

Where do the maximum absolute q -series
coefficients of

$$(1 - q)(1 - q^2)(1 - q^3) \dots (1 - q^{n-1})(1 - q^n)$$

occur?

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Partitions

A *partition* π is a finite sequence of *non-decreasing* positive integers $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{\#(\pi)})$.

For a given partition $\pi = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{\#(\pi)})$ the sum $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_{\#(\pi)}$ is the *size* of the partition π and it is denoted by $|\pi|$.

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Ex:

- $\pi = (1, 1, 5)$ is a partition of $|\pi| = 7$.
- $\pi = \emptyset$ is the unique partition of 0.

Generating Functions

For a sequence $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$, the series

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} a_n q^n$$

is called a *generating function*.

Let \mathcal{D} be the set of all partitions into non-repeating parts.

$$\sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{D}} q^{|\pi|} = 1 + q + q^2 + 2q^3 + 2q^4 + 3q^5 + 4q^6 + 5q^7 + 6q^8 + 8q^9 + \dots$$

\emptyset	$(1, 2), (3)$	$(1, 2, 3), (1, 5), (2, 4), (6)$
(1)	$(1, 3), (4)$	$(1, 2, 4), (1, 6), (2, 5), (3, 4), (7)$
(2)	$(1, 4), (2, 3), (5)$	$(1, 2, 5), (1, 3, 4), (1, 7), (2, 6), (3, 5), (8)$

q -Pochhammer Symbol

$$(a; q)_L := \prod_{i=0}^{L-1} (1 - aq^i), \text{ and } (a; q)_{\infty} := \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} (a; q)_L.$$

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Similarly,

$$(q; q)_\infty = \sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{D}} (-1)^{\#(\pi)} q^{|\pi|}.$$

Generating Functions

$$\sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{D}} (-1)^{\#(\pi)} q^{|\pi|} = \sum_{\substack{\pi \in \mathcal{D} \\ \#(\pi) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}}} q^{|\pi|} - \sum_{\substack{\pi \in \mathcal{D} \\ \#(\pi) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}}} q^{|\pi|}.$$

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Theorem (Euler's Pentagonal Number Theorem, 1750s)

$$(q; q)_\infty = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n(3n+1)/2}.$$

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Theorem

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A. Berkovich, A. K. Uncu, *On Some Polynomials of Bloch–Pólya type*. Proc. of the Amer. Math. Soc. 146 (2018) 7, 2827–2838.

$$(q; q)_0 = 1,$$

$$(q; q)_1 = 1 - q,$$

$$(q; q)_2 = 1 - q - q^2 + q^3,$$

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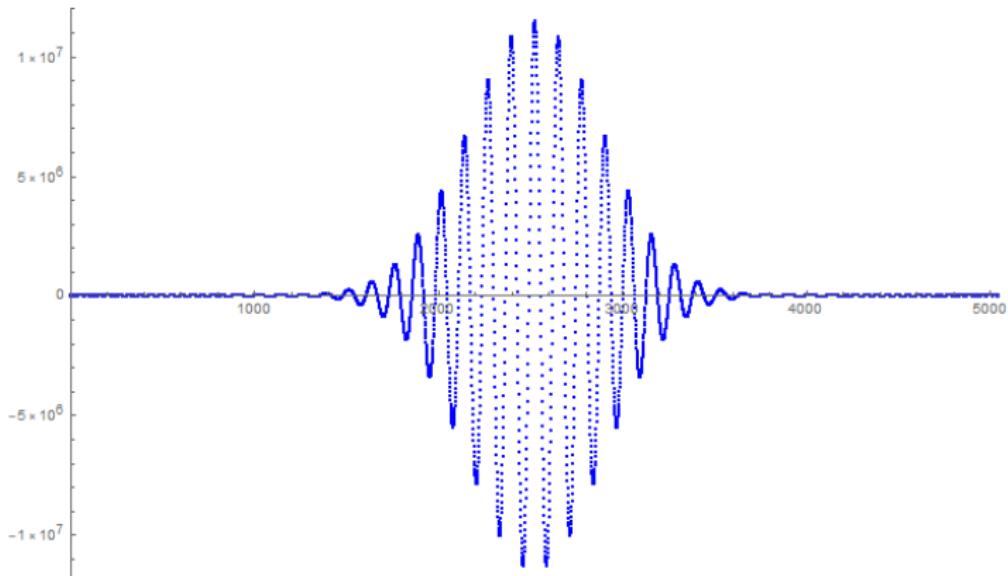
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Plot of $(q; q)_{100}$ 

Maximum absolute coefficient is $a_{2525,100} = 11,493,312$.

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The first few pentagonal numbers are

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= p_1(0) = p_2(0) < 1 = p_1(1) < 2 = p_2(1) < 5 = p_1(2) < \dots \\ &\quad \dots < p_1(n) < p_2(n) < p_1(n+1) < \dots \end{aligned}$$

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Taking differences we see that

$$p_2(n) - p_1(n) = n \quad \text{and} \quad p_1(n+1) - p_2(n) = 2n + 1.$$

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Lemma

For any $M > 0$ the gap between successive pentagonal numbers is

$$p_2(n) - p_1(n) > M \quad \text{and} \quad p_1(n+1) - p_2(n) > M,$$

for all $n > M$.

We have

$$(q; q)_\infty = 1 - q - q^2 + q^5 + q^7 - q^{12} - q^{15} + q^{22} + q^{26} - q^{35} \dots$$

Then

$$(q^2; q)_\infty = \frac{(q; q)_\infty}{1 - q},$$

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Then

$$\begin{aligned}(q^2; q)_\infty &= \frac{(q; q)_\infty}{1 - q}, \\ &= (1 + q + q^2 + \dots)(1 - q - q^2 + q^5 + q^7 - q^{12} - q^{15} \dots),\end{aligned}$$

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Heights of q -Rising Factorials and Related Series

Theorem

The power series of

$$(q^2; q)_\infty := \sum_{j \geq 0} a_j q^j$$

is of Bloch–Pólya type. Furthermore, for any $j \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ there exists unique $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ such that

$$p_2(2n) \leq j < p_2(2n + 2)$$

and

$$a_j = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } p_2(2n) \leq j < p_1(2n + 1), \\ -1, & \text{if } p_2(2n + 1) \leq j < p_1(2n + 2), \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Theorem

Let $(q^3; q)_\infty := \sum_{i \geq 0} b_i q^i$, there exists a unique integer $n \geq 0$ such that

$$p_1(2n) - 2 \leq i \leq p_1(2n + 2) - 3.$$

Then,

$$b_i = \begin{cases} -n, & \text{if } p_1(2n) - 2 \leq i \leq p_2(2n) - 1, \\ 1 - n + \lfloor \frac{i - p_2(2n)}{2} \rfloor, & \text{if } p_2(2n) \leq i \leq p_1(2n + 1) - 2, \\ 1 + n, & \text{if } p_1(2n + 1) - 1 \leq i \leq p_2(2n + 1) - 2 \text{ and } i \equiv p_2(2n) \\ n, & \text{if } p_1(2n + 1) - 1 \leq i \leq p_2(2n + 1) - 2 \text{ and } i \not\equiv p_2(2n) \\ n - \lceil \frac{i - p_2(2n+1)}{2} \rceil, & \text{if } p_2(2n + 1) - 1 \leq i \leq p_1(2n + 2) - 3, \end{cases}$$

where $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$, and $\lceil \cdot \rceil$ are floor and ceiling functions, respectively.

This formula not only says that the coefficients are unbounded but also tells that any integer appears as a coefficient of $(q^3; q)_\infty$ infinitely many times.

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Some first appearances of coefficient sizes are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}(q^3; q)_\infty = & 1 + \cdots + 2q^{11} + \cdots + 3q^{34} \cdots + \cdots \\ & + 4q^{69} + \cdots + 5q^{116} + \cdots + 6q^{175} + \cdots + 7q^{246} + \cdots\end{aligned}$$

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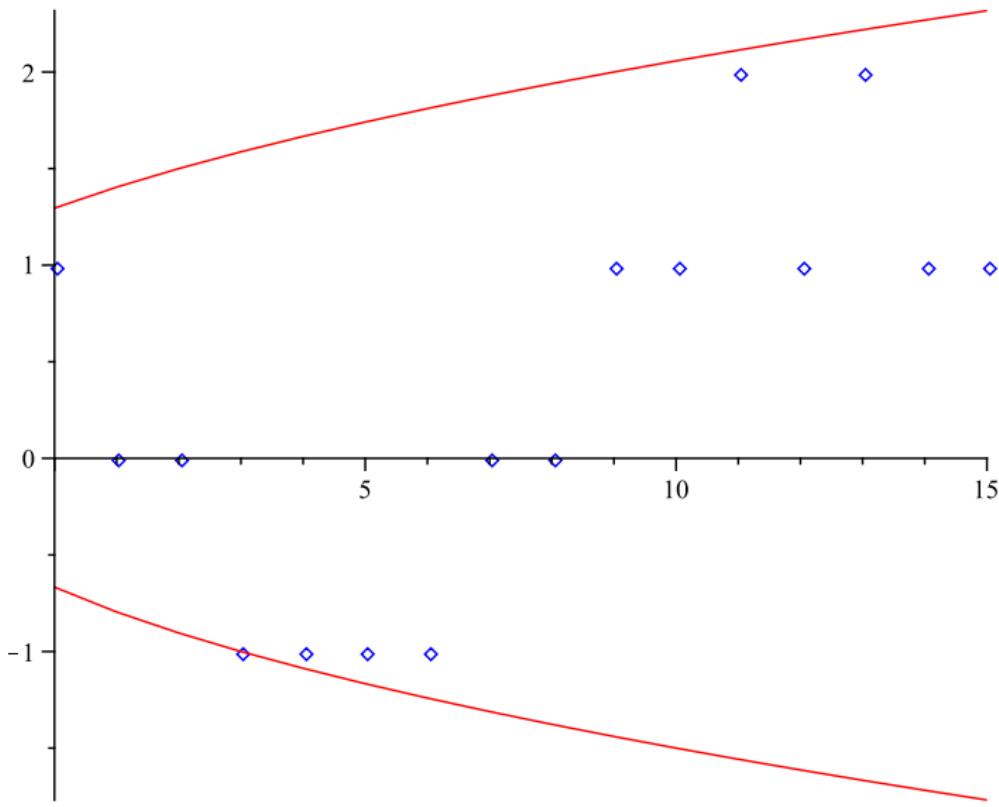
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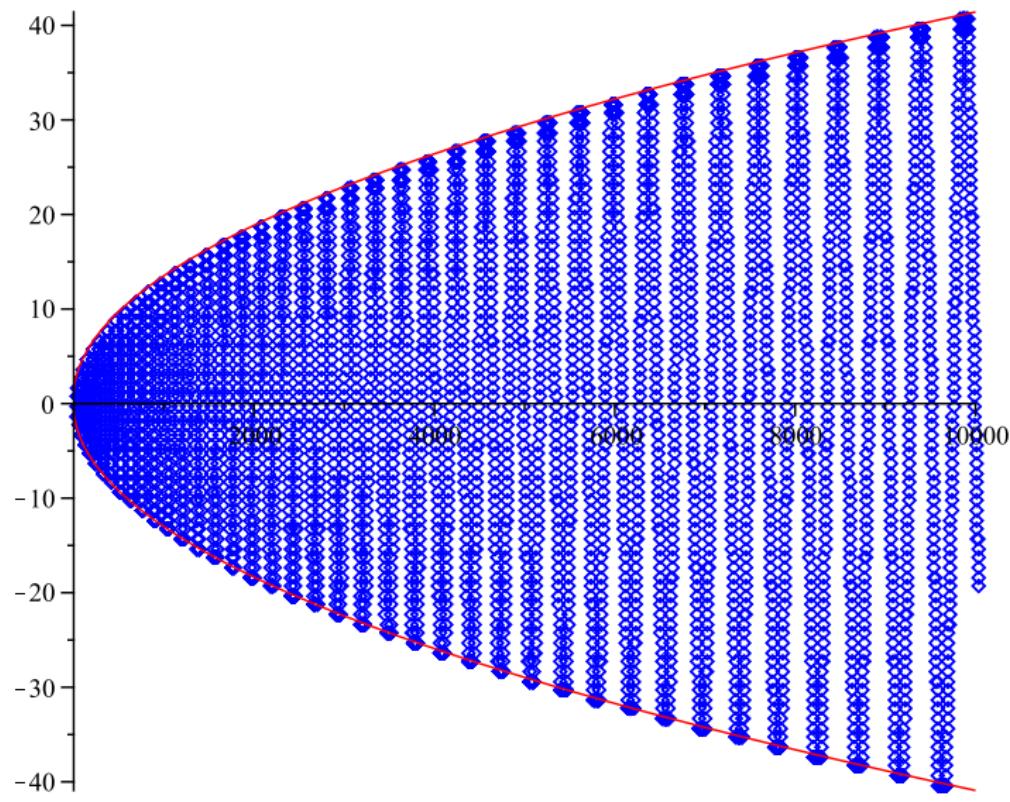
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Example: if $i = 10^{100}$, then

$$n = 40824829046386301636621401245098189866099124677611.$$

Moreover, for this particular i the second case of the formula above applies. Hence, after the addition of three numbers we get, $b_i = -19888090251390639910818356938628130689602741018379$.





Heights of q -Rising Factorials and Related Series

Theorem (q -Binomial Theorem)

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-a; q)_n}{(q; q)_n} t^n = \frac{(-ta; q)_\infty}{(t; q)_\infty}.$$

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Let $a \mapsto -a$ and $(a, q, t) = (0, q, q^m)$ in the above theorem and multiply both sides with $(q; q)_\infty$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}(q; q)_{m-1} &= \sum_{i \geq 0} q^{mi} (q^{i+1}; q)_\infty \\&= (q; q)_\infty + q^m (q^2; q)_\infty + q^{2m} (q^3; q)_\infty \dots.\end{aligned}$$

We call a polynomial (or series) with height ≤ 1 (the coefficients from the set $\{-1, 0, 1\}$) a polynomial (or series, resp.) of Bloch–Pólya type.

Theorem

For $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, $(q; q)_m$ is of Bloch–Pólya type iff $m = 0, 1, 2, 3$ or 5.

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Remember:

$$(q^3; q)_\infty = 1 + \dots + 2q^{11} + \dots + 3q^{34} + \dots + 4q^{69} + \dots$$

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Therefore, for any $m > 69$ one can deduce that

$$2 \leq \|q^{2m+69}\|(q; q)_{m-1} \leq 6.$$

$$\llbracket q^7 \rrbracket(q; q)_6 = 2,$$

$$\llbracket q^{12} \rrbracket(q; q)_{m-1} = -2, \text{ for } 8 \leq m \leq 10,$$

$$\llbracket q^{15} \rrbracket(q; q)_{10} = -2,$$

$$-3 \leq \llbracket q^{2m+20} \rrbracket(q; q)_{m-1} \leq -2, \text{ for } 12 \leq m \leq 21,$$

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Moreover,

$$2 \leq \llbracket q^{2m+69} \rrbracket (q; q)_{m-1} \leq 12 \text{ for } 22 \leq m \leq 69 \text{ and } m \neq 42.$$

and

$$\llbracket q^{51} \rrbracket (q; q)_{41} = 2.$$

Theorem

For $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, $(q; q)_m$ is of Bloch–Pólya type iff $m = 0, 1, 2, 3$ or 5 .

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The same argument can be used to prove other height arguments for $(q; q)_m$ as well.

Table: List of height sets S_h for $h = 1 \dots 30$ with the cut-off values of m .

h	S_h	Cut-off	h	S_h	Cut-off	h	S_h	Cut-off
1	{0, 1, 2, 3, 5}	69	11	{23}	1079	21	{27}	3289
2	{4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11}	116	12	\emptyset	1246	22	\emptyset	3576
3	{10, 13, 14}	175	13	\emptyset	1425	23	\emptyset	3875
4	{12, 15}	246	14	\emptyset	1616	24	\emptyset	4186
5	{17}	329	15	\emptyset	1819	25	\emptyset	4509
6	{16, 18}	424	16	{24, 25}	2034	26	\emptyset	4844
7	{19}	531	17	\emptyset	2261	27	\emptyset	5191
8	{20, 21}	650	18	\emptyset	2500	28	{28}	5550
9	\emptyset	781	19	{26}	2751	29	{29}	5921
10	{22}	924	20	\emptyset	3014	30	\emptyset	6304

Conjecture (For Wadim: "Expectation:")

Either $S_h = \emptyset$, or $S_h = \{i(h)\}$,

for $h > 16$, where $i(h)$ is a positive integer, and

$i(h_1) > i(h_2)$ when $h_1 > h_2 > 16$.

Moreover, for $h > 5$, the set

$$S_1 \cup S_2 \cup \cdots \cup S_h = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, M(h)\}$$

consists of all consecutive integers from 0 up to some positive $M(h)$.

Let

$$F_{k,M}(q) := \sum_{j=0}^M q^{kj} (q; q)_j,$$

$$F_k(q) := \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} F_{k,M}(q) = \sum_{j \geq 0} q^{kj} (q; q)_j.$$

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Lemma

For $k \geq 1$

$$q^{k+1} F_{k+1,M}(q) = 1 + (q^k - 1) F_{k,M}(q) - q^{k(M+1)} (q; q)_{M+1}.$$

Let

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Lemma

$$q F_{1,M}(q) = \sum_{j=0}^M q^{j+1} (q; q)_j = 1 - (q; q)_{M+1}.$$

Let

$$F_{k,M}(q) := \sum_{j=0}^M q^{kj} (q; q)_j,$$

$$F_k(q) := \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} F_{k,M}(q) = \sum_{j \geq 0} q^{kj} (q; q)_j.$$

Lemma

$$\begin{aligned} q^{k(k+1)/2} F_k(q) &= \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} (-1)^i (q^{k-i}; q)_i q^{(k-1-i)(k-i)/2} \\ &\quad + (-1)^k (q; q)_{k-1} (q; q)_\infty \end{aligned}$$

Theorem

- i. $F_1(q)$ and $F_2(q)$ are of Bloch–Pólya type,
- ii. $F_3(q) - q^9$ and $F_4(q) - q^{16} + q^{18} + q^{30} - q^{31}$ are both of Bloch–Pólya type,
- iii. $F_5(q)$ is not Bloch–Pólya type series and there is no polynomial $f(q)$ such that $F_5(q) + f(q)$ is one,
- iv. $F_6(q) - f_6(q)$ is Bloch–Pólya type series, where

$$\begin{aligned}f_6(q) := & q^{29} - q^{32} + q^{36} - q^{38} + q^{43} - q^{45} \dots \\& \dots - q^{110} - q^{239} + q^{241} + q^{280} - q^{281},\end{aligned}$$

- v. and for $k \geq 7$, there is no polynomial $f(q)$ such that $F_k(q) + f(q)$ is of Bloch–Pólya type.

Lemma

$$\begin{aligned} q^{k(k+1)/2} F_k(q) = & \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} (-1)^i (q^{k-i}; q)_i q^{(k-1-i)(k-i)/2} \\ & + (-1)^k (q; q)_{k-1} (q; q)_\infty \end{aligned}$$

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Lemma

For any $M > 0$ the gap between successive pentagonal numbers is

$$p_2(n) - p_1(n) > M \quad \text{and} \quad p_1(n+1) - p_2(n) > M,$$

for all $n > M$.

Example Proof: $F_4(q) - q^{16} + q^{18} + q^{30} - q^{31}$ is of Bloch polya type:

$$\begin{aligned}q^{10}F_4(q) = & -1 + 2q + q^2 - 2q^3 - 2q^4 - q^5 + 4q^6 \\& + (1 - q - q^2 + q^4 + q^5 - q^6)(q; q)_\infty.\end{aligned}$$

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Difference between the pentagonal numbers are larger than 6 starting from the pentagonal number 70.

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Table: List of height sets \hat{S}_h of $F_k(q)$ for $h = 1 \dots 40$.

h	\hat{S}_h	h	\hat{S}_h	h	\hat{S}_h	h	\hat{S}_h
1	{1, 2}	11	{16}	21	\emptyset	31	\emptyset
2	{3, 4, 6}	12	{17}	22	\emptyset	32	\emptyset
3	{5, 8}	13	\emptyset	23	\emptyset	33	\emptyset
4	{7, 9}	14	{18}	24	{22}	34	\emptyset
5	\emptyset	15	{19}	25	\emptyset	35	\emptyset
6	{10, 12}	16	\emptyset	26	\emptyset	36	\emptyset
7	{11, 14}	17	{20}	27	\emptyset	37	{25}
8	{13, 15}	18	{21}	28	\emptyset	38	\emptyset
9	\emptyset	19	\emptyset	29	{23}	39	\emptyset
10	\emptyset	20	\emptyset	30	{24}	40	\emptyset

Theorem (Euler's Pentagonal Number Theorem, 1750s)

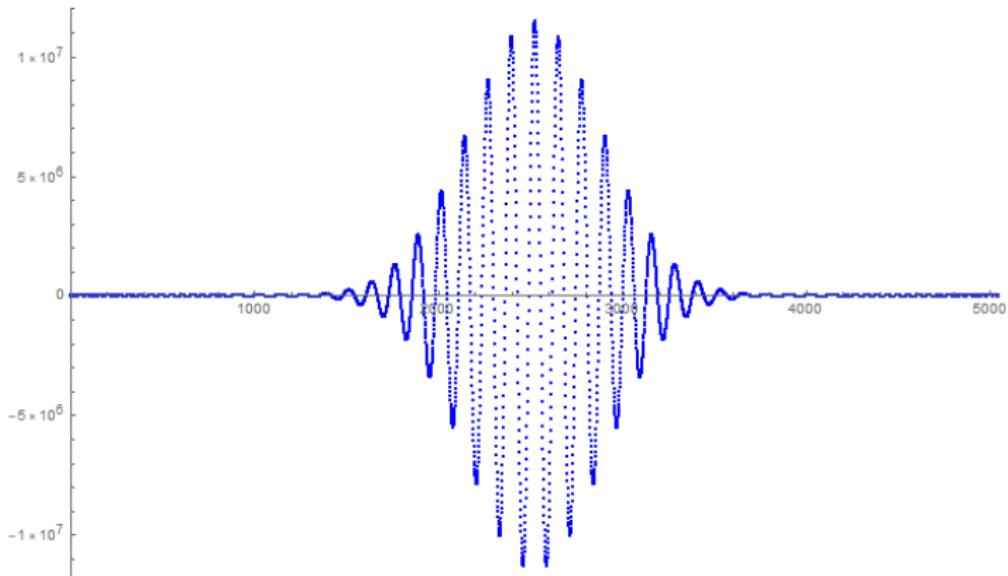
$$(q; q)_\infty = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n(3n+1)/2}.$$

Let N be a positive integer,

$$(q; q)_N := \sum_{i=0}^{N(N+1)/2} a_{i,N} q^i.$$

What about the $a_{i,N}$?

$$(q; q)_4 = 1 - q - q^2 + 2q^5 - q^8 - q^9 + q^{10}.$$

Plot of $(q; q)_{100}$ 

Maximum absolute coefficient is $a_{2525,100} = 11,493,312$.

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THE ON-LINE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INTEGER SEQUENCES®

founded in 1964 by N. J. A. Sloane

Search

Hints

(Greetings from [The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences!](#))

A160089	The maximum of the absolute value of the coefficients of $P_n = (1-x)(1-x^2)(1-x^3)\dots(1-x^n)$. 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 2, 4, 3, 3, 4, 6, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8, 10, 11, 16, 16, 19, 21, 28, 29, 34, 41, 50, 56, 68, 80, 100, 114, 135, 158, 196, 225, 269, 320, 388, 455, 544, 644, 786, 921, 1111, 1321, 1600, 1891, 2274, 2711, 3280, 3895, 4694, 5591, 6780, 8051, 9729, 11624 (list ; graph ; refs ; listen ; history ; text ; internal format)	4
OFFSET	0,5	
COMMENTS	If n is even then $a(n)$ is the absolute value of the coefficient of $z^{n(n+1)/4}$. If n is odd, it is an open question as to which coefficient is $a(n)$.	

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Therefore,

$$a_{i,N} = a_{i,N-1} - a_{i-N,N-1}.$$

Necessary resources for the calculation

That's where a big computer like MACH2¹ becomes a necessity!

¹Please feel free to ask me about this supercomputer.

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and $L(N)$ be the smallest integer such that $a_{L(N),N} = \mathcal{M}_N$. Let

$$D_N = \frac{N(N+1)}{4} - L(N) \text{ and } E_N = D_N - D_{N-4}.$$

What did we calculate?

- $L(N)$ location of the maximum absolute coefficient,
- D_N distance of the maximum absolute coefficient from the midpoint,
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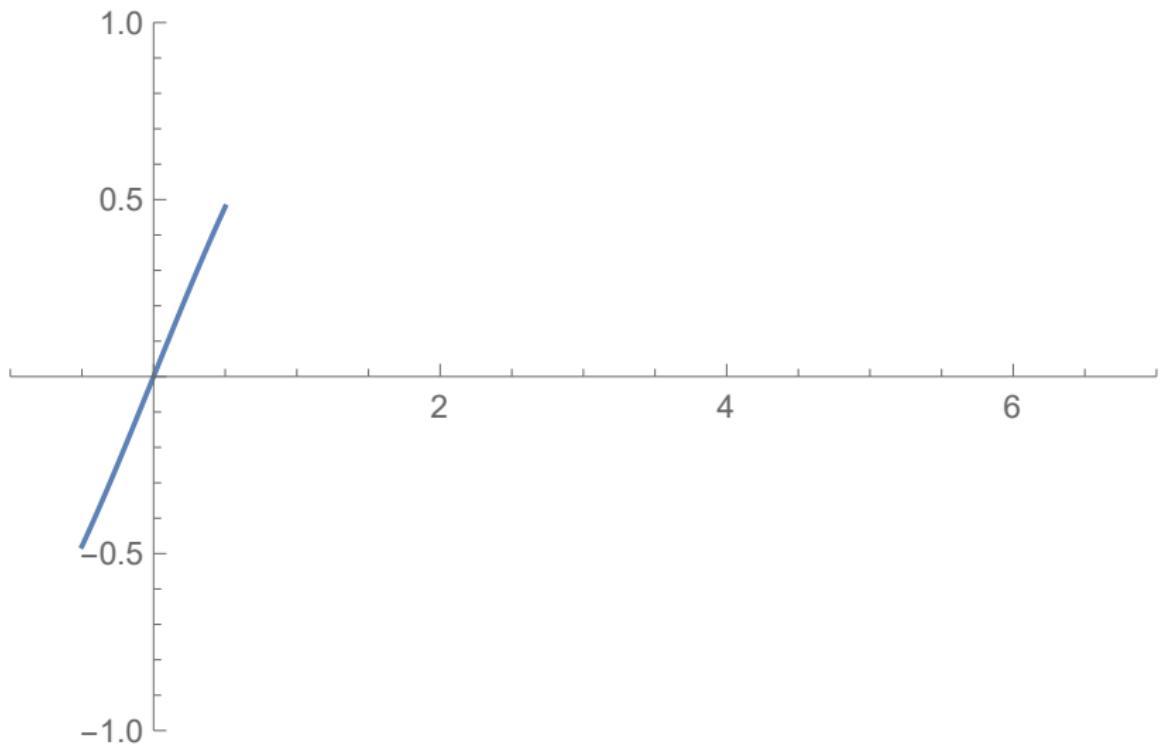
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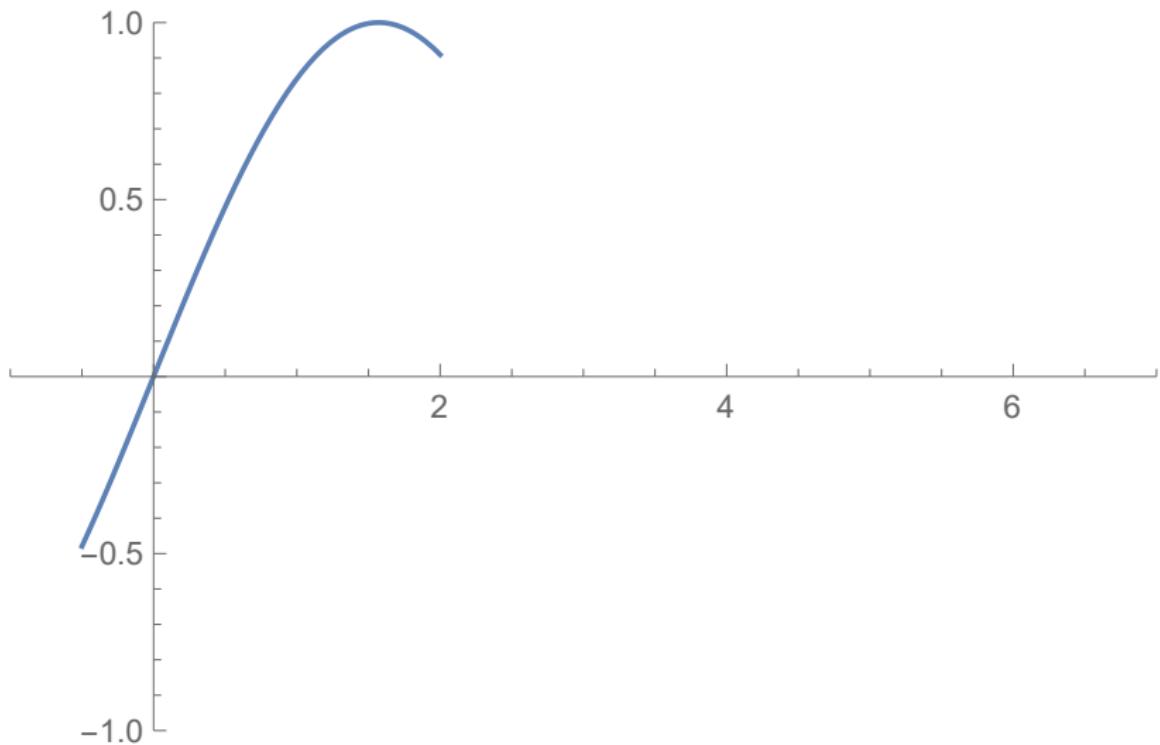
$$L(N) = \frac{N(N+1)}{4} - \left(D_m + \sum_{i=1}^{(N-m)/4} E_{m+4i} \right).$$

Interlude: Periodicity!?

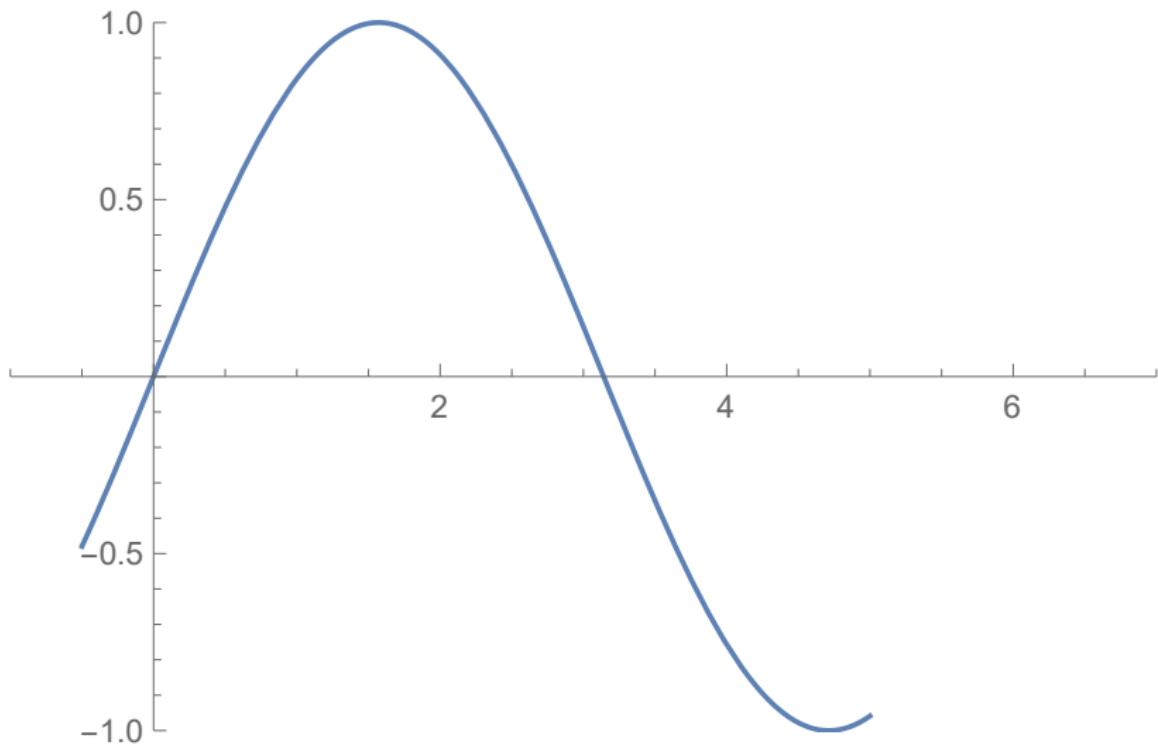
Would you believe the periodicity of this graph?



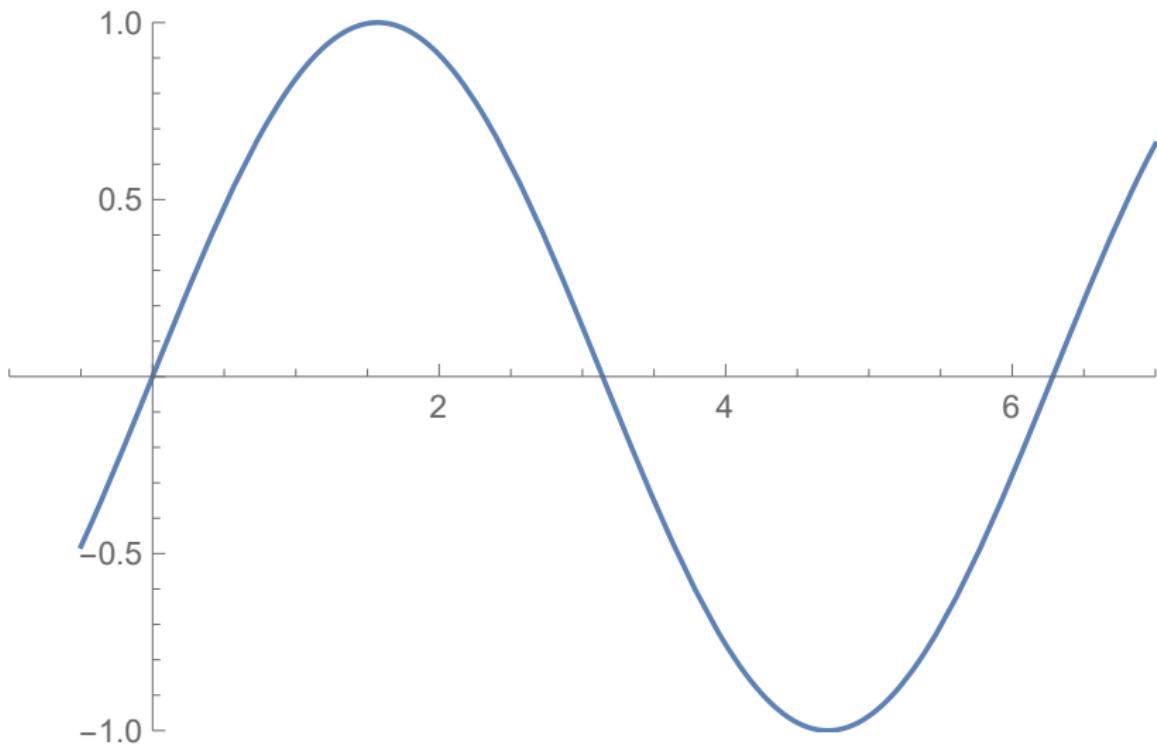
Would you believe the periodicity of this graph?



Would you believe the periodicity of this graph?



Would you believe the periodicity of this graph?



End of the interlude.

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$E_N \in \{1, 2\}$ for all $N \geq 61$.

$$L(N) = \frac{N(N+1)}{4} - \left(D_m + \sum_{i=1}^{(N-m)/4} E_{m+4i} \right).$$

E_N 's are almost periodic with period 19

Starting from $N = 53$, the E_N 's for $1 \bmod 4$ parts look as follows:

2112111211121112111

21121112111211121112111

21121112111211121112112

11121112111211121112112

11121112111211121112112

11121112111211121112112

11121112111211121112112

11121112111211121121112

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11121112111211121112112

11121112111211121121112

11121112111211121121112

11121112111211121121112

11121112111211121121112

.....

The alphabet

$$\begin{aligned} a &= \overbrace{2112111211121112112}^{19}, & k &= \overbrace{1211121112111211121}^{19}, \\ b &= 1112111211121112112, & l &= 1211121112111211211, \\ c &= 111211121112112112, & m &= 1211121112112111211, \\ d &= 1112111211211121112, & n &= 1211121121112111211, \\ e &= 1112112111211121112, & o &= 1211211121112111211, \\ f &= 1121112111211121112, & p &= 2111211121112111211, \\ g &= 1121112111211121121, & q &= 2111211121112112111, \\ h &= 1121112111211211121, & r &= 2111211121121112111, \\ i &= 1121112112111211121, & s &= 2111211211121112111, \\ j &= 1121121112111211121, & t &= 2112111211121112111. \end{aligned}$$

The words using this alphabet

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$a^1 b^4 c^4 d^4 e^4 f^3 g^4 h^5 i^4 j^4 k^3 l^4 m^4 n^4 o^5 p^3 q^4 r^4 s^4 t^3 \dots$

$\underbrace{a^1 b^4 c^4 d^4 e^4 f^3 g^4 h^5 i^4 j^4 k^3 \dots}_{\text{word 1}}$ $\underbrace{\dots}_{\text{word 2, etc.}}$

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11 {
$$\begin{aligned} & a^1 b^4 c^4 d^4 e^4 f^3 g^4 h^5 i^4 j^4 k^3 l^4 m^4 n^4 o^5 p^3 q^4 r^4 s^4 t^3 \\ & a^1 b^4 c^4 d^4 e^4 f^3 g^4 h^4 i^5 j^4 k^3 l^4 m^4 n^4 o^5 p^3 q^4 r^4 s^4 t^3 \\ & a^1 b^3 c^5 d^4 e^4 f^3 g^4 h^4 i^5 j^4 k^3 l^4 m^4 n^4 o^4 p^4 q^4 r^4 s^4 t^3 \\ & a^1 b^3 c^5 d^4 e^4 f^3 g^4 h^4 i^4 j^5 k^3 l^4 m^4 n^4 o^4 p^4 q^4 r^4 s^4 t^3 \\ & a^1 b^3 c^4 d^5 e^4 f^3 g^4 h^4 i^4 j^5 k^3 l^4 m^4 n^4 o^4 p^3 q^5 r^4 s^4 t^3 \\ & a^1 b^3 c^4 d^5 e^4 f^3 g^4 h^4 i^4 j^4 k^4 l^4 m^4 n^4 o^4 p^3 q^4 r^5 s^4 t^3 \\ & a^1 b^3 c^4 d^4 e^5 f^3 g^4 h^4 i^4 j^4 k^3 l^5 m^4 n^4 o^4 p^3 q^4 r^5 s^4 t^3 \\ & a^1 b^3 c^4 d^4 e^4 f^4 g^4 h^4 i^4 j^4 k^3 l^5 m^4 n^4 o^4 p^3 q^4 r^4 s^5 t^3 \\ & a^1 b^3 c^4 d^4 e^4 f^4 g^4 h^4 i^4 j^4 k^3 l^4 m^5 n^4 o^4 p^3 q^4 r^4 s^5 t^3 \\ & a^1 b^3 c^4 d^4 e^4 f^3 g^5 h^4 i^4 j^4 k^3 l^4 m^5 n^4 o^4 p^3 q^4 r^4 s^4 t^4 \\ & a^1 b^3 c^4 d^4 e^4 f^3 g^5 h^4 i^4 j^4 k^3 l^4 m^4 n^5 o^4 p^3 q^4 r^4 s^4 t^4 \\ & a^1 b^3 c^4 d^4 e^4 f^3 g^4 h^5 i^4 j^4 k^3 l^4 m^4 n^5 o^4 p^3 q^4 r^4 s^4 t^3 \\ & a^1 b^4 c^4 d^4 e^4 f^3 g^4 h^4 i^5 j^4 k^3 l^4 m^4 n^4 o^5 p^3 q^4 r^4 s^4 t^3 \\ & a^1 b^3 c^5 \dots \end{aligned}$$

Conjecture (Berkovich-U. 2019³)

For any $k \geq 0$, $r = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 10$, let

$$A(k, r) = 5700r + 62624k - 76\delta_{r,11},$$

where $\delta_{i,j}$ is the Kronecker delta, then,

$$\begin{aligned} L(5909 + A(k, r)) &= \frac{(5909 + A(k, r))(5910 + A(k, r))}{4} \\ &\quad - D_{5909+A(0,r)} - 19787k, \end{aligned}$$

where the full list of needed seed values of D_n 's are

$$\begin{aligned} D_{5909} &= 1867.5, & D_{11609} &= 3668.5, & D_{17309} &= 5469.5, \\ D_{23009} &= 7270.5, & D_{28709} &= 9071.5, & D_{34409} &= 9675.5, \\ D_{40109} &= 12673.5, & D_{45809} &= 14474.5, & D_{51509} &= 16275.5, \\ D_{57209} &= 18076.5, & D_{62833} &= 19853.5. \end{aligned}$$

³Where do the maximum absolute q -series coefficients of $(1-q)(1-q^2)(1-q^3)\dots(1-q^{n-1})(1-q^n)$ occur?, with A. Berkovich.

Thank you for your time

Where do the maximum absolute q -series
coefficients of

$$(1 - q)(1 - q^2)(1 - q^3) \dots (1 - q^{n-1})(1 - q^n)$$

occur?

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