

Stirling numbers of the second kind - generalisations

classical	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}$	$\frac{(e^x - 1)^k}{k!}$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} n+1 \\ k \end{matrix} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k-1 \end{matrix} \right\} + k \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}$	$x^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\} (x)_k$	# of partitions of $[n]$ into k non-empty blocks
generalized	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma}$	$\frac{(e_{\alpha}^{\beta}(x) - 1)^k}{\beta^k k!} e_{\alpha}^{\gamma}(x)$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} n+1 \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma} = \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k-1 \end{matrix} \right\}_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma} + (k\beta - n\alpha + \gamma) \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma}$	$(x)_{n; \alpha} = \sum_{k=0}^n \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma} (x - \gamma)_{k; \beta}$	# of (α, β, γ) -partitions of $[n]$ into $k+1$ non-empty sets

Restricted/associate Stirling numbers			
restricted	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\leq \ell}$	$\frac{(e_{\leq \ell} - 1)^k}{k!}$	each block has at most ℓ elements
associate	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\geq \ell}$	$\frac{(e^x - e_{< \ell})^k}{k!}$	each block has at least ℓ elements

(α, β, γ)-partitions

- $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, n, k \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\alpha|\gamma, \alpha|\beta, k \leq n$.
- cells have cyclic ordered compartments; order: # of compartments
- α -closing property: each element is placed at a time, and for each available α compartments the first compartment may be occupied by an element

(α, β, γ)-**partition** is a partition of $[n]$ into $k + 1$ cells with α -closing properties s.t.

- a possible empty cell of order γ
- k non-empty cells of order β with a „favorite” compartment

Figure: (2,8,6)-partition

Weighted mixed partitions

- $\mathcal{A}$ ring, $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathcal{A}; n, k \in \mathbb{N}$
- G : possible empty subset of $[n]$
- $P_k = B_1/B_2/\cdots/B_k$: set partition of $[n] \setminus G$ into non-empty blocks
- $\Pi_{n,k}^*$: distributions of $[n]$ into a pair (G, P_k)

$$\left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma} = \sum_{(G, P_k) \in \Pi_{n,k}^*} w((G, P_k)),$$

- $w(G) = (\gamma)_{|G|; \alpha}$
- $w(B_i) = (\beta - \alpha)_{|B_i|-1; \alpha} \rightarrow w(P_k) = \prod_{i=1}^k B_i$
- $w((G, P_k)) = w(G)w(P_k)$

$$w(\{1, 3, 9\}\{2, 4, 7\}\{6, 8\}|\{5\}) = \gamma(\beta - \alpha)^3(\beta - 2\alpha)^2$$

Degenerate restricted Stirling numbers

D1 # of (α, β, γ) -partitions of $[n]$ in $k + 1$ cells s.t. the cells of order β contain **at most ℓ** elements.

D2

$$\left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma}^{\leq \ell} = \sum_{(G, P_k) \in \Pi_{n,k}^{\leq \ell}} w((G, P_k)),$$

$\Pi_{n,k}^{\leq \ell}$: all distributions of $[n]$ into a pair (G, P_k) s.t. **$|B_i| \leq \ell$**

Generating function:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma}^{\leq \ell} \frac{x^n}{n!} = e_{\alpha}^{\gamma}(x) \frac{(e_{\alpha; \leq \ell}^{\beta}(x) - 1)^k}{\beta^k k!}.$$

Recursive relation:

$$\left\{ \begin{matrix} n+1 \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma}^{\leq \ell} = \gamma \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma - \alpha}^{\leq \ell} + \sum_{i=k-1}^{n-\ell-1} \binom{n}{i} (\beta - \alpha)_{n-i, \alpha} \left\{ \begin{matrix} i \\ k-1 \end{matrix} \right\}_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma}^{\leq \ell}.$$

Generalized associated Stirling numbers (a special case)

D1 (0, 1, γ)-partitions s.t. the cells of order 1 contain **more than ℓ** elements.

D2

$$\left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\gamma}^{> \ell} = \sum_{(G, P_k) \in \Pi_{n,k}^{> \ell}} \gamma^{|G|}.$$

$\Pi_{n,k}^{> \ell}$: all distributions of $[n]$ into a pair (G, P_k) s.t. **$B_i > \ell$** .

Generating function:

$$\sum_{n=kl}^{\infty} \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\gamma}^{> \ell} \frac{x^n}{n!} = \frac{e^{\gamma x} (e^x - e_{\leq \ell}(x))^k}{k!}.$$

Recursive relation:

$$\left\{ \begin{matrix} n+1 \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\gamma}^{> \ell} = \gamma \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\gamma}^{> \ell} + \sum_{i=0}^n \gamma^i \binom{n}{i} \left\{ \begin{matrix} n-i \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{\geq \ell+1}.$$

Partial degenerate Stirling numbers - $S_{n,k,\ell}^{\gamma, \alpha, \beta}$

D1

- $n, k, \ell, \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\alpha|\gamma, \alpha|\beta, k \leq n, \ell \leq n$.
- free cell: compartments may contain more elements ($\alpha = 0$)

$S_{n,k,\ell}^{\gamma, \alpha, \beta}$: # of distribution of $[n]$ into $k + 1$ cells s.t.

- a free cell of order γ may be empty
- free cells of order 1 contain **more than ℓ** elements - subsets
- cells of order β with α -closing property and favorite compartment contain **at most ℓ** elements.

D2

$$S_{n,k,\ell}^{\gamma, \alpha, \beta} = \sum_{(G, P_k) \in \Pi_{n,k}^*} w((G, P_k)),$$

- $w(G) = \gamma^{|G|}$
- $w(B_i) = 1$, if **$|B_i| > \ell$**
- $w(B_i) = (\beta - \alpha)_{|B_i|-1, \alpha}$ if **$|B_i| \leq \ell$**

$$\ell = 2 \Rightarrow w(\{1, 3, 9\}\{2, 4, 7\}\{6, 8\}|\{5\}) = \gamma(\beta - \alpha)$$

Generating function:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} S_{n,k,\ell}^{\gamma, \alpha, \beta} \frac{x^n}{n!} = \frac{e^{\gamma x}}{k!} \left(e^x + \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \frac{(\beta|\alpha)_i x^i}{\beta \cdot i!} - \sum_{i=0}^{\ell} \frac{x^i}{i!} \right)^k.$$

Connection:

$$S_{n,k,\ell}^{\gamma, \alpha, \beta} = \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^k \binom{n}{i} \left\{ \begin{matrix} i \\ j \end{matrix} \right\}_{\gamma}^{> \ell} \left\{ \begin{matrix} n-i \\ k-j \end{matrix} \right\}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\leq \ell}.$$

Open question

Can we define a „nice” lattice path model for

- generalised Stirling numbers
- partial degenerate Stirling numbers

References

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