Problem Set 10

Due: May 2

Reading: Week 11: Generating Functions

Problem 1. Miss McGillicuddy never goes outside without a collection of pets. In particular:

- She brings a positive number of songbirds, which always come in pairs.
- She may or may not bring her alligator, Freddy.
- She brings at least 2 cats.
- She brings two or more chihuahuas and labradors leashed together in a line.

Let P_n denote the number of different collections of n pets that can accompany her, where we regard chihuahuas and labradors leashed up in different orders as different collections, even if there are the same number chihuahuas and labradors leashed in the line.

For example, $P_6 = 4$ since there are 4 possible collections of 6 pets:

- 2 songbirds, 2 cats, 2 chihuahuas leashed in line
- 2 songbirds, 2 cats, 2 labradors leashed in line
- 2 songbirds, 2 cats, a labrador leashed behind a chihuahua
- 2 songbirds, 2 cats, a chihuahua leashed behind a labrador

And $P_7 = 16$ since there are 16 possible collections of 7 pets:

- 2 songbirds, 3 cats, 2 chihuahuas leashed in line
- 2 songbirds, 3 cats, 2 labradors leashed in line
- 2 songbirds, 3 cats, a labrador leashed behind a chihuahua

- 2 songbirds, 3 cats, a chihuahua leashed behind a labrador
- 4 collections consisting of 2 songbirds, 2 cats, 1 alligator, and a line of 2 dogs
- 8 collections consisting of 2 songbirds, 2 cats, and a line of 3 dogs.

(a) Let

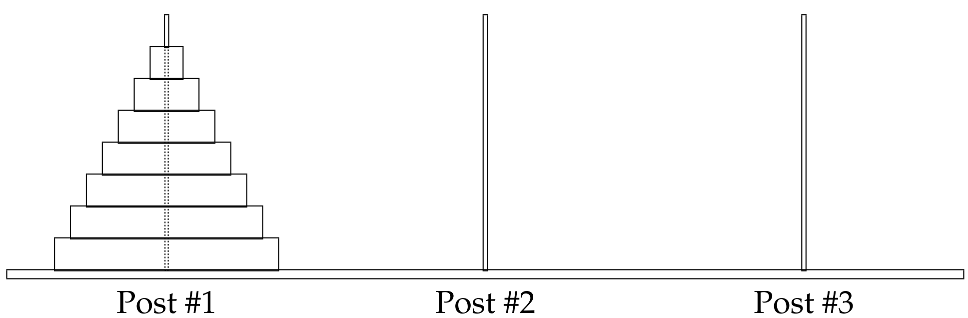
$$P(x) ::= P_0 + P_1 x + P_2 x^2 + P_3 x^3 + \cdots$$

be the generating function for the number of Miss McGillicuddy's pet collections. Verify that

$$P(x) = \frac{4x^6}{(1-x)^2(1-2x)}.$$

(b) Find a simple formula for P_n.

Problem 2. Less well-known than the Towers of Hanoi— but no less fascinating— are Towers of Sheboygan, WI. As in Hanoi, the puzzle in Sheboygan involves 3 posts and n disks of different sizes. Initially, all the disks are on post #1:



The objective is to transfer all n disks to post #2 via a sequence of moves. A move consists of removing the top disk from one post and dropping it onto another post with the restriction that a larger disk can never lie above a smaller disk. Furthermore, a local ordinance requires that *a disk can be moved only from a post to the next post on its right —or from post #3 to post #1.* Thus, for example, moving a disk directly from post #1 to post #3 is not permitted.

(a) One procedure that solves the Sheboygan puzzle is defined recursively: to move an initial stack of n disks to the next post, move the top stack of $n-1$ disks to the furthest post by moving it to the next post two times, then move the big, nth disk to the next post, and finally move the top stack another two times to land on top of the big disk. Let S_n be the number of moves that this procedure uses. Write a simple linear recurrence for S_n.

(b) Let $S(x)$ be the generating function for the sequence $\langle S_0, S_1, S_2, \ldots \rangle$. Show that $S(x)$ is a quotient of polynomials.

(c) Give a simple formula for S_n.

(d) A better (indeed optimal, but we won't prove this) procedure can be defined in terms of two mutually recursive procedures, procedure $P_1(n)$ for moving a stack of n disks 1 pole forward, and $P_2(n)$ for moving a stack of n disks 2 poles forward. It's obvious how to do this for $n = 1$. For $n > 1$, define:

$P_1(n)$: Apply $P_2(n-1)$ to move the top $n-1$ disks two poles forward to the third pole. Then move the remaining big disk once to land on the second pole. Then apply $P_2(n-1)$ again to move the stack of $n-1$ disks two poles forward from the third pole to land on top of the big disk.

$P_2(n)$: Apply $P_2(n-1)$ to move the top $n-1$ disks two poles forward to land on the third pole. Then move the remaining big disk to the second pole. Then apply $P_1(n-1)$ to move the stack of $n-1$ disks one pole forward to land on the first pole. Now move the big disk 1 pole forward again to land on the third pole. Finally, apply $P_2(n-1)$ again to move the stack of $n-1$ disks two poles forward to land on the big disk.

Let T_n be the number of moves needed to solve the Sheboygan puzzle using procedure $P_1(n)$. Write a simple linear recurrence for T_n.

Hint: Let R_n be the number of moves used by procedure $P_2(n)$. Express each of T_n and R_n as linear combinations of T_{n-1} and R_{n-1} and solve for T_n.

(e) Find a simple expression for T_n and conclude that $T_n = o(S_n)$.

Student's Solutions to Problem Set 10

Your name:

Due date: May 2

Submission date:

Circle your TA/LA: Chiyoun Jay Jeffrey Jessica Tina

Collaboration statement: Circle one of the two choices and provide all pertinent info.

1. I worked alone and only with course materials.
2. I collaborated on this assignment with:

   got help from:[1]

   and referred to:[2]

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Problem	Score
1	
2	
Total	

[1]People other than course staff.

[2]Give citations to texts and material other than the Spring '07 course materials.