

The number $a_{n,k}$ of minimal covers of an unlabeled n -set that cover k points of that set uniquely

Define a unit column of a binary matrix to be a column with only one 1.

Let $b_{m,n,k}$ be the number of $m \times n$ binary matrices with $k=0, 1, \dots, n$ unit columns, up to row and column

permutations and $b_{m,n}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n b_{m,n,k} x^k$. Also let $Z(S_n; x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ denote the cycle index of symmetric group S_n of degree n . Then

$$b_{m,n}(x) = \frac{1}{m!} \sum_{\pi(m)} \frac{m!}{k_1! 1^{k_1} k_2! 2^{k_2} \dots k_m! m^{k_m}} Z(S_n; c_1(\pi, x), c_2(\pi, x), \dots, c_n(\pi, x)),$$

where $\pi(m)$ runs through all partitions of m (i.e. nonnegative solutions of $k_1 + 2k_2 + \dots + mk_m = m$);

$$c_j(\pi, x) = (2^{\sum_{i=1}^m (j,i)k_i} - \sum_{i|j} ik_i) + \sum_{i|j} ik_i \cdot x^j, j=1,2,\dots,n,$$

where (j,i) is the greatest common divisor of j and i .

Specially for small values of m and n we have:

$$b_{0,n}(x) = 1$$

$$b_{1,n}(x) = Z(S_n; 1+x, 1+x^2, 1+x^3, \dots)$$

$$b_{2,n}(x) = \frac{1}{2!} (Z(S_n; 2+2x, 2+2x^2, 2+2x^3, \dots) + Z(S_n; 2, 2+2x^2, 2, 2+2x^4, \dots))$$

$$b_{3,n}(x) = \frac{1}{3!} (Z(S_n; 5+3x, 5+3x^2, \dots) + 3Z(S_n; 3+x, 5+3x^2, 3+x^3, 5+3x^4, \dots) + 2Z(S_n; 2, 2, 5+3x^3, 2, 2, 5+3x^6, \dots))$$

$$b_{4,n}(x) = \frac{1}{4!} (Z(S_n; 12+4x, 12+4x^2, \dots) + 8Z(S_n; 3+x, 3+x^2, 12+4x^3, 3+x^4, 3+x^5, 12+4x^6, \dots) + 6Z(S_n; 6+2x, 12+4x^2, 6+2x^3, 12+4x^4, \dots) + 3Z(S_n; 4, 12+4x^2, 4, 12+4x^4, \dots) + 6Z(S_n; 2, 4, 2, 12+4x^4, 2, 4, 2, 12+4x^8, \dots))$$

$$b_{5,n}(x) = \frac{1}{5!} (Z(S_n; 27+5x, 27+5x^2, \dots) + 10Z(S_n; 13+3x, 27+5x^2, 13+3x^3, 27+5x^4, \dots) + 15Z(S_n; 7+x, 27+5x^2, 7+x^3, 27+5x^4, \dots) + 20Z(S_n; 6+2x, 6+2x^2, 27+5x^3, 6+2x^4, 6+2x^5, 27+5x^6, \dots) + 20Z(S_n; 4, 6+2x^2, 13+3x^3, 6+2x^4, 4, 27+5x^6, 4, 6+2x^8, 13+3x^9, 6+2x^{10}, 4, 27+5x^{12}, \dots) + 30Z(S_n; 3+x, 7+x^2, 3+x^3, 27+5x^4, 3+x^5, 7+x^6, 3+x^7, 27+5x^8, \dots) + 24Z(S_n; 2, 2, 2, 2, 27+5x^5, 2, 2, 2, 2, 27+5x^{10}, \dots)).$$

$$b_{0,n}(x) = 1$$

$$b_{1,n}(x) = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots + x^n$$

$$b_{2,0}(x) = 1$$

$$b_{2,1}(x) = 2 + x$$

$$b_{2,2}(x) = 3 + 2x + 2x^2$$

$$b_{2,3}(x) = 4 + 3x + 4x^2 + 2x^3$$

$$b_{2,4}(x) = 5 + 4x + 6x^2 + 4x^3 + 3x^4$$

$$b_{2,5}(x) = 6 + 5x + 8x^2 + 6x^3 + 6x^4 + 3x^5, \text{ etc.}$$

$$b_{3,0}(x) = 1$$

$$b_{3,1}(x) = 3 + x$$

$$b_{3,2}(x) = 7 + 4x + 2x^2$$

$$b_{3,3}(x) = 14 + 11x + 8x^2 + 3x^3$$

$$b_{3,4}(x) = 25 + 24x + 22x^2 + 12x^3 + 4x^4$$

$$b_{3,5}(x) = 41 + 46x + 48x^2 + 33x^3 + 17x^4 + 5x^5, \text{ etc.}$$

$$b_{4,0}(x) = 1$$

$$b_{4,1}(x) = 4 + x$$

$$b_{4,2}(x) = 14 + 6x + 2x^2$$

$$b_{4,3}(x) = 44 + 27x + 13x^2 + 3x^3$$

$$b_{4,4}(x) = 127 + 102x + 62x^2 + 21x^3 + 5x^4$$

$$b_{4,5}(x) = 335 + 333x + 239x^2 + 105x^3 + 35x^4 + 6x^5, \text{ etc.}$$

Let $\bar{b}_{m,n}(x) = b_{m,n}(x) - b_{m,n-1}(x)$. If $a_{n,k}$ is the number of minimal covers of an unlabeled n -set that cover

k points of that set uniquely and $a_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_{n,k} x^k$ then

$$a_n(x) = \bar{b}_{0,n}(x) + x\bar{b}_{1,n-1}(x) + x^2\bar{b}_{2,n-2}(x) + x^3\bar{b}_{3,n-3}(x) + x^4\bar{b}_{4,n-4}(x) + x^5\bar{b}_{5,n-5}(x) + \dots$$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} a_5(x) &= x \cdot x^4 + x^2(1 + x + 2x^2 + 2x^3) + x^3(4 + 3x + 2x^2) + x^4(3 + x) + x^5 = \\ &= x^2 + 5x^3 + 8x^4 + 7x^5. \end{aligned}$$