



## Problem 5. «Solutions of the equation»

Alice is studying special functions that are used in symmetric ciphers. Let  $E^n$  be the set of all binary vectors  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  of length  $n$ , where  $x_i$  is either 0 or 1. Given two vectors  $x$  and  $y$  from  $E^n$  consider their sum  $x \oplus y = (x_1 \oplus y_1, \dots, x_n \oplus y_n)$ , where  $\oplus$  is addition modulo 2.

**Example.** If  $n = 3$ , then  $E^3 = \{(000), (001), (010), (011), (100), (101), (110), (111)\}$ . Let  $x = (010)$  and  $y = (011)$ , then vector  $x \oplus y$  is equal to  $(010) \oplus (011) = (0 \oplus 0, 1 \oplus 1, 0 \oplus 1) = (001)$ .

We will say that a function  $F$  maps  $E^n$  to  $E^n$  if it transforms any vector  $x$  from  $E^n$  into some vector  $F(x)$  from  $E^n$ .

**Example.** Let  $n = 2$ . For instance, we can define  $F$  that maps  $E^2$  to  $E^2$  as follows:  $F(00) = (00)$ ,  $F(01) = (10)$ ,  $F(10) = (11)$  and  $F(11) = (10)$ .

Alice found a function  $S$  that maps  $E^6$  to  $E^6$  in such a way that the vectors  $S(x)$  and  $S(y)$  are not equal for any nonequal vectors  $x$  and  $y$ . Also,  $S$  has another curious property: the equation

$$S(x) \oplus S(x \oplus a) = b$$

has either 0 or 2 solutions for any nonzero vector  $a$  from  $E^6$  and any vector  $b$  from  $E^6$ .

Find the number of pairs  $(a, b)$  such that this equation has exactly **2** solutions!

