

“Suppose that a monkey types randomly at a 32-key keyboard. What is the expected number of characters typed before the monkey hits upon the phrase THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPED OVER THE LAZY DOG?”

This is a 44 character sequence. Define this sequence as the pattern p .

Now define S_p as 32-key strings without p and T_p as strings that end in p but have no other occurrence of p . We have two resulting constructions: One from the notion that these are two disjoint sets and that adding a character to a string in S_p gives a string in one of the two sets, and another from the notion that adding certain character sequence “tails” to strings in T_p results in strings that are made up of another string in S_p and p itself. These are:

$$S_p + T_p = E + S_p \times \{Z_0 + \dots + Z_{31}\} \quad S_p \times \{p\} = T_p \times \sum_{c_i \neq 0} \{t_i\}$$

which result in the OGFs:

$$S_p(z) + T_p(z) = 1 + 32zS_p(z) \quad S_p(z)z^{|p|} = T_p(z)c_p(z)$$

Solve for $S_p(z)$ by first removing T :

$$T_p(z) = 1 + (32z - 1)S_p(z) = \frac{S_p(z)z^{|p|}}{c_p(z)}$$

$$S_p(z)(z^{|p|} + (1 - 32z)c_p(z)) = c_p(z)$$

$$S_p(z) = \frac{c_p(z)}{z^{|p|} + (1 - 32z)c_p(z)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{z^{44} + 1 - 32z}$$

Note that

$$S_p(z) = \sum_{N \geq 0} \{\# \text{ of } 32 \text{ key strings without } p\} z^N$$

and that

$$S_p(1/32) = \sum_{N \geq 0} \{\# \text{ of } 32 \text{ key strings without } p\} / 32^N = \sum_{N \geq 0} P(\text{position of first } p \text{ is after } N) = E(\text{position of ending of first } p)$$

$$\sim 1.685 * 10^{66}$$