

ENUMERATION OF KEKULÉ STRUCTURES:
TRIANGLE-SHAPED BENZENOIDS

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Abstract: The enumeration problem of Kekulé structures for the benzenoid class of prolate triangles has been solved previously. Here the considerations are extended to oblate and intermediate triangles.

This is a continuation of the work on the number of Kekulé structures of classes of mirror-symmetrical pericondensed benzenoids.

Definitions. When $n=1$ for the mirror-symmetrical pentagons treated in the previous articles,^{1,2} viz. $D^i(m,n)$ and $D^j(m,n)$, they reduce to triangular-shaped benzenoids or triangles. Specifically we define (a) the prolate triangle as

$$T^i(m) = D^i(m,1)$$

and (b) the oblate triangle as

$$T^j(m) = D^j(m,1);$$

see Figure 1. Prolate and oblate benzenoids have, as usual^{3,4} the indentation inwards and outwards, respectively. It is useful to define an additional class, say $T(m)$, the intermediate triangle; see Fig. 1(c). This type of benzenoids may be created by (a) deleting an end hexagon from a prolate triangle or (b) adding a hexagon at the end of an oblate triangle. Figure 1 illustrates these features.

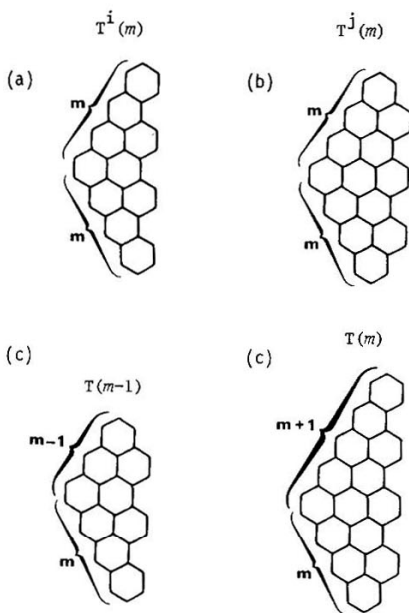


Fig. 1. The definitions of (a) prolate triangle, (b) oblate triangle and (c) intermediate triangle.

Connections between K numbers. The numbers of the Kekulé structures (K) for the three classes of triangles are inter-connected. An abbreviated notation is defined in the heading of Table 1. In terms of these symbols the following recurrence properties are valid.

$$T_m^i = T_{m-1}^i + T_{m-1}^j ; \quad m \geq 1 \quad (1)$$

$$T_m^j = T_m^i + T_{m-1}^j ; \quad m \geq 1 \quad (2)$$

As initial conditions one has

$$T_0^i = T_0^j = T_0 = 1 \quad (3)$$

Table 1. Numerical values of:

$$K\{T^i(m)\} = T_m^i, \quad K\{T^j(m)\} = T_m^j, \quad K\{T(m)\} = T_m.$$

m	T_m^i	T_m^j	T_m
0	1	1	1
1	2	2	3
2	5	6	9
3	14	19	28
4	42	62	90
5	132	207	297
6	429	704	1 001
7	1 430	2 431	3 432
8	4 862	8 502	11 934
9	16 796	30 056	41 990
10	58 786	107 236	149 226

The information (1)-(3) is not sufficient to deduce successively the numbers for increasing m values. A necessary additional piece of information is reported in the subsequent paragraph.

Prolate triangle. During a previous work on truncated parallelograms⁵ a triangular benzenoid was considered as an example. It is virtually identical with our prolate triangle. By means of an algorithm the following result was obtained for its K numbers.⁵

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_0^i &= \binom{0}{0} = 1, \\
 T_1^i &= \binom{2}{1} = 2, \\
 T_m^i &= \binom{2m}{m} - \sum_{i=0}^{m-2} T_i^i \binom{2m-2-2i}{m-i}; \quad m \geq 2
 \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Now all the numbers T_m^i are accessible. From the recurrence relations (1) and (2) one obtains for the other types of triangles:

$$T_m^j = T_{m+1}^i - 2T_m^i + T_{m-1}^i ; \quad m \geq 1 \quad (5)$$

$$T_m = T_{m+1}^i - T_m^i \quad (6)$$

Oblate triangle. For the sake of completeness we also report the relations of the type (4) for the oblate and intermediate triangles. In the former case one has

$$\begin{aligned} T_0^j &= \binom{0}{0} = 1 , \\ T_1^j &= \binom{2}{1} = 2 , \\ T_2^j &= \binom{4}{2} = 6 , \\ T_m^j &= \binom{2m}{m} - \sum_{i=0}^{m-3} T_i^j \binom{2m-3-2i}{m-i} ; \quad m \geq 3 \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where

$$T_i^j = \sum_{k=0}^i T_k^j \quad (8)$$

Intermediate triangle. Finally we have the following set of equations for the class of intermediate triangles.

$$\begin{aligned} T_0 &= \binom{1}{0} = 1 , \\ T_1 &= \binom{3}{1} = 3 , \\ T_m &= \binom{2m+1}{m} - \sum_{i=0}^{m-2} T_i^j \binom{2m-2-2i}{m-i} ; \quad m \geq 2 \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Conclusion. A complete solution of the enumeration problem for Kekulé structures of the prolate, oblate and intermediate triangles is given. A preliminary set of recurrence relations, viz. eqns. (1) and (2), is an in-

complete solution. The complete solutions, viz. eqns. (4), (7) and (9), are recurrence relations of a type not frequently encountered in the Kekulé structure enumerations. The number of terms accumulate with increasing m . More direct solutions have not been achieved.

Numerical K values up to $m=10$ are collected in Table 1.

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