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TRI-RESTRICTED NUMBERS AND POWERS OF PERMUTATION REPRESENTATIONS

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ABSTRACT. Let G be a transitive permutation group on a set Q . The orbit decompositions of the actions of G on the sets of ordered n -tuples with elements repeated at most three times are studied. The decompositions involve Stirling numbers and a new class of related numbers, the so-called tri-restricted numbers. The paper presents exponential generating functions for the numbers of orbits, and examines relationships between various powers of the G -set involving Stirling numbers, the tri-restricted numbers, and the coefficients of Bessel polynomials.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let G be a finite group. A G -set (Q, G) or *permutation representation* of the group G consists of a set Q , together with a (right) action of G on Q via a homomorphism

$$(1.1) \quad G \rightarrow Q! ; g \mapsto (q \mapsto qg)$$

from G into the group $Q!$ of all permutations of the set Q . A G -set (Q, G) may be construed as an algebra of unary operations on the set Q . For a positive integer n , the direct power $(Q, G)^n$ of this algebra is the G -set Q^n with *diagonal action*

$$(1.2) \quad g : (q_1, \dots, q_n) \mapsto (q_1g, \dots, q_ng)$$

of the elements g of G .

The subset $Q^{[n]}$ of Q^n consisting of all n -tuples of distinct elements of Q , equipped with the restriction of the diagonal action of G , is called the n -th *irredundant power* of the G -set (Q, G) , and denoted by $(Q, G)^{[n]}$. The subset $Q^{[[n]]}$ of Q^n consisting of all n -tuples in which no element is repeated

more than once, equipped with the restriction of the diagonal action of G , is called the n -th *bi-restricted power* of the G -set (Q, G) , and denoted by $(Q, G)^{[[n]]}$.

The exponential generating functions for the numbers of orbits in the various direct powers, irredundant powers and bi-restricted powers are respectively

$$(1.3) \quad \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} e^{t\pi(g)}, \quad \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} (1+t)^{\pi(g)} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \left(1+t+\frac{t^2}{2!}\right)^{\pi(g)},$$

where $\pi(g)$ is the number of points of Q fixed by an element g of G (5.1[7], Th.6.4 & Th.7.7[3]). The two latter generating functions may be considered as drastic truncations of the exponential generating function for the numbers of orbits in the direct power G -sets, since

$$(1.4) \quad \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} e^{t\pi(g)} = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \left(1+t+\frac{t^2}{2!}+\frac{t^3}{3!}\dots\right)^{\pi(g)}.$$

In this paper, we consider a slightly less drastic truncation,

$$(1.5) \quad \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \left(1+t+\frac{t^2}{2!}+\frac{t^3}{3!}\right)^{\pi(g)},$$

and define an appropriate G -subset of (Q^n, G) so that (1.5) become the exponential generating function for the number of orbits in it. The numbers $T_1(n, k)$ related to (1.5), the so-called *tri-restricted numbers of the first kind*, are defined in Definition 5.1 and investigated in Section 5.

The G -subset $Q^{[[[n]]]}$ of Q^n consisting of all n -tuples in which no element appears more than three times is called the *tri-restricted power* G -set $(Q, G)^{[[[n]]]}$. Then orbit decompositions of the tri-restricted powers $(Q, G)^{[[[n]]]}$ are related to the orbit decompositions of the irredundant powers $(Q, G)^{[n]}$ via the tri-restricted numbers of the first kind. The tri-restricted powers are also related to the other powers, the direct powers and the bi-restricted powers, via Stirling numbers and the coefficients in Bessel polynomials.

The *tri-restricted number of the second kind* $T_2(n, k)$ is defined to be the (n, k) -entry of the inverse of the matrix whose (m, j) -entry for each m, j is the tri-restricted number of the first kind $T_1(m, j)$. This provides an inverse relation between the tri-restricted powers and the irredundant powers. Theorem 5.12 presents (1.5) as the exponential generating function for the numbers of orbits in the tri-restricted power G -sets.

Introductory sections briefly cover Stirling numbers and Bessel polynomials (Section 2), the duality between direct powers and irredundant powers (Section 3), and the bi-restricted powers (Section 4).

2. STIRLING NUMBERS AND BESSEL NUMBERS

For each positive integer n , the product $X(X - 1)(X - 2) \dots (X - n + 1)$ in the integral polynomial ring $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ over an indeterminate X is denoted by $[X]_n$. Since $\{X^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ and $\{[X]_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ are free generating sets for $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ as a \mathbb{Z} -module, each can be uniquely expressed as a linear combination of the others.

Definition 2.1. The *Stirling numbers of the first kind* $S_1(n, k)$ and the *Stirling numbers of the second kind* $S_2(n, k)$ are given by

$$(2.1) \quad X^n = \sum_{k=0}^n S_2(n, k)[X]_k \quad \text{and} \quad [X]_n = \sum_{k=0}^n S_1(n, k)X^k. \quad \square$$

Proposition 2.2. (Cf. 3.14 [1].) *The Stirling number of the second kind $S_2(n, k)$ is the number of partitions of an n -set into exactly k nonempty subsets.* □

For each natural number n , the *Bessel polynomial* $y_n(x)$ is defined to be the (unique) polynomial of degree n with unit constant term

$$(2.2) \quad y_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(n+k)!}{(n-k)!k!} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^k$$

which satisfies the differential equation $x^2y'' + (2x+2)y' = n(n+1)y$ [2, 4, 6]. Then for each positive integer n , the n -th Bessel polynomial may be written in the form

$$(2.3) \quad P_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} B(n, k)x^{n-k},$$

where the *Bessel number* $B(n, k)$ is given by

$$(2.4) \quad B(n, k) = \begin{cases} \text{if } n < k & \text{then } 0 \\ \text{else} & \frac{(2n - k)!}{2^{n-k}(k)!(n - k)!} \end{cases}$$

Proposition 2.3. *The Bessel numbers satisfy the recursion*

$$(2.5) \quad B(n, k) = (2n - k + 1) \cdot B(n - 1, k) + B(n - 1, k - 1)$$

for $n \geq k$. □

The combinatorial significance of the Bessel numbers is given by the following.

Theorem 2.4. (Th.7.1 [3]) For an indeterminate X , let

$$f(t) = \left(1 + t + \frac{t^2}{2!}\right)^X.$$

Then

$$(2.6) \quad f^{(n)}(0) = \sum_{k=1}^n B(k, 2k - n)[X]_k,$$

where $f^{(n)}(0)$ is the n -th derivative of f with respect to t at $t = 0$. □

Corollary 2.5. (Co.7.2 [3]) For any positive integers n and k , the Bessel number $B(n, k)$ is the number of partitions of a $(2n - k)$ -set of type $1^k 2^{n-k} 3^0 4^0 \dots n^0$. □

3. DIRECT POWERS AND IRREDUNDANT POWERS

For a finite group G , let \underline{G} be the variety of G -sets, construed as a category with homomorphisms (G -equivariant maps) as morphisms. For an object Q of \underline{G} , let $[Q]$ denote the isomorphism class of Q in \underline{G} . Let

$A^+(G)$ be the set of isomorphism classes of finite G -sets. This set becomes a commutative, unital semiring $(A^+(G), +, \cdot, 0, 1)$ under $[P] + [Q] = [P + Q]$, $[P] \cdot [Q] = [P \times Q]$, $0 = [\emptyset]$, and $1 = [1]$. It embeds canonically into a commutative ring, the *integral Burnside algebra* of the group G (§1.2 [8]).

For each positive integer n , the *irredundant power G -set* $Q^{[n]}$ is defined to be the complement in the direct power Q^n of the subset consisting of all n -tuples comprising at most $n - 1$ distinct elements of Q (cf. II.1.10 [5]).

The following proposition shows that the irredundant power G -sets $(Q, G)^{[n]}$ are dual to the direct power G -sets $(Q, G)^n$ via the Stirling numbers of the first and second kinds.

Proposition 3.1. (Prop.5.1 [3])

$$(3.1) \quad [Q^{[n]}] = \sum_{k=1}^n S_1(n, k)[Q^k] \quad \text{and} \quad [Q^n] = \sum_{k=1}^n S_2(n, k)[Q^{[k]}]. \quad \square$$

For a G -set (Q, G) , let $\pi(g)$ be the number of points of Q fixed by an element g of G . By Burnside's Lemma (V.20.4 [5]), the average number of fixed points

$$(3.2) \quad \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \pi(g)^n$$

is the number of orbits of G on the n -th direct power Q^n . By Proposition 3.1,

$$(3.3) \quad \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} [\pi(g)]_n$$

is the number of orbits of G on the n -th irredundant power $Q^{[n]}$ (Lem.6.3 [3]). Recall that the exponential generating function for a sequence $(a_n)_{n=0}^\infty$ is $\sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n \frac{t^n}{n!}$.

Theorem 3.2. (5.1, Th.6.4 [7]) The exponential generating functions for the numbers of orbits on the direct power G -sets $(Q, G)^n$ and the irredundant power G -sets $(Q, G)^{[n]}$ are respectively

$$(3.4) \quad \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} (e^t)^{\pi(g)} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} (1+t)^{\pi(g)},$$

where $\pi(g)$ is the number of points of Q fixed by an element g of G . \square

4. BI-RESTRICTED POWERS

Consider the n -th direct power Q^n as the set of functions to Q from the n -set $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$. Then the n -th irredundant power $Q^{[n]}$ is the subset consisting of injective functions from the n -set into Q . For each positive integer n , the n -th *bi-restricted power set* of the set Q is defined to be

$$(4.1) \quad Q^{[[n]]} = \{f : \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\} \rightarrow Q \mid \forall q \in Q, |f^{-1}\{q\}| \leq 2\}.$$

Thus $Q^{[[n]]}$ is an intermediate set, included in Q^n and including $Q^{[n]}$. For a G -set (Q, G) , the restriction of the direct power action of G on Q^n to $Q^{[[n]]}$ is called the n -th *bi-restricted power* of (Q, G) , and denoted by $(Q, G)^{[[n]]}$.

The following proposition shows how the Bessel numbers yield a dual relation between the bi-restricted powers and the irredundant powers.

Proposition 4.1. (Props.7.5, 6 [3])

1. $[Q^{[[n]]}] = \sum_{k=1}^n B(k, 2k-n)[Q^{[k]}].$
2. $[Q^{[n]}] = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{n-k} B(n-1, k-1)[Q^{[[k]]}].$ \square

Bringing in the Stirling numbers, one can obtain a dual relation between the bi-restricted powers and the direct powers.

Proposition 4.2. (Rmk.7.8 [3])

1. $[Q^{[[n]]}] = \sum_{k=1}^n (\sum_{m=k}^n B(m, 2m-n) \cdot S_1(m, k)) [Q^k].$
2. $[Q^{[n]}] = \sum_{k=1}^n (\sum_{m=k}^n (-1)^{m-k} \cdot S_2(n, m) \cdot B(m-1, k-1)) [Q^{[[k]]}].$ \square

The following theorem shows that the exponential generating function for the number of orbits on the bi-restricted powers is an intermediate function between the exponential generating functions in (3.4).

Theorem 4.3. (Th.7.7 [3]) The exponential generating function for the number of orbits on the bi-restricted powers $(Q, G)^{[[n]]}$ is

$$(4.2) \quad f(t) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \left(1 + t + \frac{t^2}{2!} \right)^{\pi(g)},$$

where $\pi(g)$ is the number of points of Q fixed by an element g of G . \square

5. TRI-RESTRICTED NUMBERS AND POWERS

By analogy with Theorem 4.3, we now want to build a new G -subset of Q^n such that the truncation

$$(5.1) \quad \frac{1}{|G|} \sum (1 + t + \frac{t^2}{2!} + \frac{t^3}{3!})^{\pi(g)}$$

of $e^{t\pi(g)}$ is the exponential generating function for the number of orbits in the G -subset. The first task is to introduce the coefficients that will play the role of the Bessel numbers in Proposition 4.1.

Definition 5.1. For an indeterminate X , let

$$f(t) = \left(1 + t + \frac{t^2}{2!} + \frac{t^3}{3!} \right)^X.$$

The *tri-restricted numbers of the first kind* $T_1(n, k)$ are defined by

$$(5.2) \quad f^{(n)}(0) = \sum_{k=1}^n T_1(n, k)[X]_k,$$

where $f^{(n)}(0)$ is the n -th derivative of f with respect to t at $t = 0$. \square

An explicit form for the tri-restricted numbers of the first kind is given by the following proposition.

Proposition 5.2. For any positive integers n and k , $T_1(n, k) =$

$$\text{if } \lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil \leq k \leq n$$

$$\text{then } \sum_{t=t_1}^{\lfloor \frac{3k-n}{2} \rfloor} \frac{n!}{(2!)^{3k-n-2t} (3!)^{n-2k+t} t! (3k-n-2t)! (n-2k+t)!}$$

$$\text{else } 0,$$

where $\lfloor x \rfloor$ is the greatest integer less than or equal to x , $\lceil x \rceil$ is the least integer greater than or equal to x , and

$$t_1 = \text{if } \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil \leq k \leq n \text{ then } 2k-n \text{ else } 0.$$

Proof. Let $g(t) = 1 + t + \frac{t^2}{2!} + \frac{t^3}{3!}$. Then $f(t) = (g(t))^X$, and the terms of the n -th derivative $f^{(n)}(t)$ of $f(t)$ have the form

$$(5.3) \quad [X]_k (g(t))^{X-k} (g'(t))^t (g''(t))^{3k-n-2t} (g^{(3)}(t))^{n-2k+t}$$

for all non-negative integers t , $3k-n-2t$ and $n-2k+t$. For all non-negative integers $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ such that $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_n = k$ and $\lambda_1 + 2\lambda_2 + \dots + n\lambda_n = n$, the number of k -partitions of an n -set of type $1^{\lambda_1} 2^{\lambda_2} \dots n^{\lambda_n}$ is

$$(5.4) \quad \frac{n!}{(1!)^{\lambda_1} (2!)^{\lambda_2} \dots (n!)^{\lambda_n} (\lambda_1)! (\lambda_2)! \dots (\lambda_n)!}$$

Since $t + (3k-n-2t) + (n-2k+t) = k$ and $t + 2(3k-n-2t) + 3(n-2k+t) = n$, there are

$$(5.5) \quad \frac{n!}{(1!)^t (2!)^{3k-n-2t} (3!)^{n-2k+t} t! (3k-n-2t)! (n-2k+t)!}$$

many terms $[X]_k (g(t))^{X-k} (g'(t))^t (g''(t))^{3k-n-2t} (g^{(3)}(t))^{n-2k+t}$ in $f^{(n)}(t)$.

Since $g(0) = g'(0) = g''(0) = g^{(3)}(0) = 1$, one obtains the expression

$$(5.6) \quad \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\sum_{\substack{t \geq 0 \\ 3k-n-2t \geq 0 \\ n-2k+t \geq 0}} \frac{n!}{(1!)^t (2!)^{3k-n-2t} (3!)^{n-2k+t} t! (3k-n-2t)! (n-2k+t)!} \right) [X]_k$$

for $f^{(n)}(0)$. It is clear that $T_1(n, k) = 0$ for all $k > n$, since $f^{(n)}(t)$ cannot have any term containing $[X]_k$ for any $k > n$. If $k < \lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil$, one has $3k < n$

and $3k - n - 2t < n - n - 2t \leq -2t$, which violates the constraints $t \geq 0$ and $3k - n - 2t \geq 0$. Therefore $T_1(n, k) = 0$ for all $k < \lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil$. Solving $n - 2k + t \geq 0$ and $3k - n - 2t \geq 0$ for t , one obtains

$$t \geq 2k - n \quad \text{and} \quad t \leq \frac{3k - n}{2}.$$

Together with $t \geq 0$ and the fact that t is an integer, this gives

$$(5.7) \quad \max\{0, 2k - n\} \leq t \leq \lfloor \frac{3k - n}{2} \rfloor.$$

If $\lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil \leq k < \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$, one has $2k < n$, and if $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \leq k \leq n$, one has $n \leq 2k$.

Then

$$(5.8) \quad \max\{0, 2k - n\} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil \leq k < \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil \\ 2k - n & \text{if } \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \leq k \leq n. \end{cases}$$

The required form for $T_1(n, k)$ is furnished by (5.6), (5.7) and (5.8). \square

As an immediate corollary, one obtains the following combinatorial interpretation of the tri-restricted numbers of the first kind.

Corollary 5.3. *For each positive integer n , $T_1(n, k)$ is the total number of k -partitions of an n -set of type $1^t 2^{3k-n-2t} 3^{n-2k+t} 4^0 \dots n^0$.* \square

The following table shows the first few tri-restricted numbers of the first kind. The empty cells are to be filled with 0's.

8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1 = k	$T_1(n, k)$
							1	$n = 1$
						1	1	2
					1	3	1	3
			1	10	6	7		4
		1	15	65	25	10		5
	1	21	140	315	75	10		6
								7
1	28	266	980	1225	280			8

The tri-restricted numbers of the first kind

By analogy with (4.1), one may now define the desired subset of Q^n .

Definition 5.4. The n -th *tri-restricted power* of a set Q is

$$(5.9) \quad Q^{\llbracket [n] \rrbracket} = \{f : \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\} \rightarrow Q \mid \forall q \in Q, |f^{-1}\{q\}| \leq 3\}.$$

For a G -set (Q, G) , the restriction of the diagonal action of G on Q^n to $Q^{\llbracket [n] \rrbracket}$ is called the n -th *tri-restricted power* of (Q, G) , and denoted by $(Q, G)^{\llbracket [n] \rrbracket}$. \square

Lemma 5.5. $Q^{[n]} \subseteq Q^{\llbracket [n] \rrbracket} \subseteq Q^{\llbracket [n] \rrbracket} \subseteq Q^n$. \square

Tri-restricted powers are related to irredundant powers via the tri-restricted numbers of the first kind.

Theorem 5.6.

$$(5.10) \quad [Q^{\llbracket [n] \rrbracket}] = \sum_{k=1}^n T_1(n, k)[Q^{[k]}].$$

Proof. Let $A_k^n = \{f \in Q^n \mid k = |\text{Im}(f)| \text{ and } \forall q \in Q, |f^{-1}(q)| \leq 3\}$ and $Q_k^n = \{f \in Q^n \mid k = |\text{Im}(f)|\}$. Then $A_k^n = Q_k^n \cap Q^{\llbracket [n] \rrbracket}$, and $Q^{\llbracket [n] \rrbracket}$ is the disjoint union of the A_k^n . For any partition π of the n -set $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$ of type $1^t 2^{3k-n-2t} 3^{n-2k+t} 4^0 \dots n^0$, let $Q_\pi = \{f \in Q^n \mid \pi = \ker(f)\}$. Then Q_π is in A_k^n , and is G -isomorphic to $Q^{[k]}$. Since there are $T_1(n, k)$ partitions of an n -set of the type $1^t 2^{3k-n-2t} 3^{n-2k+t} 4^0 \dots n^0$, the G -set A_k^n is G -isomorphic to $T_1(n, k)$ copies of $Q^{[k]}$. Therefore

$$(5.11) \quad Q^{\llbracket [n] \rrbracket} = \bigcup A_k^n \cong \bigcup T_1(n, k)Q^{[k]}.$$

Considering the isomorphism classes from (5.11), one obtains (5.10). \square

By Proposition 3.1 and Proposition 4.1(2) taken together with Theorem 5.6, the tri-restricted powers can be expressed in terms of the direct powers or the bi-restricted powers as follows;

Corollary 5.7.

$$1. [Q^{\llbracket [n] \rrbracket}] = \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\sum_{m=k}^n T_1(n, m) \cdot S_1(m, k) \right) [Q^k]$$

$$2. [Q^{[[[n]]]}] = \sum_{k=1}^n (\sum_{m=k}^n (-1)^{m-k} T_1(n, m) \cdot B(m-1, k-1)) [Q^{[[k]]}] \quad \square$$

Now consider the matrix T_1 whose (n, k) -th entry is $T_1(n, k)$ for each n, k . Since T_1 is a lower triangular matrix whose diagonal elements are all 1, we can consider the inverse matrix of T_1 .

Definition 5.8. The *tri-restricted number of the second kind* $T_2(n, k)$ is defined to be the (n, k) -entry of the inverse matrix of T_1 . □

The following table shows the first few tri-restricted numbers of the second kind. The empty cells are to be filled with 0's.

8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1 = k	$T_2(n, k)$
							1	$n = 1$
						1	-1	2
					1	-3	2	3
				1	-6	11	-5	4
			1	-10	35	-45	10	5
		1	-15	85	-210	175	35	6
	1	-21	175	-700	1225	-315	-910	7
1	-28	322	-1890	5565	-5670	-6265	11935	8

The tri-restricted numbers of the second kind

Remark 5.9. Unlike the Stirling numbers of the second kind, the tri-restricted numbers of the second kind $T_2(n, k)$ do not take alternating signs. The sum of the last three numbers in each row of the above table becomes 0, i.e. for all positive integers $n \leq 8$, one has

$$(5.12) \quad T_2(n, 3) + T_2(n, 2) + T_2(n, 1) = 0.$$

In fact, the relationship (5.12) holds for all positive integers, since $T_1(1, 1) = T_1(2, 1) = T_1(3, 1) = 1$. This might be the reason for the non-alternating signs of $T_2(n, k)$, but to be sure one would need to find a formula or a combinatorial interpretation for the $T_2(n, k)$. □

One may now provide an inverse to the formula of Theorem 5.6 as follows.

Proposition 5.10.

$$(5.13) \quad [Q^{[n]}] = \sum_{k=1}^n T_2(n, k)[Q^{[[[k]]}]. \quad \square$$

Applying Proposition 3.1 and Proposition 5.10 with Proposition 4.1(1), the direct powers and the bi-restricted powers can be expressed in terms of the tri-restricted powers as follows.

Corollary 5.11.

1. $[Q^n] = \sum_{k=1}^n (\sum_{m=k}^n S_2(n, m) \cdot T_2(m, k)) [Q^{[[[k]]}]$
2. $[Q^{[[n]]}] = \sum_{k=1}^n (\sum_{m=k}^n B(m, 2m - n) \cdot T_2(m, k)) [Q^{[[[k]]}] \quad \square$

Finally, we conclude that (5.1) generates the numbers of orbits in the tri-restricted powers of a G -set (Q, G) with permutation character π .

Theorem 5.12. *The exponential generating function for the number of orbits on the n -th tri-restricted power G -set $(Q, G)^{[[[n]]}$ is*

$$(5.14) \quad f(t) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \left(1 + t + \frac{t^2}{2!} + \frac{t^3}{3!} \right)^{\pi(g)},$$

where $\pi(g)$ is the number of points of Q fixed by an element g of G .

Proof. By Definition 5.1, the n -th derivative of f with respect to t at $t = 0$ is

$$(5.15) \quad \begin{aligned} f^{(n)}(0) &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n T_1(n, k)[\pi(g)]_k \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n T_1(n, k) \left(\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} [\pi(g)]_k \right). \end{aligned}$$

By (3.3) and Theorem 5.6, it is easy to see that $f^{(n)}(0)$ is the number of orbits of G on the n -th tri-restricted power $Q^{[[[n]]}$. \square

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