THE NUMBER OF NILPOTENT SEMIGROUPS OF DEGREE 3

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Abstract. A semigroup is nilpotent of degree 3 if it has a zero, every product of 3 elements equals the zero, and some product of 2 elements is non-zero. It is part of the folklore of semigroup theory that almost all finite semigroups are nilpotent of degree 3.

We give formulae for the number of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 with \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) elements up to equality, isomorphism, and isomorphism or anti-isomorphism. Likewise, we give formulae for the number of nilpotent commutative semigroups with \( n \) elements up to equality and up to isomorphism.

1. Introduction

The topic of enumerating finite algebraic or combinatorial objects of a particular type is classical. Many theoretical enumeration results were obtained thanks to the advanced orbit counting methods developed by Redfield [Red27], Polya [Pol37], and de Bruijn [dB59]. Numerous applications of the method known as power group enumeration can be found in [HP73]. Of particular interest for this paper is the usage to count universal algebras in [Har66].

The enumeration of finite semigroups has mainly been performed by exhaustive search and the results are therefore restricted to very small orders. The most recent numbers are of semigroups of order 9 [Dis10], of semigroups with identity of order 10 [DK09], commutative semigroups of order 10 [Gri03], and linearly ordered semigroups of order 7 [Sla95].

In this paper we use power group enumeration to develop formulae for the number of semigroups of a particular type, which we now define.

A semigroup \( S \) is nilpotent if there exists a \( r \in \mathbb{N} \) such that the set

\[
S^r = \{ s_1s_2 \cdots s_r \mid s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_r \in S \}
\]

has size 1. If \( r \) is the least number such that \( |S^r| = 1 \), then we say that \( S \) has (nilpotency) degree \( r \).

As usual, the number of ‘structural types’ of objects is of greater interest than the number of distinct objects. Let \( S \) and \( T \) be semigroups. Then a function \( f : S \rightarrow T \) is an isomorphism if it is a bijection and \( f(x \cdot y) = f(x) \cdot f(y) \) for all \( x, y \in S \). The dual \( S^* \) of \( S \) is the semigroup with multiplication \( * \) defined by \( x * y = y \cdot x \) on the set \( S \). A bijection \( f : S \rightarrow T \) is an anti-isomorphism if \( f \) is an isomorphism from \( S^* \) to \( T \). Throughout this article we distinguish between the number of distinct semigroups on a set, the number up to isomorphism, and the number up to isomorphism or anti-isomorphism. We shall refer to the number of distinct semigroups that can be defined on a set as the number up to equality.

For \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) we let \( z(n) \) denote the number of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 on \( \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \). The particular interest in nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 stems from the observation that almost all finite semigroups are of this type. More precisely, Kleitman, Rothschild, and Spencer identified \( z(n) \) in [KRS76] as an asymptotic lower bound for the number of all semigroups on that set. Furthermore, Jürgensen, Migliorini, and Szép suspected in [JMS91] that \( z(n) / 2n! \) was a good lower bound for the number of semigroups with \( n \) elements up to isomorphism or anti-isomorphism based on the comparison of these two numbers for \( n = 1, 2, \ldots, 7 \). This belief was later supported by Satoh, Yama, and Tokizawa [SYT94, Section 8] and the first author [Dis10] in their analyses of the semigroups with orders 8 and 9, respectively.

This paper is structured as follows: in the next section we present and discuss our results, delaying certain technical details for later sections; in Section 3 we describe a way to construct...
semigroups of degree 2 or 3; in Section 4 nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 are considered up to equality; in Section 5 we present the relevant background material from power group enumeration and a number of technical results in preparation for Section 6 where we give the proofs for our main theorems. Tables containing the first few terms of the sequences defined by the various formulae in the paper can be found at the appropriate points. The implementation used to obtain these numbers is provided as the function \texttt{Nr3NilpotentSemigroups} in the computer algebra system GAP [GAP08] by the package \texttt{Smallsemi} [DM11].

2. Formulae for the number of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3

2.1. Up to equality. The number of nilpotent and commutative nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 on a finite set can be computed using formulae given in [JMS91, Theorems 15.3 and 15.8]. We summarise the relevant results in the following theorem. As the theorems in [JMS91] are stated incorrectly we shall give a proof for Theorem 2.1 in Section 4.

**Theorem 2.1.** For \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) the following hold:

(i) the number of distinct nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 on \( \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \) is

\[
\sum_{m=2}^{a(n)} \binom{n}{m} m^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} (-1)^i \binom{m-1}{i} (m-i)^{(n-m)^2}
\]

where \( a(n) = \left\lfloor \frac{n+1/2 - \sqrt{n - 3/4}}{} \right\rfloor \);

(ii) the number of distinct commutative nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 on \( \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \) is

\[
\sum_{m=2}^{c(n)} \binom{n}{m} m^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} (-1)^i \binom{m-1}{i} (m-i)^{(n-m)(n-m+1)/2}
\]

where \( c(n) = \left\lfloor \frac{n+3/2 - \sqrt{2n+1/4}}{} \right\rfloor \).

Note that there are no nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 with fewer than 3 elements. Accordingly, the formulae in Theorem 2.1 yield that the number of nilpotent and commutative nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 with 1 or 2 elements is 0. The first few non-zero terms of the sequences given by Theorem 2.1 are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

2.2. Up to isomorphism and up to isomorphism or anti-isomorphism. Our main results are explicit formulae for the number of nilpotent and commutative nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 on any finite set up to isomorphism and up to isomorphism or anti-isomorphism. As every commutative semigroup is equal to its dual we obtain three different formulae.
The number of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 up to equality

Table 2. Numbers of commutative nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 up to equality

|  n  | number of commutative nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 on \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  3  | 6                                                                               |
|  4  | 84                                                                              |
|  5  | 1 620                                                                          |
|  6  | 67 170                                                                         |
|  7  | 7 655 424                                                                     |
|  8  | 2 762 847 752                                                                 |
|  9  | 3 177 531 099 864                                                              |
| 10  | 11 942 816 968 513 350                                                          |
| 11  | 170 387 990 514 807 763 280                                                     |
| 12  | 11 445 734 473 992 302 207 677 404                                             |
| 13  | 3 783 741 947 416 135 944 828 688 621 484                                      |
| 14  | 5 515 869 594 360 617 154 295 309 604 962 217 274                              |
| 15  | 33 920 023 793 863 706 955 629 537 246 610 157 737 735 400                      |
| 16  | 961 315 883 918 211 839 333 605 601 923 922 425 713 635 603 848 080            |
| 17  | 160 898 868 329 022 121 111 520 489 011 089 643 697 943 356 922 368 997 915 120 |

Table 3. Numbers of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 up to isomorphism

|  n  | number of non-isomorphic nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 of order \( n \) |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  3  | 1                                                                               |
|  4  | 9                                                                               |
|  5  | 118                                                                             |
|  6  | 4 671                                                                           |
|  7  | 1 199 989                                                                       |
|  8  | 3 661 522 792                                                                   |
|  9  | 105 931 872 028 455                                                             |
| 10  | 24 834 563 582 168 716 305                                                       |
| 11  | 53 061 406 576 514 124 327 751                                                   |
| 12  | 2 017 720 196 187 069 550 262 596 208 732 035                                   |
| 13  | 2 756 576 827 089 210 680 367 439 732 667 802 738 773 384                       |
| 14  | 73 919 858 836 708 511 517 426 763 179 873 538 289 329 852 786 253 510           |
| 15  | 29 599 937 964 452 484 359 589 007 277 447 538 854 227 891 149 791 717 673 581 110 642 |

If \( j \) is a partition of \( n \in \mathbb{N} \), written as \( j \vdash n \), then we denote by \( j_i \) the number of summands equaling \( i \). The first of our main theorems, dealing with nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 up to isomorphism, can then be stated as follows:

**Theorem 2.2.** Let \( n, p, q \in \mathbb{N} \). For \( 1 \leq q < p \) denote

\[
N(p, q) = \sum_{j \vdash q-1} \sum_{k \vdash p-q} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{q-1} j_i! i^j \prod_{i=1}^{p-q} k_i! k^i \right)^{-1} \prod_{a,b=1}^{p-q} \left( 1 + \sum_{d \mid \text{lcm}(a,b)} d^{k_a k_b \gcd(a,b)} \right). \tag{1}
\]

Then the number of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 and order \( n \) up to isomorphism equals

\[
\sum_{m=2}^{a(n)} (N(n, m) - N(n - 1, m - 1)) \quad \text{where} \quad a(n) = \left\lfloor n + 1/2 - \sqrt{n - 3/4} \right\rfloor,
\]

The second of our main theorems gives the number of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 up to isomorphism or anti-isomorphism.
Table 4. Numbers of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 up to isomorphism or anti-isomorphism

| n   | number of non-(anti)-isomorphic nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 of order n |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3   | 1                                                                          |
| 4   | 8                                                                          |
| 5   | 84                                                                         |
| 6   | 2 660                                                                      |
| 7   | 609 797                                                                   |
| 8   | 1 831 687 022                                                             |
| 9   | 52 966 239 062 973                                                        |
| 10  | 12 417 282 095 522 918 811                                                |
| 11  | 26 530 703 289 252 298 687 053 072                                        |
| 12  | 1 008 860 098 093 547 692 911 901 804 990 610                              |
| 13  | 1 378 288 413 994 605 341 053 354 105 969 660 808 031 163                 |
| 14  | 36 959 929 418 354 255 758 713 676 933 402 538 920 157 765 946 956 889   |
| 15  | 14 799 968 982 226 242 179 794 503 639 146 983 952 853 044 950 740 907 666 303 436 922 |

Theorem 2.3. Let \( n, p, q \in \mathbb{N} \). For \( 1 \leq q < p \) let \( N(p, q) \) as in (1) and denote

\[
L(p, q) = \frac{1}{2} N(p, q) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=q+1}^{p-q} \sum_{k=p-q}^{j} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{j-1} k_i! k_{i+1}^j \right)^{p-q} \prod_{a=1}^{p-q} \left( q_a k_a^2 - k_a \sum_{b=1}^{a-1} p_{a,b}^b \right),
\]

where

\[
p_{a,b} = \left( 1 + \sum_{d \mid \text{lcm}(2,a,b)} d_{jd} \right)^{ab/\text{lcm}(2,a,b)}
\]

and

\[
q_a = \begin{cases} 
(1 + \sum_{d \mid a} a_{jd}) (1 + \sum_{d \mid 2a} a_{jd})^{(a-1)/2} & \text{if } a \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \\
(1 + \sum_{d \mid a} a_{jd}) a & \text{if } a \equiv 0 \pmod{4} \\
(1 + \sum_{d \mid a/2} a_{jd}^2) (1 + \sum_{d \mid a} a_{jd})^{a-1} & \text{if } a \equiv 2 \pmod{4}.
\end{cases}
\]

Then the number of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 and order \( n \) up to isomorphism or anti-isomorphism equals

\[
a(n) = \sum_{m=2}^{a(n)} \left( L(n, m) - L(n-1, m-1) \right) \quad \text{where} \quad a(n) = \left\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} - \sqrt{n-3/4} \right\rfloor.
\]

A semigroup is self-dual if it is isomorphic to its dual. The concept of anti-isomorphism has no relevance for self-dual semigroups. Combining Theorems 2.2 and 2.3, it is possible to deduce a formula for the number of self-dual, nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 up to isomorphism. More generally, considering semigroups of a certain type the number of self-dual semigroups up to isomorphism is equal to twice the number of semigroups up to isomorphism and anti-isomorphism minus the number of semigroups up to isomorphism.

Corollary 2.4. Let \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) and let \( N(p, q) \) and \( L(p, q) \) be as defined in (1) and (2), respectively. Then the number of self-dual, nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 and order \( n \) up to isomorphism equals

\[
a(n) = \sum_{m=2}^{a(n)} \left( 2L(n, m) - N(n, m) - 2L(n-1, m-1) + N(n-1, m-1) \right) \quad \text{where} \quad a(n) = \left\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} - \sqrt{n-3/4} \right\rfloor.
\]

Substituting in the previous corollary the actual formula for \( 2L(p, q) \) we notice that \( N(p, q)/2 \) appears as term in \( L(p, q) \) and cancels. The resulting simplified formula is implemented as part of the function \( \text{Nr3NilpotentSemigroups} \) in Smallsemi [DM11].
Table 5. Numbers of self-dual nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 up to isomorphism

| n  | number of non-isomorphic self-dual nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 of order n |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3  | 1                                                                              |
| 4  | 7                                                                              |
| 5  | 50                                                                             |
| 6  | 649                                                                            |
| 7  | 19 605                                                                         |
| 8  | 1 851 252                                                                     |
| 9  | 606 097 491                                                                   |
| 10 | 608 877 121 317                                                               |
| 11 | 1 990 358 249 778 393                                                         |
| 12 | 25 835 561 207 401 249 185                                                    |
| 13 | 1 739 268 479 271 518 877 288 942                                              |
| 14 | 590 686 931 539 550 985 679 107 660 268                                      |
| 15 | 846 429 051 478 198 751 690 097 659 025 763 202                              |

Since commutative semigroups are self-dual, we obtain just one formula up to isomorphism for commutative nilpotent semigroups of degree 3.

**Theorem 2.5.** Let \( n, p, q \in \mathbb{N} \). For \( 1 \leq q < p \) denote

\[
K(p, q) = \sum_{j=q-1}^{p-q} \sum_{1 \leq r < p-q} \left[ \prod_{i=1}^{q-1} j_i! \prod_{i=1}^{p-q} k_i! \sum_{d|a} (1 + \sum_{d|a} d_{jd}^d) k_{2a} \right].
\]

Then the number of nilpotent, commutative semigroups of degree 3 and order \( n \) up to isomorphism equals

\[
\sum_{m=2}^{c(n)} (K(n, m) - K(n - 1, m - 1)) \quad \text{where} \quad c(n) = \left[ n + 3/2 - \sqrt{2n + 1/4} \right].
\]

To determine the number of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 up to isomorphism or up to isomorphism or anti-isomorphism, we use the technique of power group enumeration in a similar way as Harrison did for universal algebras [Har66]. In Section 5 we present the relevant background material and a number of technical results in preparation for Section 6 where we give the proofs for Theorems 2.2, 2.3, and 2.5.

2.3. **Bounds and asymptotics.** The formula for the number of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 up to isomorphism or anti-isomorphism in Theorem 2.3 provides a new lower bound for the number of semigroups up to isomorphism or anti-isomorphism of a given size. Presumably this bound is asymptotic, that is, the ratio tends to 1 while the order tends to infinity, although this is not a consequence of the result for semigroups up to equality in [KRS76]. The comparison in Table 7 shows also that the lower bound \( z(n)/2n! \) from [JMS91] seems to converge rapidly towards our new bound. Analogous observations can be made considering only commutative semigroups though the convergence appears slower as mentioned by Grillet in the analysis in [Gri03].

Our formulae also yield a large qualitative improvement over the old lower bound since they give exact numbers of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3. In particular, the provided numbers can be used to cut down the effort required in an exhaustive search to determine the number of semigroups of a given order, as already done for semigroups of order 9 in [Dis10].

The conjectured asymptotic behaviour of the lower bound of \( z(n)/2n! \) for the number of semigroups of order \( n \) would imply that almost all sets of isomorphic semigroups on \( \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \) are of size \( n! \). In other words, most semigroups have trivial automorphism group; a property that is
Table 6. Numbers of commutative nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 up to isomorphism

| n  | number of non-isomorphic commutative nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 of order n |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3  | 1                                                                               |
| 4  | 5                                                                               |
| 5  | 23                                                                              |
| 6  | 155                                                                             |
| 7  | 2106                                                                            |
| 8  | 79,997                                                                          |
| 9  | 9,350,240                                                                       |
| 10 | 3,377,274,621                                                                   |
| 11 | 4,305,807,399,354                                                               |
| 12 | 23,951,673,822,318,901                                                          |
| 13 | 608,006,617,857,847,433,462                                                      |
| 14 | 63,282,042,551,031,180,915,403,659                                              |
| 15 | 25,940,470,166,038,603,666,194,391,357,972                                      |
| 16 | 45,946,454,978,824,286,601,551,283,052,739,171,318                              |
| 17 | 452,361,442,895,926,047,348,998,019,240,982,893,517,749                         |
| 18 | 30,258,046,596,218,438,115,657,059,107,812,634,405,962,381,166,457,711          |
| 19 | 12,094,270,656,160,403,920,767,935,604,624,748,908,993,169,949,317,454,767,617,795 |

Table 7. Numbers of semigroups and nilpotent semigroups of degree 3

| n   | number of semigroups up to isomorphism | number of semigroups of degree 3 up to isomorphism | lower bound \(\left\lceil \frac{z(n)}{2n!} \right\rceil\) |
|-----|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 3   | 18                                     | 1                                                   | 1                                                   |
| 4   | 126                                    | 8                                                   | 4                                                   |
| 5   | 1,160                                  | 84                                                  | 49                                                  |
| 6   | 15,973                                 | 2,660                                               | 214                                                 |
| 7   | 836,021                                | 609,797                                             | 589,691                                             |
| 8   | 1843,120,128                          | 1831,687,022                                        | 1027,235,556                                        |
| 9   | 52,989,400,714,478                    | 52,966,239,062,973                                  | 52,952,220,887,436                                  |
| 10  | unknown                                | 12,417,282,095,522,918,811                           | 12,416,804,146,790,463,082                          |

known for various types of algebraic and combinatorial objects, for example graphs [ER63]. Our formulae could help to prove this conjecture at least for nilpotent semigroups of degree 3. In each summand in (1) those semigroups of degree 3 are counted for which a bijection with cycle structure corresponding to the partitions \(j\) and \(k\) is an automorphism. It remains to estimate the contribution of all summands that do not correspond to the identity map.

3. Construction of nilpotent semigroups of degree 2 or 3

In this section we describe how to construct nilpotent semigroups of degree 2 or 3 on an \(n\)-element set. A similar construction is given in [KRS76]. For the sake of brevity we will denote by \([n]\) the set \(\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}\) where \(n \in \mathbb{N}\).

**Definition 3.1.** Let \(n \geq 2\), let \(A\) be a non-empty proper subset of \([n]\), and let \(B\) denote the complement of \(A\) in \([n]\). If \(z \in B\) is arbitrary and \(\psi: A \times A \to B\) is any function, then we can define multiplication on \([n]\) by

\[
xy = \begin{cases} 
\psi(x, y) & \text{if } x, y \in A \\
z & \text{otherwise.}
\end{cases}
\]

We will denote the set \([n]\) with the operation given above by \(H(A, \psi, z)\).
Any product $abc$ in $H(A, \psi, z)$ equals $z$, and so the multiplication defined in (3) is associative. It follows that $H(A, \psi, z)$ is a nilpotent semigroup of degree 2 or 3. The semigroup $H(A, \psi, z)$ has degree 2 if and only if $H(A, \psi, z)$ is a zero semigroup if and only if $\psi$ is the constant function with value $z$. Conversely, if $T$ is a nilpotent semigroup of degree 3 with elements $[n]$, then setting $A = T \setminus T^2$, letting $\psi : A \times A \to T^2$ be defined by $\psi(x, y) = xy$ for all $x, y \in T$, and setting $z$ to be the zero element of $T$, we see that $T = H(A, \psi, z)$. Therefore when enumerating nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 it suffices to consider the semigroups $H(A, \psi, z)$.

4. Semigroups and commutative semigroups of degree 3 up to equality

Denote by $Z_n$ the set of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 on $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$. A formula for the cardinality of a proper subset of $[n] = \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$, let $B$ denote the complement of $A$ in $[n]$, let $m = |B|$, and let $z \in B$ be fixed. We consider semigroups of the form $H(A, \psi, z)$ where $\psi : A \times A \to B$ as given in Definition 3.1.

(i). The number of functions from $A \times A$ to $B$ is $m^{(n-m)^2}$. To avoid counting semigroups twice for different $m$, we will only consider those functions $\psi$ where every element in $B \setminus \{z\}$ appears in the image of $\psi$. For a subset $X$ of $B \setminus \{z\}$ of size $i$, there are $(m-i)^{(n-m)^2}$ functions with no element from $X$ in their image. Using the Inclusion-Exclusion Principle, the number of functions from $A \times A$ to $B$ with image containing $B \setminus \{z\}$ is

$$\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} (-1)^i \binom{m-1}{i} (m-i)^{(n-m)^2}.$$  

The function $\psi$ is defined on a set with $(n - m)^2$ elements. Hence the condition that $B \setminus \{z\}$ is contained in the image of $\psi$ implies that $m - 1 \leq (n - m)^2$. Reformulation yields

$$m \leq n + 1/2 - \sqrt{n - 3/4}.$$  

If $m = 1$, then every function $\psi : A \times A \to B$ is constant, and so, as mentioned above, $H(A, \psi, z)$ is not nilpotent of degree 3. Summing (4) over all appropriate values of $m$, the $n\choose m$ choices for $B$ and the $m$ choices for $z \in B$ concludes the proof of this part.

(ii). If $H(A, \psi, z)$ is a commutative semigroup, then the function $\psi : A \times A \to B$ is defined by its values on pairs $(i, j)$ with $i \leq j$. There are $(n-m)(n-m+1)/2$ such pairs and hence there are $m(n-m)(n-m+1)/2$ such functions $\psi$.

The rest of the proof follows the same steps as the proof of part (i) with $m(n-m)(n-m+1)/2$ replacing $m(n-m)^2$ and where the inequality $m - 1 \leq (n - m)(n - m + 1)/2$ yields the parameter $c(n)$. \hfill \Box

5. Power group enumeration

In this section, we shall introduce the required background material relating to power group enumeration and determine the cycle indices of certain power groups necessary to prove our main theorems. The presentation in this section is based on [HP73].

Let $X$ be a non-empty set and let $S_X$ denote the symmetric group on $X$. We again denote the set $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ by $[n]$, and will write $S_n$ instead of $S_X$ if $X = [n]$. For a permutation $\pi \in S_X$, let $\delta(\pi, k)$ denote the number of cycles of length $k$ in the disjoint cycle decomposition of $\pi$.

**Definition 5.1.** Let $G$ be a subgroup of $S_n$. Then the polynomial

$$Z(G; x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \prod_{k=1}^{n} x_k^{\delta(g, k)}$$

is called the cycle index of $G$.
is called the \textit{cycle index} of the group $G$; in short, we write $Z(G)$.

The cycle structure of a permutation $\pi \in S_n$ corresponds to a partition of $n$, and all elements with the same cycle structure form a conjugacy class of $S_n$. Remember that if $j$ is a partition of $n$, written as $j \vdash n$, then we denote by $j_i$ the number of summands equalling $i$. This yields $j_i = \delta(\pi, i)$ for all $i$ and for each element $\pi$ in the conjugacy class corresponding to $j$. This observation allows us to write the cycle index of the symmetric group in a compact form.

\textbf{Lemma 5.2 ([HP73, (2.2.5)]).} The cycle index of $S_n$ is

$$Z(S_n) = \sum_{j \vdash n} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{n} j_i^{i} \right)^{-1} \prod_{a=1}^{n} x_{a}^{j_{a}}.$$

In what follows we require actions other than the natural action of the symmetric group $S_X$ on $X$. In particular, we require actions on functions in which two groups act independently on the domains and on the images of the functions. If $G$ is a group acting on a set $X$, then we denote by $x^g$ the image of $x \in X$ under the action of $g \in G$.

\textbf{Definition 5.3.} Let $A$ and $B$ be subgroups of $S_X$ and $S_Y$, respectively, where $X$ and $Y$ are finite disjoint sets. Then we define an action of the group $A \times B$ on the set $Y^X$ of functions from $X$ to $Y$ in the following way: the image of $f \in Y^X$ under $(\alpha, \beta) \in A \times B$ is given by

$$f^{(\alpha, \beta)}(x) = (f(x^\alpha))^\beta$$

for all $x \in X$. We will refer to $A \times B$ with this action as a \textit{power group}.

The cycle index itself is not required for the power groups used in this paper. Of interest is the constant form of the Power Group Enumeration Theorem given below, which states the number of orbits under the action of a power group. The result goes back to de Bruijn [dB59], but is presented here in the form given in [HP73, Section 6.1].

\textbf{Theorem 5.4.} Let $A \times B$ be a power group acting on the functions $Y^X$ as in Definition 5.3. Then the number of orbits of $A \times B$ on $Y^X$ equals

$$\frac{1}{|B|} \sum_{\beta \in B} Z(A; c_1(\beta), c_2(\beta), \ldots, c_{|X|}(\beta)),$$

where

$$c_i(\beta) = \sum_{d|\beta} d \delta(\beta, d).$$

To apply Theorem 5.4 in the enumeration of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 we require the cycle indices of the specific group actions defined below.

\textbf{Definition 5.5.} Let $A$ be a group acting on a set $X$. Then we define:

(i) by $A^{\times 2}$ the group $A$ acting on $X \times X$ componentwise, that is,

$$(x_1, x_2)^{\alpha} = (x_1^{\alpha}, x_2^{\alpha})$$

for $\alpha \in A$;

(ii) by $2A^{\times 2}$ the group $S_2 \times A$ acting on $X \times X$ by

$$(x_1, x_2)^{(\pi, \alpha)} = (x_1^{\alpha}, x_2^{\alpha})$$

for $\alpha \in A$ and $\pi \in S_2$.

(iii) by $A^{(2)}$ the group $A$ acting pointwise on the set $\{\{x_1, x_2\} \mid x_i \in X\}$ of subsets of a set $X$ with 1 or 2 elements, that is,

$$(x_1, x_2)^{\alpha} = \{x_1^{\alpha}, x_2^{\alpha}\}$$

for $\alpha \in A$. 

We will show in Section 6 that it is possible to distinguish nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 of the form \( H(A, \psi, z) \) as defined in Definition 3.1 up to isomorphism, and up to isomorphism or anti-isomorphism, by determining the orbit the function \( \psi \) belongs to under certain power groups derived from the actions in Definition 5.5.

In the next lemma, we obtain the cycle indices of the groups \( S_n \times 2, S_n^{[2]} \), and \( 2S_n \times 2 \) using the cycle index of \( S_n \) given in Lemma 5.2.

**Lemma 5.6.** For \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) the following hold:

(i) the cycle index of \( S_n \times 2 \) is

\[
Z(S_n \times 2) = \sum_{j+n} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{n} j_i! \right)^{-1} \prod_{a,b=1}^{n} x_{\text{lcm}(a,b)}^{j_a j_b \gcd(a,b)},
\]

(ii) the cycle index of \( 2S_n \times 2 \) is

\[
Z(2S_n \times 2) = \frac{1}{2} Z(S_n \times 2) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j+n} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{n} j_i! \right)^{-1} \prod_{a=1}^{n} q_a \prod_{b=1}^{n} p_{a,b}^{j_a j_b \gcd(a,b)},
\]

where \( p_{a,b} = x_{\text{lcm}(a,b)} \) and

\[
q_a = \begin{cases} 
  x_a - x_{2a} & \text{if } a \equiv 1 \mod 2 \\
  x_a & \text{if } a \equiv 0 \mod 4 \\
  x_a^2 x_{2a}^{-1} & \text{if } a \equiv 2 \mod 4;
\end{cases}
\]

(iii) the cycle index of \( S_n^{[2]} \) is

\[
Z(S_n^{[2]}) = \sum_{j+n} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{n} j_i! \right)^{-1} \prod_{a=1}^{[n/2]} r_a \prod_{a=1}^{[(n+1)/2]} s_a \prod_{b=1}^{\lcm(a,b)} t_a \prod_{b=1}^{\lcm(a,b)} x_{\text{lcm}(a,b)}^{j_a j_b \gcd(a,b)},
\]

where the monomials are \( r_a = x_a x_{2a}^{a/2}, s_a = x_{2a}^{a/2}, \) and \( t_a = x_a^{a(j_a^2 - j_a)/2} \).

**Proof.** (i) By definition each permutation in \( S_n \) induces a permutation in \( S_n \times 2 \). Let \( \alpha \in S_n \) and let \( z_a \) and \( z_b \) be two cycles thereof with length \( a \) and \( b \) respectively. Consider the action of \( \alpha \) on those pairs in \( [n] \times [n] \) which have as first component an element in \( z_a \) and as second component an element in \( z_b \). Let \( (i,j) \in [n] \times [n] \) be one such pair. Since \( i^j^k = i \) if and only if \( a \) divides \( k \), and \( j^a^b = j \) if and only if \( b \) divides \( k \), the pair \( (i,j) \) is in an orbit of length \( \text{lcm}(a,b) \). The total number of pairs with first component in \( z_a \) and second component in \( z_b \) equals \( ab \). Hence the number of orbits equals \( \gcd(a,b) \). Repeating this consideration for every pair of cycles in \( \alpha \) leads to

\[
\prod_{a,b=1}^{n} x_{\text{lcm}(a,b)}^{\delta(a,b) \gcd(a,b)}
\]

as the summand corresponding to \( \alpha \) in the cycle index \( Z(S_n \times 2) \). This yields

\[
Z(S_n \times 2) = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\alpha \in S_n} \prod_{a,b=1}^{n} x_{\text{lcm}(a,b)}^{\delta(a,b) \gcd(a,b)},
\]

That the contribution of \( \alpha \) to \( Z(S_n \times 2) \) only depends on its cycle structure allows us to replace the summation over all group elements by a summation over partitions of \( n \); one for each conjugacy class of \( S_n \). The number of elements with cycle structure associated to a partition \( j \vdash n \) equals \( n!/ \prod_{i=1}^{n} j_i! \). Therefore

\[
Z(S_n) = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{j+n} \prod_{i=1}^{n} n! \prod_{a,b=1}^{n} x_{\text{lcm}(a,b)}^{j_a j_b \gcd(a,b)},
\]

and cancelling the factor \( n! \) concludes the proof.
(ii). For elements \((\text{id}_{[1,2]}, \alpha) \in 2S_n^2\) the contribution to the cycle index of \(2S_n^2\) equals the contribute of \(\alpha\) to \(Z(S_n^2)\) given in (i). It is rearranged as follows to illustrate which contributions come from identical cycles and which from disjoint cycles:

\[
\prod_{a,b=1}^{n} x^{\delta(a,\alpha)\delta(a,b)\gcd(a,b)} = \prod_{a=1}^{n} \left( x^{\delta(a,\alpha)\delta(a,a)^2-\delta(a,a)} \prod_{b<a}^{\gcd(a,b)} x^{2\delta(a,\alpha)\delta(a,b)\gcd(a,b)} \right)
\]

For group elements of the form \(((1,2), \alpha)\) the contribution is going to be deduced from the one of \(\alpha\). Let \(z_a\) and \(z_b\) again be two cycles in \(\alpha\) of length \(a\) and \(b\) respectively, and assume at first, they are disjoint. Then \(z_a\) and \(z_b\) induce \(2\gcd(a,b)\) orbits of length \(\text{lcm}(a,b)\) on the \(2ab\) pairs in \([n] \times [n]\) with one component from each of the two cycles. Let

\[
\omega = \{(i_1,j_1), (i_2,j_2), \ldots, (i_{\text{lcm}(a,b)}, j_{\text{lcm}(a,b)})\}
\]

be such an orbit. Then

\[
\overline{\omega} = \{(j_1,i_1), (j_2,i_2), \ldots, (j_{\text{lcm}(a,b)}, i_{\text{lcm}(a,b)})\}
\]

is another one. The set \(\omega \cup \overline{\omega}\) is closed under the action of \(((1,2), \alpha)\). In how many orbits \(\omega \cup \overline{\omega}\) splits depends on the parity of \(a\) and \(b\). Acting with \(((1,2), \alpha)\) on \((i_1,j_1)\) for \(\text{lcm}(a,b)\) times gives \((i_1,j_1)\) if \(\text{lcm}(a,b)\) is even and \((j_1,i_1)\) if \(\text{lcm}(a,b)\) is odd. Hence the two orbits \(\omega\) and \(\overline{\omega}\) merge to one orbit in the latter case and give two new orbits of the original length otherwise. This yields the monomial

\[
x_{\text{lcm}(a,b)}^{2\gcd(a,b)} \quad \text{if} \quad \text{lcm}(a,b) \equiv 0 \mod 2
\]

which appears \(\delta(a,\alpha)\delta(a,b)\) times if \(a \neq b\) and \((\delta(a,\alpha)^2 - \delta(a,\alpha))/2\) times if \(a = b\).

Let \(z_a\) and \(z_b\) now be identical and equal to the cycle \((i_1i_2 \cdots i_n)\). The contribution to the monomial of \(\alpha\) is the factor \(x_a^2\). The orbits are of the form \(\{(i_g, i_h) \mid 1 \leq g, h \leq a, g \equiv h + s \mod a\}\) for \(0 \leq s \leq a - 1\). For \(s = 0\) the orbit consists of pairs with equal entries, that is, \(\{(i_1, i_1), (i_2, i_2), \ldots, (i_a, i_a)\}\), and thus stays the same under \(((1,2), \alpha)\). For an orbit \(\omega = \{(i_g, i_h) \mid 1 \leq g, h \leq a, g \equiv h + s \mod a\}\) with \(s \neq 0\) define \(\overline{\omega}\) as in (7). If \(\omega \neq \overline{\omega}\) one argues like in the case of two disjoint cycles and gets the result depending on the parity of \(a\). Note that \(\omega \equiv \overline{\omega}\) if and only if \(s = a/2\). In particular this does not occur for \(a\) odd in which case

\[
x_a x_{2a}^{(a-1)/2}
\]

is the factor contributed to the monomial of \(((1,2), \alpha)\). If on the other hand \(a\) is even, one more case split is needed to deal with the orbit

\[
\omega = \{(i_g, i_h) \mid 1 \leq g, h \leq a, g \equiv h + a/2 \mod a\}\.
\]

Acting with \(((1,2), \alpha)\) on \((i_a, i_{a/2})\) for \(a/2\) times gives \((i_a, i_{a/2})\) if \(a/2\) is odd and \((i_{a/2}, i_a)\) if \(a/2\) is even. Thus \(\omega\) splits into two orbits of length \(a/2\) in the former case and stays one orbit in the latter. The resulting factors contributed to the monomial of \(((1,2), \alpha)\) are therefore

\[
x_a^a \quad \text{if} \quad a \equiv 0 \mod 4
\]

\[
x_{a/2} x_{a/2}^{a-1} \quad \text{if} \quad a \equiv 2 \mod 4.
\]

Following the analysis for all pairs of cycles in \(\alpha\) leads to the contribution of \(((1,2), \alpha)\) to the cycle index. Summing as before over all partitions of \(n\), which correspond to the different cycle structures, proves the formula for \(Z(2S_n^2)\).

(iii). To compute \(Z(S_n^{[2]}))\) let \(\omega\) and \(\overline{\omega}\) as in (6) and (7) be orbits for two cycles \(z_a\) and \(z_b\) from \(\alpha \in S_n\) acting on \([n] \times [n]\). If the two cycles \(z_a\) and \(z_b\) are disjoint then both \(\omega\) and \(\overline{\omega}\) correspond to the same orbit

\[
\{(i_1,j_1), (i_2,j_2), \ldots, (i_{\text{lcm}(a,b)}, j_{\text{lcm}(a,b)})\}
\]

of \(\alpha\) acting on \([n]^{[2]}\). The contribution to the monomial of \(\alpha\) in \(Z(S_n^{[2]})\) is therefore \(x_{\text{lcm}(a,b)}^{\gcd(a,b)}\). Let \(z_a\) and \(z_b\) now be identical and equal to the cycle \((i_1i_2 \cdots i_a)\). In \(S_n^{[2]}\) this gave rise to the orbits \(\{(i_g, i_h) \mid 1 \leq g, h \leq a, g \equiv h + s \mod a\}\) for \(0 \leq s \leq a - 1\). The corresponding orbit under \(S_n^{[2]}\) for \(s = 0\) becomes \(\{(i_1), (i_2), \ldots, (i_a)\}\). All other orbits become \(\{(i_g, i_h) \mid 1 \leq
g, h ≤ a, g ≡ h + s mod a} in the same way as before, but these are identical for s and a − s. This yields one further exception if a is even and s = a/2, in which case the orbit collapses to \( \{i, i_g + a/2\} \mid 1 ≤ g ≤ a/2 \). In total, identical cycles lead to the monomials
\[
x_{a/2}x_{a/2}^2 \quad \text{if} \quad a \equiv 0 \pmod{2}
\]
\[
x_a^{(a+1)/2} \quad \text{if} \quad a \equiv 1 \pmod{2}.
\]
Summing once more over conjugacy classes and making the case split depending on the parity proves the formula for \( Z(S_n^{(2)}) \).

Formulae like those in the previous lemma for slightly different actions are given in [HP73, (4.1.9)] and [HP73, (5.1.5)]. The proof techniques used here are essentially the same as in [HP73].

6. PROOFS OF THE MAIN THEOREMS

In this section, we prove Theorem 2.2. The proofs of Theorems 2.3, and 2.5 are very similar to the proof of Theorem 2.2, and so, for the sake of brevity we show how to obtain these proofs from the one presented, rather than giving the proofs in detail.

We consider the following sets of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3: for \( m, n \in \mathbb{N} \) with \( 2 ≤ m ≤ n − 1 \) we define
\[
Z_{n,m} = \{ H([n] \setminus [m], \psi, 1) \mid \psi : [n] \setminus [m] × [n] \setminus [m] → [m] \text{ with } [m] \setminus \{1\} ⊆ \text{im}(\psi) \},
\]
where \( H([n] \setminus [m], \psi, 1) \) is as in Definition 3.1, and \( [n] \) is short for \( \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \), as before. From this point on, we will only consider semigroups belonging to \( Z_{n,m} \), and so we write \( H(\psi) \) instead of \( H([n] \setminus [m], \psi, 1) \).

If \( H(\psi) \in Z_{n,m} \) is commutative, then we define a function \( \psi' \) from the set of subsets of \( [n] \) with 1 or 2 elements to \([m]\) by
\[
\psi'(i, j) = \psi(i, j)
\]
for \( i ≤ j \). Since the equality \( \psi(i, j) = \psi(j, i) \) holds for all \( i, j \), the function \( \psi' \) is well-defined. Moreover, every function from the set of subsets of \([n]\) with 1 or 2 elements to \([m]\) is induced in this way by a function \( \psi \) such that \( H(\psi) \in Z_{n,m} \) and \( H(\psi) \) is commutative.

Lemma 6.1. Let \( S \) be a nilpotent semigroup of degree 3 with \( n \) elements. Then \( S \) is isomorphic to a semigroup in \( Z_{n,m} \) if and only if \( m = |S^2| \).

Proof. Let \( z \) denote the zero element of \( S \), and let \( f : S → [n] \) be any bijection such that \( f(z) = 1 \) and \( f(S^2) = [m] \). Then define \( \psi : ([n] \setminus [m]) × ([n] \setminus [m]) → [m] \) by
\[
\psi(i, j) = f(f^{-1}(i)f^{-1}(j)).
\]
Now, since \( S \) is nilpotent, if \( x ∈ [n] \setminus \{1\} \), there exist \( s, t ∈ S \setminus S^2 \) such that \( f(st) = x \). Thus \( \psi(f(s), f(t)) = x \) and \( [m] \setminus \{1\} ⊆ \text{im}(\psi) \). Hence \( H(\psi) ∈ Z_{n,m} \) and it remains to show that \( f \) is an isomorphism. If \( x, y ∈ S \setminus S^2 \), then \( f(x)f(y) = \psi(f(x), f(y)) = f(xy) \). Otherwise, \( x ∈ S^2 \) or \( y ∈ S^2 \), in which case \( f(x)f(y) = 1 = f(z) = f(xy) \).

It follows from Lemma 6.1 that we can determine the number of isomorphism types in each of the sets \( Z_{n,m} \) independently. Of course, if \( S \) is a nilpotent semigroup of degree 3 and \( m = |S^2| \), then it is not true in general that there exists a unique semigroup in \( Z_{n,m} \) isomorphic to \( S \). Instead isomorphisms between semigroups in \( Z_{n,m} \) induce an equivalence relation on the functions \( \psi \), which define the semigroups in \( Z_{n,m} \).

If \( H(\psi) ∈ Z_{n,m} \) and \( T \) is a nilpotent semigroup of degree 3 such that \( H(\psi) ∼ T \), then there exists \( π ∈ S_n \) such that \( S^π = T \). Hence \( T ∈ Z_{n,m} \) if and only if \( π \) stabilises \( [n] \setminus [m] \) and \( \{1\} \) and hence \( [m] \setminus \{1\} \) setwise. In particular, the action of \( π \) on the domain and range of \( \psi \) are independent, and so equivalence can be captured using a power group action.

Lemma 6.2. For \( m, n ∈ \mathbb{N} \) with \( 2 ≤ m ≤ n − 1 \) let \( H(\psi), H(χ) ∈ Z_{n,m} \), and let \( U_m \) denote the pointwise stabiliser of 1 in \( S_m \). Then the following hold:
(i) the semigroups $H(\psi)$ and $H(\chi)$ are isomorphic if and only if $\psi$ and $\chi$ are in the same orbit under the power group $S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$.

(ii) the semigroups $H(\psi)$ and $H(\chi)$ are isomorphic or anti-isomorphic if and only if $\psi$ and $\chi$ are in the same orbit under the power group $2S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$.

If in addition $H(\psi)$ and $H(\chi)$ are commutative, then:

(iii) the semigroups $H(\psi)$ and $H(\chi)$ are isomorphic if and only if $\psi'$ and $\chi'$ (as defined in (8)) are in the same orbit under the power group $S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$.

**Proof.** (i) $(\Rightarrow)$ By assumption there exists $\pi \in S_n$ such that $\pi : H(\psi) \rightarrow H(\chi)$ is an isomorphism. From the comments before the lemma, $\pi$ stabilises $[n] \setminus [m]$ and 1, and so there exist $\tau \in U_m$ and $\sigma \in S_{[n]\setminus[m]}$ such that $\tau \sigma = \pi$. Then for all $x, y \in [n] \setminus [m]$

$$\psi(x, y) = (\psi(x, y)^\pi)^{\tau^{-1}} = (\pi(x^\sigma, y^\tau))^{\tau^{-1}} = (\chi(x^\sigma, y^\tau))^{\tau^{-1}}.$$

It follows that $\chi$ acts on by $S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$ equals $\psi$, as required.

$(\Leftarrow)$ Since $\psi$ and $\chi$ lie in the same orbit under the action of the power group $S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$, there exist $\sigma \in S_{[n]\setminus[m]}$ and $\tau \in U_m$ such that $\psi^{(\sigma, \tau)} = \chi$. Let $\pi = \sigma \tau^{-1} \in S_n$. We will show that $\pi$ is an isomorphism from $H(\psi)$ to $H(\chi)$. Let $x, y \in [n]$ be arbitrary. If $x, y \in [n] \setminus [m]$, then

$$x^\pi y^\pi = \psi(x^\pi, y^\pi) = (\psi(x^\pi, y^\pi)^\tau)^{-1} = (\psi(\sigma, \tau)(x, y))^{\tau^{-1}} = (\chi(x, y))^{\tau^{-1}} = (xy)^\pi.$$ 

If $x \in [n] \setminus [m]$ and $y \in [m]$, then $(xy)^\pi = 1^\pi = 1 = x^\pi y^{-1} = x^\pi y^\pi$. The case when $x \in [m]$ and $y \in [n] \setminus [m]$ and the case when $x, y \in [m]$ follow by similar arguments.

(ii). In this part of the proof we write $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$ instead of $((\alpha, \beta), \gamma)$ when referring to elements of $2S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$.

$(\Rightarrow)$ If $H(\psi)$ and $H(\chi)$ are isomorphic, then, by part (i), the functions $\psi$ and $\chi$ are in the same orbit under the action of $S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$. Since $S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$ is contained in $2S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$, it follows that $\psi$ and $\chi$ are in the same orbit under the action of $2S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$.

If $H(\psi)$ and $H(\chi)$ are not isomorphic, then there exists $\pi \in S_n$ such that $\pi : H(\psi) \rightarrow H(\chi)$ is an anti-isomorphism. As in the proof of part (i), there exist $\tau \in U_m$ and $\sigma \in S_{[n]\setminus[m]}$ such that $\pi = \tau \sigma$. Then, for all $x, y \in [n] \setminus [m]$,

$$\psi(x, y) = (\psi(x, y)^\pi)^{\tau^{-1}} = (\chi(y^\pi, x^\pi))^{\tau^{-1}} = (\chi(y^\pi, x^\pi))^{\tau^{-1}} = (\chi(\sigma, \tau^{-1})(y, x)).$$

Hence $\chi$ acts on by $S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$ equals $\psi$.

$(\Leftarrow)$ If $\psi = \chi^{(\text{id}_{[1,2]}, \sigma, \tau)}$ for some $\text{id}_{[1,2]}, \sigma, \tau \in 2S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$, then $H(\psi)$ and $H(\chi)$ are isomorphic by part (i). So, we may assume that $\psi = \chi^{(\Sigma, \sigma, \tau)}$. Let $\pi = \sigma \tau^{-1} \in S_n$. We show that $\pi$ is an anti-isomorphism from $H(\psi)$ to $H(\chi)$. Let $x, y \in [n]$ be arbitrary. If $x, y \in [n] \setminus [m]$, then

$$x^\pi y^\pi = \psi(x^\pi, y^\pi) = (\psi(x^\pi, y^\pi)^\tau)^{-1} = (\psi(\Sigma, \sigma, \tau)(y, x))^{\tau^{-1}} = (\chi(y, x))^{\tau^{-1}} = (yx)^\pi.$$ 

If $x \in [n] \setminus [m]$ and $y \in [m]$, then $(xy)^\pi = 1^\pi = 1 = y^{-1} x^\pi = y^\pi x^\pi$. The case when $x \in [m]$ and $y \in [n] \setminus [m]$ and the case when $x, y \in [m]$ follow by similar arguments.

(iii). The proof follows from (i) and the observation that $\psi'$ and $\chi'$ are in the same orbit under $S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$ if and only if $\psi$ and $\chi$ are in the same orbit under $S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^2 \times U_m$. 

Lemma 6.2(i) shows that the number of non-isomorphic semigroups in $Z_{n,m}$ equals the number of orbits of functions defining semigroups in $Z_{n,m}$ under the appropriate power group action. Together with Theorem 5.4 this provides the essential information required to prove the formula given in Theorem 2.2 for the number of nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 of order $n$ up to isomorphism.

**Proof of Theorem 2.2.** Denote by $U_q$ the stabiliser of 1 in $S_q$. We shall first show that $N(p, q)$ is the number of orbits of the power group $S_{[p] \setminus [q]}^2 \times U_q$ on functions from $([p] \setminus [q]) \times ([p] \setminus [q])$ to $[q]$. 
By Theorem 5.4 the latter equals
\[
\frac{1}{(q-1)!} \sum_{\beta \in \mathcal{H}} Z(S_{[p]\setminus[q]}^{(q)}; c_1(\beta), \ldots, c_{(p-q)^2}(\beta)),
\]
where
\[
c_i(\beta) = \sum_{d \mid i} d\delta(\beta, d).
\]
If \(\beta \in U_q\), then \(Z(S_{[p]\setminus[q]}^{(q)}; c_1(\beta), \ldots, c_{(p-q)^2}(\beta))\) only depends on the cycle structure of \(\beta\) and is therefore an invariant of the conjugacy classes of \(U_q\). These conjugacy classes are in 1-1 correspondence with the partitions of \(q-1\). If \(j\) is a partition of \(q-1\) corresponding to the conjugacy class of \(\beta\), then \(d(\beta, 1) = j_1 + 1\) and \(d(\beta, i) = j_i\) for \(i = 2, \ldots, q-1\) (where \(j_i\) denotes, as before, the number of summands in \(j\) equaling \(i\)). This yields that \(c_i(\beta) = 1 + \sum_{d \mid i} dj_d\). The size of the conjugacy class in \(U_q\) corresponding to the partition \(j\) is \((q-1)!/\prod_{i=1}^{q-1} j_i! i^{j_i}\). Hence summing over conjugacy classes in (9) gives:

\[
\sum_{j \vdash q-1} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{q-1} j_i! i^j \right)^{-1} Z \left( S_{[p]\setminus[q]}^{(q)}; 1 + \sum_{d \mid 1} dj_d, \ldots, 1 + \sum_{d \mid (p-q)^2} dj_d \right).
\]

Substituting the cycle index of \(S_{[p]\setminus[q]}^{(q)}\) from Lemma 5.6(i) into (10) yields the formula given in the statement of the Theorem for \(N(p, q)\).

By Lemma 6.2(i), the number of non-isomorphic semigroups in \(Z_{n,m}\) for \(m \in \mathbb{N}\) with \(2 \leq m \leq n-1\) equals the number of orbits under the power group \(S_{[n]\setminus[m]}^{(n)} \times U_m\) of functions from \(([n] \setminus [m]) \times ([n] \setminus [m])\) to \([m]\) having \([m] \setminus \{1\}\) in their image. The orbits counted in \(N(n,m)\) include those of functions which do not contain \([m] \setminus \{1\}\) in their image. The number of such orbits equals \(N(n-1, m-1)\), the number of orbits of functions with one fewer element in the image set. Hence the number of non-isomorphic semigroups in \(Z_{n,m}\) equals \(N(n,m) - N(n-1, m-1)\). With Lemma 6.1, it follows that the number of non-isomorphic nilpotent semigroups of degree 3 with \(n\) elements is

\[
\sum_{m=2}^{n} (N(m,n) - N(m-1, n-1)) \quad \text{where} \quad a(n) = \left\lceil n + 1/2 - \sqrt{n - 3/4} \right\rceil.
\]

Replacing the cycle index in (9) by that of \(2S_{[p]\setminus[q]}^{(q)}\) and \(S_{[p]\setminus[q]}^{(2)}\) proves Theorems 2.3 and 2.5, respectively, using the same argument as above.

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