

Generating Functions

Exponential Generating Functions, Catalan Numbers, and the Snake Oil Method

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Exponential Generating Functions

Definition, Product Formula and Application on Stirling
Numbers of the Second Kind

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Exponential Generating Functions

Definition

- ▶ Let f_n $n \geq 0$ be a sequence of real numbers, then its exponential generating function takes the form $F(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} f_n \frac{x^n}{n!}$.

Exponential Generating Functions

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When $f_n = 1$, $F(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{x^n}{n!} = e^x$.

Exponential Generating Functions

Product Formula

- ▶ Let a_i and b_k be two sequences with exponential generating functions $A(x) = \sum_{i \geq 0} a_i \frac{x^i}{i!}$ and $B(x) = \sum_{k \geq 0} b_k \frac{x^k}{k!}$, respectively.

Exponential Generating Functions

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Then the terms of $A(x)B(x)$ take the form

$$a_i \frac{x^i}{i!} \cdot b_j \frac{x^j}{j!}$$

Exponential Generating Functions

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Then the terms of $A(x)B(x)$ take the form

$$a_i \frac{x^i}{i!} \cdot b_j \frac{x^j}{j!} = a_i b_j \frac{x^{i+j}}{i!j!}$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Product Formula

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Then the terms of $A(x)B(x)$ take the form

$$a_i \frac{x^i}{i!} \cdot b_j \frac{x^j}{j!} = a_i b_j \frac{x^{i+j}}{i!j!} = a_i b_j \cdot \frac{x^{i+j}}{i!j!} \cdot \frac{(i+j)!}{(i+j)!} = a_i b_j \cdot \frac{x^{i+j}}{(i+j)!} \cdot \binom{i+j}{i}$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Product Formula

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Then the terms of $A(x)B(x)$ take the form

$$a_i \frac{x^i}{i!} \cdot b_j \frac{x^j}{j!} = a_i b_j \frac{x^{i+j}}{i!j!} = a_i b_j \cdot \frac{x^{i+j}}{i!j!} \cdot \frac{(i+j)!}{(i+j)!} = a_i b_j \cdot \frac{x^{i+j}}{(i+j)!} \cdot \binom{i+j}{i}$$

and are of degree n when $i + j = n$, where

$$a_i b_j \cdot \frac{x^{i+j}}{(i+j)!} \cdot \binom{i+j}{i} = \binom{n}{i} a_i b_{n-i} \frac{x^n}{n!}.$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Product Formula

- ▶ Therefore, the coefficients of $\frac{x^n}{n!}$ in $A(x)B(x)$ terms are $\binom{n}{i}a_i b_{n-i}$ for all real i , $0 \leq i \leq n$, so we obtain the coefficient

$$\sum_{i \geq 0}^n \binom{n}{i} a_i b_{n-i}.$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Product Formula

- ▶ Therefore, the coefficients of $\frac{x^n}{n!}$ in $A(x)B(x)$ terms are $\binom{n}{i}a_i b_{n-i}$ for all real i , $0 \leq i \leq n$, so we obtain the coefficient

$$\sum_{i \geq 0}^n \binom{n}{i} a_i b_{n-i}.$$

Let $C(x)$ be the exponential generating function of $c_n = \sum_{i \geq 0}^n \binom{n}{i} a_i b_{n-i}$. Then

$$A(x)B(x) = C(x).$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Product Formula

- ▶ Let a_n be the numbers of ways to build a certain structure on an n -element set, and b_n be the number of ways to build another structure on an n -element set.

Exponential Generating Functions

Product Formula

- ▶ Let a_n be the numbers of ways to build a certain structure on an n -element set, and b_n be the number of ways to build another structure on an n -element set.
Let c_n be the number of ways to separate a set of n elements into disjoint subsets S and T , and then build a structure of the first kind on S and the second kind on T .

Exponential Generating Functions

Product Formula

- ▶ Let a_n be the numbers of ways to build a certain structure on an n -element set, and b_n be the number of ways to build another structure on an n -element set.

Let c_n be the number of ways to separate a set of n elements into disjoint subsets S and T , and then build a structure of the first kind on S and the second kind on T .

Then there are $\binom{n}{i}$ ways to choose S , a_i ways to build the first structure on S and b_{n-i} ways to build the second structure on T , for all $0 \leq i \leq n$.

Exponential Generating Functions

Product Formula

- ▶ Let a_n be the numbers of ways to build a certain structure on an n -element set, and b_n be the number of ways to build another structure on an n -element set.

Let c_n be the number of ways to separate a set of n elements into disjoint subsets S and T , and then build a structure of the first kind on S and the second kind on T .

Then there are $\binom{n}{i}$ ways to choose S , a_i ways to build the first structure on S and b_{n-i} ways to build the second structure on T , for all $0 \leq i \leq n$. Therefore

$$c_n = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} a_i b_{n-i}.$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Product Formula

- ▶ Let $A(x)$, $B(x)$, and $C(x)$ be the exponential generating functions of the sequences a_n , b_n and c_n , respectively. Then it follows from previously that

$$A(x)B(x) = C(x).$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

- ▶ Stirling numbers of the second kind, $S(n, k)$ describes the number of partitions of n elements into k nonempty, non-ordered subsets, where k is a fixed positive integer.

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

- ▶ Let $S_k(x) = \sum_{n \geq k} S(n, k) \frac{x^n}{n!}$ be the exponential generating function of $S(n, k)$.

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

- ▶ Let $S_k(x) = \sum_{n \geq k} S(n, k) \frac{x^n}{n!}$ be the exponential generating function of $S(n, k)$.

$S(n, k)$ requires a partition of n elements into k nonempty disjoint subsets, and nothing is to be done on each subset.

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

- ▶ Let $S_k(x) = \sum_{n \geq k} S(n, k) \frac{x^n}{n!}$ be the exponential generating function of $S(n, k)$.

$S(n, k)$ requires a partition of n elements into k nonempty disjoint subsets, and nothing is to be done on each subset.

As there is one way to do nothing on a nonempty subset, each task has exponential generating function

$$A(x) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{x^n}{n!} = e^x - 1.$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

- ▶ Using the product formula, we obtain the generating function $(A(x))^k$ for the combined task of partitioning n elements into k ordered subsets.

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

- ▶ Using the product formula, we obtain the generating function $(A(x))^k$ for the combined task of partitioning n elements into k ordered subsets.

But as the order does not matter, our task has generating function

$$S_k(x) = \frac{1}{k!} (A(x))^k = \frac{1}{k!} (e^x - 1)^k.$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

- ▶ To obtain an explicit formula for $S(n, k)$, we need to find the coefficient of $\frac{x^n}{n!}$ in $S_k(x)$.

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

$$S_k(x) = \frac{1}{k!} (e^x - 1)^k$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

$$S_k(x) = \frac{1}{k!} (e^x - 1)^k = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \binom{k}{i} e^{(k-i)x}$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

$$\begin{aligned} S_k(x) &= \frac{1}{k!} (e^x - 1)^k = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \binom{k}{i} e^{(k-i)x} \\ &= \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \binom{k}{i} \sum_{n \geq 0} (k-i)^n \frac{x^n}{n!} \end{aligned}$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

$$\begin{aligned} S_k(x) &= \frac{1}{k!} (e^x - 1)^k = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \binom{k}{i} e^{(k-i)x} \\ &= \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \binom{k}{i} \sum_{n \geq 0} (k-i)^n \frac{x^n}{n!} \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{1}{k!} (-1)^i \frac{k!}{i!(k-i)!} (k-i)^n \frac{x^n}{n!} \end{aligned}$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

$$\begin{aligned} S_k(x) &= \frac{1}{k!} (e^x - 1)^k = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \binom{k}{i} e^{(k-i)x} \\ &= \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \binom{k}{i} \sum_{n \geq 0} (k-i)^n \frac{x^n}{n!} \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{1}{k!} (-1)^i \frac{k!}{i!(k-i)!} (k-i)^n \frac{x^n}{n!} \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \frac{(k-i)^n}{i!(k-i)!} \frac{x^n}{n!} \end{aligned}$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

$$S_k(x) = \sum_{n \geq k} S(n, k) \frac{x^n}{n!} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \frac{(k-i)^n}{i!(k-i)!} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Application on Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

$$S_k(x) = \sum_{n \geq k} S(n, k) \frac{x^n}{n!} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \frac{(k-i)^n}{i!(k-i)!} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$
$$S(n, k) = \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \frac{(k-i)^n}{i!(k-i)!}$$

Exponential Generating Functions

Definition, Product Formula and Application on Stirling
Numbers of the Second Kind

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The Catalan Numbers

Definition, Example, and the Generating Function of the
Catalan Numbers

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The Catalan Numbers

Definition

- ▶ Catalan numbers form a sequence of natural numbers that occur in various counting problems.

The Catalan Numbers

Example

- ▶ A student moves into a new room and upon his arrival, he puts an empty jar on his kitchen counter. From then on, every day he either puts a dollar coin in the jar, or takes a dollar coin out of the jar. After $2n$ days, the jar is empty again. In how many different ways could this happen?

The Catalan Numbers

Example

- ▶ Let $p = \text{put in a coin} = +1$, $t = \text{take out a coin} = -1$
- ▶ The sequence must start with a p and end with a t , and the sum of the terms from day 0 to day j , $0 \leq j \leq 2n$ must never be negative.

The Catalan Numbers

Example

- ▶ $n = 0$ $2n = 0$ Ways: 1
- ▶ $n = 1$ $2n = 2$ Ways: 1 (pt)
- ▶ $n = 2$ $2n = 4$ Ways: 2 (ptpt, pptt)
- ▶ $n = 3$ $2n = 6$ Ways: 5 (ptptpt, ppttpt, ptpptt, pptptt, pppttt)
- ▶ ...
- ▶ Let c_n be the number of ways to put in or take out coins for $2n$ days, then we have
 $c_0 = 1, c_1 = 1, c_2 = 2, c_3 = 5$

The Catalan Numbers

Example

- ▶ A sequence of length $2n$:

$p \dots 1 \dots t_a \dots 2 \dots$

Let t_a be on the $(2i + 2)^{th}$ day that the jar is empty again for the first time,

1: a sequence of length $2i$, $0 \leq i \leq n - 1$

2: a sequence of length $2n - 2i - 2$

The Catalan Numbers

Example

$p \dots 1 \dots t_a \dots 2 \dots$

Sequences 1 and 2 both have to start with a p and end with a t, and are never negative,

1: a sequence of length $2i$, $0 \leq i \leq n - 1$, c_i ways

2: a sequence of length $2n - 2i - 2$, c_{n-i-1} ways, for $0 \leq i \leq n - 1$

Then we have $c_n = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} c_i c_{n-i-1}$.

The Catalan Numbers

Example

$$c_n = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} c_i c_{n-i-1}$$

For $n = 4$, $2n = 8$ days, we obtain $c_4 = \sum_{i=0}^3 c_i c_{3-i} = 14$.

We can check this by listing the ways in order of i , where sequence 1 corresponding to c_i is **bold** and sequence 2 corresponding to c_{n-i-1} is underlined:

$i = 0$: $pt_a \underline{pppttt}$, $pt_a \underline{pptptt}$, $pt_a \underline{ppttpt}$, $pt_a \underline{ptpptt}$, $pt_a \underline{ptptpt}$

$i = 1$: **pp** $tt_a \underline{pptt}$, **pp** $tt_a \underline{ptpt}$

$i = 2$: **pp** $pttt_a \underline{pt}$, **pp** $tptt_a \underline{pt}$

$i = 3$: **ppp** $ptttt_a$, **pp** $tppttt_a$, **pp** $ptpttt_a$, **pp** $tptptt_a$, **pp** $pttptt_a$

The Catalan Numbers

Finding the Generating Function

- ▶ Let c_n be the Catalan numbers which are defined by the previous terms.

$$\begin{aligned}c_n &= c_0c_{n-1} + c_1c_{n-2} + c_2c_{n-3} + \dots + c_{n-1}c_0 \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} c_i c_{n-i-1}\end{aligned}$$

The Catalan Numbers

Finding the Generating Function

Let $C(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} c_n x^n$ be the ordinary generating function of the sequence of the numbers c_n .

according to

$$c_n = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} c_i c_{n-i-1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} C(x) &= c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + \dots \\ &= 1 + 1x + 2x^2 + 5x^3 + \dots \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} c_n x^n \end{aligned}$$

The Catalan Numbers

Finding the Generating Function

$$\begin{aligned}C(x) &= c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + \dots \\&= 1 + 1x + 2x^2 + 5x^3 + \dots \\&= \sum_{n \geq 0} c_n x^n\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}C(x)^2 &= c_0^2 + (c_0c_1 + c_1c_0)x + (c_0c_2 + c_1c_1 + c_0c_2)x^2 + \dots \\&= c_1 + c_2x + c_3x^2 + \dots \\&= \sum_{n \geq 0} c_{n+1}x^n\end{aligned}$$

The Catalan Numbers

Finding the Generating Function

$$\begin{aligned}C(x)^2 &= c_0^2 + (c_0c_1 + c_1c_0)x + (c_0c_2 + c_1c_1 + c_0c_2)x^2 + \dots \\ &= c_1 + c_2x + c_3x^2 + \dots \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} c_{n+1}x^n\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}xC(x)^2 &= c_0^2x + (c_0c_1 + c_1c_0)x^2 + (c_0c_2 + c_1c_1 + c_0c_2)x^3 + \dots \\ &= c_1x + c_2x^2 + c_3x^3 + \dots \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} c_{n+1}x^{n+1}\end{aligned}$$

The Catalan Numbers

Finding the Generating Function

$$C(x) = 1 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + \dots$$
$$xC(x)^2 = c_1x + c_2x^2 + c_3x^3 + \dots$$

The Catalan Numbers

Finding the Generating Function

$$xC(x)^2 = C(x) - 1$$

$$xC(x)^2 - C(x) + 1 = 0$$

The Catalan Numbers

Finding the Generating Function

$$C(x)_1 = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4x}}{2x}$$

$$C(x)_2 = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4x}}{2x}$$

The Catalan Numbers

Finding the Generating Function

Recall:

$\sqrt{1 - 4x}$ is the unique power series whose square is $1 - 4x$ and whose constant coefficient is 1.

By using the binomial theorem,

$$(1 + x)^m = \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{m}{n} x^n,$$

then

$$\sqrt{1 - 4x} = (1 - 4x)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{\frac{1}{2}}{n} (-4x)^n.$$

The Catalan Numbers

Finding the Generating Function

$$\sqrt{1-4x} = (1-4x)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{\frac{1}{2}}{n} (-4x)^n$$

To simplify this expression,

$$\binom{\frac{1}{2}}{n} = \frac{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{-1}{2} \cdot \frac{-3}{2} \cdots \frac{-2n+3}{2}}{n!} = (-1)^{n-1} \frac{(2n-3)!!}{2^n \cdot n!},$$

then we have

$$\sqrt{1-4x} = 1 - 2x - \sum_{n \geq 2} \frac{2^n (2n-3)!!}{2^n \cdot n!} x^n.$$

The Catalan Numbers

Finding the Generating Function

$$\sqrt{1-4x} = 1 - 2x - \sum_{n \geq 2} \frac{2^n (2n-3)!!}{2^n \cdot n!} x^n,$$

and

$$\frac{2^n (2n-3)!!}{n!} = \frac{2^n (2n-3)!!}{n!} \cdot \frac{(n-1)!}{(n-1)!} = 2 \frac{(2n-2)!}{n!(n-1)!},$$

then

$$\sqrt{1-4x} = 1 - 2x - 2 \sum_{n \geq 2} \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n-2}{n-1} x^n.$$

The Catalan Numbers

Finding the Generating Function

Going back to the two solutions of the quadratic equation, substituting

$$\sqrt{1-4x} = 1 - 2x - 2 \sum_{n \geq 2} \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n-2}{n-1} x^n$$

into them, we obtain

$$C(x)_1 = \frac{1 + 1 - 2x - 2 \sum_{n \geq 2} \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n-2}{n-1} x^n}{2x}$$

and

$$C(x)_2 = \frac{1 - 1 + 2x + 2 \sum_{n \geq 2} \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n-2}{n-1} x^n}{2x}.$$

The Catalan Numbers

Finding the Generating Function

Taking the valid solution $C(x)_2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}C(x) &= \frac{2x + 2 \sum_{n \geq 2} \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n-2}{n-1} x^n}{2x} \\&= 1 + \sum_{n \geq 2} \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n-2}{n-1} x^{n-1} \\&= 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n} x^n \\&= \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n} x^n.\end{aligned}$$

The Catalan Numbers

Finding the Generating Function

As

$$C(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} c_n x^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n} x^n,$$

therefore

$$c_n = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}.$$

The Snake Oil Method

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The Snake Oil Method

Background

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \frac{1}{1-x}$$

The Snake Oil Method

Background

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \frac{1}{1-x}$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} nx^{n-1} = \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$$

The Snake Oil Method

Background

- ▶ $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \frac{1}{1-x}$
- ▶ $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} nx^{n-1} = \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$
- ▶ $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1)x^n = \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$

The Snake Oil Method

Background

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

The Snake Oil Method

Background

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

The Snake Oil Method

Background

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

The Snake Oil Method

Background

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

The Snake Oil Method

The Question

$$\blacktriangleright a_n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1}$$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 1

$$\begin{aligned} \blacktriangleright a_n &= \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \\ \blacktriangleright a_n x^n &= \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} x^n \end{aligned}$$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 1

- ▶ $a_n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1}$
- ▶ $a_n x^n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} x^n$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 1

- ▶ $a_n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1}$
- ▶ $a_n x^n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 2

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 2

$$\begin{aligned} \blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n &= \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n \\ \blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n \end{aligned}$$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 2

- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq m+k} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 2

- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq m+k} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+m+2k}{m+2k} x^{n+m+k}$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 2

- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq m+k} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+m+2k}{m+2k} x^{n+m+k}$
- ▶ $x^{m+k} \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+m+2k}{m+2k} x^n$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 2

- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq m+k} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+m+2k}{m+2k} x^{n+m+k}$
- ▶ $x^{m+k} \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+m+2k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ Recall: $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{n+k}{k} x^n = \frac{1}{(1-x)^{k+1}}$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 2

- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq m+k} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+m+2k}{m+2k} x^{n+m+k}$
- ▶ $x^{m+k} \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+m+2k}{m+2k} x^n$
- ▶ Recall: $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{n+k}{k} x^n = \frac{1}{(1-x)^{k+1}}$
- ▶ $\frac{x^{m+k}}{(1-x)^{m+2k+1}}$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 3

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \frac{x^{m+k}}{(1-x)^{m+2k+1}}$$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 3

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \frac{x^{m+k}}{(1-x)^{m+2k+1}}$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \frac{x^m}{(1-x)^{m+1}} \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \frac{x^k}{(1-x)^{2k}}$$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 3

$$\begin{aligned} \blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n &= \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \frac{x^{m+k}}{(1-x)^{m+2k+1}} \\ \blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n &= \frac{x^m}{(1-x)^{m+1}} \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} \frac{x^k}{(1-x)^{2k}} \\ \blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n &= \frac{x^m}{(1-x)^{m+1}} \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{k+1} \left(\frac{-x}{(1-x)^2} \right)^k \end{aligned}$$

The Snake Oil Method

Catalan numbers

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{k+1} x^k = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1-4x}}{2x}$$

The Snake Oil Method

Catalan numbers

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{k+1} x^k = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1-4x}}{2x}$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{k+1} \left(\frac{-x}{(1-x)^2} \right)^k$$

The Snake Oil Method

Catalan numbers

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{k+1} x^k = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4x}}{2x}$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{k+1} \left(\frac{-x}{(1-x)^2} \right)^k$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{k+1} \left(\frac{-x}{(1-x)^2} \right)^k = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{4x}{(1-x)^2}}}{\frac{-2x}{(1-x)^2}}$$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 4

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \left(\frac{x^m}{(1-x)^{m+1}} \right) \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{4x}{(1-x)^2}}}{\frac{-2x}{(1-x)^2}} \right)$$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 4

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \left(\frac{x^m}{(1-x)^{m+1}} \right) \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{4x}{(1-x)^2}}}{\frac{-2x}{(1-x)^2}} \right)$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \left(\frac{-x^{m-1}}{2(1-x)^{m-1}} \right) \left(1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{4x}{(1-x)^2}} \right)$$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 4

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \left(\frac{x^m}{(1-x)^{m+1}} \right) \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{4x}{(1-x)^2}}}{\frac{-2x}{(1-x)^2}} \right)$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \left(\frac{-x^{m-1}}{2(1-x)^{m-1}} \right) \left(1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{4x}{(1-x)^2}} \right)$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \left(\frac{-x^{m-1}}{2(1-x)^{m-1}} \right) \left(1 - \frac{1+x}{1-x} \right)$$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 4

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \left(\frac{x^m}{(1-x)^{m+1}} \right) \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{4x}{(1-x)^2}}}{\frac{-2x}{(1-x)^2}} \right)$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \left(\frac{-x^{m-1}}{2(1-x)^{m-1}} \right) \left(1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{4x}{(1-x)^2}} \right)$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \left(\frac{-x^{m-1}}{2(1-x)^{m-1}} \right) \left(1 - \frac{1+x}{1-x} \right)$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \frac{x^m}{(1-x)^m}$$

The Snake Oil Method

The Solution Part 4

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \left(\frac{x^m}{(1-x)^{m+1}} \right) \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{4x}{(1-x)^2}}}{\frac{-2x}{(1-x)^2}} \right)$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \left(\frac{-x^{m-1}}{2(1-x)^{m-1}} \right) \left(1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{4x}{(1-x)^2}} \right)$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \left(\frac{-x^{m-1}}{2(1-x)^{m-1}} \right) \left(1 - \frac{1+x}{1-x} \right)$$

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \frac{x^m}{(1-x)^m}$$

$$\blacktriangleright a_n = \binom{n-1}{m-1} = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{m+2k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1}$$

The Snake Oil Method

Background On Final step

$$\blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} x^n = \frac{1}{1-x}$$

The Snake Oil Method

Background On Final step

$$\begin{aligned} \blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} x^n &= \frac{1}{1-x} \\ \blacktriangleright \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{k} x^n &= \frac{1}{(1-x)^{k+1}} \end{aligned}$$

The Snake Oil Method

Background On Final step

- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} x^n = \frac{1}{1-x}$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{k} x^n = \frac{1}{(1-x)^{k+1}}$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+m-1}{m-1} x^{n+m} = \frac{x^m}{(1-x)^m}$

The Snake Oil Method

Background On Final step

- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} x^n = \frac{1}{1-x}$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+k}{k} x^n = \frac{1}{(1-x)^{k+1}}$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n+m-1}{m-1} x^{n+m} = \frac{x^m}{(1-x)^m}$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \geq m} \binom{n-1}{m-1} x^n = \frac{x^m}{(1-x)^m}$