

# Combinatorics and Physics

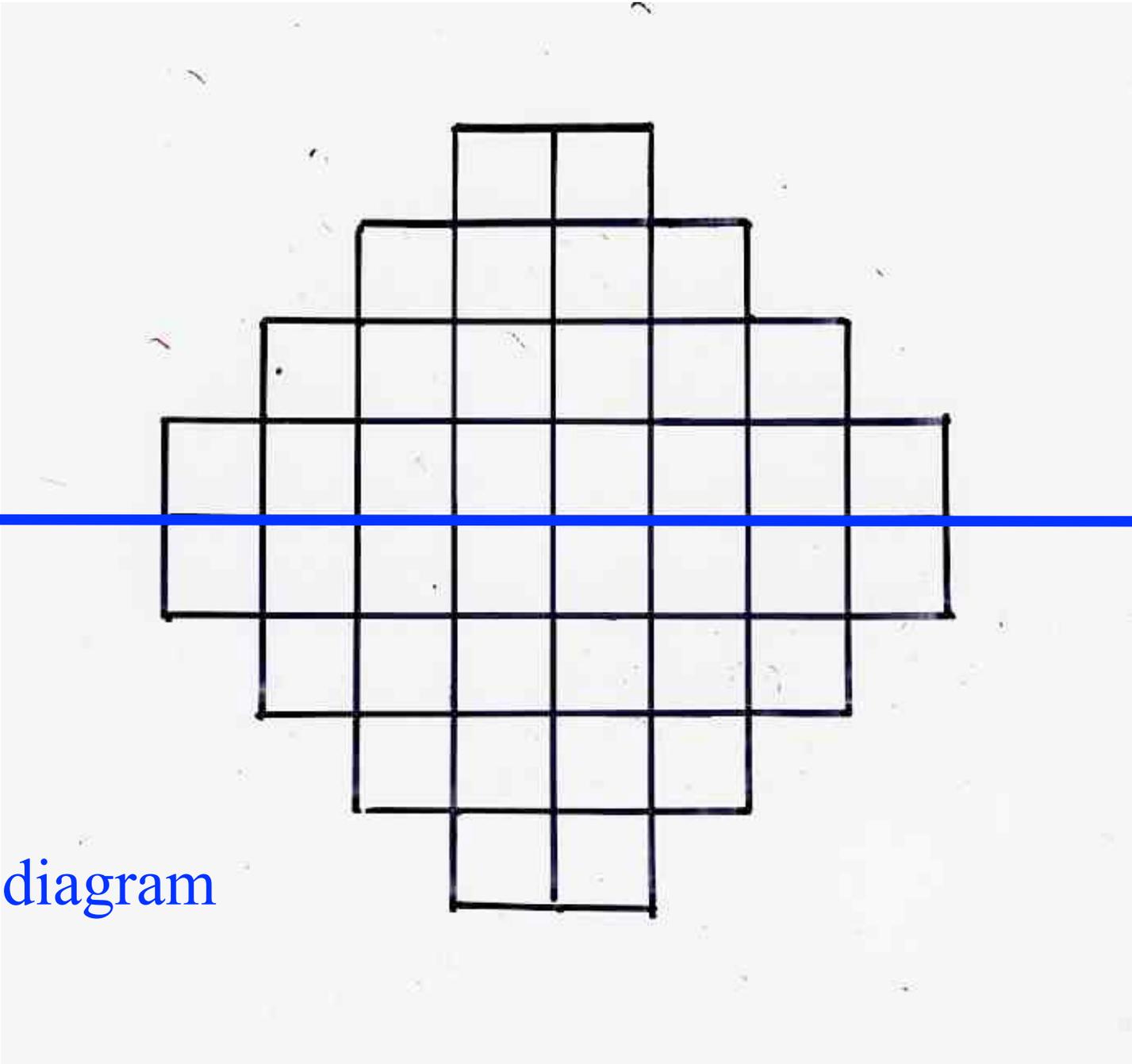
## Chapter 2c

Dimers, Tilings, Non-crossing paths and determinant

IIT-Madras  
2 February 2015

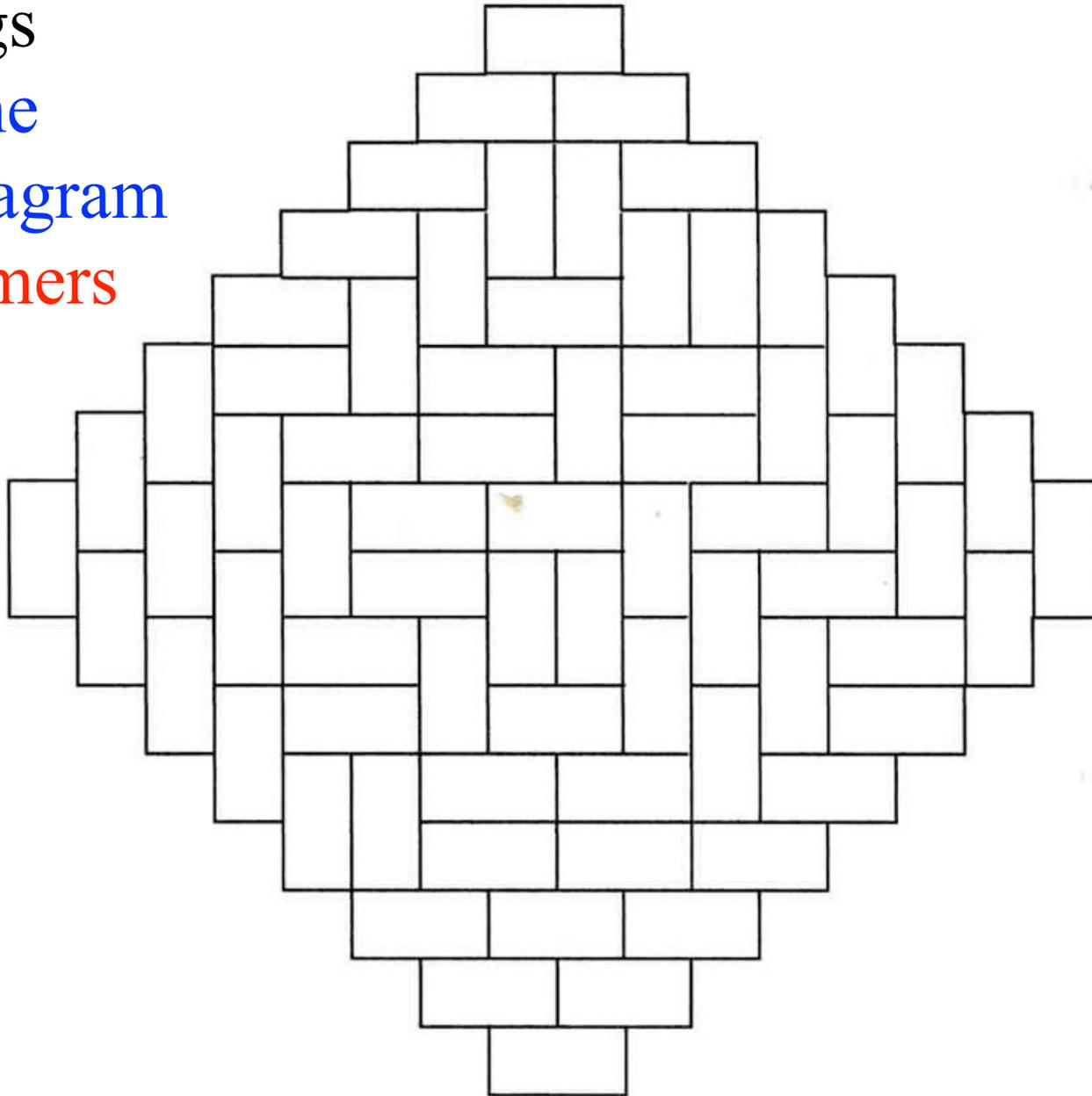
Xavier Viennot  
CNRS, LaBRI, Bordeaux

§ 8 Aztec tilings



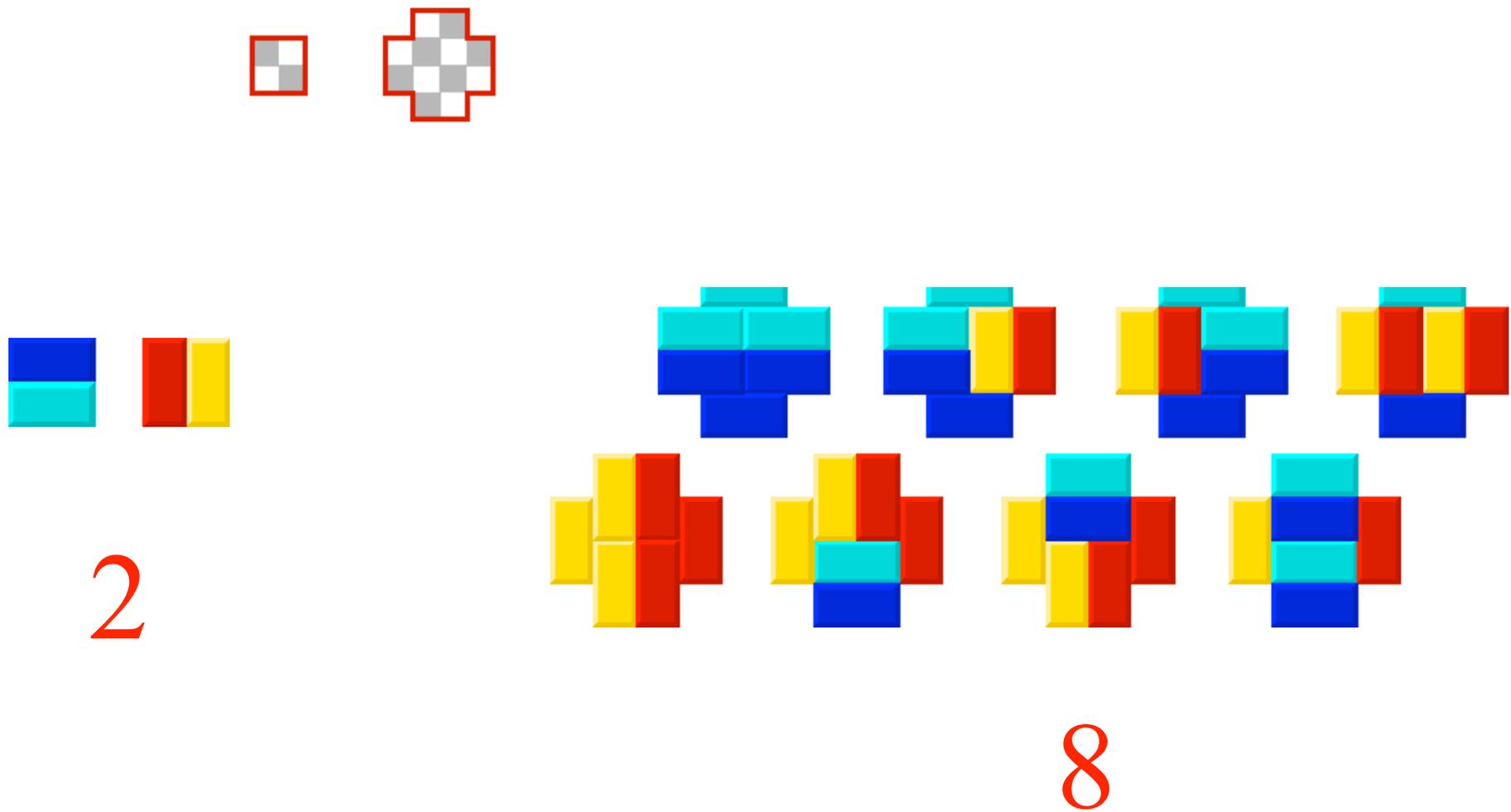
Aztec diagram

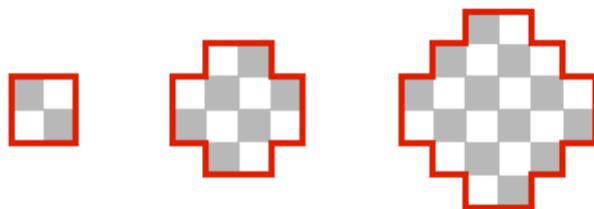
tilings  
of the  
Aztec diagram  
with dimers





2





number of  
tilings

2

8

64

1024

$2^1$

$2^3$

$2^6$

$2^{10}$

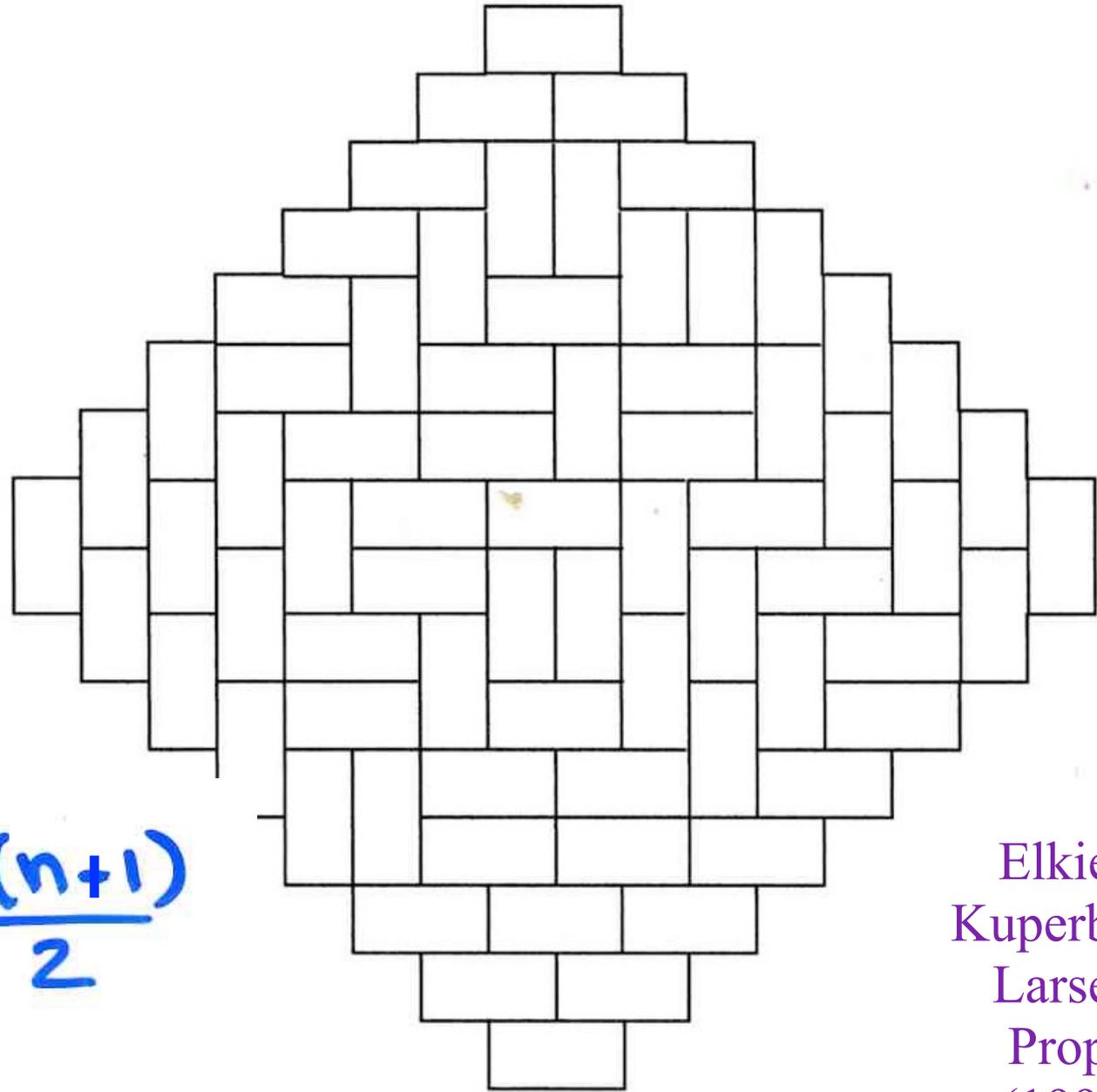
$2^1$

$2^{(1+2)}$

$2^{(1+2+3)}$

$2^{(1+2+3+4)}$

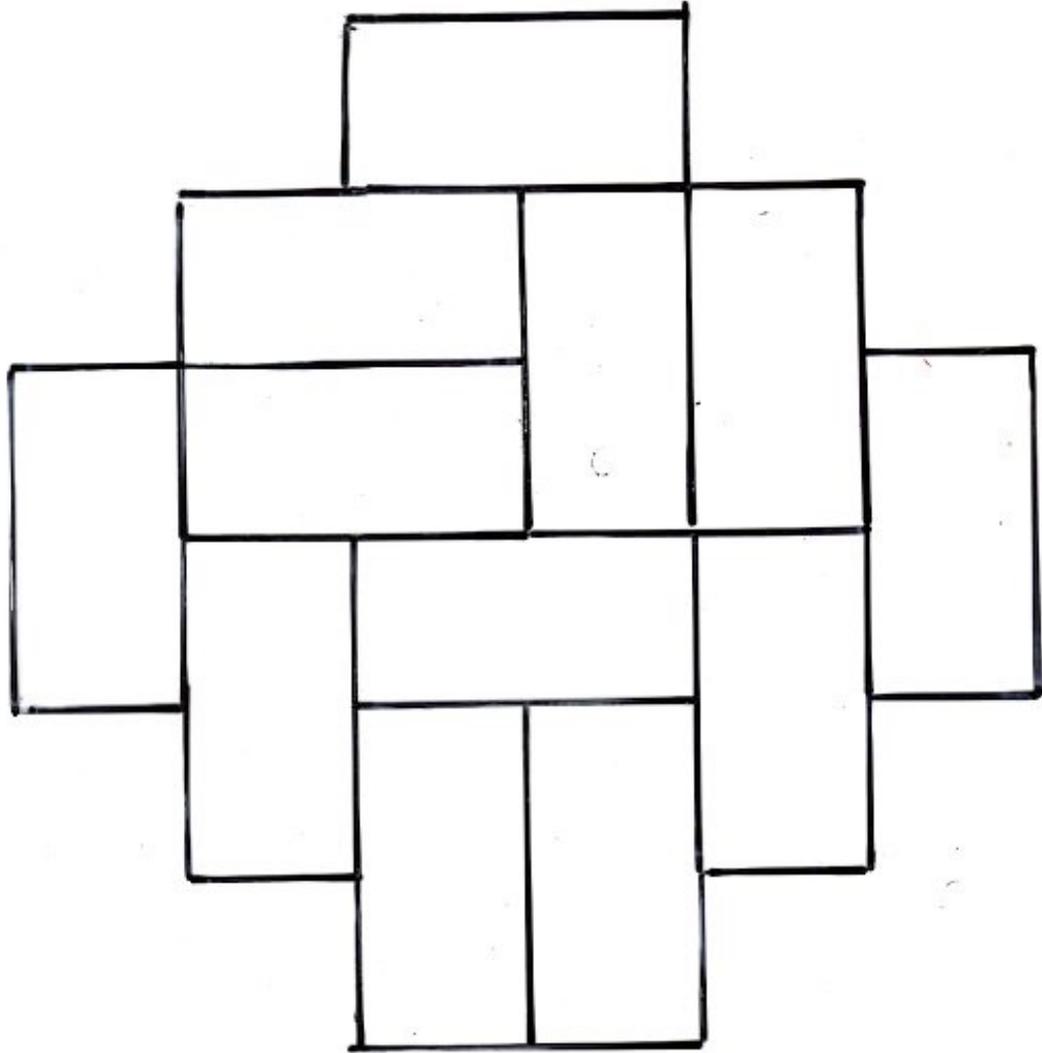
number of  
tilings  
of the  
Aztec diagram  
with dimers

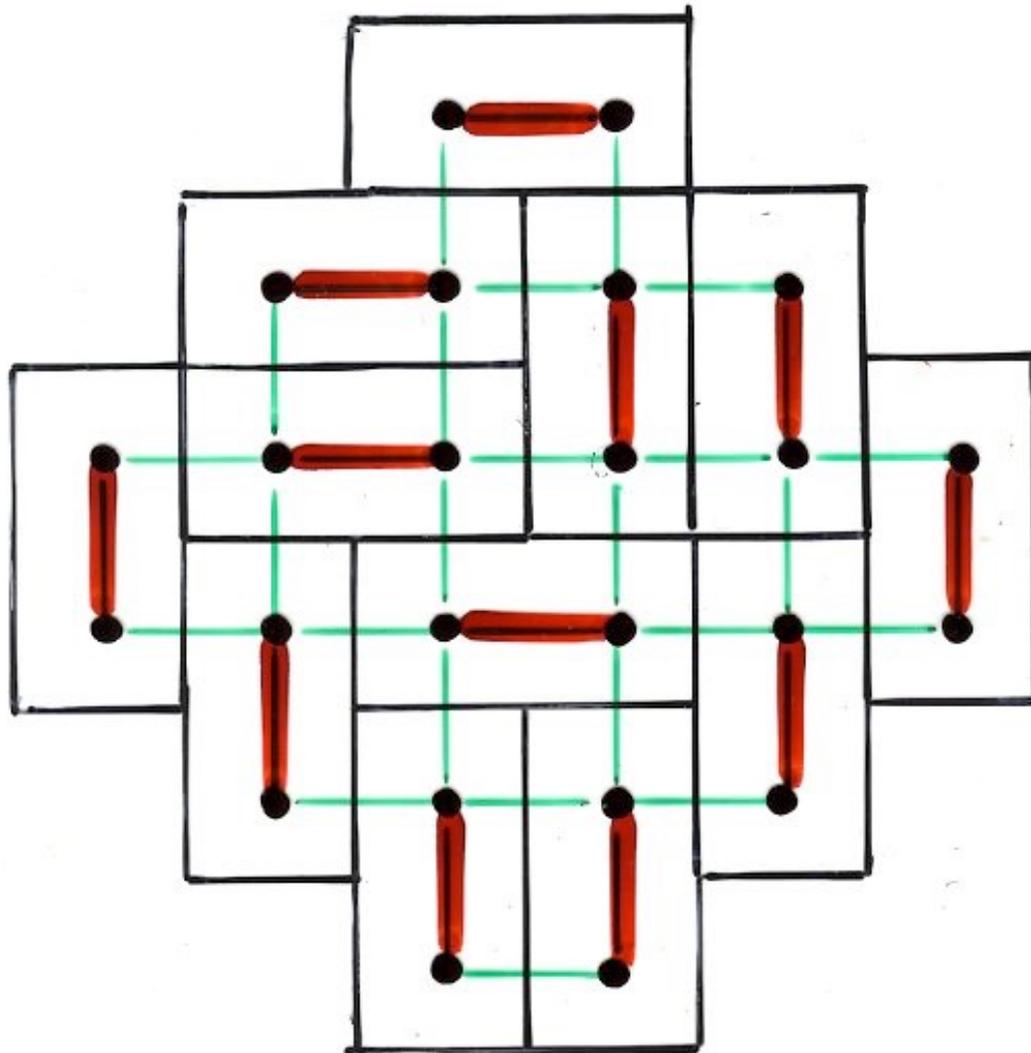


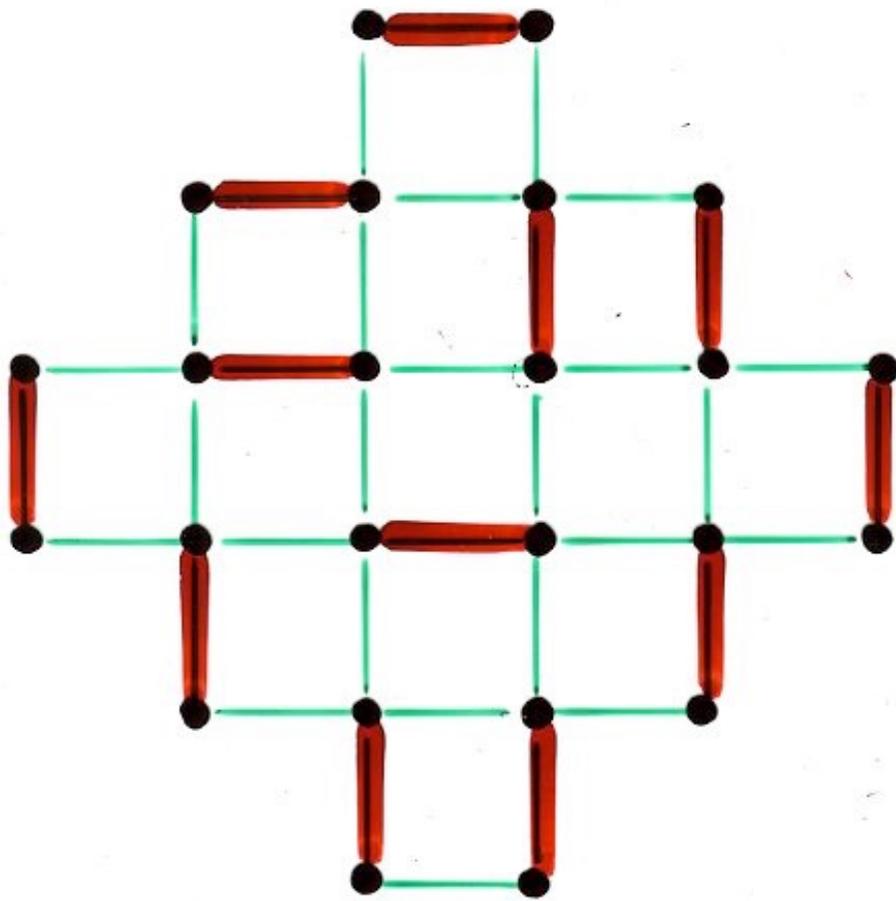
$$2^{(1+2+3+4+\dots+n)}$$

$$2^{\frac{n(n+1)}{2}}$$

Elkies,  
Kuperberg,  
Larsen,  
Propp  
(1992)





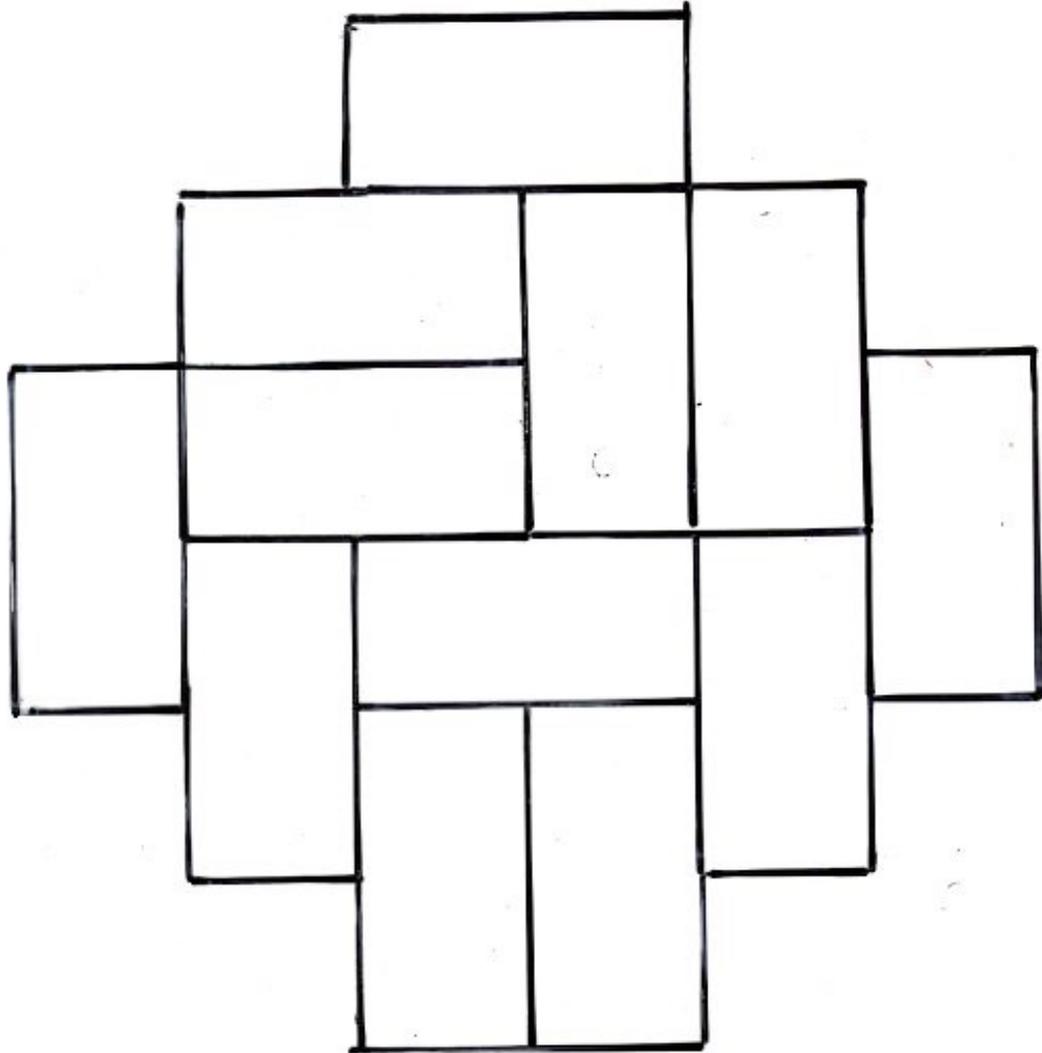


bijection

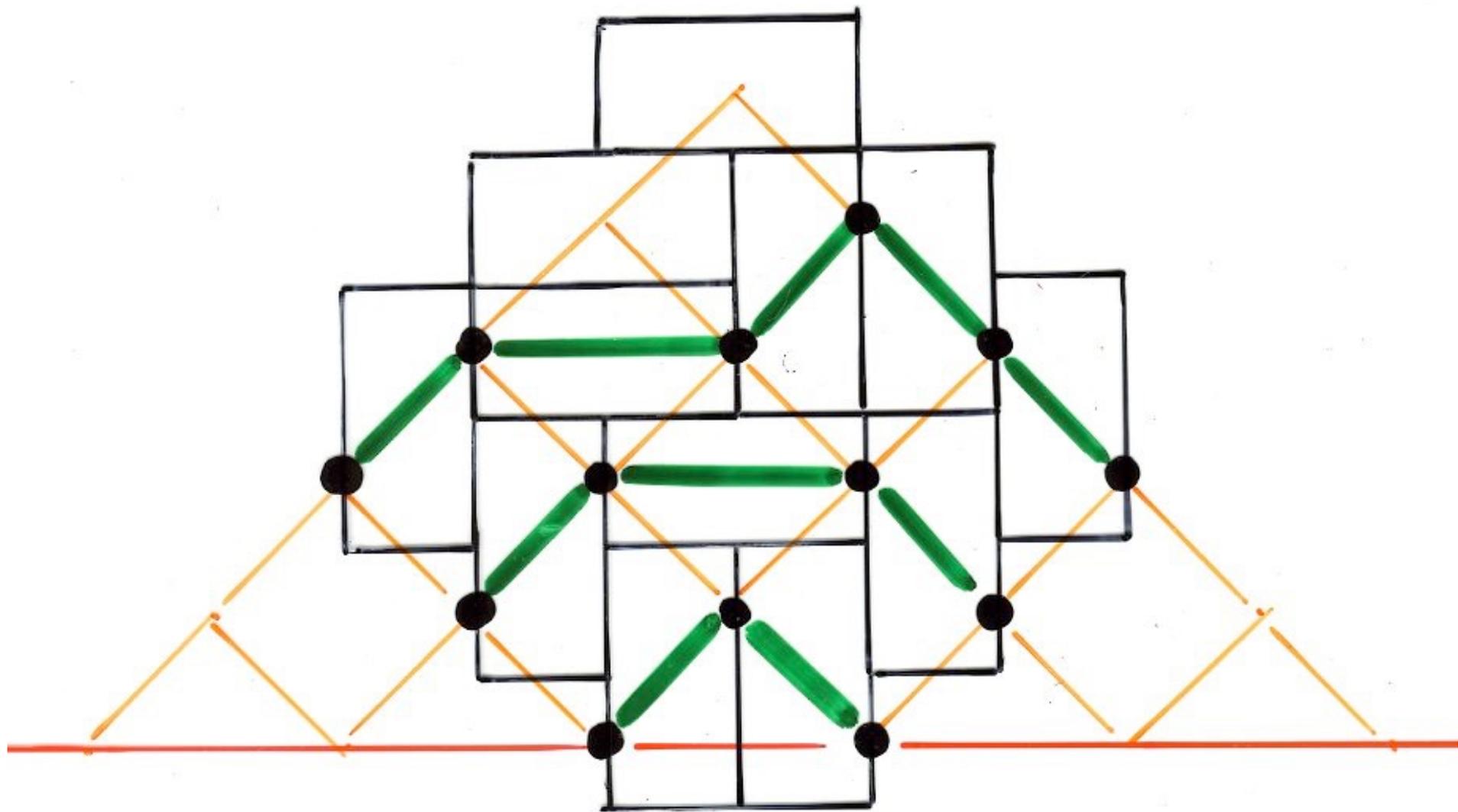
Aztec tilings

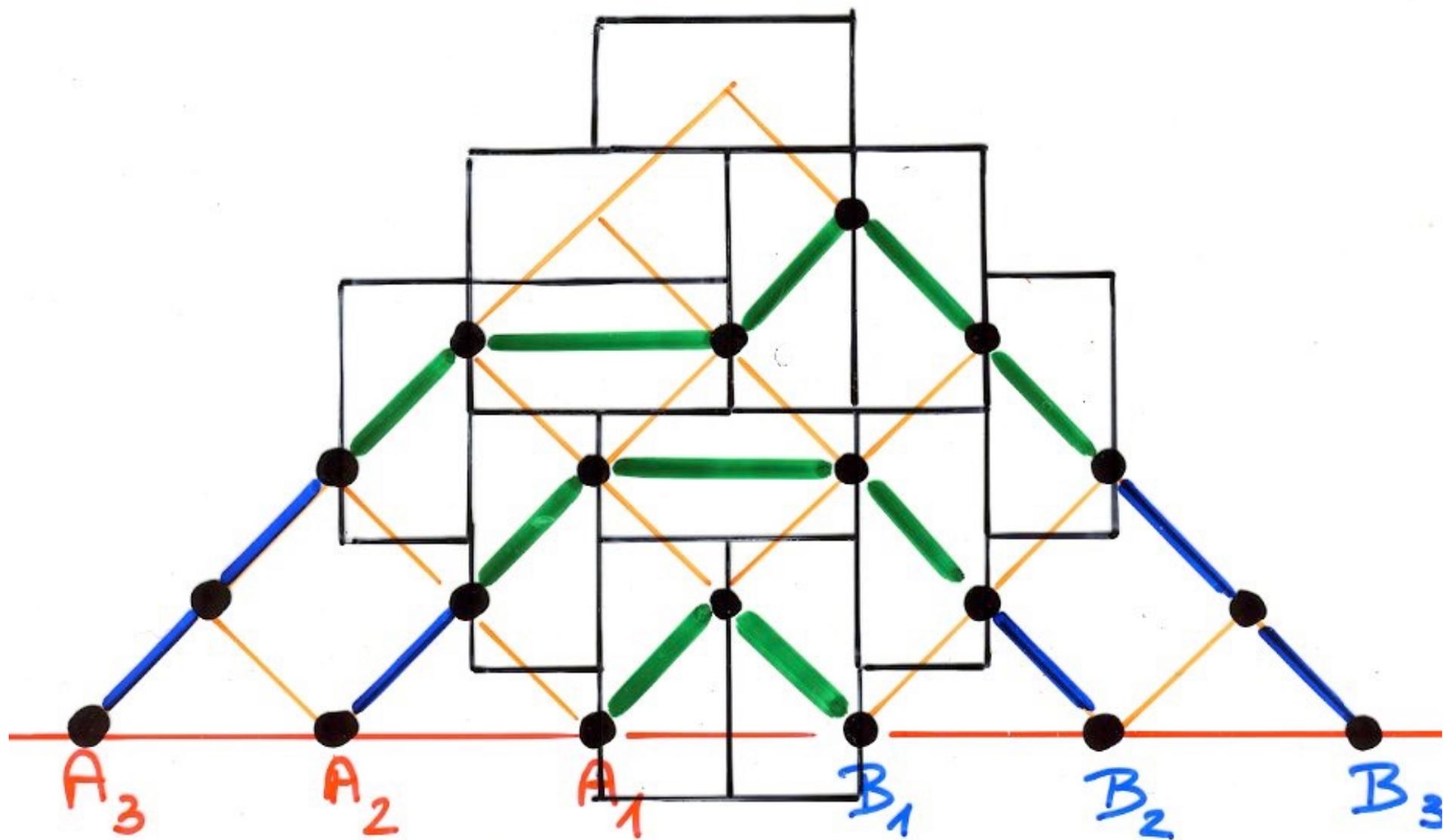


non-intersecting paths  
related to a Hankel determinant







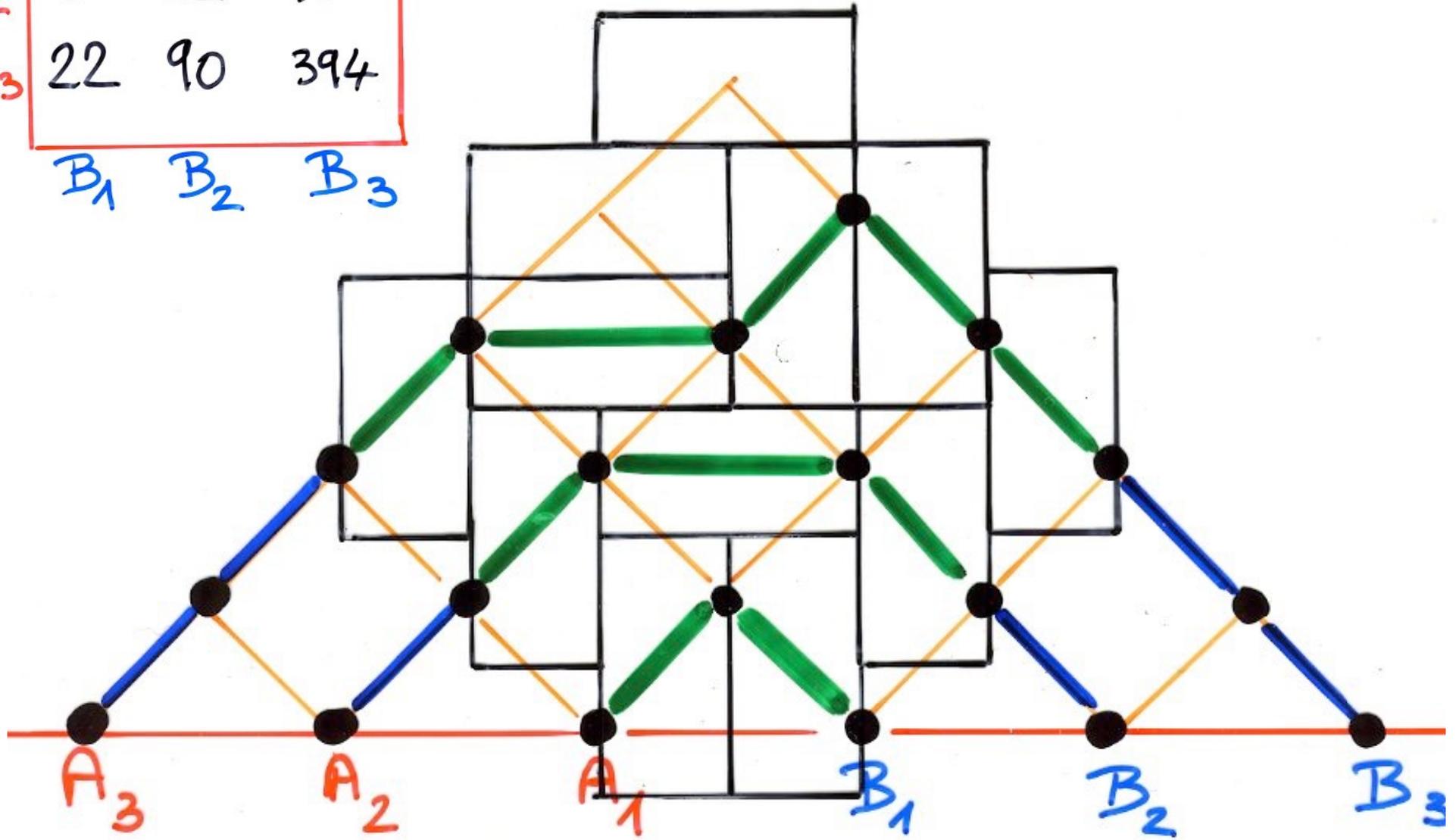


$A_1$  2 6 22

$A_2$  6 22 90

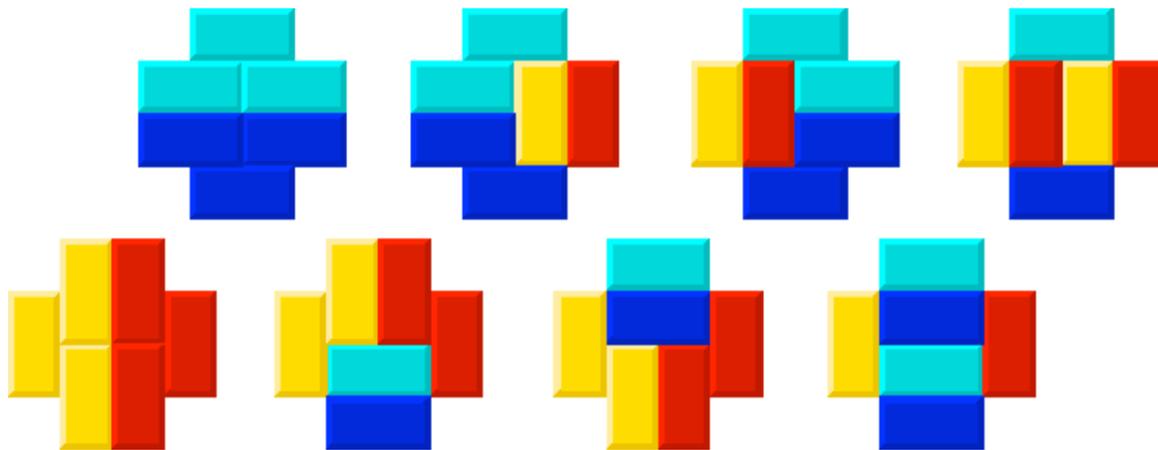
$A_3$  22 90 394

$B_1$   $B_2$   $B_3$



$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 6 & 22 \end{pmatrix} = (2 \times 22) - (6 \times 6)$$
$$= 44 - 36$$

$$\begin{aligned} \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 6 & 22 \end{pmatrix} &= (2 \times 22) - (6 \times 6) \\ &= 44 - 36 \\ &= 8 = 2^3 \end{aligned}$$



$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 6 & 22 \\ 6 & 22 & 90 \\ 22 & 90 & 394 \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 22 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & 394 \end{pmatrix} + 17336 \quad \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & 22 \\ 6 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 90 & \cdot \end{pmatrix} + 11880 \quad \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & 6 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & 90 \\ 22 & \cdot & \cdot \end{pmatrix} + 11880 \rightarrow 41096$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & 90 \\ \cdot & 90 & \cdot \end{pmatrix} - 16200 \quad \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & 6 & \cdot \\ 6 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & 394 \end{pmatrix} - 14184 \quad \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & 22 \\ \cdot & 22 & \cdot \\ 22 & \cdot & \cdot \end{pmatrix} - 10648 \rightarrow -41032$$

$$= \frac{64}{2^6} \quad (!!)$$

Narayana  
numbers

$$\frac{1}{n} \binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{k-1}$$

Dyck paths  
by  
number of peaks

$$\sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{n} \binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{k-1} x^k$$

Schröder  
numbers

$$S_n = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{n} \binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{k-1} 2^k$$

Narayana numbers

	$k=1$	2	3	4	5	6	...
$n=1$	1	→	(1)				
2	1	1	→	(2)			
3	1	3	1	→	(5)		
4	1	6	6	1	→	(14)	
5	1	10	20	10	1	→	(42)
6	1	15	50	50	15	1	→ (132)
⋮	-----						Catalan
⋮							

Schröder numbers

$1 \times 2$	(1)	→	(2)			
$1 \times 2$	$1 \times 4$	→	(6)			
$1 \times 2$	$3 \times 4$	$1 \times 8$	→	(22)		
$1 \times 2$	$6 \times 4$	$6 \times 8$	$1 \times 16$	→	(90)	
$1 \times 2$	$10 \times 4$	$20 \times 8$	$10 \times 16$	$1 \times 32$	→	(396)

Schröder  
numbers

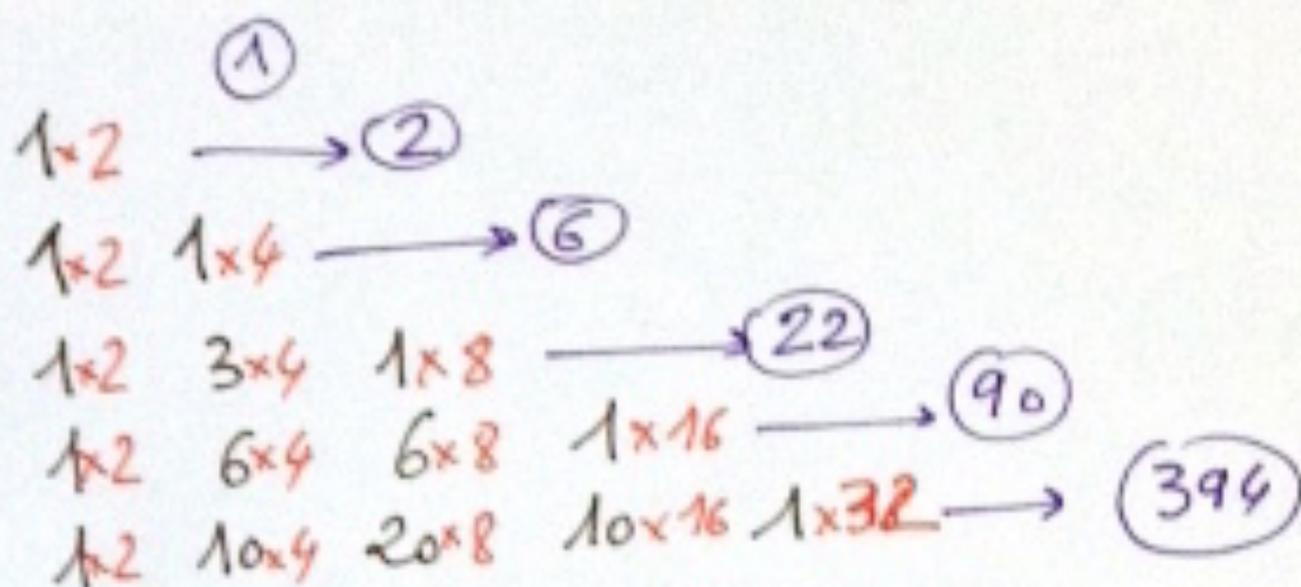
$$S_n = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{n} \binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{k-1} 2^k$$

also

$$S_n = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{2n-i}{i} C_{n-i}$$

Catalan

Schröder  
numbers



(little) Schröder =  $\frac{1}{2} S_n$

1, 1, 3, 11, 45, 197, ..., 103 049

Hipparchus  
number

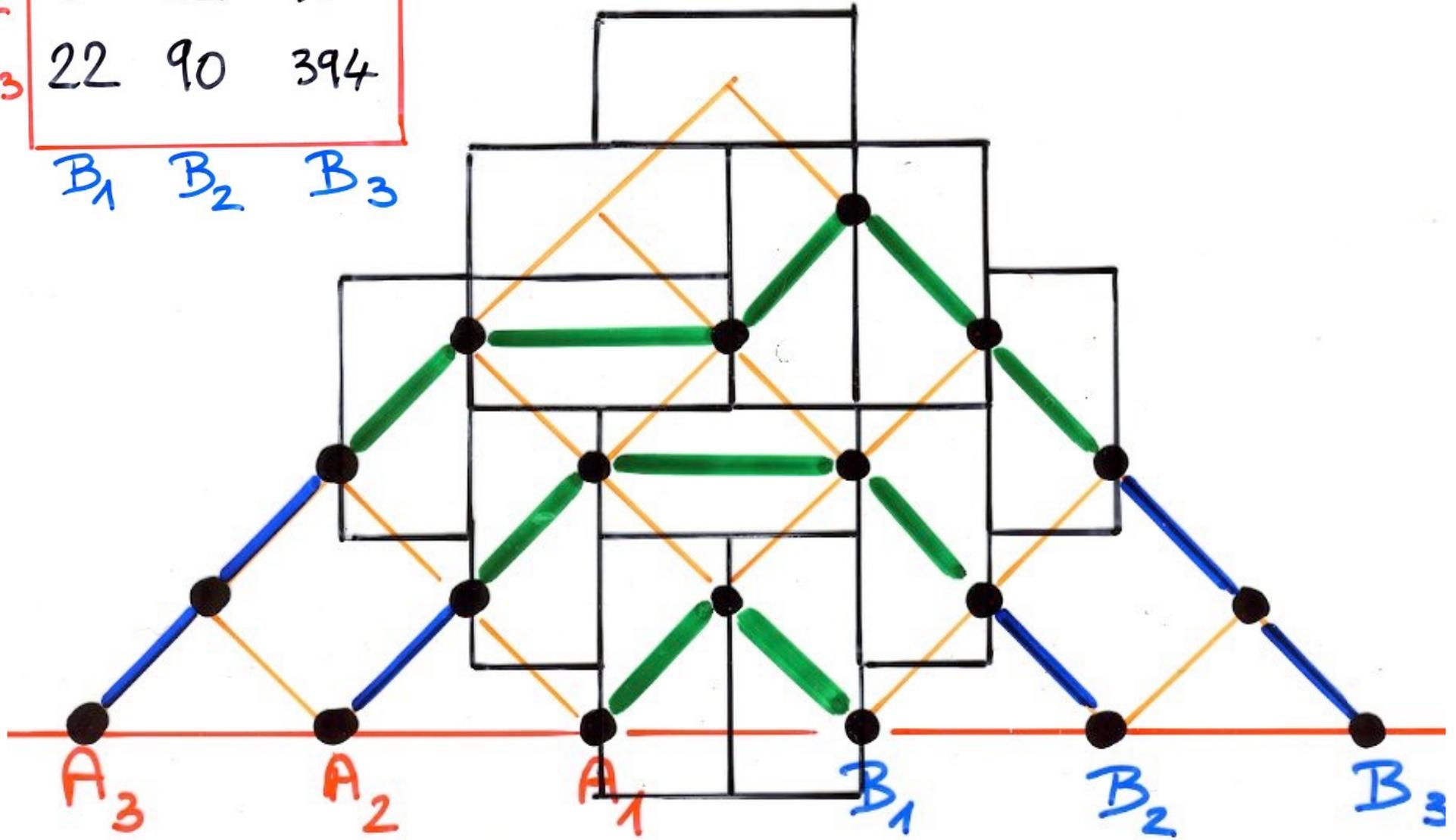
§9 computing the Hankel determinant  
of Schröder numbers giving  
the number of tilings of the Aztec diagram

$A_1$  2 6 22

$A_2$  6 22 90

$A_3$  22 90 394

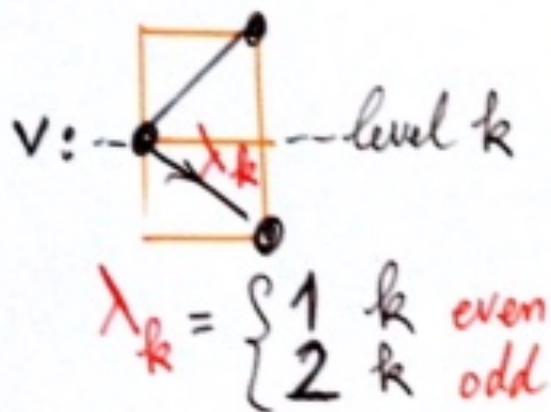
$B_1$   $B_2$   $B_3$

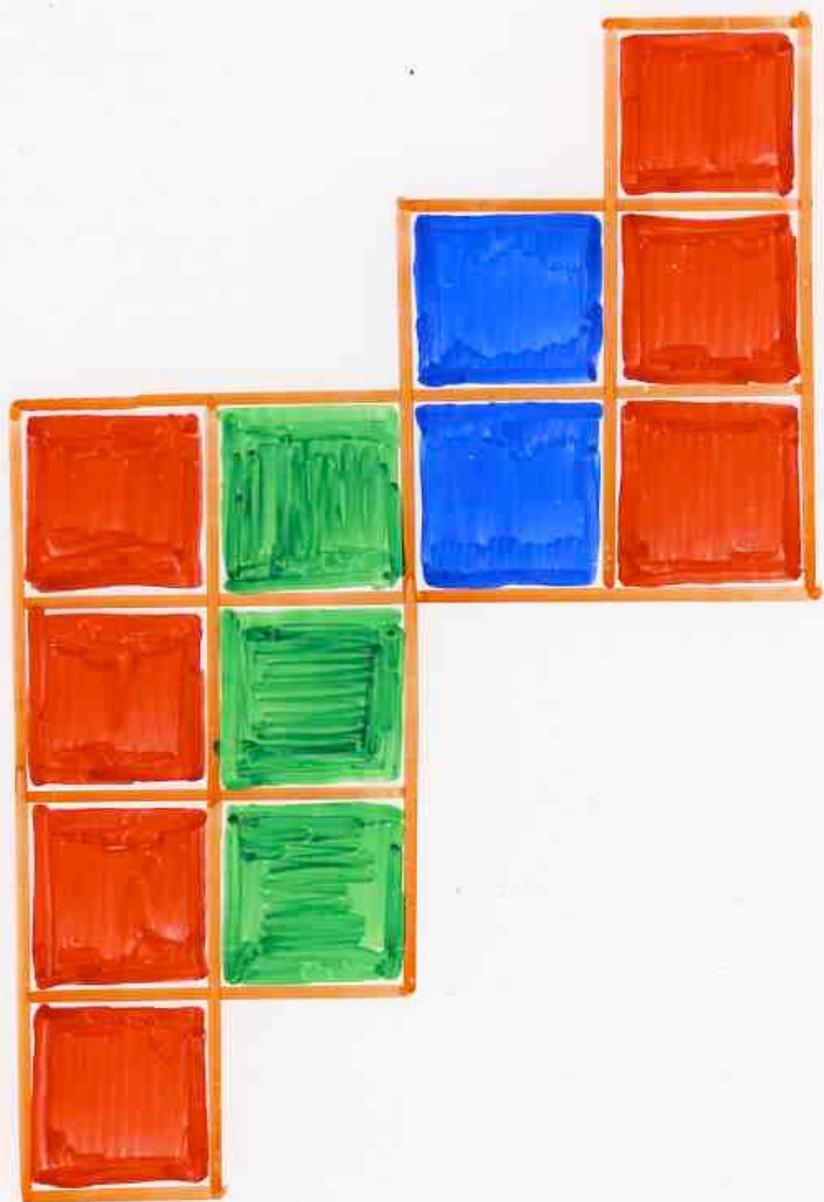


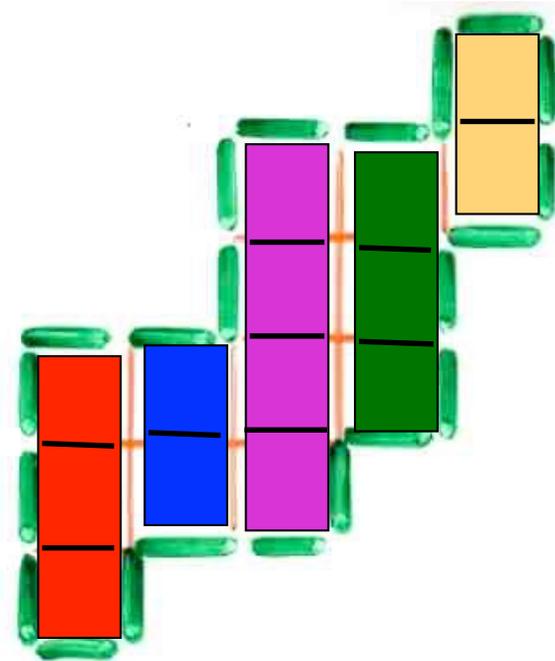
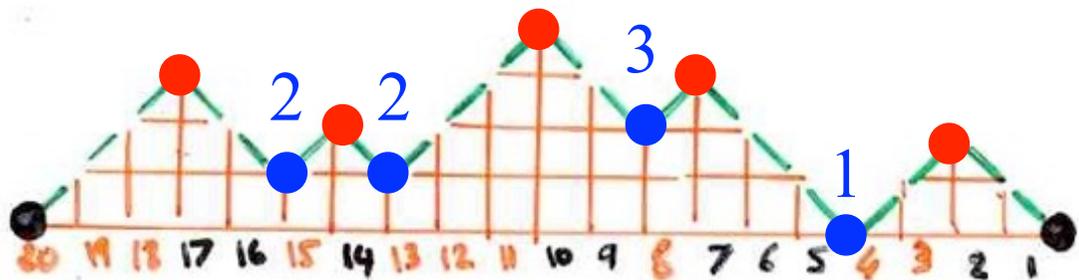
Schröder  
numbers

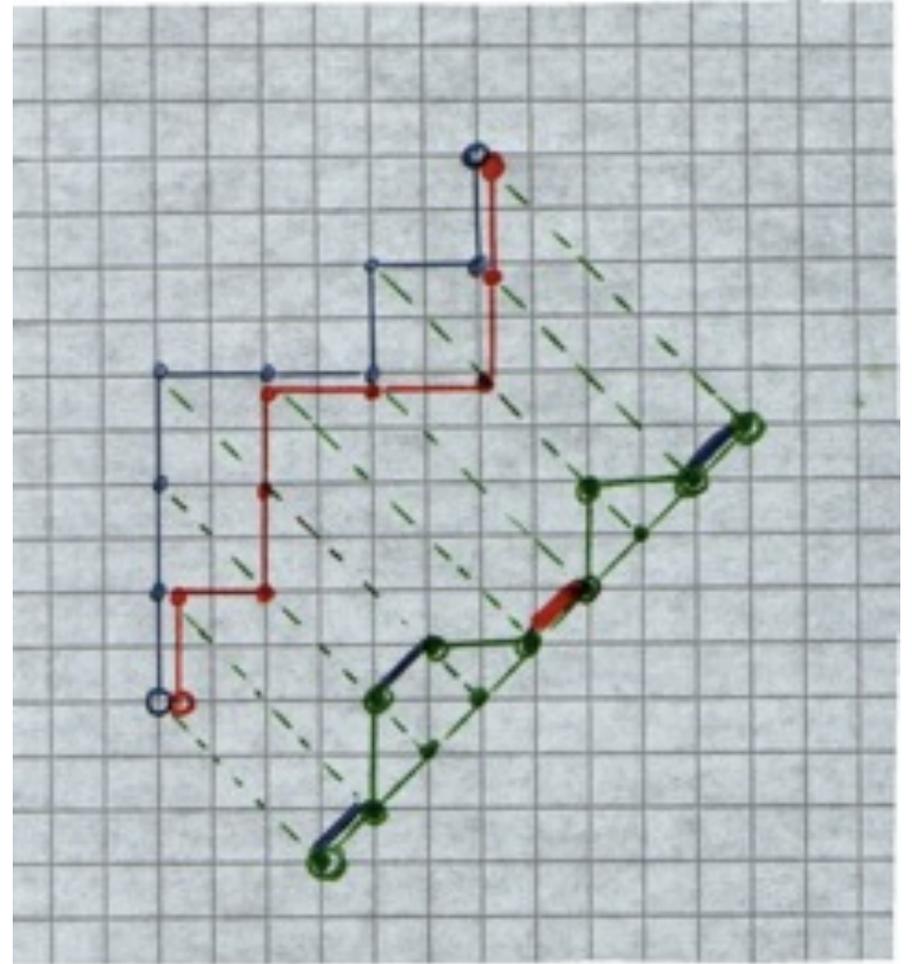
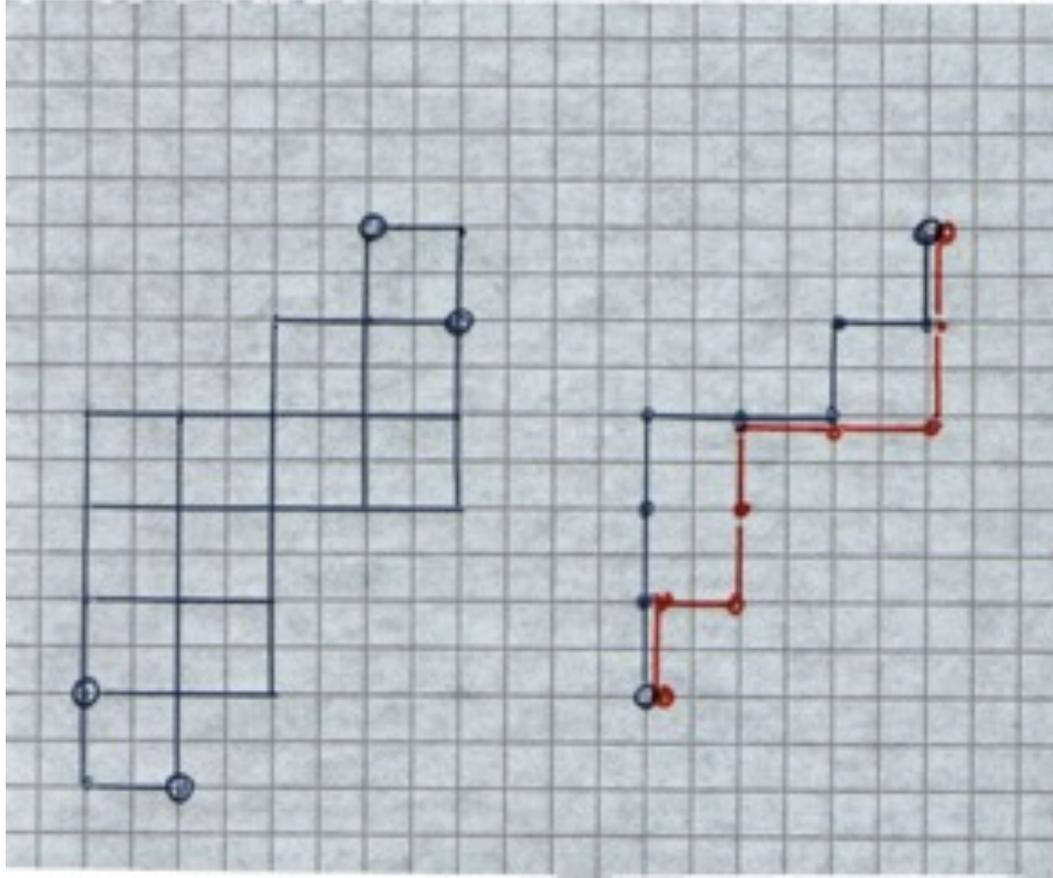
$$S_n = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{n} \binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{k-1} 2^k$$

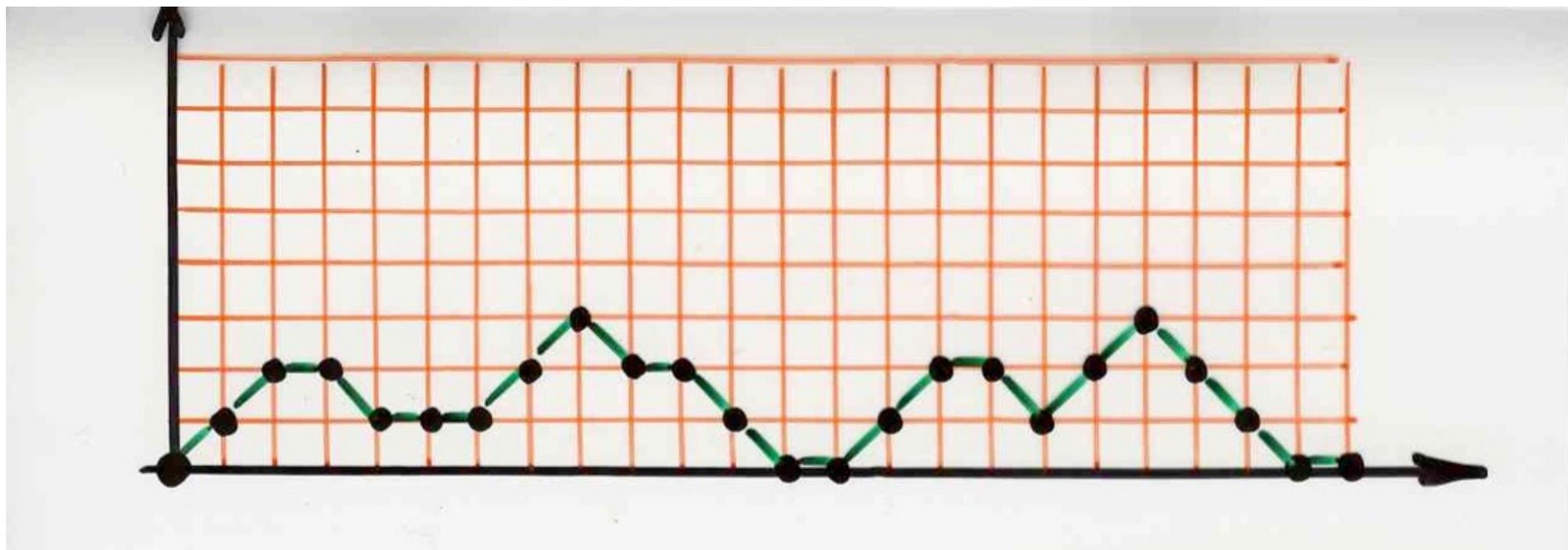
$$S_n = \sum_{\substack{\omega \\ \text{Dyck paths} \\ |\omega| = 2n}} v(\omega)$$





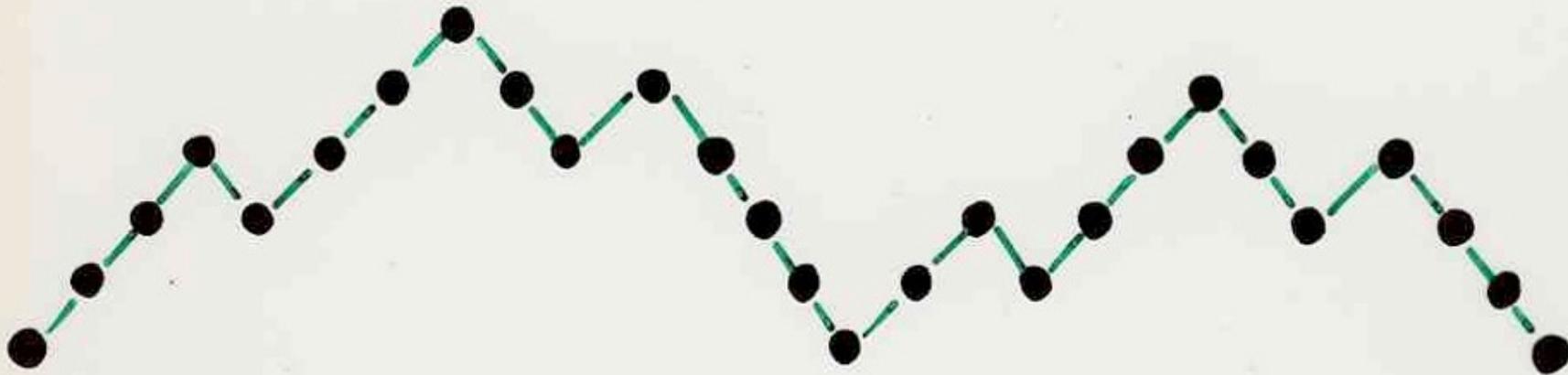






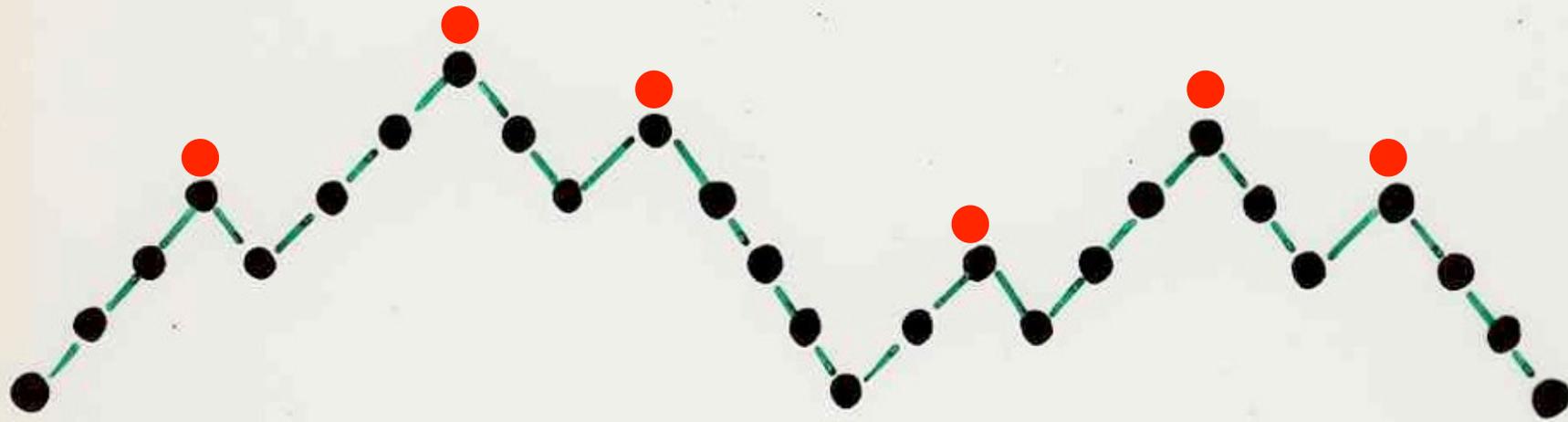
Motzkin path

bijection Dyck path length  $2n+2$



2-colored Motzkin path length  $n$

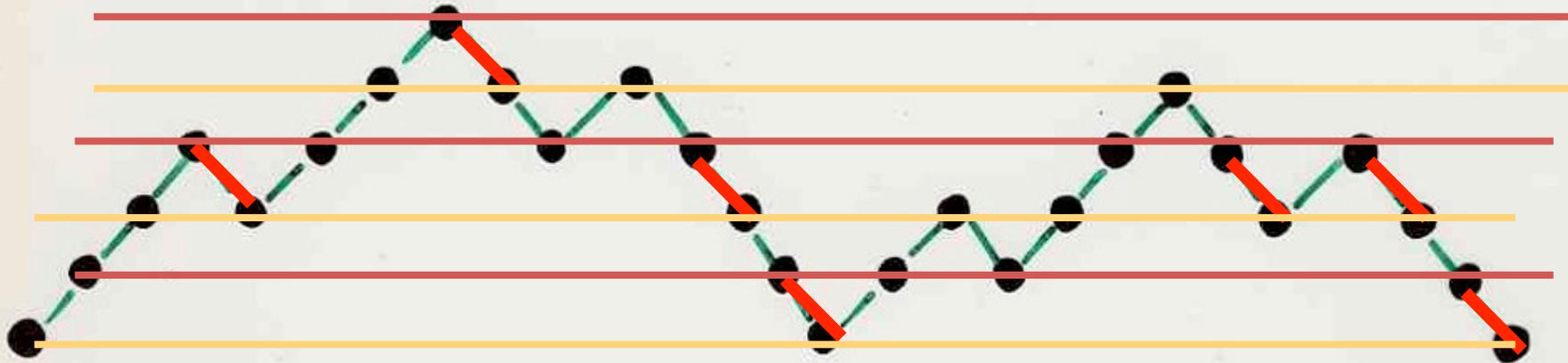




peaks



SE steps  
from level  $2k+1$  to  $2K$



§10 Hankel determinants  
and  
continued fractions

# The fundamental Flajolet Lemma



combinatorial interpretation of a  
continued fraction with weighted paths

Discrete Maths (1980)

## COMBINATORIAL ASPECTS OF CONTINUED FRACTIONS

P. FLAJOLET

*IRIA, 78150 Rocquencourt, France*

Received 23 March 1979

Revised 11 February 1980

We show that the universal continued fraction of the Stieltjes-Jacobi type is equivalent to the characteristic series of labelled paths in the plane. The equivalence holds in the set of series in non-commutative indeterminates. Using it, we derive direct combinatorial proofs of continued fraction expansions for series involving known combinatorial quantities: the Catalan numbers, the Bell and Stirling numbers, the tangent and secant numbers, the Euler and Eulerian numbers . . . . We also show combinatorial interpretations for the coefficients of the elliptic functions, the coefficients of inverses of the Tchebycheff, Charlier, Hermite, Laguerre and Meixner polynomials. Other applications include cycles of binomial coefficients and inversion formulae. Most of the proofs follow from direct geometrical correspondences between objects.

### Introduction

In this paper we present a geometrical interpretation of continued fractions together with some of its enumerative consequences. The basis is the equivalence

weighed Dyck paths  
and Motzkin paths

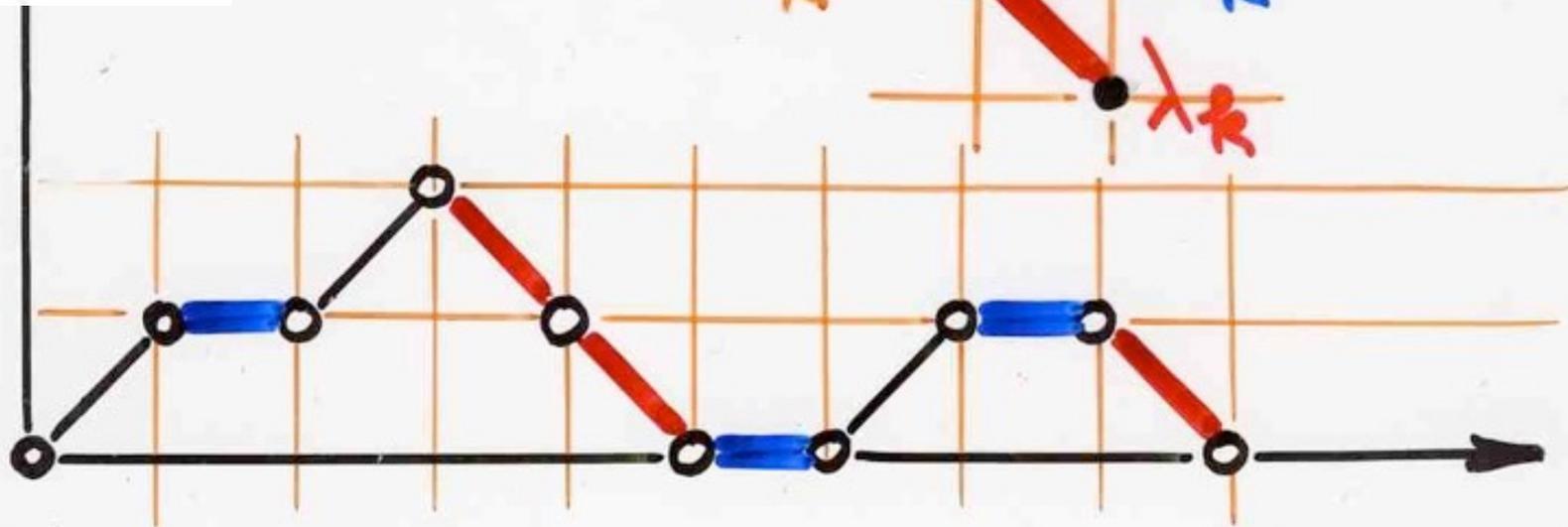
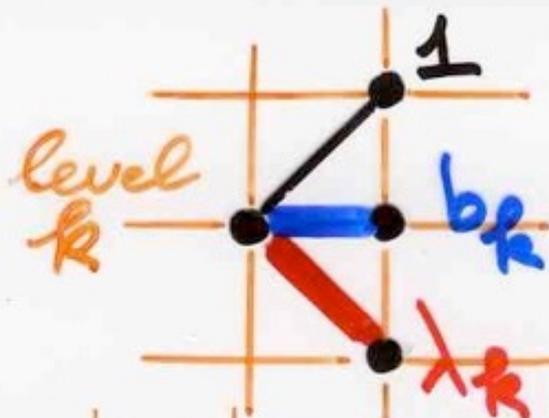


$$\{b_k\}_{k \geq 0}$$

$$\{\lambda_k\}_{k \geq 1}$$

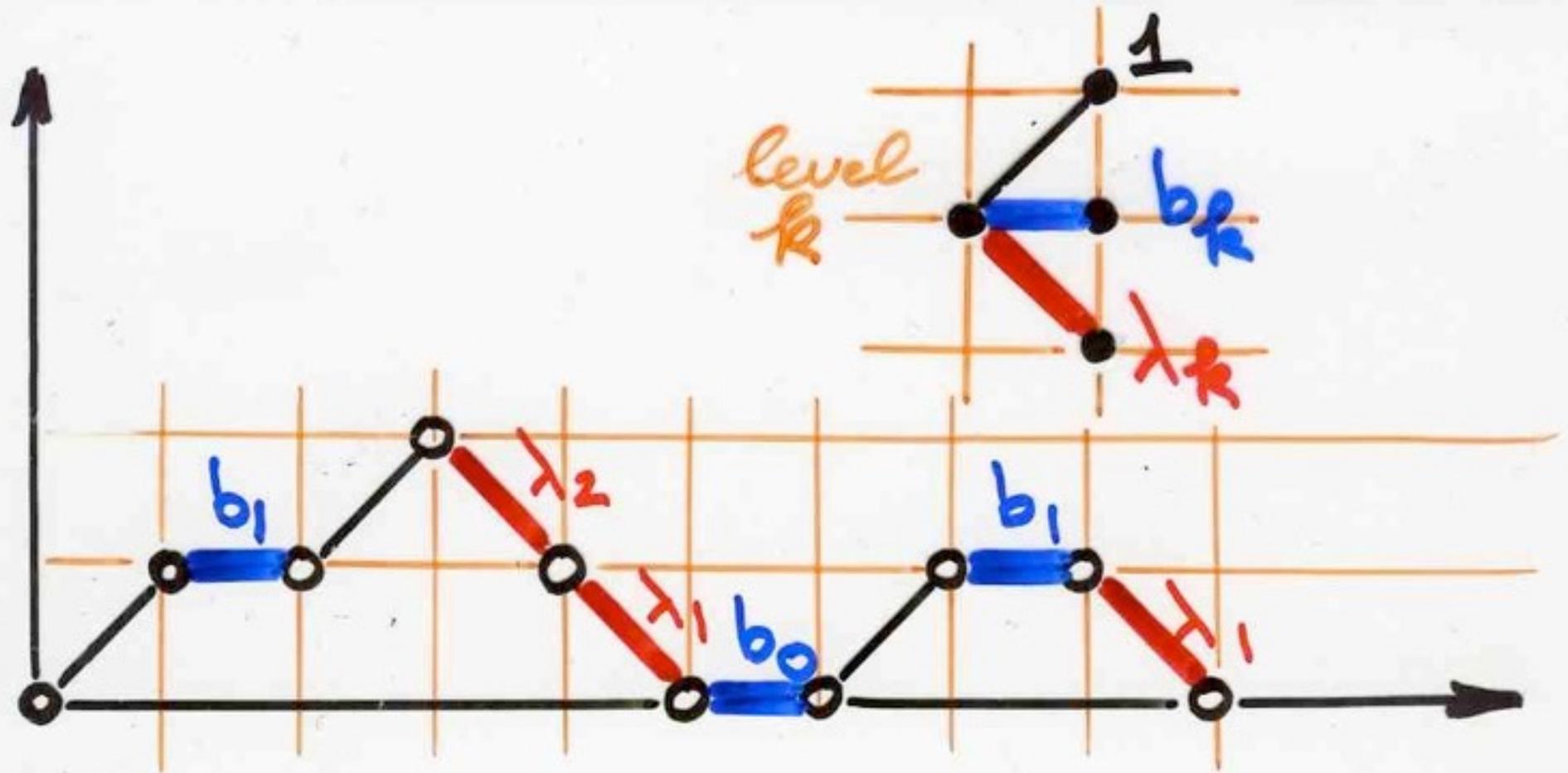
$$b_k, \lambda_k \in \mathbb{K} \text{ ring}$$

valuation  $\checkmark$



$\omega$  Motzkin path

# valuation



$\omega$  Motzkin path

$$v(\omega) = b_0 b_1^2 \lambda_1^2 \lambda_2$$

$$\mu_n = \sum_{\substack{\omega \\ \text{Molzen} \\ |\omega|=n}} v(\omega)$$

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \mu_n t^n = \frac{1}{1 - b_0 t - \frac{\lambda_1 t^2}{1 - b_1 t - \frac{\lambda_2 t^2}{\dots}}}$$



$J(t; b, \lambda)$

Jacobi

continued  
fraction

$$b = \{b_k\}_{k \geq 0}$$

$$\lambda = \{\lambda_k\}_{k \geq 1}$$

# Jacobi continued fraction

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \mu_n t^n = \frac{1}{1 - b_0 t - \frac{\lambda_1 t^2}{1 - b_1 t - \frac{\lambda_2 t^2}{\dots \frac{\lambda_k t^2}{1 - b_k t - \frac{\lambda_{k+1} t^2}{\dots}}}}}$$

$$\mu_n = \sum_{\substack{\omega \\ \text{Motzkin} \\ \text{path} \\ |\omega| = n}} v(\omega)$$

Philippe Flajolet  
fundamental  
**Lemma**

# continued fractions



$$\sum_{\omega} v(\omega) t^{|\omega|/2} =$$

Dyck  
path

$$\frac{1}{1 - \frac{\lambda_1 t}{1 - \frac{\lambda_2 t}{\dots \dots \dots \frac{\lambda_k t}{\dots \dots \dots}}}}$$

$$S(t; \lambda)$$

Stieltjes

continued  
fraction

combinatorial  
theory of  
orthogonal polynomials  
continued and fractions

Flajolet (1980) Viennot (1983, ...)

- théorie combinatoire des polynômes orthogonaux  
généralisés (x.g.v.)

Publications du LACIM

UQAM (Université du Québec à Montréal)

Notes de conférences (1984) 214 p.

réédition: n° hors série

§11 computing the coefficients

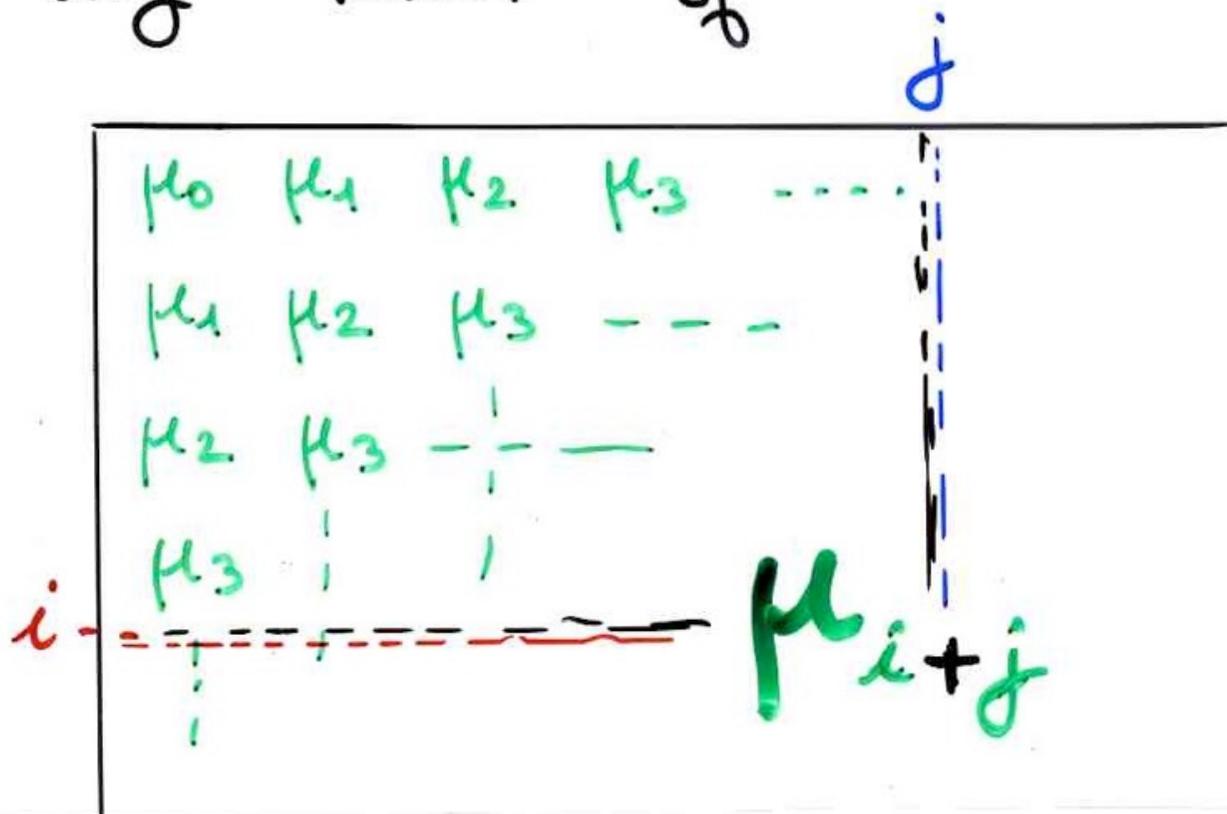
$$\lambda_k$$
$$b_k$$

with Hankel determinants

# Hankel

# determinant

any minor of



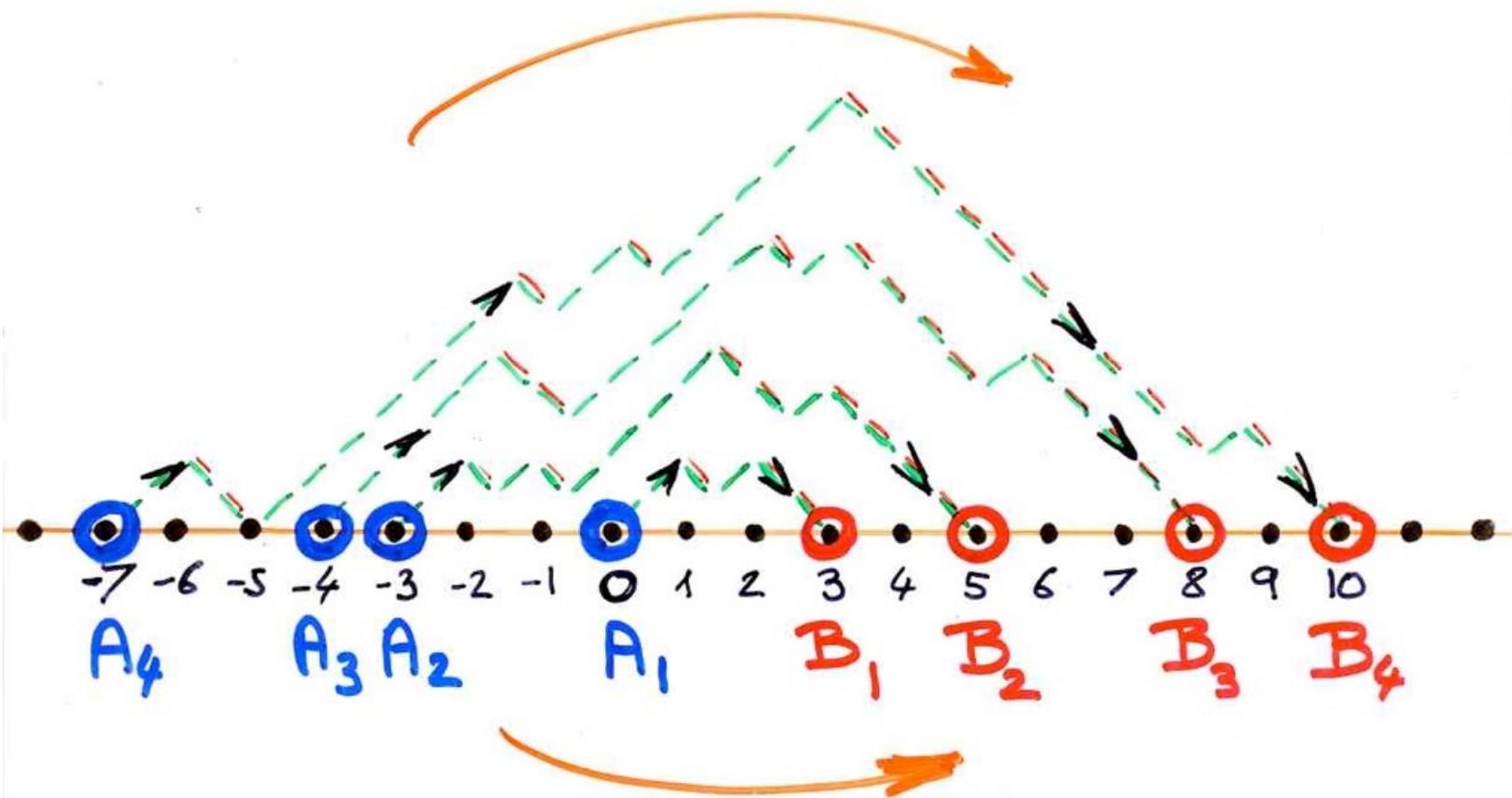
$\mu_3$   $\mu_5$   $\mu_8$   $\mu_{10}$

$\mu_6$   $\mu_8$   $\mu_{11}$   $\mu_{13}$

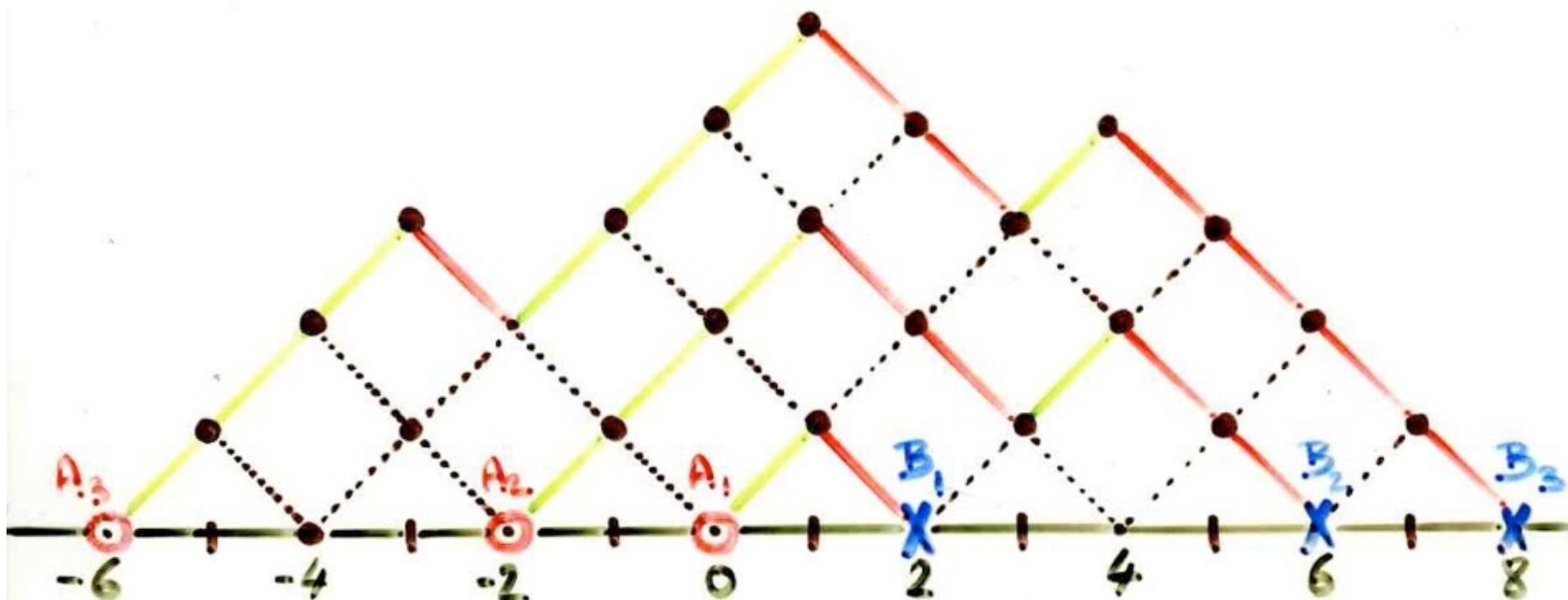
$\mu_7$   $\mu_9$   $\mu_{12}$   $\mu_{14}$

$\mu_{10}$   $\mu_{12}$   $\mu_{15}$   $\mu_{17}$

chemins de Dyck

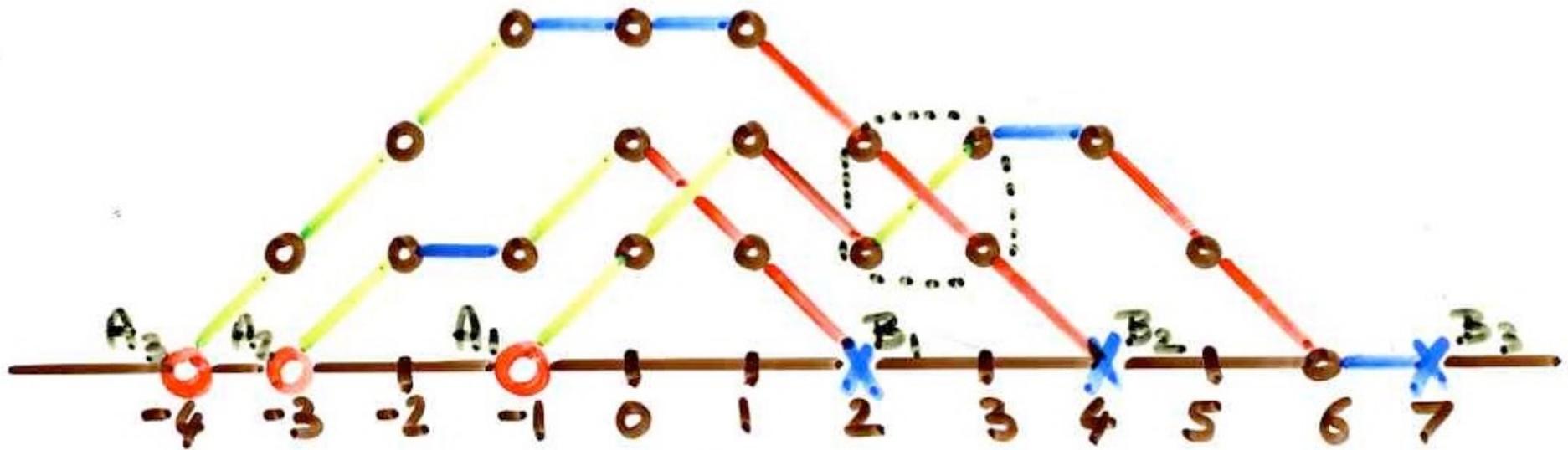


# chemins de Dyck



$$H \begin{pmatrix} 0, 2, 6 \\ 2, 6, 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

# chemins de Motzkin



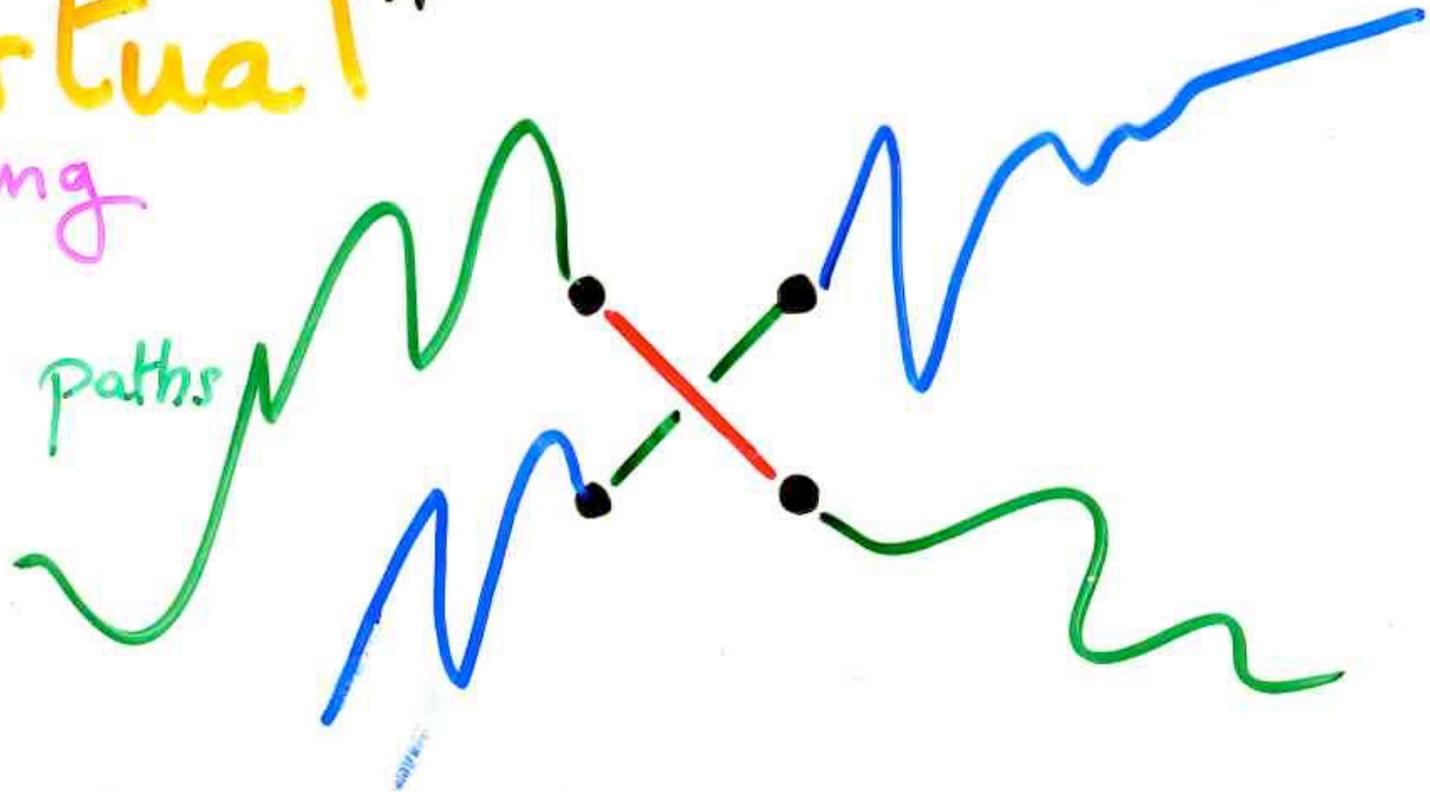
$$H \begin{pmatrix} 1, 3, 4 \\ 2, 4, 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

"virtual"

crossing

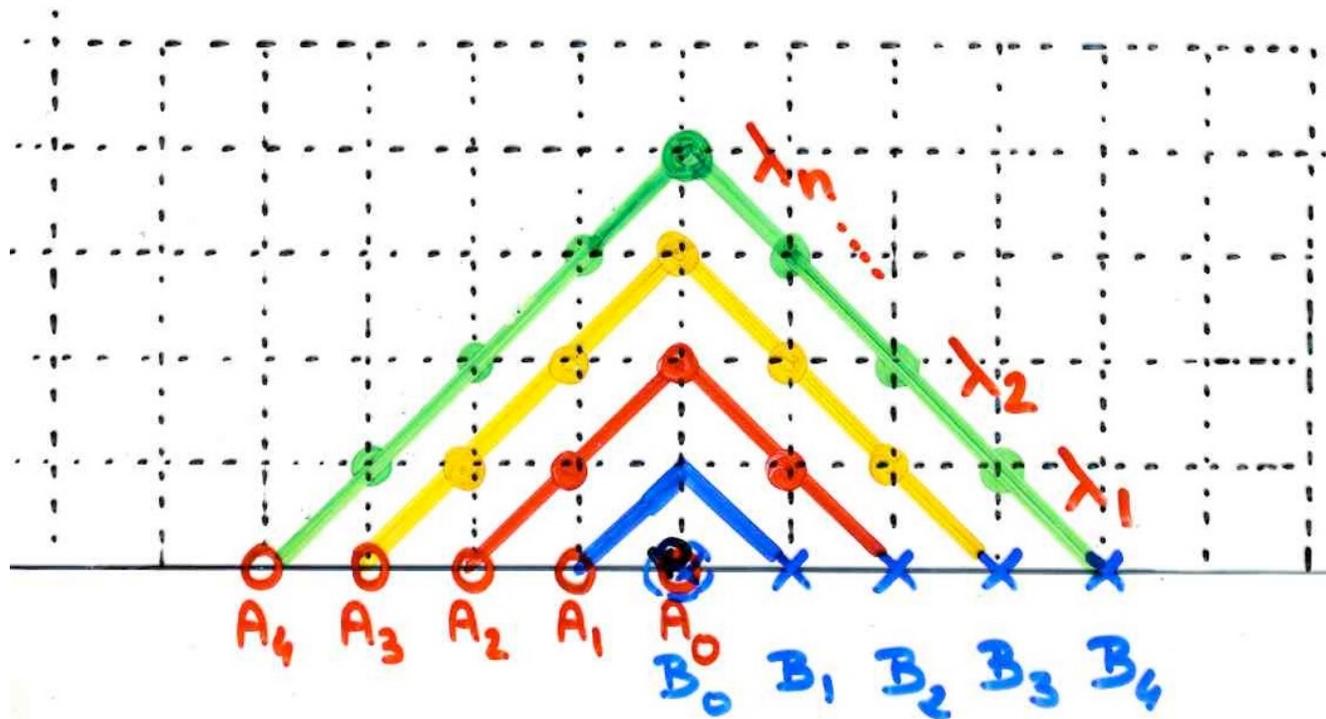
of

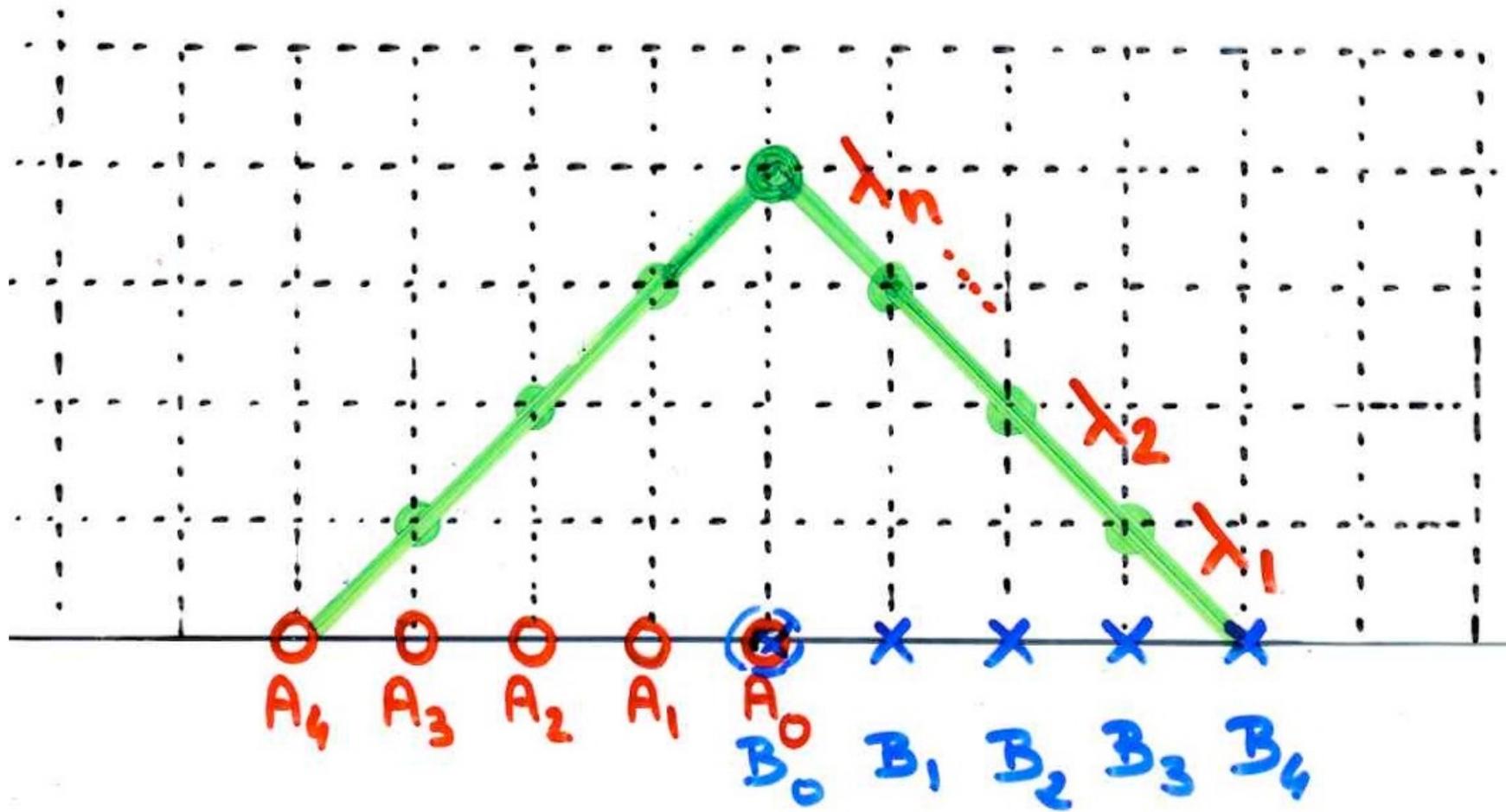
Motzkin paths



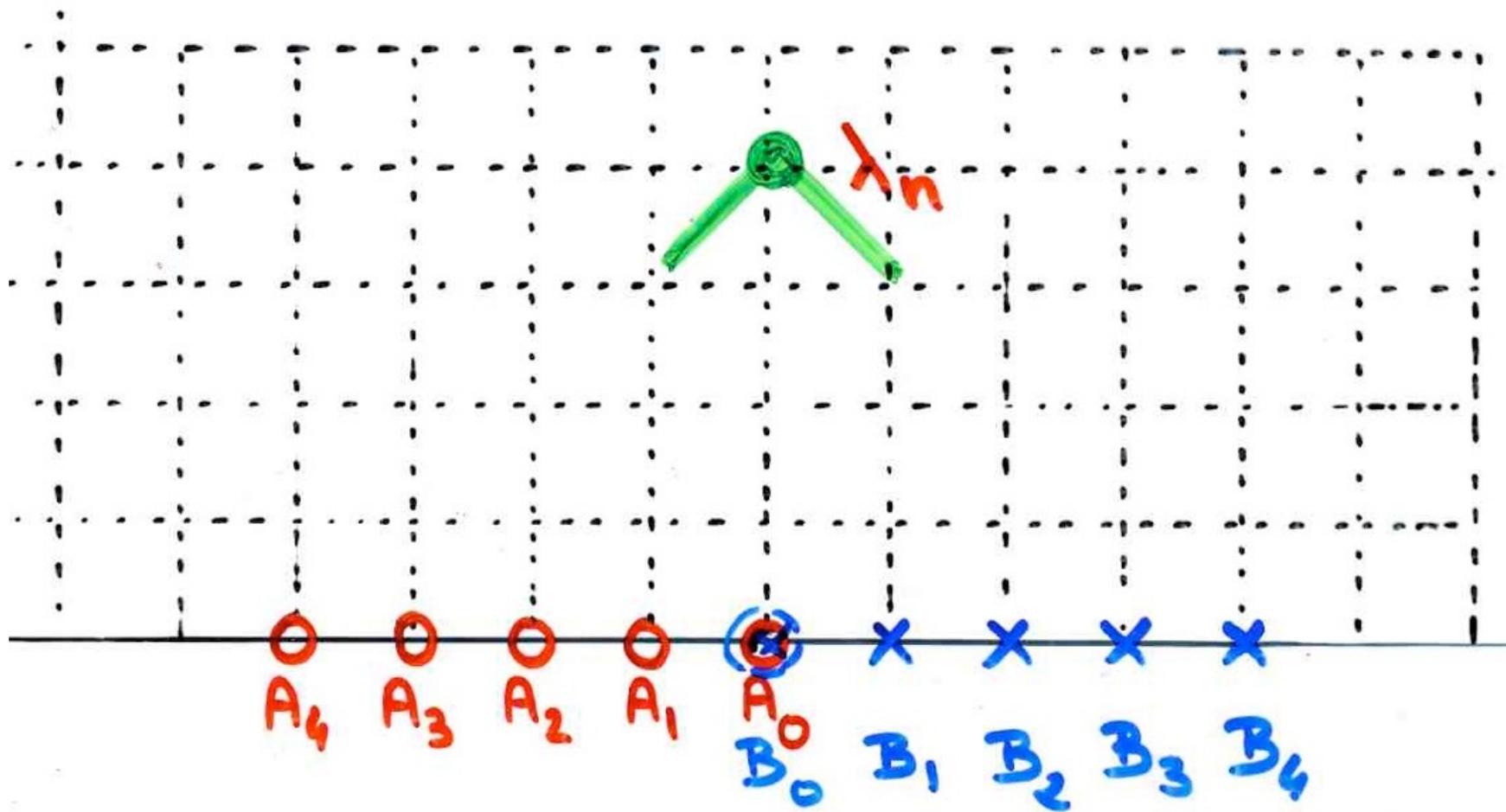
# Hankel

$$\Delta_n = \begin{vmatrix} \mu_0 & \mu_1 & \dots & \mu_n \\ \mu_1 & \mu_2 & \dots & \mu_{n+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mu_n & \dots & \dots & \mu_{2n} \end{vmatrix}$$





$$\frac{\Delta_n}{\Delta_{n-1}}$$



$$\frac{\Delta_n}{\Delta_{n-1}} \div \frac{\Delta_{n-1}}{\Delta_{n-2}} = \lambda_n$$

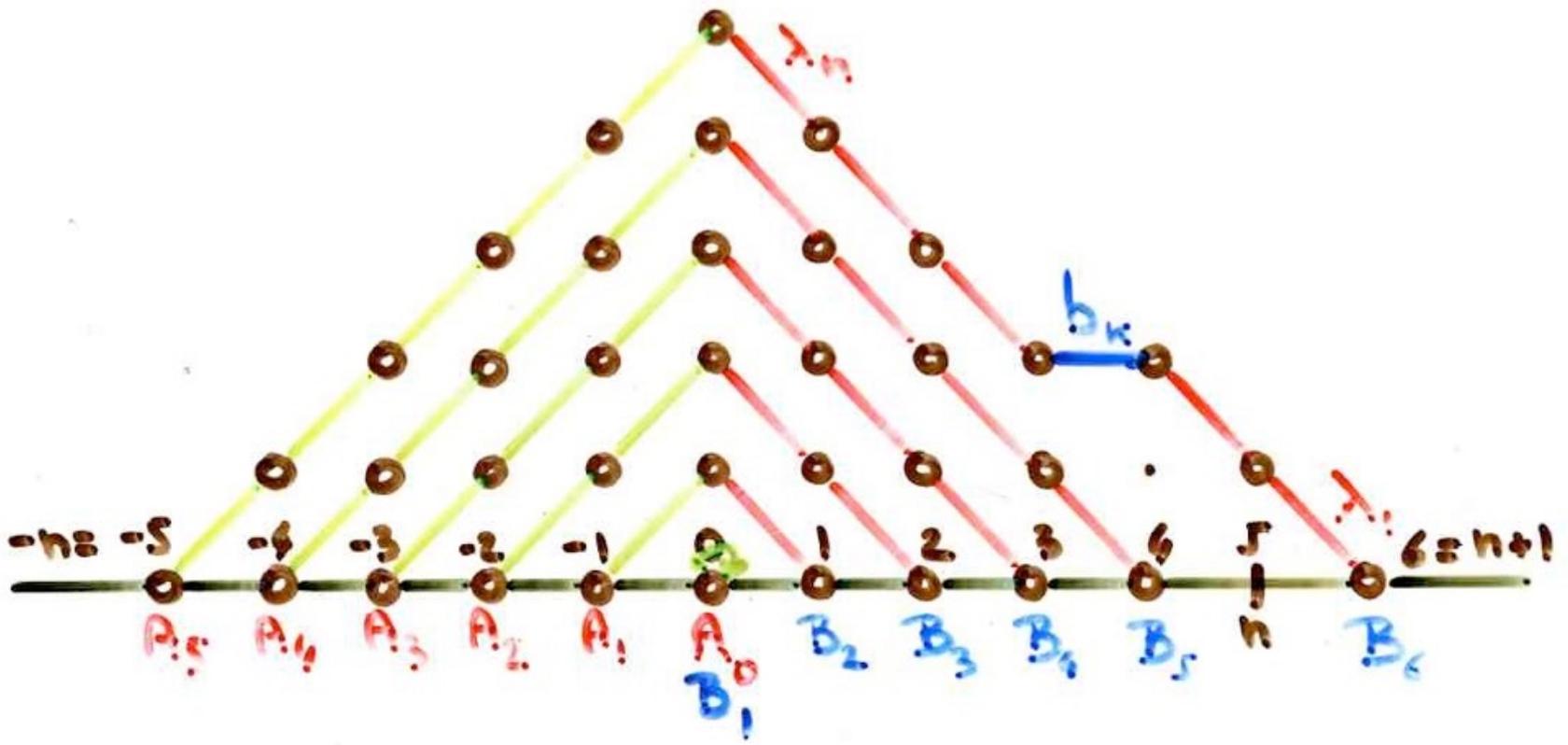
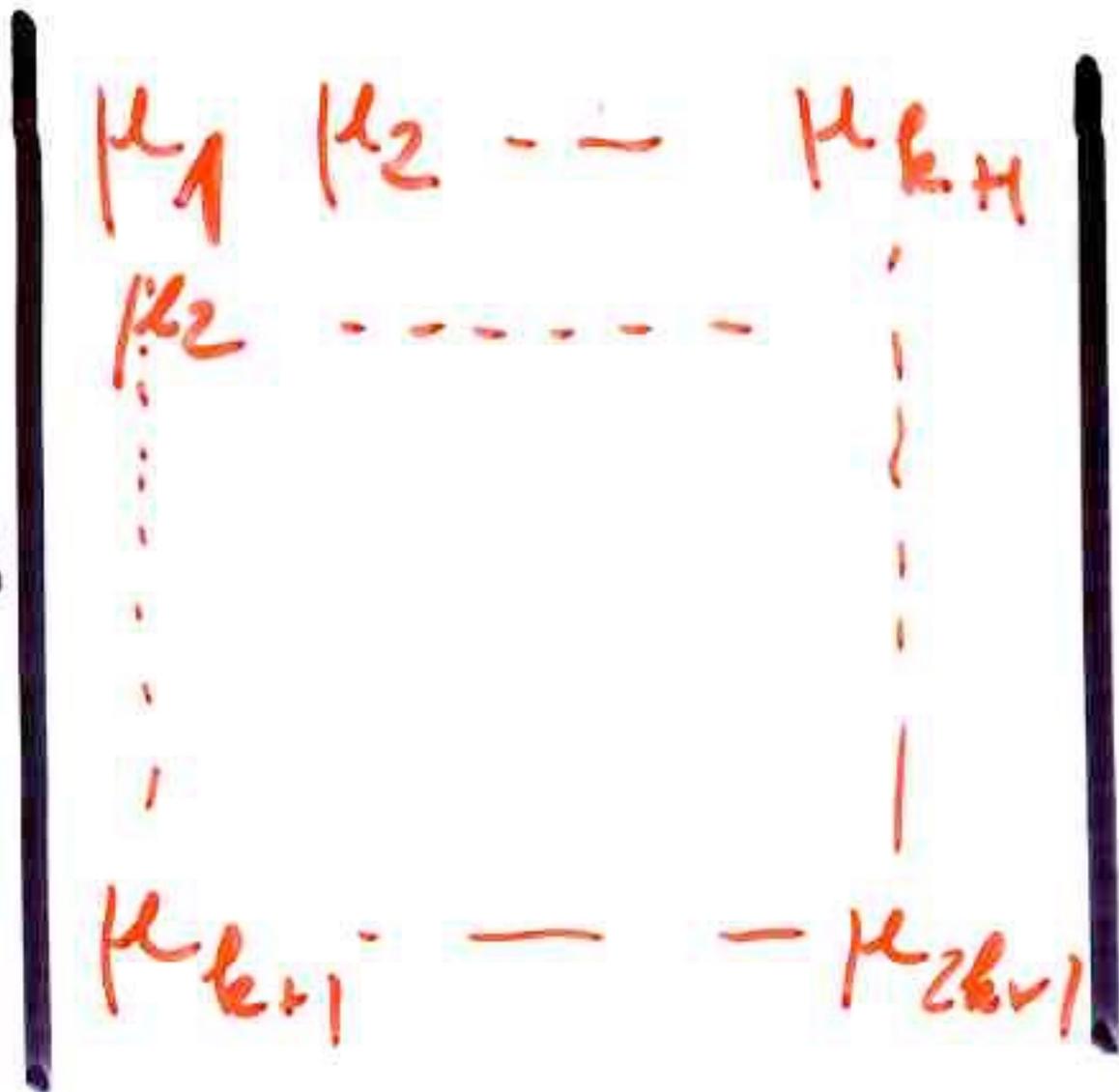


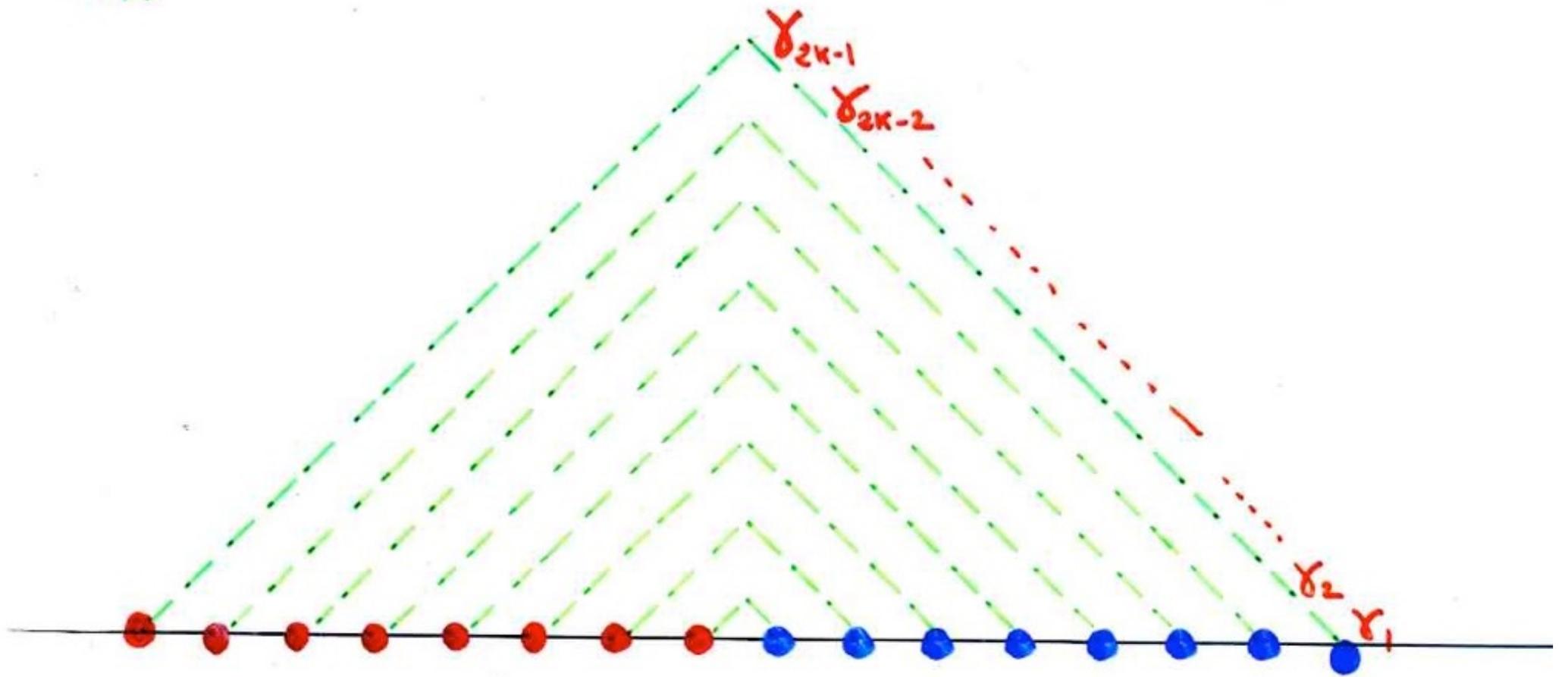
Fig 8.  $\chi_n$

$$\chi_n = \sum_k b_k \Delta_n \qquad b_n = \frac{\chi_n}{\Delta_n} - \frac{\chi_{n-1}}{\Delta_{n-1}}$$

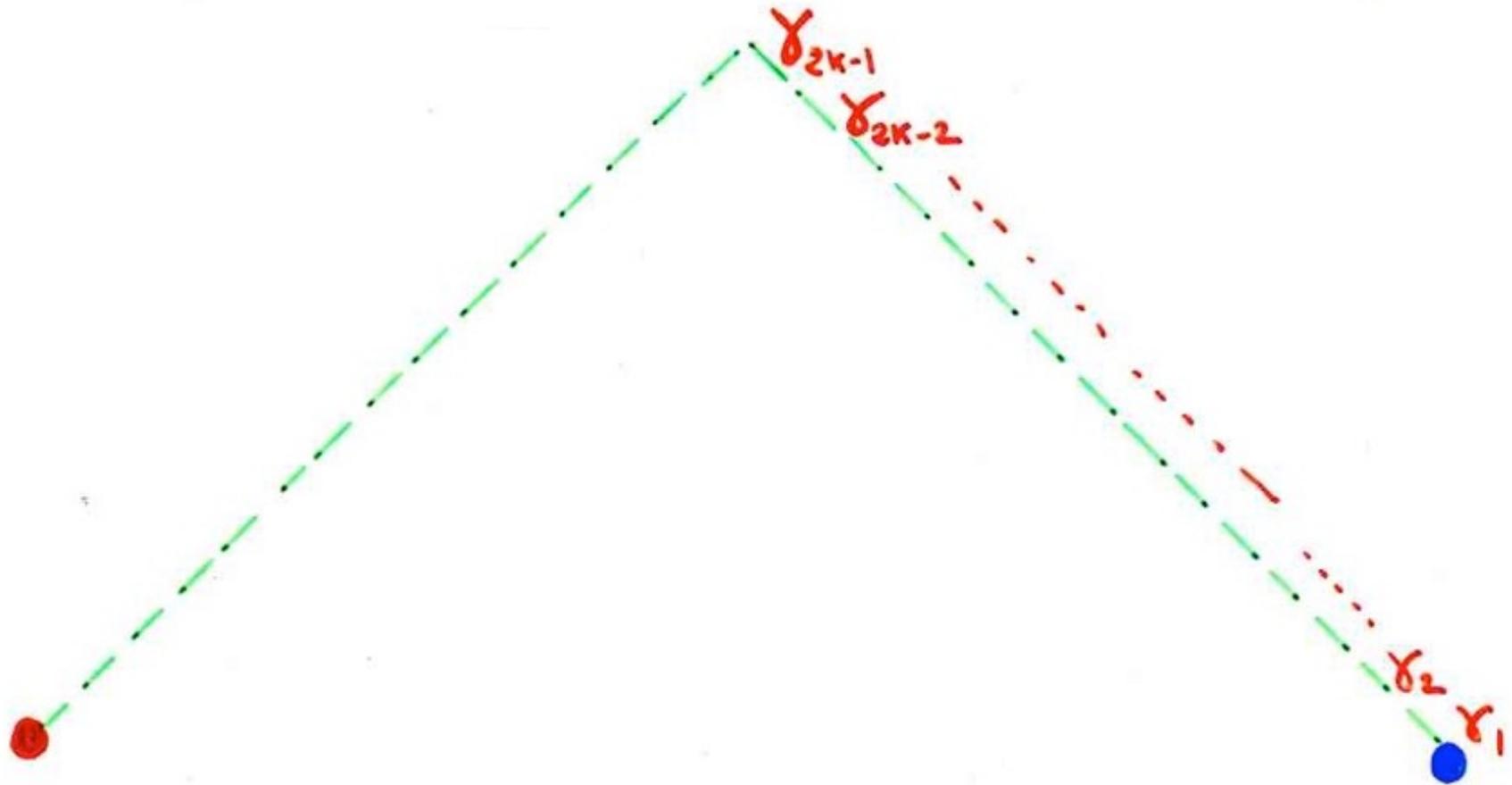
$H_k = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$



$H_{\mathbb{R}}^{(1)}$



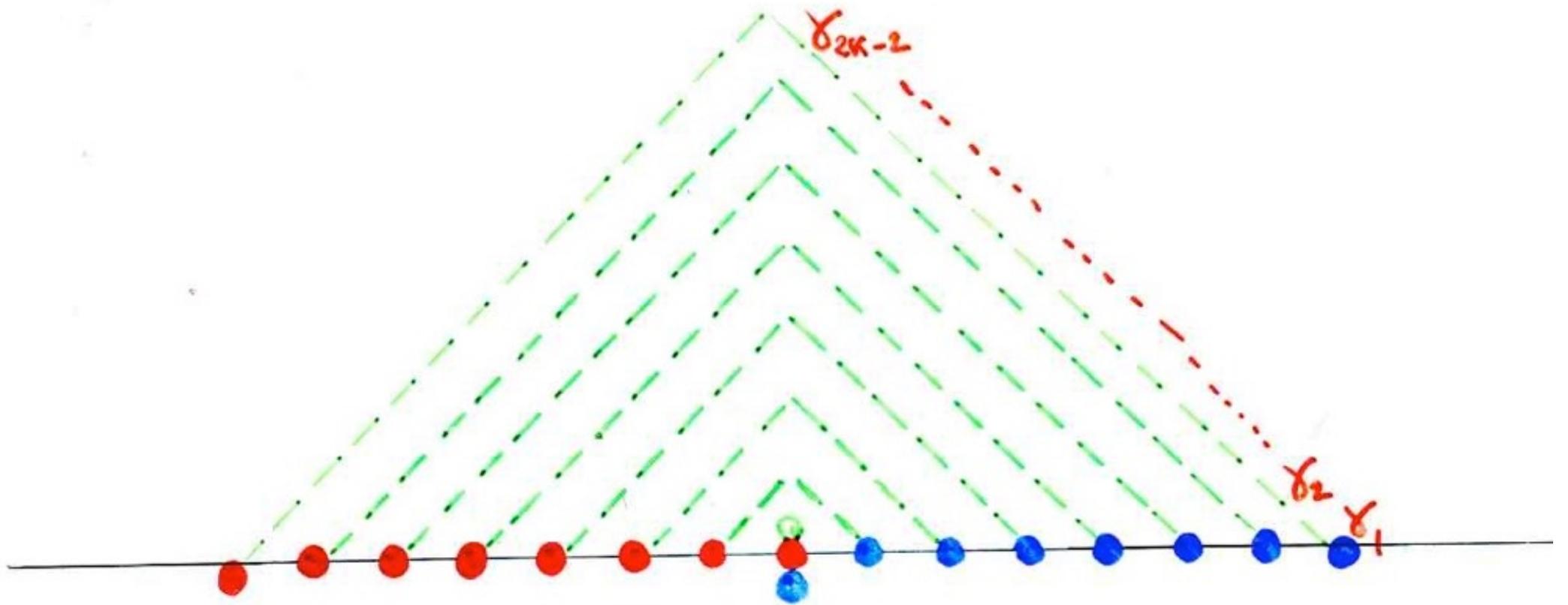
$$\frac{H_r^{(1)}}{H_{r-1}^{(1)}}$$



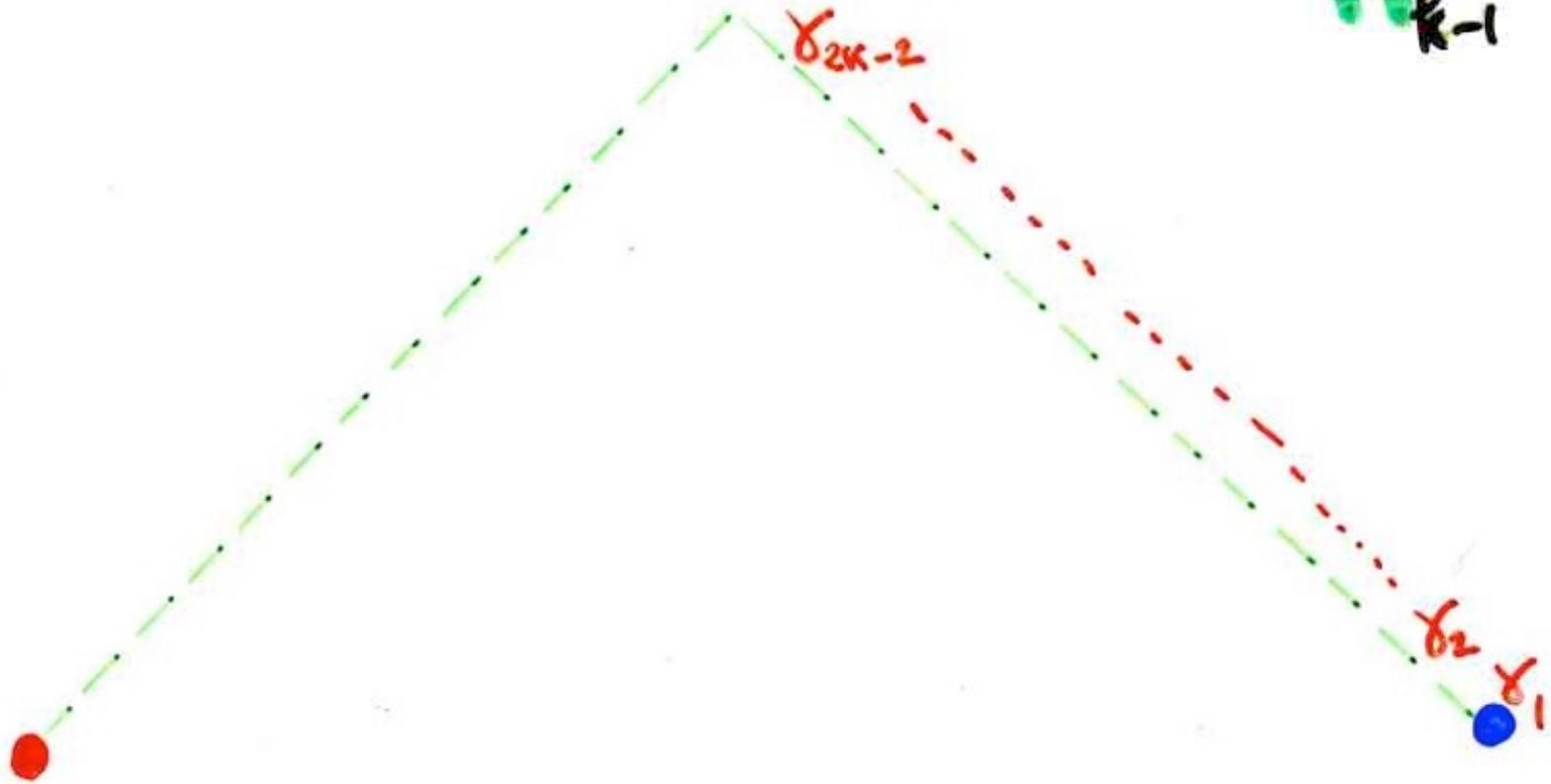
# Hankel determinant

$$H_k^{(0)} = \begin{vmatrix} \mu_0 & \mu_1 & \dots & \mu_k \\ \mu_1 & \mu_2 & \dots & \mu_{k+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mu_k & \mu_{k+1} & \dots & \mu_{2k} \end{vmatrix}$$

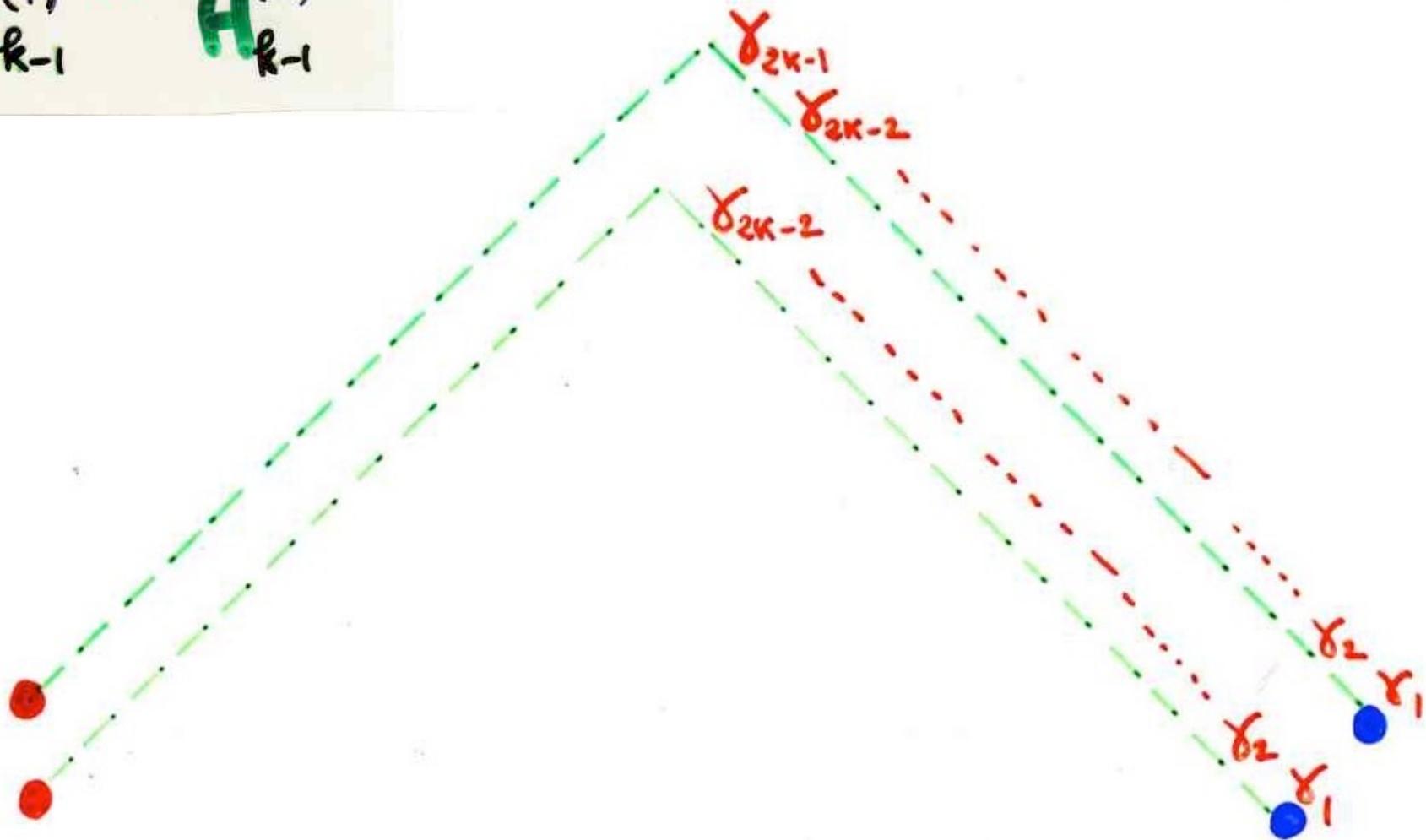
$H_k^{(0)}$



$$\frac{H^{(0)}_k}{H^{(0)}_{k-1}}$$



$$\frac{H_k^{(1)}}{H_{k-1}^{(1)}} \cdot \frac{H_k^{(0)}}{H_{k-1}^{(0)}} =$$



$$\frac{H_k^{(1)}}{H_{k-1}^{(1)}} \cdot \frac{H_k^{(0)}}{H_{k-1}^{(0)}} =$$

$$\gamma_{2k-1}$$

conclusion

another example with

tiling,

Ising-like bijection,

non-crossing paths for binomial determinant

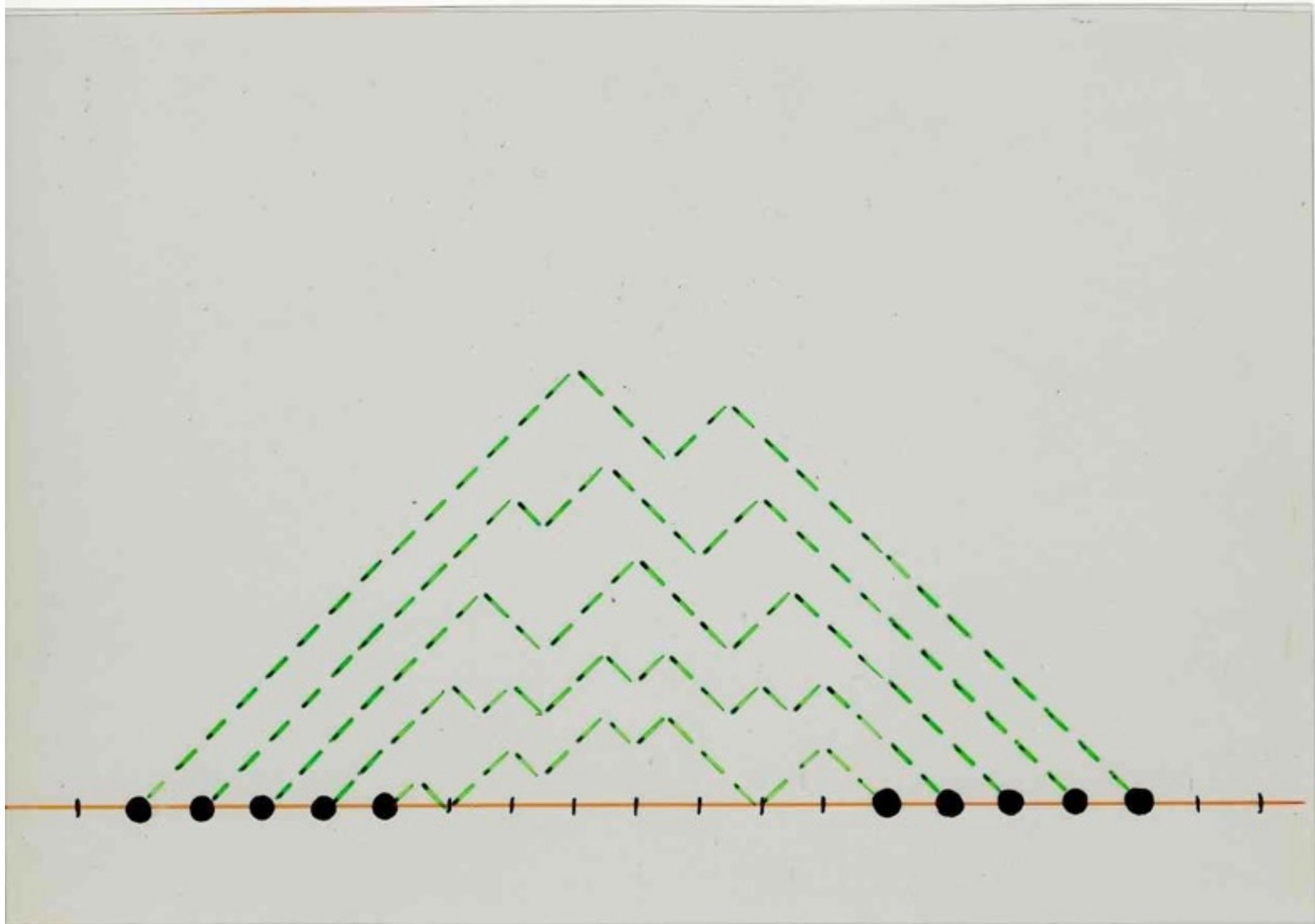
Young tableaux,

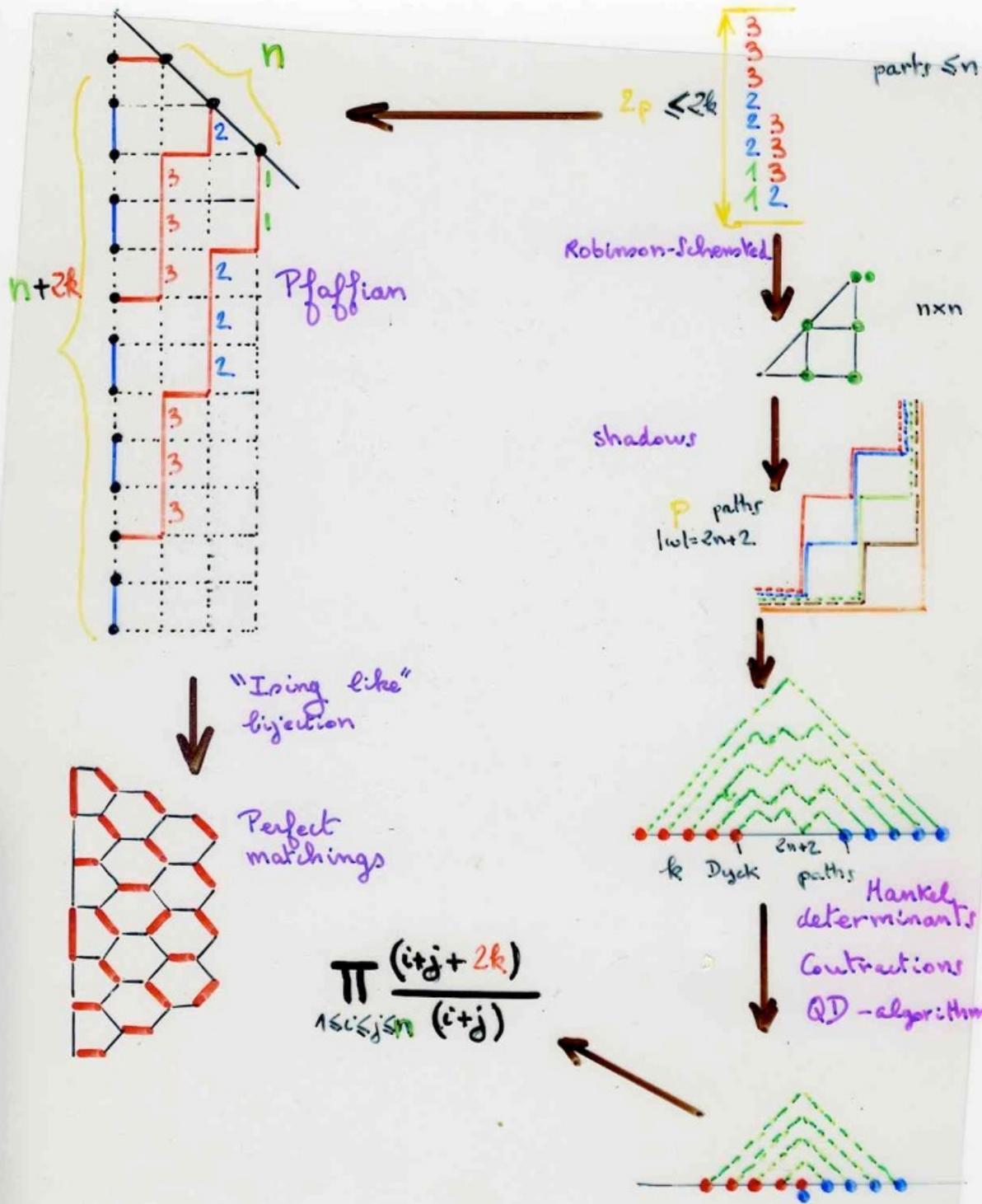
« light and shadow » process,

non-crossing Dyck paths,

Hankel determinant of Catalan numbers,

computation with the « qd-algorithm »





De Sainte-Catherine and X.V. (1985)

