Cardinality of Equivalence Relations

Lukas Bulwahn

March 17, 2025

Abstract

This entry provides formulae for counting the number of equivalence relations and partial equivalence relations over a finite carrier set with given cardinality.

To count the number of equivalence relations, we provide bijections between equivalence relations and set partitions [4], and then transfer the main results of the two AFP entries, Cardinality of Set Partitions [1] and Spivey's Generalized Recurrence for Bell Numbers [2], to theorems on equivalence relations. To count the number of partial equivalence relations, we observe that counting partial equivalence relations over a set A is equivalent to counting all equivalence relations over all subsets of the set A. From this observation and the results on equivalence relations, we show that the cardinality of partial equivalence relations over a finite set of cardinality n is equal to the n + 1-th Bell number [3].

Contents

1	Car	dinality of Equivalence Relations	2
	1.1	Bijection between Equivalence Relations and Set Partitions .	2
		1.1.1 Possibly Interesting Theorem for HOL.Equiv-Relations	2
		1.1.2 Dedicated Facts for Bijection Proof	2
		1.1.3 Bijection Proof	2
	1.2	Finiteness of Equivalence Relations	2
	1.3	Cardinality of Equivalence Relations	2
2	Cardinality of Partial Equivalence Relations		3
	2.1	Definition of Partial Equivalence Relation	3
	2.2	Construction of all Partial Equivalence Relations for a Given	
		Set	4
	2.3	Injectivity of the Set Construction	4
	2.4	Cardinality Theorem of Partial Equivalence Relations	4

1 Cardinality of Equivalence Relations

theory Card-Equiv-Relations imports Card-Partitions.Card-Partitions Bell-Numbers-Spivey.Bell-Numbers begin

1.1 Bijection between Equivalence Relations and Set Partitions

1.1.1 Possibly Interesting Theorem for HOL. Equiv-Relations

This theorem was historically useful in this theory, but is now after some proof refactoring not needed here anymore. Possibly it is an interesting fact about equivalence relations, though.

lemma equiv-quotient-eq-quotient-on-UNIV: assumes equiv A Rshows $A // R = (UNIV // R) - \{\{\}\}$ $\langle proof \rangle$

1.1.2 Dedicated Facts for Bijection Proof

lemma equiv-relation-of-partition-of: **assumes** equiv A R **shows** $\{(x, y). \exists X \in A / / R. x \in X \land y \in X\} = R$ $\langle proof \rangle$

1.1.3 Bijection Proof

lemma bij-betw-partition-of: bij-betw $(\lambda R. A // R)$ {R. equiv A R} {P. partition-on A P} (proof)

lemma bij-betw-partition-of-equiv-with-k-classes: bij-betw (λR . A // R) {R. equiv A R \wedge card (A // R) = k} {P. partition-on A $P \wedge$ card P = k} (proof)

1.2 Finiteness of Equivalence Relations

lemma finite-equiv: assumes finite A shows finite $\{R. equiv \ A \ R\}$ $\langle proof \rangle$

1.3 Cardinality of Equivalence Relations

theorem card-equiv-rel-eq-card-partitions:

```
card \{R. equiv A R\} = card \{P. partition-on A P\}

\langle proof \rangle

corollary card-equiv-rel-eq-Bell:

assumes finite A

shows card \{R. equiv A R\} = Bell (card A)

\langle proof \rangle

corollary card-equiv-rel-eq-sum-Stirling:

assumes finite A

shows card \{R. equiv A R\} = sum (Stirling (card A)) \{...card A\}

\langle proof \rangle

theorem card-equiv-k-classes-eq-card-partitions-k-parts:

card \{R. equiv A R \land card (A // R) = k\} = card \{P. partition-on A P \land card P = k\}

\langle proof \rangle
```

```
corollary
```

```
assumes finite A
```

shows card {R. equiv $A \ R \land card (A // R) = k$ } = Stirling (card A) k (proof)

 \mathbf{end}

2 Cardinality of Partial Equivalence Relations

theory Card-Partial-Equiv-Relations imports Card-Equiv-Relations begin

2.1 Definition of Partial Equivalence Relation

definition partial-equiv :: 'a set \Rightarrow ('a \times 'a) set \Rightarrow bool where partial-equiv $A \ R = (R \subseteq A \times A \land sym \ R \land trans \ R)$ lemma partial-equivI: assumes $R \subseteq A \times A \ sym \ R \ trans \ R$ shows partial-equiv $A \ R$ (proof) lemma partial-equiv-iff: shows partial-equiv $A \ R \longleftrightarrow (\exists A' \subseteq A. \ equiv \ A' \ R)$

 $\langle proof \rangle$

2.2 Construction of all Partial Equivalence Relations for a Given Set

definition all-partial-equivs-on :: 'a set \Rightarrow (('a \times 'a) set) set where all-partial-equivs-on A =

 $do \{ k \leftarrow \{0..card A\}; A' \leftarrow \{A'. A' \subseteq A \land card A' = k\}; \{R. equiv A' R\} \}$

lemma all-partial-equivs-on: **assumes** finite A **shows** all-partial-equivs-on $A = \{R. \text{ partial-equiv } A R\}$ $\langle proof \rangle$

2.3 Injectivity of the Set Construction

lemma equiv-inject: assumes equiv $A \ R$ equiv $B \ R$ shows A = B $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma injectivity: **assumes** $(A' \subseteq A \land card A' = k) \land (A'' \subseteq A \land card A'' = k')$ **assumes** equiv $A' R \land equiv A'' R'$ **assumes** R = R' **shows** A' = A'' k = k' $\langle proof \rangle$

2.4 Cardinality Theorem of Partial Equivalence Relations

```
theorem card-partial-equiv:

assumes finite A

shows card \{R. \text{ partial-equiv } A R\} = Bell (card A + 1)

\langle proof \rangle
```

 \mathbf{end}

References

 L. Bulwahn. Cardinality of set partitions. Archive of Formal Proofs, Dec. 2015. http://www.isa-afp.org/entries/Card_Partitions.shtml, Formal proof development.

- [2] L. Bulwahn. Spivey's generalized recurrence for bell numbers. Archive of Formal Proofs, May 2016. http://www.isa-afp.org/entries/Bell_ Numbers_Spivey.shtml, Formal proof development.
- [3] N. J. A. Sloane. A000110: Bell or exponential numbers: number of ways to partition a set of n labeled elements. In *The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences.* https://oeis.org/A000110.
- [4] Wikipedia. Equivalence relation wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, 2016. [Online; accessed 23-May-2016].