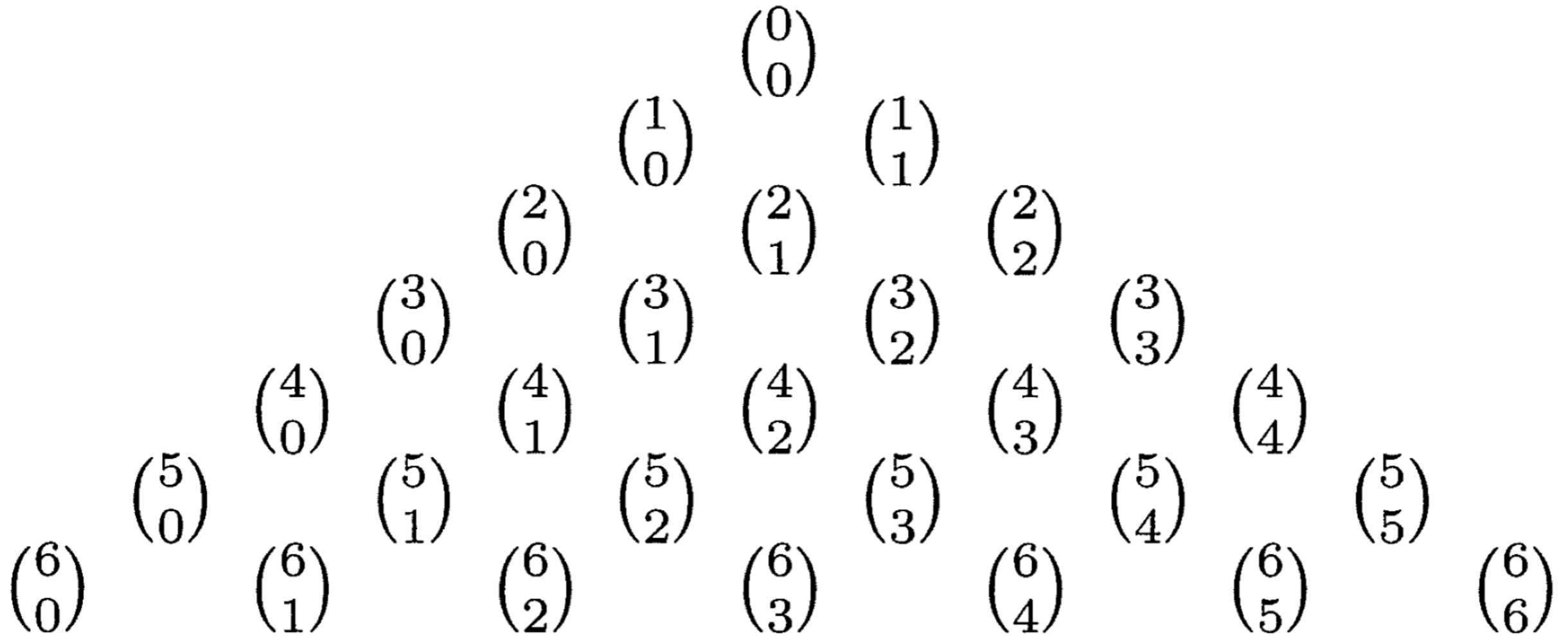
$$(x + y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n-k}$$

# Example

$$x=1, y=1$$

$$2^n = \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} + \cdots + \binom{n}{n-1} + \binom{n}{n}$$

# Pascal's Triangle



							1									
							1									
						1	2		1							
				1		3	3		1							
			1		4	6	4		1							
		1		5	10	10	5		1							
	1		6		15	20	15		6		1					
	1	7		21		35	35		21		7		1			
1		8		28		56	70		56		28		8		1	

# Identities in Pascal's Triangle

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

•



$$\begin{aligned}
& \binom{n}{0} - \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} - \binom{n}{3} + \cdots + (-1)^n \binom{n}{n} \\
= & \binom{n-1}{0} - \left[ \binom{n-1}{0} + \binom{n-1}{1} \right] + \left[ \binom{n-1}{1} + \binom{n-1}{2} \right] \\
& + \cdots + (-1)^{n-1} \left[ \binom{n-1}{n-2} + \binom{n-1}{n-1} \right] + (-1)^n \binom{n-1}{n-1}, \\
& \binom{n}{0} - \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} - \binom{n}{3} + \cdots + (-1)^n \binom{n}{n} = 0,
\end{aligned}$$

$$1^2 = 1,$$

$$1^2 + 1^2 = 2,$$

$$1^2 + 2^2 + 1^2 = 6,$$

$$1^2 + 3^2 + 3^2 + 1^2 = 20,$$

$$1^2 + 4^2 + 6^2 + 4^2 + 1^2 = 70.$$

$$\binom{n}{0}^2 + \binom{n}{1}^2 + \binom{n}{2}^2 + \cdots + \binom{n}{n-1}^2 + \binom{n}{n}^2 = \binom{2n}{n}.$$

# Proof

$$S = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 2n\}$$
$$= \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\} \cup \{n+1, \dots, 2n\}$$

Selecting  $n$  elements from  $S$  is considered as selecting  $k$  elements from the first half set and  $n-k$  elements from the second half set

$$\binom{2n}{n}$$

$$= \binom{n}{0} \binom{n}{n} + \binom{n}{1} \binom{n}{n-1} \dots + \binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{n-k} + \dots + \binom{n}{n} \binom{n}{0}$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{n-k}$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{k}$$

# Newton's Binomial Theorem

$$(1 + x)^p = \sum_{n=0}^p \binom{p}{n} x^n.$$

- what happens if we encounter  $(1+x)^p$  as a generating function with  $p$  not a positive integer

# Recursive Definition

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

$$P(p, k) = pP(p-1, k-1)$$

when  $p \geq k > 0$  ( $k$  an integer).

$$\binom{p}{k} = \frac{P(p, k)}{k!},$$



# Definition

- Definition For all real numbers  $p$  and nonnegative integers  $k$ , the number  $P(p,k)$  is defined by
- 1.  $P(p,0) = 1$  for all real numbers  $p$  and
- 2.  $P(p,k) = pP(p-1,k-1)$  for all real numbers  $p$  and integers  $k > 0$

# Definition

- Definition. For all real numbers  $p$  and nonnegative integers  $k$
- Note that  $P(p,k) = C(p,k) = 0$  when  $p$  and  $k$  are integers with  $0 \leq p < k$ . On the other hand, we have some interesting new concepts such as  $P(-5,4) = (-5)(-6)(-7)(-8)$

$$\binom{-7/2}{5} = \frac{(-7/2)(-9/2)(-11/2)(-13/2)(-15/2)}{5!}.$$

**Theorem 8.9.** *For all real  $p$  with  $p \neq 0$ ,*

$$(1 + x)^p = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{p}{n} x^n.$$