COUNTING SYMMETRIC

BRACELETS

Yuliya Zelenyuk

Necklaces and Bracelets

Let \mathbb{Z}_n be a finite cyclic group. We are coloring its vertices in r colours. The total number of colorings is r^n . Colorings are equivalent if we can get one from another by rotation.



The corresponding equivalence class is called **neck**lace.

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How many different necklaces/bracelets can be constructed?

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$$ds(d) = \sum_{k|d} r^k \mu(rac{d}{k}),$$

where $\mu(x)$ is Möbius function.

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I. VINOGRADOV *Elementary Number Theory*, 1972. The number of *r*-ary necklaces of length *n* is

$$N_r(n) = rac{1}{n} \sum_{d \mid n} arphi(d) r^d,$$

where φ is the Euler function.

The number of r-ary bracelets of length n is

$$B_r(n) = rac{1}{2} N_r(n) + egin{cases} rac{1}{4} \, (r+1) \, r^{rac{n}{2}} & ext{if n is even} \ rac{1}{2} r^{rac{n+1}{2}} & ext{if n is odd} \end{cases}$$

Let G be a finite group. An *r*-coloring of G is any mapping $\chi : G \to \{1, \ldots, r\}$. Let G be a finite group. An *r*-coloring of G is any mapping $\chi : G \to \{1, \ldots, r\}$.

The group G acts on the set of colorings. For every coloring χ and $g \in G$, the coloring χg is defined by $\chi g(x) = \chi(xg^{-1})$. Let G be a finite group. An *r*-coloring of G is any mapping $\chi : G \to \{1, \ldots, r\}$.

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So,

$$[\chi]=\{\chi g:g\in G\}$$

is an orbit and

$$St(\chi)=\{g\in G:\chi g=\chi\}.$$

is a stabilizer of χ .

The number of orbits (r-ary necklaces) of group G equals

$$N_r(G) = rac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} r^{|G:\langle g
angle|}$$

where $\langle g \rangle$ is the subgroup generated by g. The number of r-ary bracelets of abelian group A equals

$$B_r(A) = rac{1}{2} N_r(A) +
onumber \ + rac{1}{2|A[2]|} \left(r^{rac{|A[2]|}{2}} + |A[2]| - 1
ight) r^{rac{|A|}{2}}$$

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 $oldsymbol{x}$

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-x

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0

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In general case x is symmetric to $(xg^{-1})^{-1}g = g(g^{-1}x)^{-1} = gx^{-1}g$ with respect to the centre g.

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O. LOOS, Symmetric Spaces, 1969.

A coloring χ of G is symmetric if there exists $g \in G$ centre of symmetry such that

$$\chi(gx^{-1}g)=\chi(x)$$

for all $x \in G$.

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What is the number of orbits (symmetric *r*-ary necklaces) $s_r(G)$ and what is the number of all symmetric colorings $S_r(G)$?





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Y. GRYSHKO (ZELENYUK) Symmetric colorings of regular polygons ARS COMBINATORIA, 78 (2006), 277-281. The case of finite cyclic group has a special interest because of geometric interpretation. A coloring of \mathbb{Z}_n is symmetric if it is invariant in respect to some mirror symmetry with an axis crossing the center of polygon and one of its vertices. The case of finite cyclic group has a special interest because of geometric interpretation. A coloring of \mathbb{Z}_n is symmetric if it is invariant in respect to some mirror symmetry with an axis crossing the center of polygon and one of its vertices.

$$x\mapsto 2g-x$$

proper symmetry

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symmetry

Symmetric Necklaces and Bracelets

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Theorem. For every finite Abelian group A, and $r \in \mathbb{N}$. $B^*(A) = N^*(A) =$

$$egin{aligned} &D_r(A) = N_r(A) = \ &= rac{1}{|A[2]|} \left(r^{rac{|A[2]|}{2}} + |A[2]| - 1
ight) r^{rac{|A|}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Symmetric Necklaces and Bracelets

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ight) r^{rac{|A|}{2}}.$$

YE. ZELENYUK AND YU. ZELENYUK Counting symmetric bracelets BULL. AUST. MATH. SOC., 89 (2014), 431-436.

Corollary. For all $n, r \in \mathbb{N}$, the number of symmetric *r*-ary necklaces is equal to the number of symmetric *r*-ary bracelets and is equal to

$$B^*_r(n)=N^*_r(n)=egin{cases}rac{1}{2}(r+1)r^{rac{n}{2}}& ext{if n is even}\ r^{rac{n+1}{2}}& ext{if n is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Non-commutative case

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There are folmulas in terms of Möbius function for counting the number of symmetric colorings and the number of symmetric necklaces of any group G.

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