

For this exercise I follow an idea suggested by Jose Gabriel Acevedo. We count bounded compositions depending on the number of parts in the composition. Since  $m_i \leq k - 1$ , for all  $i = 1, \dots, l$ , an integer  $n$  which admits a  $k$ -bounded composition of  $l$  parts must be  $\leq l(k - 1)$ , so, all possible  $k$ -bounded compositions of all possible  $n$  appear, up to the correspondence, in the terms of  $(x + x^2 + \dots + x^{k-1})^l$ . Since we need the compositions of all possible  $n$ 's, we sum over  $l$  in order to have all the bounded compositions of any number of parts. Hence, we get that  $c_k(n)$  is the  $n$ -th coefficient of the formal power series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (x + x^2 + \dots + x^{k-1})^n.$$

Finally, easy algebraic computations lead us to

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (x + x^2 + \dots + x^{k-1})^j &= \frac{1}{1 - (x + x^2 + \dots + x^{k-1})} \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - x(1 + x + \dots + x^{k-2})} \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - x \frac{1-x^{k-1}}{1-x}} \\ &= \frac{1-x}{(1-x)(1 - \frac{x-x^k}{1-x})} \\ &= \frac{1-x}{1-2x+x^k}, \end{aligned}$$