

Title : A Hybrid Proof of Cayley's Tree Formula from Prüfer Codes, Generating Functions and the Matrix-Tree Theorem.

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Major : Mathematics

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ABSTRACT

Cayley's formula is a fundamental theorem in graph theory for determining the number of labeled trees on a complete graph. Despite its simplicity, the formula can be proven through various methods, reflecting deep connections across mathematical branches. This independent study aims to compare three primary approaches: analytic, combinatorial, and algebraic, while presenting a hybrid proof to develop a unified structural understanding. The techniques employed include generating functions, bijective correspondences, and matrix-based representations. The results demonstrate that all three approaches yield consistent conclusions, providing a systematic perspective on the formula from different mathematical frameworks. The hybrid proof reveals that the formula reflects a common underlying structure shared across disciplines. In conclusion, integrating diverse mathematical concepts enhances a deeper understanding of graph theory and provides a robust framework for investigating related structural problems in mathematics.

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