

Formula for the number of covers of an unlabeled n -set such that every point of the set is covered by exactly m subsets of the cover and that intersection of every m subsets of the cover contains at most one point

Vladeta Jovović

*Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy, University of Belgrade, Karnegijeva 4, P.O. Box 494,
11001 Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Email: vladeta@Eunet.yu
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Let $Z(S_m^{(n)}; x_1, x_2, \dots)$ be the cycle index of (restricted disordered) n -ary symmetric group S_m of degree m (i.e. the group of permutations of all n -subsets of an m -set, induced by S_m), which can be calculated in the following way:

$$Z(S_m^{(n)}; x_1, x_2, \dots) = \frac{1}{m!} \sum_{\pi(m)} \frac{m!}{k_1! 1^{k_1} k_2! 2^{k_2} \dots k_m! m^{k_m}} \cdot \prod_{i|k} x_i^{e_i},$$

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

$$k = \text{lcm}\{i \mid k_i \neq 0\};$$

$$e_i = e_i(\pi, n) = \frac{1}{i} \sum_{d|i} \mu\left(\frac{i}{d}\right) \cdot \sum \prod_{l=1}^n \binom{(l, d) k_l}{t_l},$$

where μ is Mobius function and the last sum is taken over all nonnegative solutions of

$$t_1 \frac{1}{(1, d)} + t_2 \frac{2}{(2, d)} + \dots + t_n \frac{n}{(n, d)} = n.$$

Let $Z(S_m^{(n)}; 1+x) = Z(S_m^{(n)}; 1+x, 1+x^2, 1+x^3, \dots)$, i. e. $Z(S_m^{(n)}; 1+x)$ is obtained if we replace x_i by $1+x^i$, $i=1, 2, \dots$, in the cycle index $Z(S_m^{(n)}; x_1, x_2, \dots)$.

Then the number of covers of an unlabeled n -set such that every point of the set is covered by exactly m subsets of the cover and that intersection of every m subsets of the cover contains at most one point is the coefficient of x^n in $Z(S_m^{(n)}; 1+x)$.