

A stylized, bold, black letter 'M' with a unique, slightly curved and pointed design.

M A T H

A stylized, bold, black number '4' with a unique, slightly curved and pointed design.

4

A stylized, bold, black letter 'W' with a unique, slightly curved and pointed design.

W I S D O M

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} S_n(x) t^n = A(t) e^{xu(t)}$$

Sheffer Polynomials

Combinatorial Space
for Quantum Physics

www.math4wisdom.com

Andrius Kulikauskas

PATREON

Schrödinger equation $\left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + V(x)\right]\psi = E_n \psi$

Solution for Quantum harmonic oscillator involves Hermite polynomials

$$\psi_n = C_n P_n(kx) e^{-\frac{1}{4}(kx)^2}$$

Solution for Hydrogen atom (radial component) involves generalized Laguerre polynomials

$$\psi_{nl} = C_{nl} P_{nl}(kx) e^{-\frac{1}{2}kx} (kx)^l$$

Certain variants of these polynomials are Sheffer polynomials

$$S_n(x) = c_n P_n(rx)$$

Sheffer polynomials

$S_n(x)$ has degree n

Encodes a combinatorial space with n elements

Sheffer polynomials

- **1) Combinatorial space. Pointed partitions.**
- 2) The generating function
- 3) Calculating the k-th derivative
- 4) Bijection and induction
- 5) Significance

Bell numbers: Partitions of a set

1, 1, 2, 5, 15, 52, 203, 877, ...

5 ways to partition a set with 3 elements

[012] [0] [12] [1] [02] [2] [01] [0] [1] [2]

No choice where to put the initial element

[0]

We can ignore the initial element.

Rethink the initial part as distinguished,
as a base part in a pointed partition,
as free space...

Free space

No compartment !

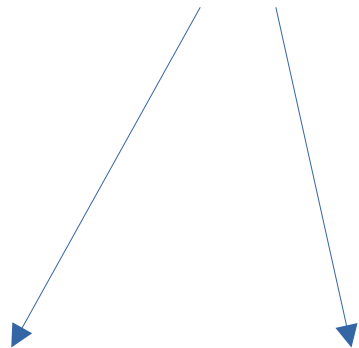
in free space

1

in a compartment

[1]

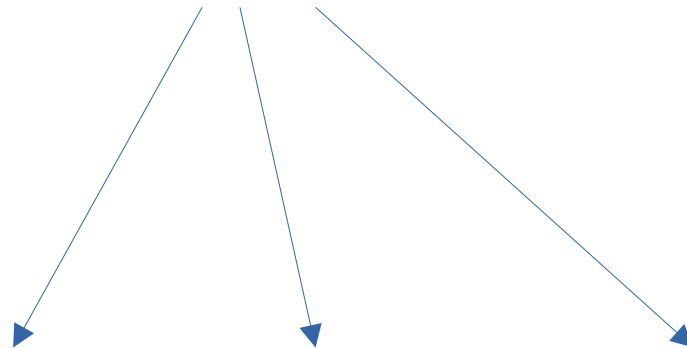
1



12

1[2]

[1]

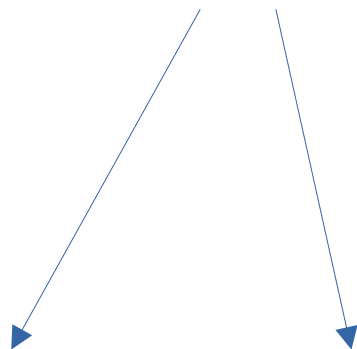


2[1]

[12]

[1][2]

1



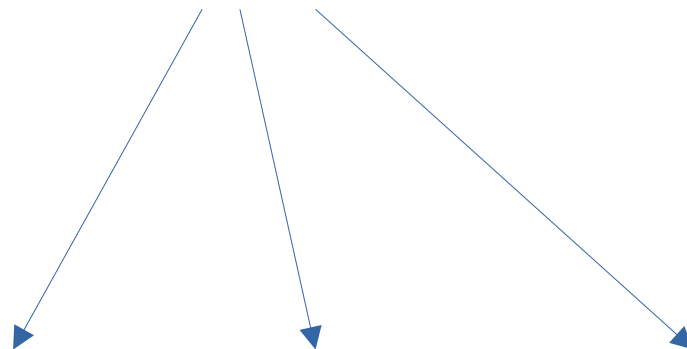
12

1[2]

[012]

[01][2]

[1]



2[1]

[12]

[1][2]

[02][1]

[0][12]

[0][1][2]

12

1[2]

2[1]

[12]

[1][2]



Add 3 to free space

123

13[2]

23[1]

3[12]

3[1][2]

Or add 3 to an existing compartment

1[23]

2[13]

[123]

[13][2]

[1][23]

Or add 3 to a new compartment

12[3]

1[2][3]

2[1][3]

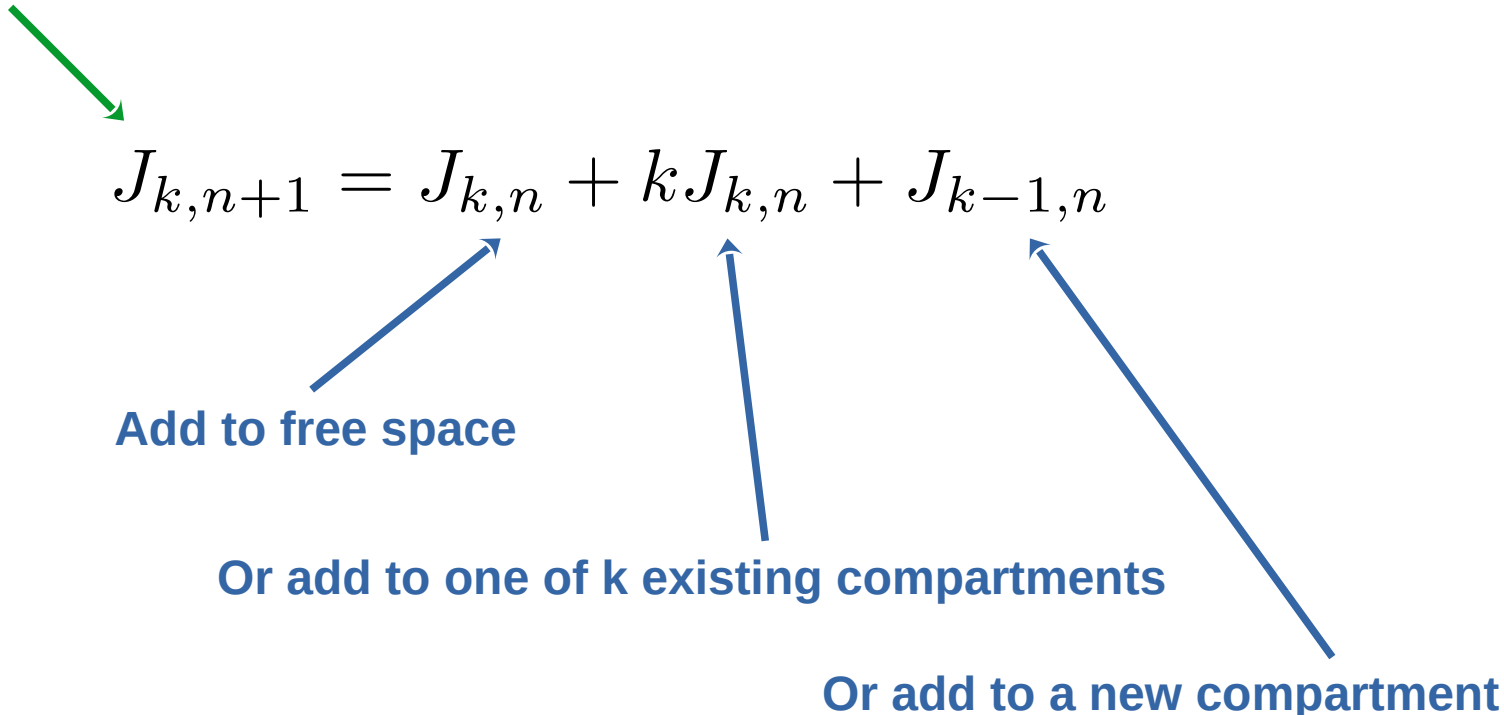
[12][3]

[1][2][3]

3 ways to add the n+1st element

k compartments

n+1 elements


$$J_{k,n+1} = J_{k,n} + kJ_{k,n} + J_{k-1,n}$$

Add to free space

Or add to one of k existing compartments

Or add to a new compartment

Sheffer polynomials

- 1) Combinatorial space. Pointed partitions.
- **2) The generating function**
- 3) Calculating the k-th derivative
- 4) Bijection and induction
- 5) Significance

Sheffer polynomials of type 0

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} S_n(x)t^n = A(t)e^{xu(t)}$$

where

$$a_0 = 1$$

$$A(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n t^n = 1 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + \dots$$

$$u_0 = 0, u_1 = 1$$

$$u(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u_n t^n = t + u_2 t^2 + u_3 t^3 + \dots$$

Sheffer
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n P_n(x) t^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} S_n(x) t^n = A(t) e^{xu(t)}$$

Hermite
$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \text{He}_n(x) t^n &= e^{-\frac{1}{2}t^2} e^{xt} \\ &= (1 - t^2 + \frac{1}{2!}t^4 - \frac{1}{3!}t^6 + \dots) e^{xt} \end{aligned}$$

Laguerre
$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} L_n(-x) t^n &= \frac{1}{1-t} e^{x \frac{t}{1-t}} \\ &= (1 + t + t^2 + \dots) e^{x(t+t^2+t^3+\dots)} \end{aligned}$$

Impressions...

global

$A(t)$

free space

local

$e \quad xu(t)$

compartments

$$n!S_n(x) = s_n x^n + \dots + s_k x^k + \dots + s_0$$

n compartments

k compartments

free space

$S_n(x)$ is the coefficient of t^n in

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} S_n(x)t^n = A(t)e^{xu(t)}$$

$$= (1 + a_1t + a_2t^2 + \dots)e^{x(t+u_2t^2+u_3t^3+\dots)}$$

$$= (1 + a_1t + a_2t^2 + \dots)(1 + xu(t) + \frac{1}{2!}(xu(t))^2 + \dots)$$

$$= (1 + \dots + a_{n-k}t^{n-k} + \dots)(1 + \dots + \frac{1}{m!}(xu(t))^m + \dots)$$

contributes t^{n-k}

contributes t^k

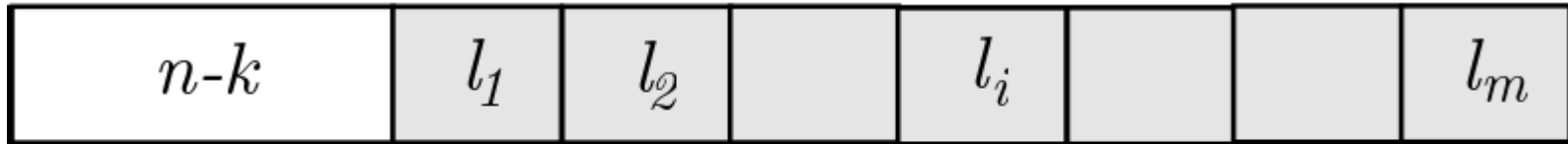
$$a_{n-k}t^{n-k}$$

contributes t^{n-k}

$$\frac{1}{m!} (xu(t))^m$$

contributes t^k

$$k = l_1 + l_2 + \cdots + l_m$$



free space

m compartments

$\frac{1}{m!} (xu(t))^m$ contributes $\frac{1}{m!}$ but what does it mean?

$\frac{1}{2!}$ unites products of 2 distinct parts such as

$$t^2 \times t^4 \qquad t^4 \times t^2$$

but doesn't work for repeated parts $t^3 \times t^3$

Rethink the generating function

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} S_n(x) t^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} P_n(x) t^n$$

Sheffer polynomials

- 1) Combinatorial space. Pointed partitions.
- 2) The generating function
- **3) Calculating the k-th derivative**
- 4) Bijection and induction
- 5) Significance

$$u_0 = 0 \quad u_1 = 1$$

$$u(t) = u_0 + u_1 t + u_2 t^2 + \dots$$

$$= u(0) + u'(0)t + \frac{u''(0)}{2!}t^2 + \frac{u'''(0)}{3!}t^3 + \dots$$

$$u_i = \frac{u^{(i)}(0)}{i!}$$

multiply by $n!$

$$n! \times \frac{1}{m!} (xu(t))^m$$

$$n! \times \frac{x^m}{m!} (u'(0)t + \frac{u''(0)}{2!}t^2 + \frac{u'''(0)}{3!}t^3 + \dots)^m$$

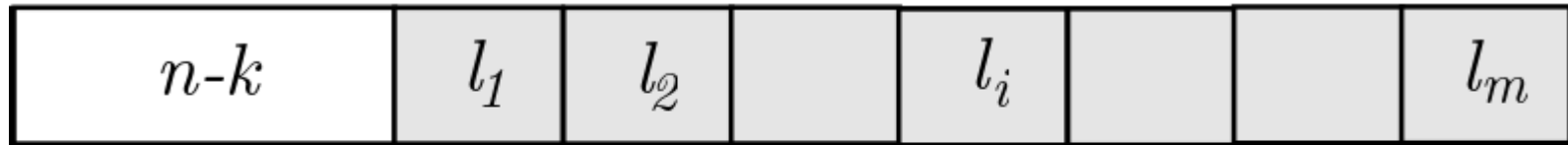
leads to terms with coefficients

$$\frac{n!}{(n-k)!l_1!l_2!\dots l_m!} = \binom{n}{n-k, l_1, l_2, \dots, l_m}$$

Factorial weights let us

distribute n elements across the $m + 1$ compartments

$$n! \times \frac{1}{(n-k)!} \frac{1}{l_1!} \frac{1}{l_2!} \frac{1}{l_i!} \frac{1}{l_m!}$$



free space

m compartments

Elements make the compartments distinct.



free space

m compartments

$\frac{1}{m!}$ from $\frac{1}{m!} (xu(t))^m$ converts $m!$ lists to 1 set

Calculate $S_n(x)$ given $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} S_n(x)t^n = A(t)e^{xu(t)}$

$$\frac{d^n}{dt^n} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} S_k(x)t^k = \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} S_k(x) \frac{k!}{(k-n)!} t^{k-n}$$

$$\left. \frac{d^n}{dt^n} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} S_k(x)t^k \right|_{t=0} = n!S_n(x)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} S_n(x) t^n = A(t) e^{xu(t)}$$

$$n! S_n(x) = \left. \frac{d^n}{dt^n} A(t) e^{xu(t)} \right|_{t=0}$$

$$S_n(x) = \frac{1}{n!} \left. \frac{d^n}{dt^n} A(t) e^{xu(t)} \right|_{t=0}$$

chain rule, product rule...

analytic symmetry

$$\frac{d}{dt}e^t = e^t$$

$$\frac{d^4}{dt^4}\sin t = \sin t$$

$$S_n(x) = \frac{1}{n!} \left. \frac{d^n}{dt^n} A(t) e^{xu(t)} \right|_{t=0}$$

$$a_0 = A(0) = 1$$

$$u_0 = u(0) = 0 \quad e^{xu(0)} = 1$$

$$u_1 = u'(0) = 1$$

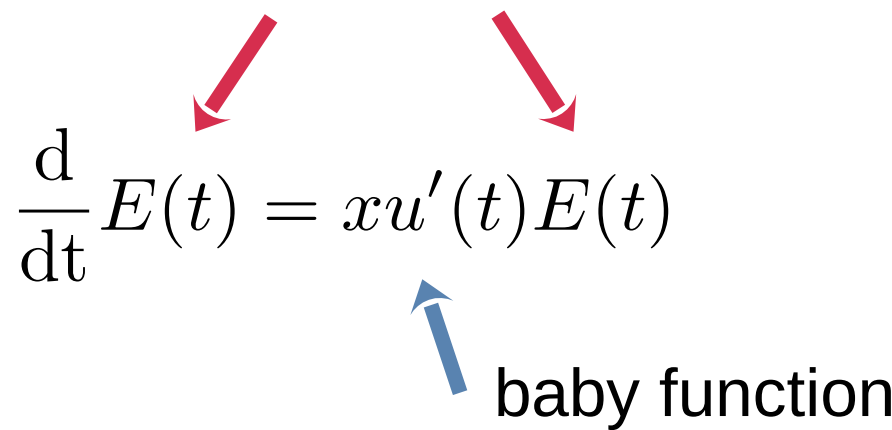
$$S_0(x) = A(0) e^{xu(0)} = 1$$

$$E(t) = e^{xu(t)}$$

$$E(0) = 1$$

$$E'(t) = xu'(t)e^{xu(t)}$$

mother function


$$\frac{d}{dt} E(t) = xu'(t)E(t)$$

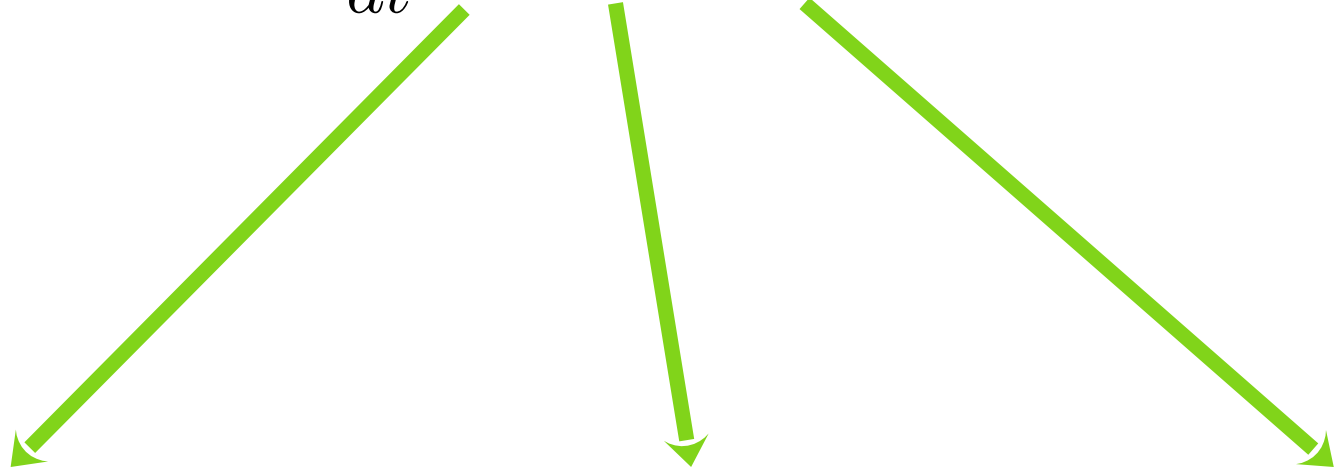
baby function

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}A(t)E(t) &= A'(t)E(t) + A(t)E'(t) \\ &= A'(t)E(t) + A(t)xu'(t)E(t)\end{aligned}$$

set $t = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}S_1(x) &= 1!S_1(x) = A'(0)E(0) + A(0)xu'(0)E(0) \\ &= A'(0) + x\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} A(t)B(t)E(t)$$



$$= A'(t)B(t)E(t) + A(t)B'(t)E(t) + A(t)B(t)E'(t)$$

2nd derivative yields

5 pedigrees

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} A(t)E(t)$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt} [A'(t)E(t) + A(t)xu'(t)E(t)]$$

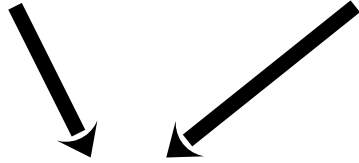
$$= A''(t)E(t)$$

$$+ A'(t)xu'(t)E(t)$$

$$+ A'(t)xu'(t)E(t) + A(t)xu''(t)E(t) + A(t)(xu'(t))^2 E(t)$$

5 pedigrees

$$A''(t)E(t) + A'(t)xu'(t)E(t) + A'(t)xu'(t)E(t) + A(t)xu''(t)E(t) + A(t)(xu'(t))^2E(t)$$



combine

$$A''(t)E(t) + 2A'(t)xu'(t)E(t) + A(t)xu''(t)E(t) + A(t)(xu'(t))^2E(t)$$

to yield 4 terms

$$A''(t)E(t) + 2A'(t)xu'(t)E(t) + A(t)xu''(t)E(t) + A(t)(xu'(t))^2E(t)$$

set $t = 0$

$$2!S_2(x) = A''(0) + (2A'(0) + u''(0))x + x^2$$

$$\frac{d^3}{dt^3} A(t)E(t)$$

$$= A'''(t)E(t) + 3A''(t)xu'(t)E(t) + 3A'(t)xu''(t)E(t) + 3A'(t)(xu'(t))^2E(t) \\ + A(t)xu'''(t)E(t) + 3A(t)xu'(t)xu''(t)E(t) + A(t)(xu'(t))^3E(t)$$

8 terms coming from 15 pedigrees

$$3!S_3(x) = A'''(0) + [3A''(0) + 3A'(0)u''(0) + A(0)u'''(0)]x \\ + [3A'(0) + 3A(0)u''(0)]x^2 + x^3$$

$$\frac{d^3}{dt^3} A(t) E(t)$$

$$= A'''(t)E(t) + 3A''(t)xu'(t)E(t) + 3A'(t)xu''(t)E(t) + 3A'(t)(xu'(t))^2 E(t) \\ + A(t)xu'''(t)E(t) + A(t)(xu''(t))^2 E(t) + 2A(t)xu'(t)xu''(t)E(t) + A(t)(xu'(t))^3 E(t)$$

Each term has the form

$$N \cdot A^{(k)}(t) xu^{(l_1)}(t) xu^{(l_2)}(t) \cdots xu^{(l_m)}(t) E(t)$$

positive integer father factor baby factor mother factor

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: IS 20
23 12
10 22 11 21

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[A000110](#) Bell or exponential numbers: number of ways to partition a set of n labeled elements. +30
1204
(Formerly M1484 N0585)

1, **1**, **2**, **5**, 15, 52, 203, 877, 4140, 21147, 115975, 678570, 4213597, 27644437, 190899322, 1382958545, 10480142147, 82864869804, 682076806159, 5832742205057, 51724158235372, 474869816156751, 4506715738447323, 44152005855084346, 445958869294805289, 4638590332229999353, 49631246523618756274 ([list](#); [graph](#); [refs](#); [listen](#); [history](#); [text](#); [internal format](#))

OFFSET 0, 3

COMMENTS The leading diagonal of its difference table is the sequence shifted, see Bernstein and Sloane (1995). - [N. J. A. Sloane](#), Jul 04 2015
Also the number of equivalence relations that can be defined on a set of n elements. - Federico Arboleda (federico.arboleda(AT)gmail.com), Mar 09 2005
a(n) = number of nonisomorphic colorings of a map consisting of a row of n+1 adjacent regions. Adjacent regions cannot have the same color. - [David W. Wilson](#), Feb 22 2005
If an integer is squarefree and has n distinct prime factors then a(n) is the number of ways of writing it as a product of its divisors. - [Amarnath Murthy](#), Apr 23 2001
Consider rooted trees of height at most 2. Letting each tree 'grow' into the next generation of n means we produce a new tree for every node which is either the root or at height 1, which gives the Bell numbers. - [Jon Perry](#), Jul 22 2002

Sheffer polynomials

- 1) Combinatorial space. Pointed partitions.
- 2) The generating function
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- **4) Bijection and induction**
- 5) Significance

bijection



pedigrees
of the terms of

$$\frac{d^n}{dt^n} A(t)E(t)$$

pointed
partitions of

$$\{1, \dots, n\}$$

establish by **induction** on n

base case of induction $k = 0$

0-th
derivative

$$A(t)E(t)$$



empty
free space

case $k = 1$

1-st derivative
of $A(t)E(t)$

$$A'(t)E(t)$$



1 element
pointed partitions

1

(in free space)

$$A(t)E'(t) = \\ A(t)xu'(t)E(t)$$



[1]


(in compartment)

induction step from n to $n + 1$


**pedigrees of
n-th derivative**

**pointed partitions of
 $\{1, \dots, n\}$**

mother $E(t)$

father $A^{(j)}(t)$ 

j elements in free space

baby $xu^{(l_i)}(t)$ 

l_i elements in i th compartment

$$A^{(j)}(t) xu^{(l_1)}(t) xu^{(l_2)}(t) \cdots xu^{(l_m)}(t) E(t)$$

$$n = j + l_1 + l_2 + \cdots + l_m$$

Given n , **extend to** $n + 1$

pedigrees of
n-th derivative

pointed partitions of
 $\{1, \dots, n\}$

$$n = j + l_1 + l_2 + \dots + l_m$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} A^{(j)}(t)$$



Add new element to free space

$$\frac{d}{dt} x u^{(l_i)}(t)$$



Add new element to i -th compartment

$$\frac{d}{dt} E(t)$$



Add new compartment with 1 element

Tracking distinct pedigrees

$A(t)E(t) \longleftrightarrow$ empty free space

#1

#1

$A^{\#1}(t)E(t) \longleftrightarrow 1$

$A(t)xu^{\#1}E(t) \longleftrightarrow [1]$

#2

#2

$A^{\#1}(t)xu^{\#2}E(t) \longleftrightarrow 1[2]$

$A^{\#2}(t)xu^{\#1}E(t) \longleftrightarrow 2[1]$

Suppose bijection holds for n

pedigrees of
n-th derivative

pointed partitions of
 $\{1, \dots, n\}$

$$n = j + l_1 + l_2 + \dots + l_m$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} A^{(j)}(t)$$



Add new element to free space

$$\frac{d}{dt} x u^{(l_i)}(t)$$



Add new element to i -th compartment

$$\frac{d}{dt} E(t)$$



Add new compartment with 1 element

Constructive proof needs lots of notation!

$$A^{\#1\#2\#3}(t)E(t) \leftrightarrow 123$$

$$A^{\#1}(t)xu^{\#2}xu^{\#3}E(t) \leftrightarrow 1[2][3]$$

$$A^{\#1\#2}(t)xu^{\#3}E(t) \leftrightarrow 12[3]$$

$$A^{\#2}(t)xu^{\#1}xu^{\#3}E(t) \leftrightarrow 2[1][3]$$

$$A^{\#1\#3}(t)xu^{\#2}E(t) \leftrightarrow 13[2]$$

$$A^{\#3}(t)xu^{\#1}xu^{\#2}E(t) \leftrightarrow 3[1][2]$$

$$A^{\#2\#3}(t)xu^{\#1}E(t) \leftrightarrow 23[1]$$

$$A(t)xu^{\#1\#2\#3}E(t) \leftrightarrow [123]$$

$$A^{\#1}(t)xu^{\#2\#3}E(t) \leftrightarrow 1[23]$$

$$A(t)xu^{\#1\#2}xu^{\#3}E(t) \leftrightarrow [12][3]$$

$$A^{\#2}(t)xu^{\#1\#3}E(t) \leftrightarrow 2[13]$$

$$A(t)xu^{\#1\#3}xu^{\#2}E(t) \leftrightarrow [13][2]$$

$$A^{\#3}(t)xu^{\#1\#2}E(t) \leftrightarrow 3[12]$$

$$A(t)xu^{\#1}xu^{\#2\#3}E(t) \leftrightarrow [1][23]$$

$$A(t)xu^{\#1}xu^{\#2}xu^{\#3}E(t) \leftrightarrow [1][2][3]$$

$$n!S_n(x) = \left. \frac{d^n}{dt^n} A(t)e^{xu(t)} \right|_{t=0}$$

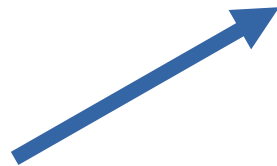
$$A(0) = 1$$

$$u(0) = 0$$

$$u'(0) = 1$$

$$e^{xu(0)} = 1$$

$$n!S_n(x) = x^n + \dots + s_k x^k + \dots + A^{(n)}(0)$$

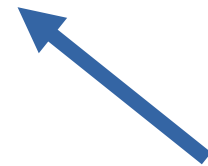


[1][2]...[n]

n compartments



k compartments

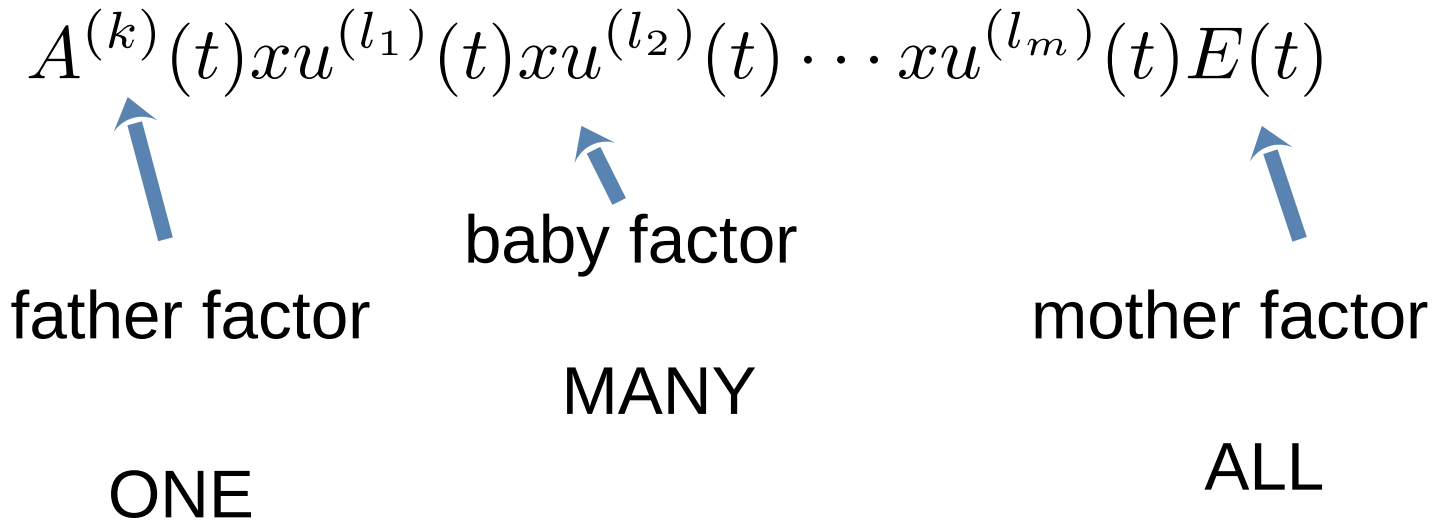


12...n

free space

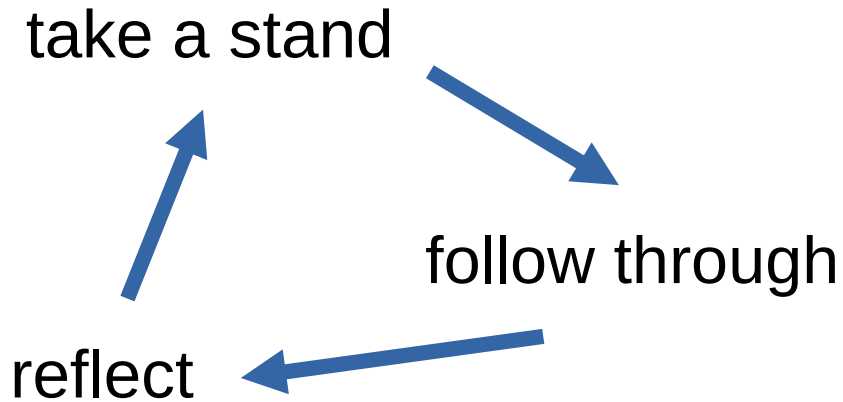
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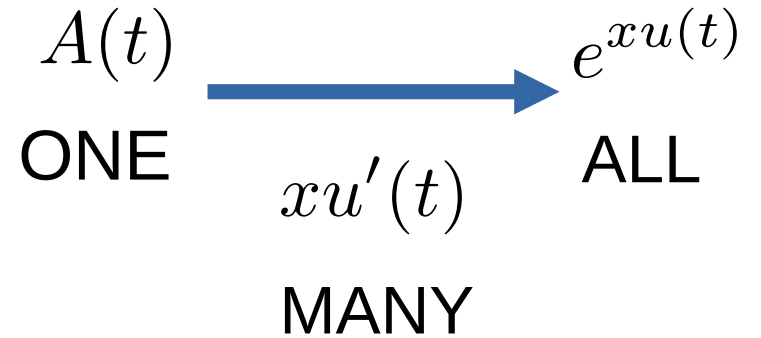


compare with minimization operator μ

THREESOME
(Learning cycle)



ONE PARTICULAR
CONCEPTION



compare with Jacobi identity for Lie algebras

$$[X, [Y, Z]] + [Y, [Z, X]] + [Z, [X, Y]] = 0$$

partition of $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ is better understood here as

pointed partition of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$

$$n!S_n(x) = x^n + \dots + s_k x^k + \dots + A^{(n)}(0)$$

$[1][2] \dots [n]$
n compartments
objective

k compartments
objective

$12 \dots n$
free space
subjective

choosing 1 out of q

choosing 1 out of 1

finite field with q elements

mythical field with 1 element

F_q



F_1

$$\binom{m}{r}_q = \frac{(1 - q^m)(1 - q^{m-1}) \cdots (1 - q^{m-r+1})}{(1 - q)(1 - q^2) \cdots (1 - q^r)}$$

$$\binom{m}{r} = \frac{m!}{r!(m - r!)}$$

Gaussian binomial coefficient

binomial coefficient

counts subspaces

counts subsets

$$u(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} u_i t^i$$

ordinary
generating function

$$u(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{u^{(i)}(0)}{i!} t^i$$

exponential
generating function

orthogonal Sheffer polynomials

$$S_n(x) = c_n P_n(x)$$

which values of c_n are relevant?

FIVESOME

orthogonal Sheffer polynomials

cause
Meixner



effect of cause
Meixner-Pollaczek

decision point
Laguerre

cause of effect
Charlier



effect
Hermite

Probability and statistics

NEF-QEV Natural Exponential Families
with Quadratic Variance Functions

Generalized Linear Models

See also:

Pearson distribution

PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS

cause
Meixner



effect of cause
Meixner-Pollaczek

***Negative
binomial***

decision point
Laguerre

***Hyperbolic
secant***

Gamma

cause of effect
Charlier

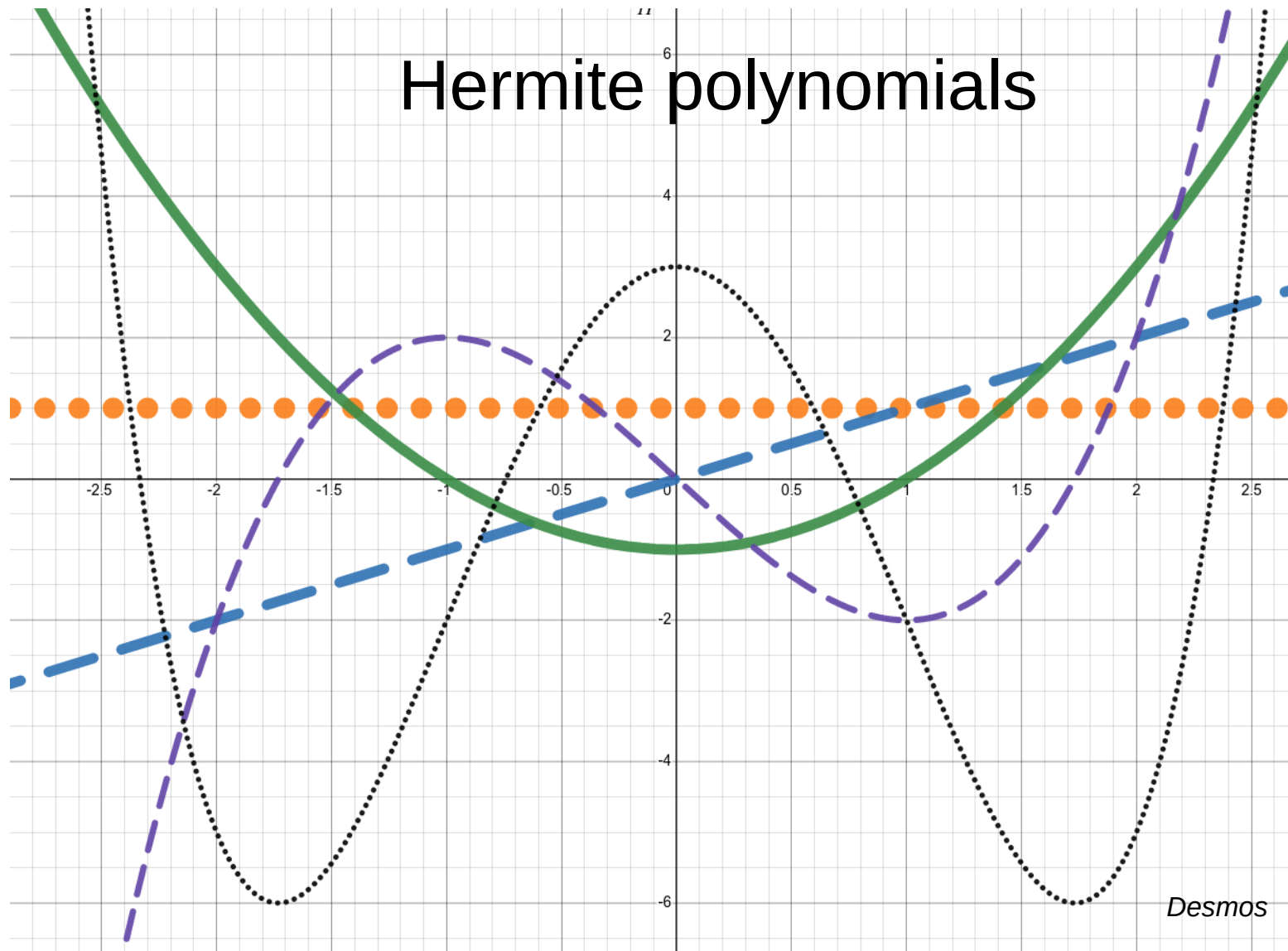


effect
Hermite

Poisson

Normal

Hermite polynomials



I have been studying the
Fundamental theorem of covering spaces
in Algebraic Topology with the
NYC Category Theory and Algebra Meetup

Join us!

universal covering space



pedigrees = distinct paths

terms = loops = equivalences



space

YouTube:

John Baez's lectures *This Week's Finds*

universal covering space



root lattice



root system



compact space



A role for cellular automata?

Ask Stephen Wolfram

How to encode the evolution of physical laws?

Ask John Harland

Investigate math for wisdom?

Ask me! Andrius Kulikauskas **math4wisdom.com**

$$B_n = \sum_{k=0}^n \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}$$

What is known about Sheffer polynomials
and Stirling numbers of the second kind?

Ask Tian-Xiao He

FIVESOME

orthogonal Sheffer polynomials

cause
Meixner



effect of cause
Meixner-Pollaczek

decision point
Laguerre

cause of effect
Charlier



effect
Hermite

Thank you for helpful online resources!

1939 Sheffer *Some properties of polynomial sets of type zero* Duke Mathematical Journal archive.org

1973 Rota et al *Finite Operator Calculus* sciencedirect.com

1982 Morris *Natural Exponential Families with Quadratic Variance Functions* projecteuclid.org

2000 Stanton *Orthogonal Polynomials and Combinatorics*

2001 Kim, Zeng *A Combinatorial Formula for the Linearization Coefficients of General Sheffer Polynomials* semanticscholar.org

2006 Tian-Xiao He *The Generalized Stirling Numbers, Sheffer-type Polynomials and Expansion Theorems*

2015 Galiffa, Riston *An elementary approach to characterizing Sheffer A-type 0 orthogonal polynomial sequences* projecteuclid.org

Xavier Viennot *The Art of Bijective Combinatorics Part IV* viennot.org Videobook!

Tom Copeland blog *Shadows of Simplicity* and answers at MathOverflow

Thank you!

PATREON

Thank you!

John Harland

Thomas Gajdosik

Kirby Urner

Antonio Jesús García Palomo

Bill Pahl

... and all participants of the
Math 4 Wisdom discussion group!

A large, stylized black letter 'M' with a modern, geometric design. The vertical strokes are slightly curved at the bottom, and the central peak is sharp.

M A T H

A large, stylized black number '4' with a modern, geometric design. It features a horizontal bar with a central gap, and the vertical strokes are angled.

4

A large, stylized black letter 'W' with a modern, geometric design. The vertical strokes are slightly curved at the bottom, and the central peak is sharp.

W I S D O M