

DISCRETE MATHEMATICS  
EXERCISES

PART 4. GENERATING FUNCTIONS. INDUCTION. RECURRENCES.

1. Find generating functions of the following sequences:
  - a)  $a_n = \alpha^n, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \alpha \in R,$
  - b)  $a_n = \begin{cases} 1, & n = 0, 1, \dots, N, \\ 0, & n > N \end{cases},$
  - c)  $a_n = \begin{cases} n + 1, & n = 0, 1, \dots, N, \\ 0, & n > N \end{cases},$
  - d)  $a_n = \alpha n, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \alpha \in R,$
  - e)  $a_n = n^2, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$
  - f)  $a_n = n\alpha^n, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \alpha \in R.$
2. Find a generating function  $F(x)$  for the sequence  $A_n$  if the generating function  $f(x)$  for  $a_n$  is given and:
  - a)  $A_n = a_{n+1}, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$
  - b)  $A_n = a_{n+k}, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, k$  is a fixed positive integer,
  - c)  $A_n = a_{n+1} - a_n, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$
  - d)  $A_n = n \cdot a_n, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$
  - e)  $A_n = \begin{cases} a_{n-1}, & n = 1, \dots, \\ 0, & n = 0 \end{cases}$
3. Use generating functions to find  $a_n$  if:
  - a)  $a_n = 6n + a_{n-1},$  for  $n \geq 1$  and  $a_0 = 0,$
  - b)  $a_{n+2} = 2a_{n+1} + 3a_n$  for  $n \geq 0$  and  $a_0 = 1, a_1 = 2,$
  - c)  $a_n = -a_{n-1} + 2a_{n-2}$  for  $n \geq 2$  and  $a_0 = 1, a_1 = 2.$
4. Find a coefficient of  $x^{12}$  in
  - a)  $(1 + x^3 + x^6 + x^9 + \dots)^7,$
  - b)  $(x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4)^5,$
  - c)  $x^2(1 - x)^{12}.$
5. Find a coefficient of  $x^{20}$  in  $(x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^5)(x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + \dots)^5.$
6. Use generating functions to find the number of ways to select 10 balls from a large pile of red, white and blue balls if:
  - a) the selection has at least 2 balls of each color,
  - b) the selection has at least 2 red balls.
7. Find the number of ways to select 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 fruits from a pile of 3 apples, 5 oranges and 2 bananas. (Hint: Use generating functions.)
8. How many ways are there to divide 2 blue, 5 red and 9 white balls into equal unordered piles?
9. Show that:
  - a)  $F_{n+m} = F_n F_m + F_{n-1} F_{m-1},$
  - b)  $(F_n)^2 - F_{n+1} F_{n-1} = (-1)^n,$where  $F_n$  are the Fibonacci numbers.