

# Method of Generating Differentials

I-Chiau Huang  
Institute of Mathematics, Academia Sinica

September 22, 2016

## Method of Generating Functions

For a sequence  $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots$  of numbers with combinatorial or number theoretic interests, we consider the (ordinary) power series

$$a_0 + a_1 T + a_2 T^2 + \dots$$

or the (exponential) power series

$$a_0 + a_1 T + a_2(T^2/2!) + a_3(T^3/3!) + \dots$$

in  $\mathbb{Q}[[T]]$ . For example,

- $\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} T^k = (1 + T)^n;$
- $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{n+k}{n} T^k = \frac{1}{(1 - T)^{n+1}};$

# Method of Generating Functions

- $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{2k}{k} T^k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-4T}}$ ;
- $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} T^k = -\log(1-T)$ ;
- Catalan numbers  $C_i$  are defined by the power series  $\mathbf{C} = \sum C_i T^i$  satisfying  $\mathbf{C} = 1 + T\mathbf{C}^2$ .
- Bernoulli numbers  $B_i$  are defined by

$$\frac{T}{e^T - 1} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} B_i \frac{T^i}{i!}.$$

## Method of Generating Functions

The power series gives rise to a function defined in certain region of the complex plane. We may perform algebraic operations on these functions. For example,

$$(1 + T)^n + T(1 + T)^n = (1 + T)^{n+1}.$$

To obtain combinatorial information from the functions, there are coefficient functionals. Given

$$f = a_0 + a_1 T + a_2 T^2 + \dots \in \mathbb{Q}[[T]],$$

we define

$$[T^i]f := a_i.$$

For example,

$$\binom{n+1}{i} = [T^i](1+T)^{n+1} = [T^i](1+T)^n + [T^{i-1}](1+T)^n = \binom{n}{i} + \binom{n}{i-1}.$$

## Method of Generating Functions

If the functions are defined in an open set, we can also perform analytic operations. With some mild analytic condition on

$$f = a_0 + a_1 T + a_2 T^2 + \cdots ,$$

we can extract coefficients by integration:

$$\frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{-1}} \oint \frac{f}{T^{i+1}} dT = a_i$$

For example,

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{n+1}{i} &= \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{-1}} \oint \frac{(1+T)^{n+1}}{T^{i+1}} dT \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{-1}} \oint \frac{(1+T)^n}{T^{i+1}} dT + \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{-1}} \oint \frac{(1+T)^n}{T^i} dT \\ &= \binom{n}{i} + \binom{n}{i-1}. \end{aligned}$$

## Method of Generating Functions

The method of generating functions is enhanced by the Lagrange inversion formula. Let  $w$  be a power series in  $\kappa[[T]]$  defined by  $w = T\phi$  for an invertible power series  $\phi \in \kappa[[T]]$ . The Lagrange inversion formula asserts

$$[T^n]w(T)^k = \frac{k}{n}[T^{n-k}]\phi(T)^n.$$

In the book “Analytic combinatorics in several variables” by R. Pemantle and M. C. Wilson, a proof of Lagrange inversion is supplied, “*because of the danger that the reader will stumble upon the more common and less illuminating formal power series proof*”.

We would like to provide a viewpoint from commutative algebra to the method of generating functions.

# Power Series Rings

- Let  $\kappa$  be a field. We consider the ring  $\kappa[[X_1, \dots, X_n]]$ .  
Look at vector spaces first...
- There is no canonical choice of variables for a power series ring over a field  $\kappa$ . For example, with  $Y = X/(1 - X)$  or with  $X = Y/(1 + Y)$ , we have  $\kappa[[X]] = \kappa[[Y]]$ .
- A power series ring  $R$  of  $n$  variables over a field  $\kappa$  is a complete regular local ring of Krull dimension  $n$  with the coefficient field  $\kappa$ .
- If  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  generate the maximal ideal of  $R$ , then  $R = \kappa[[X_1, \dots, X_n]]$ .
- The notation  $\kappa[[X_1, \dots, X_n]]$  means a power series ring over  $\kappa$  with variables  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  specified.

## Derivations and Differentials

Let  $R$  be an algebra over a field  $\kappa$ . A  $\kappa$ -derivation from  $R$  to an  $R$ -module  $M$  is a  $\kappa$ -linear map  $\delta: R \rightarrow M$  satisfying the Leibniz rule:

$$\delta(r_1 r_2) = r_1 \delta(r_2) + r_2 \delta(r_1), \quad r_1, r_2 \in R.$$

The universal object among all  $\kappa$ -derivation from  $R$  is called the module of differentials of  $R$  over  $\kappa$  and is denoted by  $\Omega_{R/\kappa}$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R & \xrightarrow{d} & \Omega_{R/\kappa} \\ \delta \downarrow & & \swarrow \text{---} \\ & & M \end{array}$$



## Derivations and Differentials

- The module of differentials of  $R$  over  $\kappa$  always exists.
- If  $R = \kappa[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ , then  $\Omega_{R/\kappa}$  is free of rank  $n$ .  
Indeed,  $\Omega_{R/\kappa} = RdX_1 + \dots + RdX_n$ .
- $\Omega_{\kappa[[X_1, \dots, X_n]]/\kappa}$  is not finite.

A  $\kappa$ -derivation  $\delta: R \rightarrow M$  is finite, if  $M$  is a finite  $R$ -module. The universal object among all finite  $\kappa$ -derivation from  $R$  is called the module of finite differentials of  $R$  over  $\kappa$  and is denoted by  $\tilde{\Omega}_{R/\kappa}$ .

- The module of finite differentials of  $\kappa[[X_1, \dots, X_n]]$  over  $\kappa$  exists.
- $\tilde{\Omega}_{\kappa[[X_1, \dots, X_n]]/\kappa}$  is free of rank  $n$  with basis  $dX_1, \dots, dX_n$ .
- $\wedge^n \tilde{\Omega}_{\kappa[[X_1, \dots, X_n]]/\kappa} = \kappa[[X_1, \dots, X_n]]dX_1 \wedge \dots \wedge dX_n$ .

# Local Cohomology

Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  be an ideal of a Noetherian ring  $R$ . We consider the functor from the category of  $R$ -modules to itself given by

$$\Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(M) := \{m \in M : \mathfrak{a}^i m = 0 \text{ for some } i\}.$$

The  $n$ -th right derived functor of  $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{a}}(-)$  is denoted by  $H_{\mathfrak{a}}^n(-)$ . If  $\mathfrak{a}$  is generate up to radical by  $f_1, \dots, f_n$ , we have an exact sequence

$$\bigoplus_{i=1}^n M_{f_1 \dots \hat{f}_i \dots f_n} \rightarrow M_{f_1 \dots f_n} \rightarrow H_{\mathfrak{a}}^n(M) \rightarrow 0.$$

$$\frac{f_1^{j-i_1} \dots f_n^{j-i_n} \omega}{(f_1 \dots f_n)^j} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} \omega \\ f_1^{i_1}, \dots, f_n^{i_n} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \omega \in M \text{ and } i \gg 0$$

## Local Cohomology

**linearity law** For  $\omega_1, \omega_2 \in M$ ,  $i_1, \dots, i_n > 0$ , and  $g_1, g_2 \in R$ ,

$$\begin{bmatrix} g_1\omega_1 + g_2\omega_2 \\ f_1^{i_1}, \dots, f_n^{i_n} \end{bmatrix} = g_1 \begin{bmatrix} \omega_1 \\ f_1^{i_1}, \dots, f_n^{i_n} \end{bmatrix} + g_2 \begin{bmatrix} \omega_2 \\ f_1^{i_1}, \dots, f_n^{i_n} \end{bmatrix}.$$

**transformation law** Assume that  $\mathfrak{a}$  is also generated up to radical by  $f'_1, \dots, f'_\ell$ . For  $\omega \in M$ ,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \omega \\ f_1, \dots, f_\ell \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \det(r_{ij})\omega \\ f'_1, \dots, f'_\ell \end{bmatrix},$$

if  $f'_i = \sum_{j=1}^n r_{ij}f_j$  for  $i = 1, \dots, \ell$ .

**vanishing law** For  $\omega \in M$ ,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \omega \\ f_1^{i_1}, \dots, f_n^{i_n} \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

if and only if  $(f_1^{i_1} \cdots f_n^{i_n})^s \omega \in (f_1^{i_1(s+1)}, \dots, f_\ell^{i_\ell(s+1)})M$  for some  $s \geq 0$ .

## Residues

Let  $R = \kappa[[X_1, \dots, X_n]]$  and  $\mathfrak{a}$  be its maximal ideal. We define the residue map

$$\text{res}_{X_1, \dots, X_n}: H_{\mathfrak{a}}^n(\wedge^n \Omega_{\tilde{R}/\kappa}) \rightarrow \kappa$$

with respect to  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  by

$$\text{res}_{X_1, \dots, X_n} \left[ \sum b_{i_1 \dots i_n} X_1^{i_1} \dots X_n^{i_n} dX_1 \wedge \dots \wedge dX_n \right] = b_{i_1 \dots i_n}.$$

### Theorem

If  $R = \kappa[[X_1, \dots, X_n]] = \kappa[[Y_1, \dots, Y_n]]$ , then

$$\text{res}_{X_1, \dots, X_n} = \text{res}_{Y_1, \dots, Y_n}.$$

The residue map is a pairing for differentials and system of parameters.

# Residues

## Saalschützs Theorem

Let  $a$  and  $b$  be positive integers. Let  $m$  and  $n$  be non-negative integers. Then

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{a}{m-k} \binom{b}{n-k} \binom{a+b+k}{k} = \binom{a+n}{m} \binom{b+m}{n}.$$

The identity is from a change of variables  $\kappa[[X_1, X_2]] = \kappa[[Y_1, Y_2]]$ , where

$$\begin{cases} X_1 = Y_1/(1+Y_2), \\ X_2 = Y_2/(1+Y_1). \end{cases}$$

# Residues

From the relation

$$\begin{cases} X_1 = Y_1/(1 + Y_2) \\ X_2 = Y_2/(1 + Y_1), \end{cases}$$

we have

$$\begin{cases} 1 + Y_1 = (1 + X_1)/(1 - X_1X_2) \\ 1 + Y_2 = (1 + X_2)/(1 - X_1X_2). \end{cases}$$

Furthermore,

$$dY_1 \wedge dY_2 = \frac{\partial(Y_1, Y_2)}{\partial(X_1, X_2)} dX_1 \wedge dX_2 = \frac{(1 + X_1)(1 + X_2)}{(1 - X_1X_2)^3} dX_1 \wedge dX_2.$$

## Residues

The coefficient of  $X_1^m X_2^n \partial(X_1, X_2) / \partial(Y_1, Y_2)$  in the power series  $(1 + Y_1)^{a-1} (1 + Y_2)^{b-1}$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{res} \left[ \frac{(1 + Y_1)^{a-1} (1 + Y_2)^{b-1} dY_1 dY_2}{X_1^{m+1}, X_2^{n+1}} \right] \\ &= \operatorname{res} \left[ \frac{(1 + Y_1)^{a+n} (1 + Y_2)^{b+m} dY_1 dY_2}{Y_1^{m+1}, Y_2^{n+1}} \right] = \binom{a+n}{m} \binom{b+m}{n}. \end{aligned}$$

The residue can be also computed in terms of  $x$ . The Saalschütz theorem is recovered from the computation

$$\operatorname{res} \left[ \frac{(1+X_1)^a (1+X_2)^b}{(1-X_1 X_2)^{a+b+1}} dX_1 dX_2 \right]_{X_1^{m+1}, X_2^{n+1}} = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{a}{m-k} \binom{b}{n-k} \binom{a+b+k}{k}.$$

# Lagrange Inversion

## Theorem

Let  $w$  be a power series in  $\kappa[[T]]$  defined by  $w = T\phi$  for an invertible power series  $\phi \in \kappa[[T]]$ . Then

$$[T^n]w(T)^k = \frac{k}{n}[T^{n-k}]\phi(T)^n.$$

The above formula is built into the framework of residue calculus. Note that  $\kappa[[T]] = \kappa[[w]]$ .

$$\operatorname{res} \left[ \frac{w^k dT}{T^{n+1}} \right] = \frac{1}{n} \operatorname{res} \left[ \frac{dw^k}{T^n} \right] = \frac{1}{n} \operatorname{res} \left[ \frac{\phi^n dw^k}{w^n} \right] = \frac{k}{n} \operatorname{res} \left[ \frac{\phi^n dw}{w^{n-k+1}} \right]$$

Therefore

$$[T^n]w^k = \frac{k}{n}[w^{n-k}]\phi^n.$$



# Lagrange Inversion

Catalan numbers  $C_n$  are defined by the power series  $\mathbf{C} = \sum C_i X^i$  satisfying  $\mathbf{C} = 1 + X\mathbf{C}^2$ . Let  $Y := \mathbf{C} - 1$ . Then  $\kappa[[X]] = \kappa[[Y]]$ .  
Indeed,

$$X = \frac{\mathbf{C} - 1}{\mathbf{C}^2} = \frac{Y}{(1 + Y)^2}.$$

For  $n > 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} C_n = \operatorname{res} \left[ \begin{array}{c} YdX \\ X^{n+1} \end{array} \right] &= \frac{1}{n} \operatorname{res} \left[ \begin{array}{c} dY \\ X^n \end{array} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \operatorname{res} \left[ \begin{array}{c} (1 + Y)^{2n} dY \\ Y^n \end{array} \right] = \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n}{n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

# Lagrange Inversion

## Lagrange-Good formula

Let  $\kappa[[X_1, \dots, X_n]] = \kappa[[Y_1, \dots, Y_n]]$ , where  $Y_i = X_i \varphi_i$  for an invertible  $\varphi_i$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{res} \left[ \begin{array}{c} G dX_1 \cdots dX_n \\ X_1^{i_1+1}, \dots, X_n^{i_n+1} \end{array} \right] \\ = & \text{res} \left[ \begin{array}{c} G \varphi_1^{i_1} \cdots \varphi_n^{i_n} \det \left( \delta_{ij} - \frac{Y_i}{\varphi_i} \frac{\partial \varphi_i}{\partial Y_j} \right) dY_1 \cdots dY_n \\ Y_1^{i_1+1}, \dots, Y_n^{i_n+1} \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$dX_i = d \frac{Y_i}{\varphi_i} = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial (Y_i / \varphi_i)}{\partial Y_j} dY_j = \frac{1}{\varphi_i} \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \delta_{ij} - \frac{Y_i}{\varphi_i} \frac{\partial \varphi_i}{\partial Y_j} \right) dY_j.$$

Lagrange Inversion is indeed a phenomenon of changes of variables.

# Schauder Bases

A power series ring  $R$  over a field  $\kappa$  is a complete metric space.

## Definition

A sequence  $f_0, f_1, f_2, \dots \in R$  is a Schauder basis if every element in  $R$  can be represented uniquely as  $a_0 f_0 + a_1 f_1 + a_2 f_2 + \dots$  for  $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots \in \kappa$

- Ordinary Schauder basis:  $(X^k)_{k \geq 0}$
- Exponential Schauder basis:  $(X^k/k!)_{k \geq 0}$ , if  $\text{char } \kappa = 0$

# Schauder Bases

Let  $\kappa[[X]] = \kappa[[Y]]$ .

- Gould-Schauder basis:  $(Y^k(1+X)^p)_{k \geq 0}$ , where  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$
- Abel-Schauder basis:  $(Y^k e^{pX})_{k \geq 0}$ , where  $p \in \kappa$  and  $\text{char } \kappa = 0$
- Bernoulli-Schauder basis:  $(Y^k(X/(e^X - 1))^p)_{k \geq 0}$ , where  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\text{char } \kappa = 0$
- Interplay of representations of a power series by two Schauder bases is exactly an inverse relation.
- The theory of Riordan arrays can be explained using Schauder bases.

## Comparison

- Non-canonical vs. Fixed Choice variables
- Commutative vs. Non-commutative operations
- *Relations vs. Transformations*. In linear algebra, a matrix may be interpreted as a linear transformation of vector spaces. It may be also regarded as relations between two sets of vectors. In the literature, a Riordan array is treated as a map for power series. From the viewpoint of Schauder bases, the array is regarded as a relation between two power series.
- Differentials vs. Functions  
There is a pairing given by local cohomology residues for differentials and systems of parameters. The pairing is an algebraic analogue of the integration of a differential form on a manifold. It has an effect of equating coefficients in a way independent of choices of a set of variables.

## References

- Applications of Residues to Combinatorial Identities. *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.*, 125(4):1011-1017, 1997.
- Reversion of Power Series by Residues. *Comm. Algebra*, 26(3):803-812, 1998.
- (with Su-Yun Huang) Bernoulli Numbers and Polynomials via Residues. *J. Number Theory*, 76:178-193, 1999.
- Residue Methods in Combinatorial Analysis. In *Local Cohomology and its Applications*, Lecture Notes in Pure and Appl. Math., Vol 226, pp. 255-342, Marcel Dekker, 2002.
- Inverse Relations and Schauder Bases. *J. Combin. Theory Ser. A*, 97:203-224, 2002.

## References

- Method of generating differentials, In *Advances in Combinatorial Mathematics*, Springer-Verlag, 127-154, 2009.
- Two approaches to Mobius Inversion. *Bull. Austral. Math. Soc.*, 85:68-78, 2012.
- Algebraic Structures of Euler Numbers. *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.*, 140(9):2945-2952, 2012.
- Convolution Identities and their Structure. *Int. J. Number Theory*, 10(2):471-482, 2014.