

## Math 432 Lec 08 Generating functions -2

We may operate on the OGFs and on the expansions without losing equality. This may allow us to use OGF to prove something pleasantly.

Some basic propositions:

(1) *shifting the index.*

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

Let  $A, B, C$  be the OGFs for  $\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle, \langle c \rangle$ , respectively, then

(2)  $c_n = a_n + b_n$  for all  $n$  if and only if  $C(x) = A(x) + B(x)$ .

(3)  $c_n = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i b_{n-i}$  for all  $n$  iff  $C(x) = A(x)B(x)$ .

(4)  $b_n = \begin{cases} a_{n-k}, & \text{for } n \geq k \\ 0, & \text{for } n < k \end{cases}$  if and only if  $B(x) = x^k A(x)$ .

(5)  $c_n = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i$  for all  $i$  if and only if  $C(x) = \frac{A(x)}{1-x}$ .

(6)  $b_n = \begin{cases} a_n & \text{for } n \text{ even} \\ 0 & \text{for } n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$  if and only if  $B(x) = 0.5(A(x) + A(-x))$ .

(7)  $b_n = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{for } n \text{ even} \\ a_n, & \text{for } n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$  if and only if  $B(x) = 0.5(A(x) - A(-x))$ .

(8)  $b_n = \begin{cases} a_k, & \text{for } n = mk \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$  if and only if  $B(x) = A(x^m)$ .

(9)  $b_n = na_n$  if and only if  $B(x) = xA'(x)$ .

Examples:

- $\sum_{i \geq 0} \binom{n}{2i}$ .

The sum is the value at  $x = 1$  of  $B(x) = \sum \binom{n}{2i} x^{2i}$ . Let  $A(x) = \sum_i \binom{n}{i} x^i = (1+x)^n$ . Then  $B(x) = \frac{A(x)+A(-x)}{2}$ . So the sum is  $B(1) = 2^{n-1}$ .

- $\sum_{k \geq 0} k^m$ .

Consider  $\sum_{k \geq 0} k^m x^k$ . (work out for  $m = 2$ )

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

The convolution of  $a_k = \binom{m}{k}$  and  $b_k = \binom{n}{k}$ . So the sum is  $[x^r](1+x)^m(1+x)^n = [x^r](1+x)^{m+n} = \binom{m+n}{r}$ .

- $\sum_{k=0}^n k(n-k)$ .

The convolution of  $a_k = b_k = k$ . So the sum is

$$[x^n] \left( \sum_k kx^k \right)^2 = [x^n] \frac{x^2}{(1-x)^4} = [x^{n-2}] \frac{1}{(1-x)^4} = \binom{n+1}{3}$$

**Snake Oil method:** When  $n$  is a parameter in a sum, we can always multiply by  $x^n$  to form an OGF  $A(x)$ . Then interchange the order of summation in the expression for  $A(x)$  and perform the new inner sum on  $n$  explicitly.

Ex.  $\sum_k \binom{m}{k} \binom{n+k}{m} = \sum_k \binom{m}{k} \binom{n}{k} 2^k$ .

Multiply both sides by  $x^n$  and sum over  $n$ , and interchange the order of the summation.

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

$$RHS = \sum_k \binom{m}{k} 2^k \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{n}{k} x^n = \frac{1}{1-x} \sum_k \binom{m}{k} 2^k \left( \frac{x}{1-x} \right)^k = \frac{1}{1-x} \left( 1 + \frac{2x}{1-x} \right)^m = \frac{(1+x)^m}{(1-x)^{m+1}}$$