

Course IMSc Chennai, India

January-March 2017

Enumerative and algebraic combinatorics,  
a bijective approach:

# commutations and heaps of pieces

(with interactions in physics, mathematics and computer science)

Monday and Thursday 14h-15h30

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IMSc

January-March 2017

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# Chapter 6

## Heaps and Coxeter groups

(1)

fully commutative elements  
and Temperley-Lieb algebra

IMSc, Chennai

23 February 2017

The heap monoid  
of a  
Coxeter group

finite set  $S$

$M$

square symmetric matrix

indexed by  $S$

$$\begin{cases} m_{ss} = 1 \\ m_{st} = m_{ts} \in \{2, 3, \dots\} \cup \{\infty\} \end{cases}$$

Coxeter group  $W$

generators  $S$

•  $s^2 = 1$  for all  $s \in S$

relations

•  $\underbrace{sts\dots}_{m_{st}} = \underbrace{tst\dots}_{m_{st}}$  if  $m_{st} < \infty$

braid relations

•  $s^2 = 1$  for all  $s \in S$

•  $\underbrace{sts\dots}_{m_{st}} = \underbrace{tst\dots}_{m_{st}}$  if  $m_{st} < \infty$

$$(st)^{m_{st}} = 1$$

$$\begin{cases} m_{ss} = 1 \\ m_{st} = m_{ts} \in \{2, 3, \dots\} \cup \{\infty\} \end{cases}$$

Coxeter matrix  
 $M$

Coxeter system  
 $(W, S)$

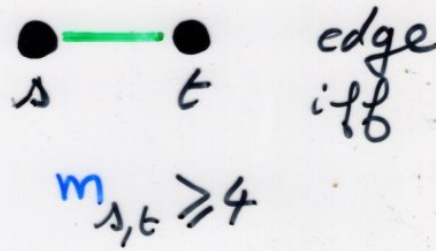
Coxeter graph

$\Gamma$

Coxeter graph



vertex set  $S$



Coxeter-Dynkin diagram

labeled graph



$H(W, S)$

heap monoid


associated to the  
Coxeter group  $W$   
(in fact Coxeter system)  
 $(W, S)$

set of basic pieces  $S$   
dependency relation  $\mathcal{C}$

set

iff  $m_{s,t} \neq 2$

in other words

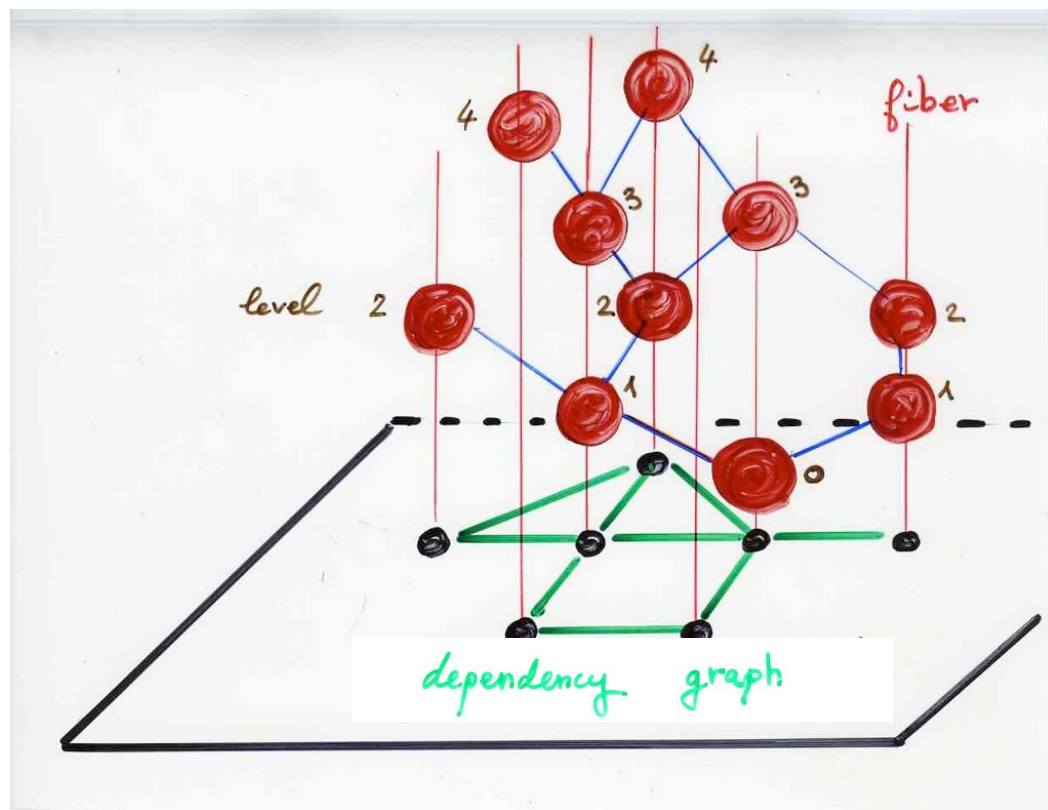
$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} - s \mathcal{C} s \\ - s \mathcal{C} t, (s \neq t) \end{array} \right\}$  iff 

$H(W, S)$  is the heap monoid associated to the graph  $\Gamma$  as in Ch 5

$\Gamma$  is the dependency graph

$$H(W, S) = H(\Gamma)$$

$$\Gamma = (S, E)$$





finite poset  $(H, \preceq)$

labeling map  $\pi$

$$H \xrightarrow{\pi} \Gamma$$

(denoted  $E$   
in the original  
paper  
"étiquette")

second definition of heaps, Ch1c, p29, 31

$$(i) \alpha, \beta \in E, \pi(\alpha) \mathcal{E} \pi(\beta) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \alpha \preceq \beta \\ \text{or} \\ \beta \preceq \alpha \end{cases}$$

(ii')  $\preceq$  is the transitive closure of  
the relation in (i)  
 $\alpha \preceq \beta$  and  $\pi(\alpha) \mathcal{E} \pi(\beta)$

can be rewritten  
can be rewritten as:

(i)'

for every vertex  $s \in S$   
 $H_s = \pi^{-1}(\{s\})$  is a chain

fiber over  $s \in S$

for any edges  $\{s, t\}$  of  $\Gamma$   
 $H_{s,t} = \pi^{-1}(\{s, t\})$  is a chain

fiber over  $\{s, t\}$   
edge of  $\Gamma$

chain = totally ordered  
subset of  $H$

(ii)'

The order relation  $\preceq$   
is the transitive closure of the relations  
given by all chains of (i)'  
 $H_s$   $H_{s,t}$

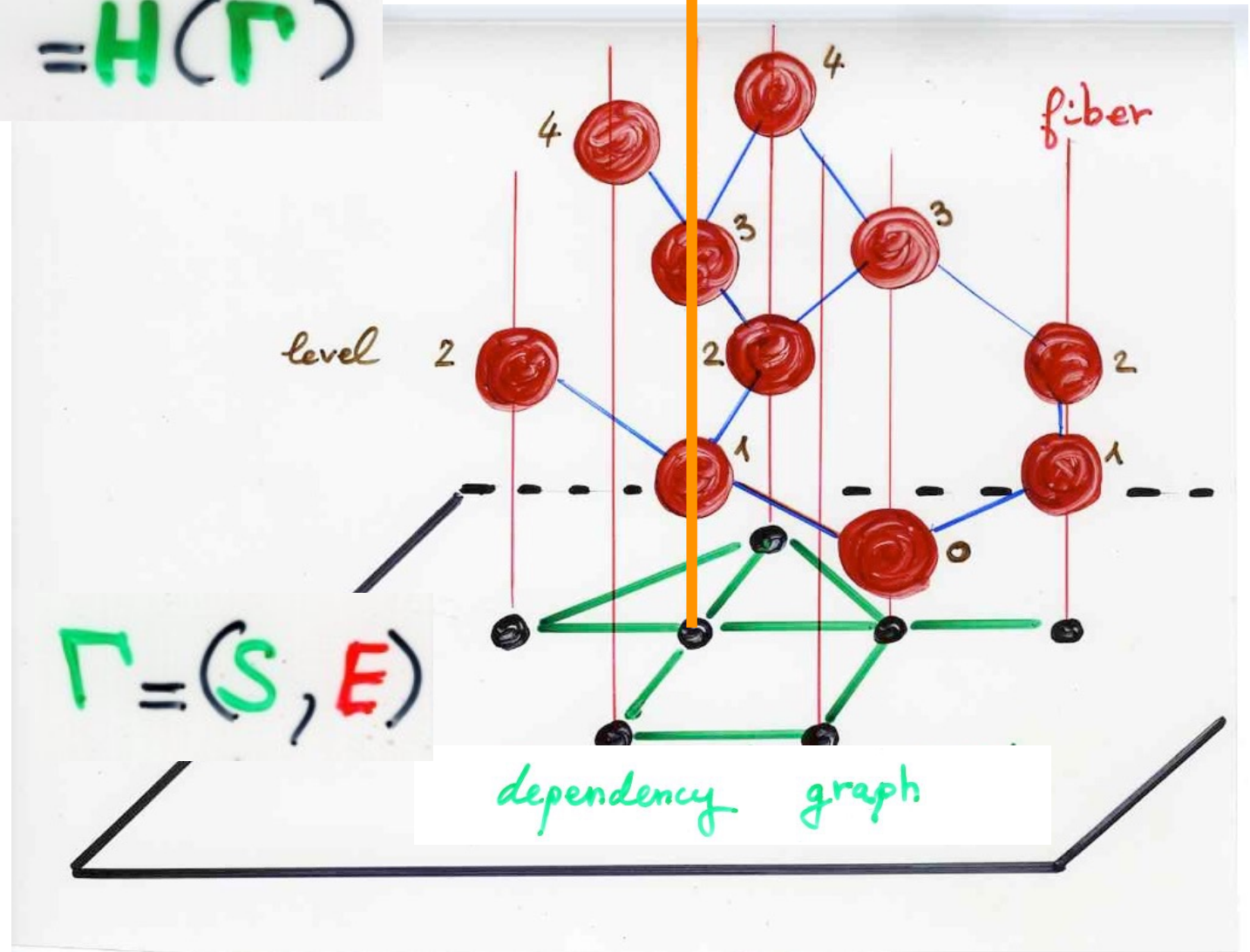
(i.e. the smallest partial ordering  
containing these chains)

Coxeter graph

$\Gamma$

fiber over  $\Delta \in S$

$$H(W, S) = H(\Gamma)$$



Coxeter graph

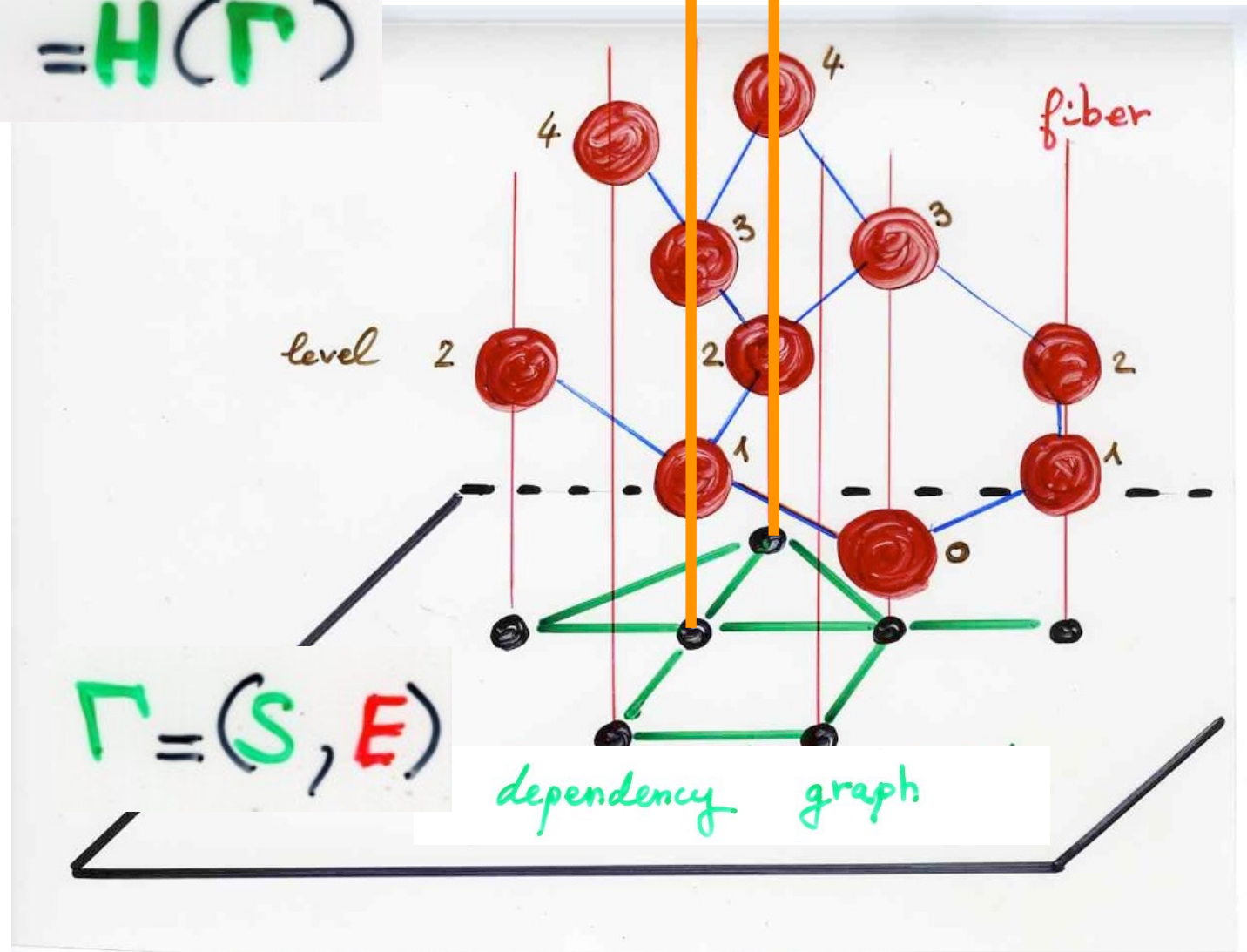
$\Gamma$

fiber over  $\{s, t\}$   
edge of  $\Gamma$

$$H(w, s) = H(\Gamma)$$

$$\Gamma = (S, E)$$

dependency graph



reduced  
decomposition

$$w = s_1 \cdots s_n$$

$$s_i \in S$$

length

$$n = l(w)$$

reduced decomposition:  
factorization  $w = s_1 \cdots s_n$   
minimal length

$R(w)$

set of reduced  
decomposition of  $w$

(Matsumoto property)

Given two reduced decompositions of  $w$ , there is a sequence of braid relations which can be applied to transform one into the other.

$[w]$  commutation class  $C$

= set of reduced decompositions obtained by using only the commutation relations  $st = ts$  for  $s, t \in S$  and  $m_{s,t} = 2$

Lemma. The set  $\mathcal{R}(w)$  of reduced decompositions is a disjoint union of commutation classes.

For each of them, there exist a heap  $H(C)$  of  $H(w, s)$  such that  $C$  is exactly the set of linear extensions of the poset  $H(C)$ .



Heaps of dimers

and the symmetric group

# Symmetric group $S_n$

$n!$  permutations

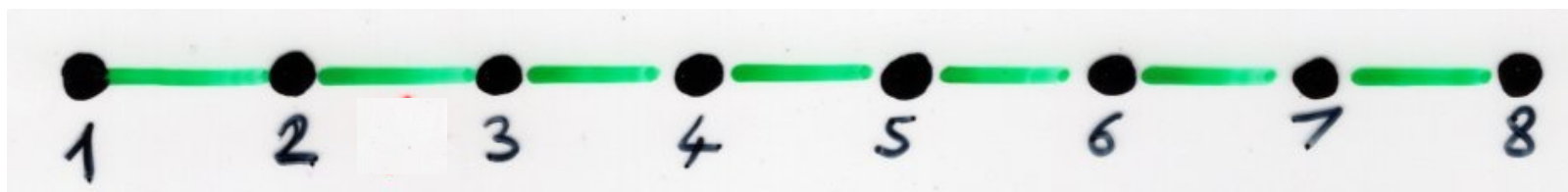
$$\sigma_i = (i, i+1) \quad i=1, 2, \dots, n-1$$

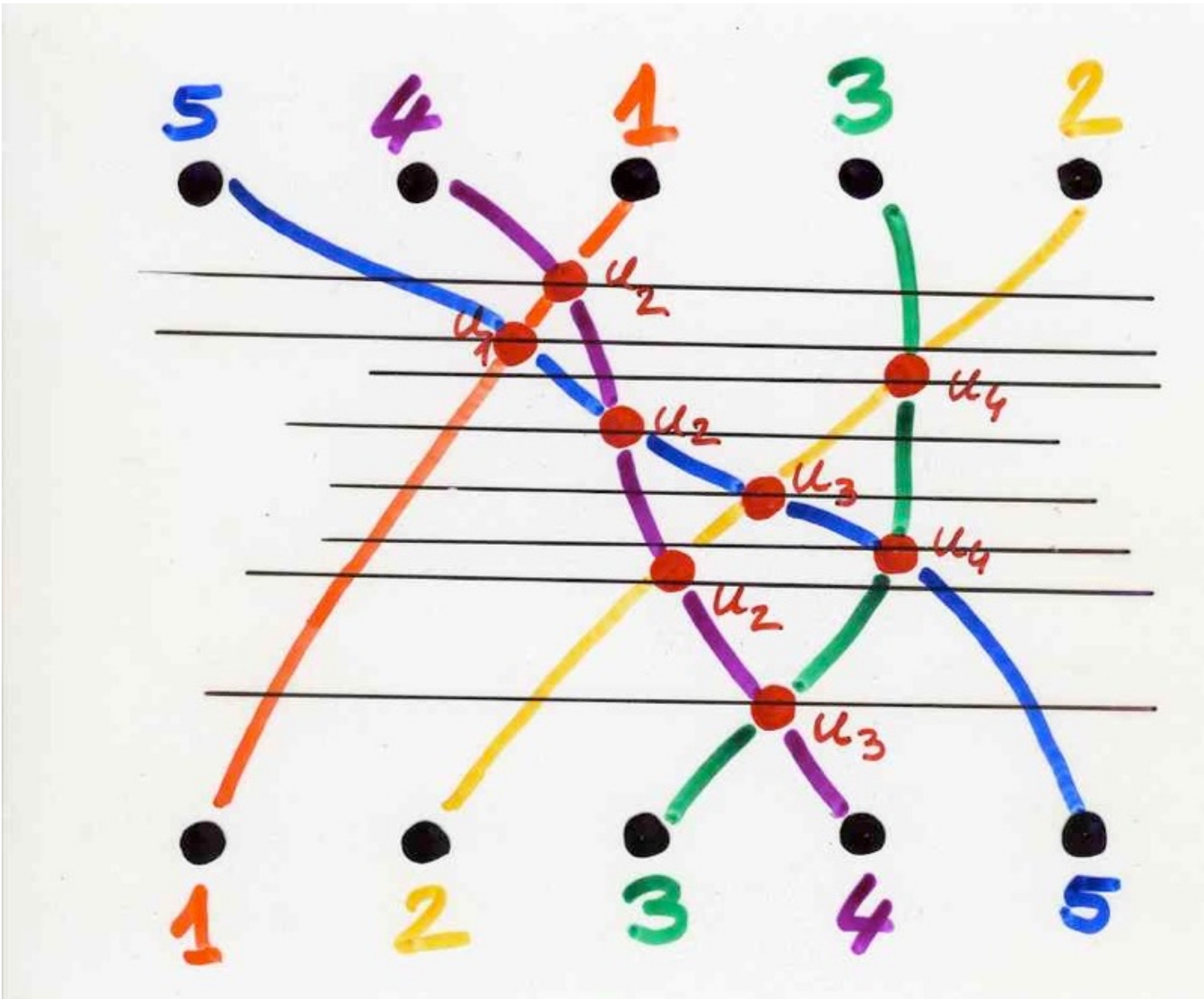
Transposition of two consecutive elements

- (i)  $\sigma_i \sigma_j = \sigma_j \sigma_i, \quad |i-j| \geq 2$
- (ii)  $\sigma_i^2 = 1,$
- (iii)  $\sigma_i \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i = \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i \sigma_{i+1}.$

Moore-Coxeter  
Yang-Baxter

Coxeter graph





$$u_i (a_1 \dots a_i a_{i+1} \dots a_n)$$

$$= (a_1 \dots a_{i+1} a_i \dots a_n)$$

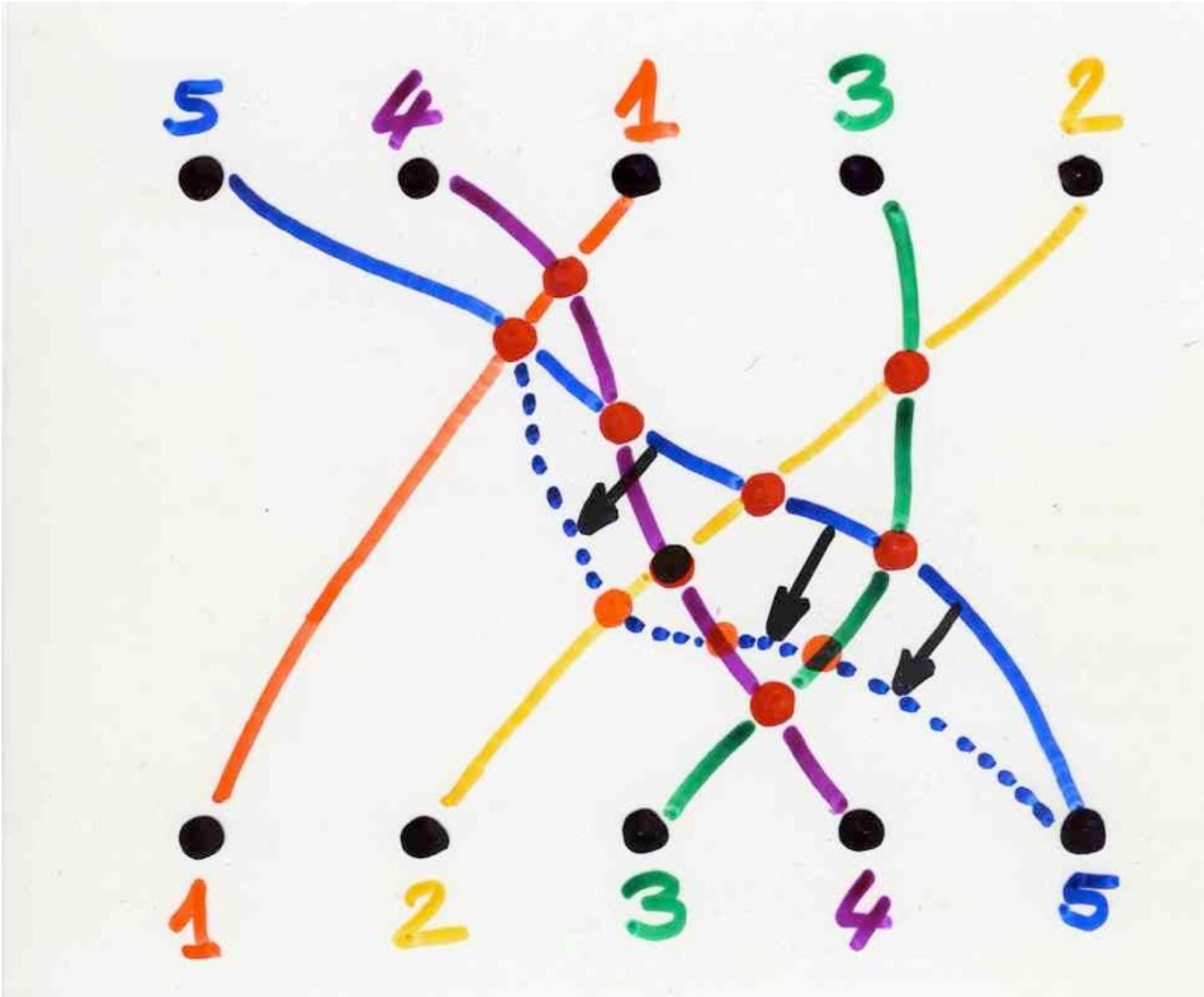
equivalently :

$$\text{if } \sigma = u_{c_1} \dots u_{c_k} (12 \dots n)$$

$$\sigma^{-1} = s_{c_1} \dots s_{c_k}$$

$$s_i = (i, i+1)$$

transposition



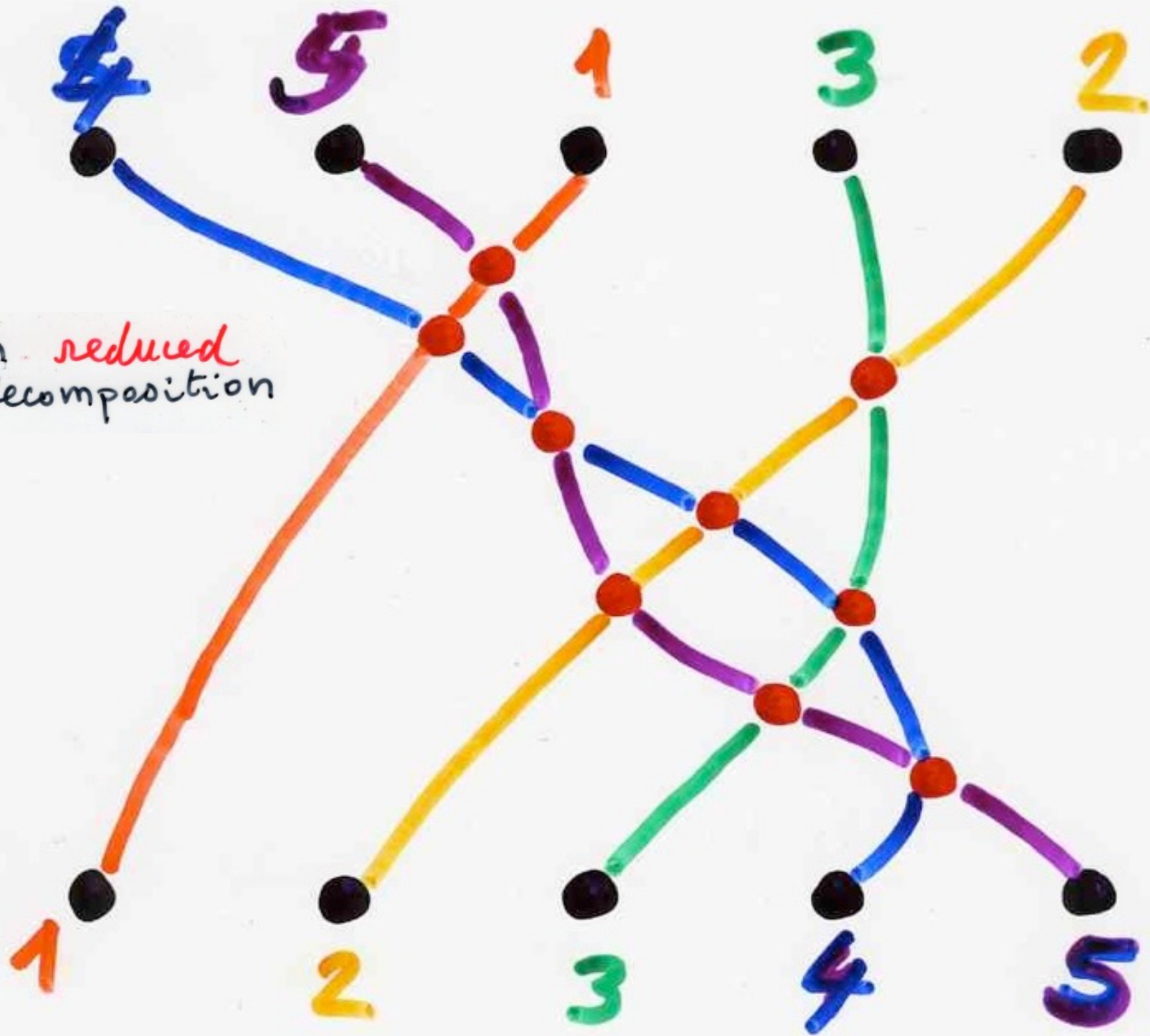
reduced decomposition  
of a permutation

$$\sigma = u_{i_1} \dots u_{i_k}$$

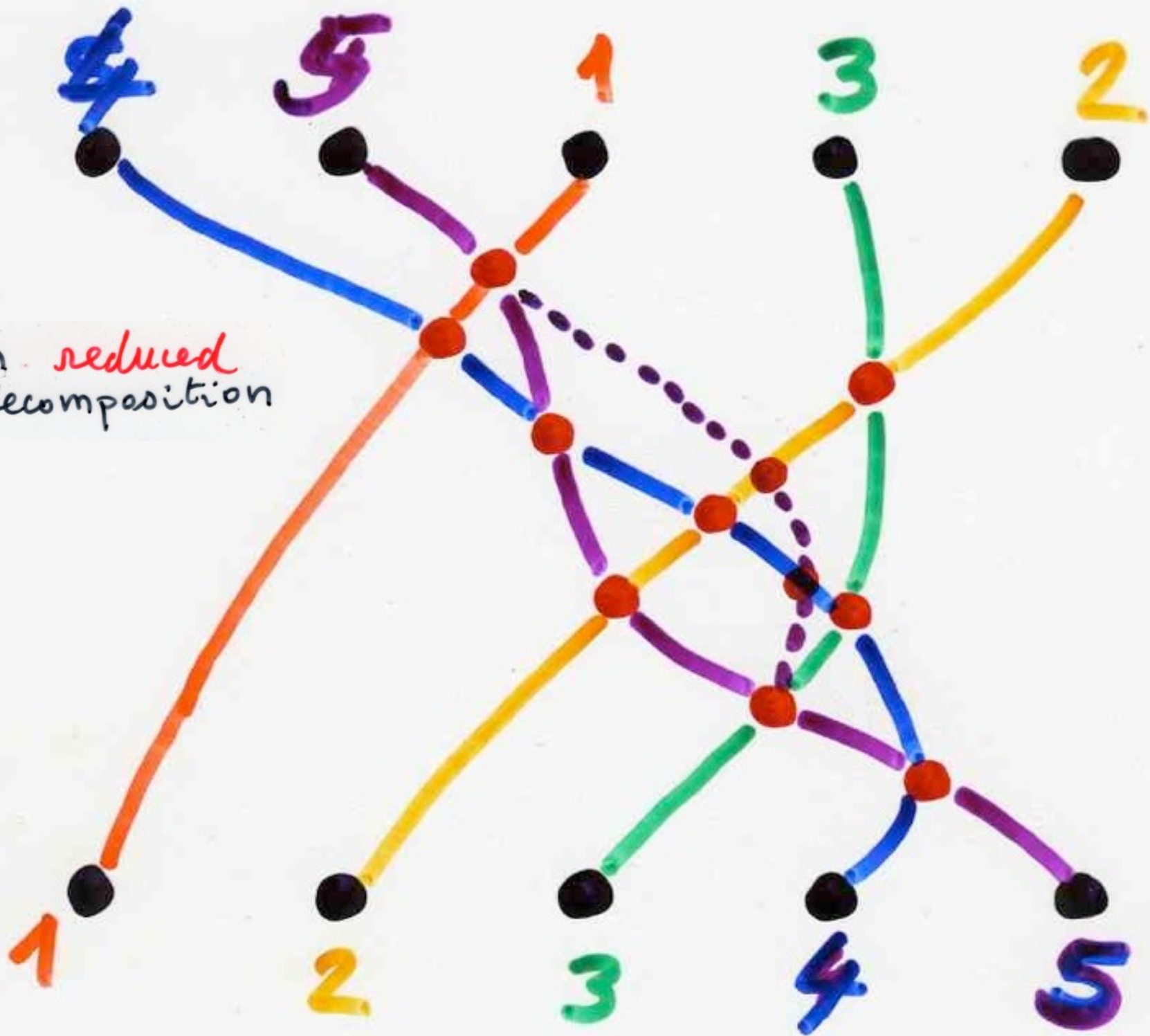
$k$  minimum

(nb of inversion)

non-reduced decomposition

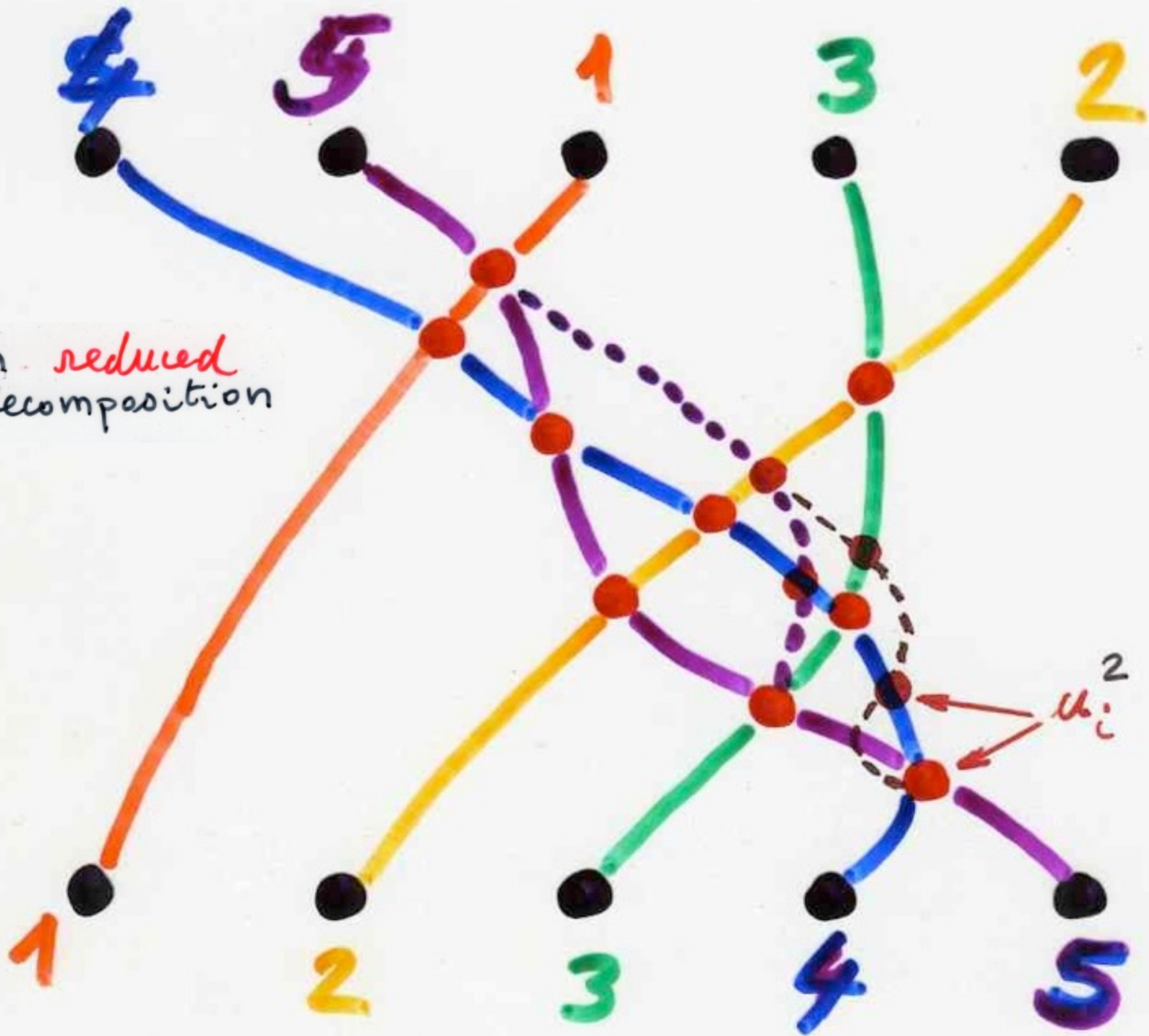


non-reduced  
decomposition





non-reduced decomposition



number of  
reduced  
decomposition  
of  $\sigma \in S_n$

=  $\sum$  (linear extensions)

reduced  
commutation  
class of  
 $\sigma$

Elnitsky

Lemma. The set  $R(w)$  of reduced decompositions  
is a disjoint union of commutation classes.

For each of them, there exist a heap  
 $H(C)$  of  $H(w, S)$  such that  $C$  is  
exactly the set of linear extensions of  
the poset  $H(C)$

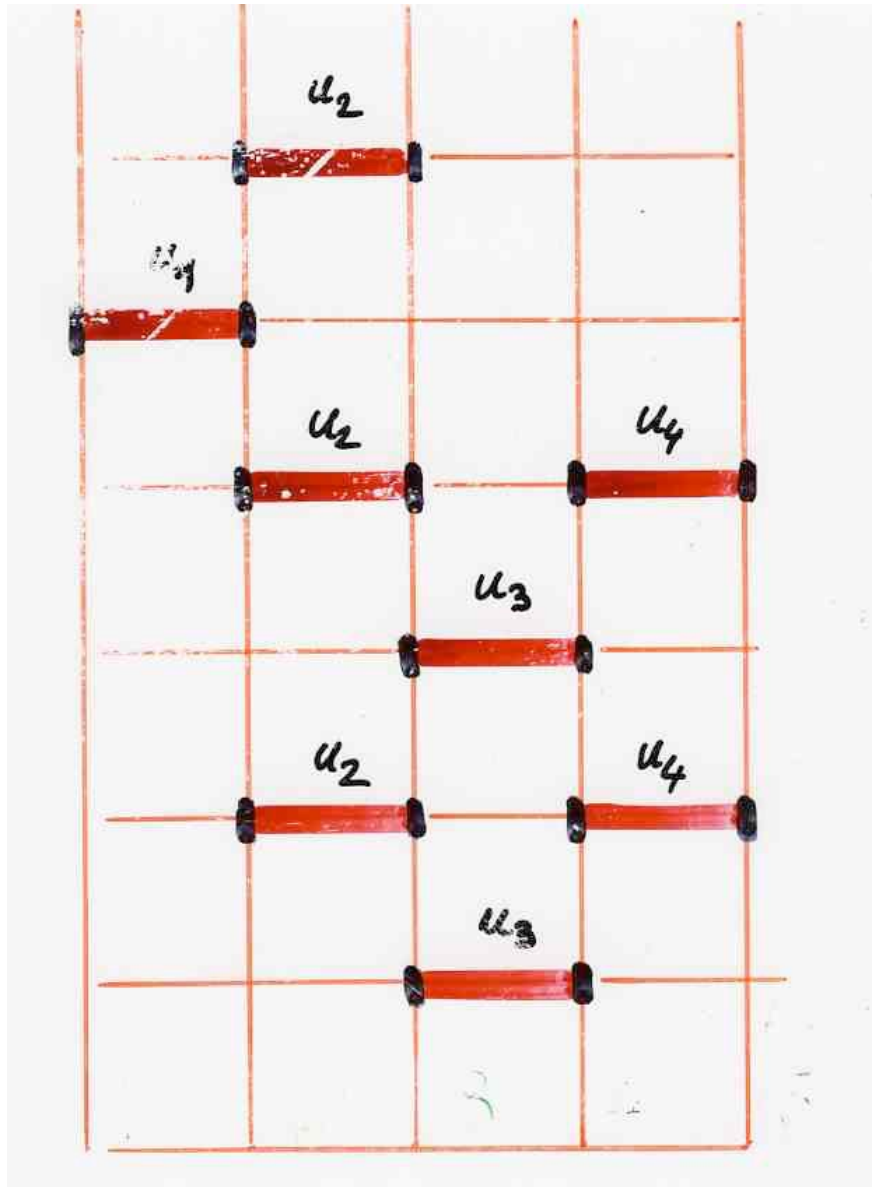
heaps of dimers  
( $i, i+1$ )

on  $\{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$

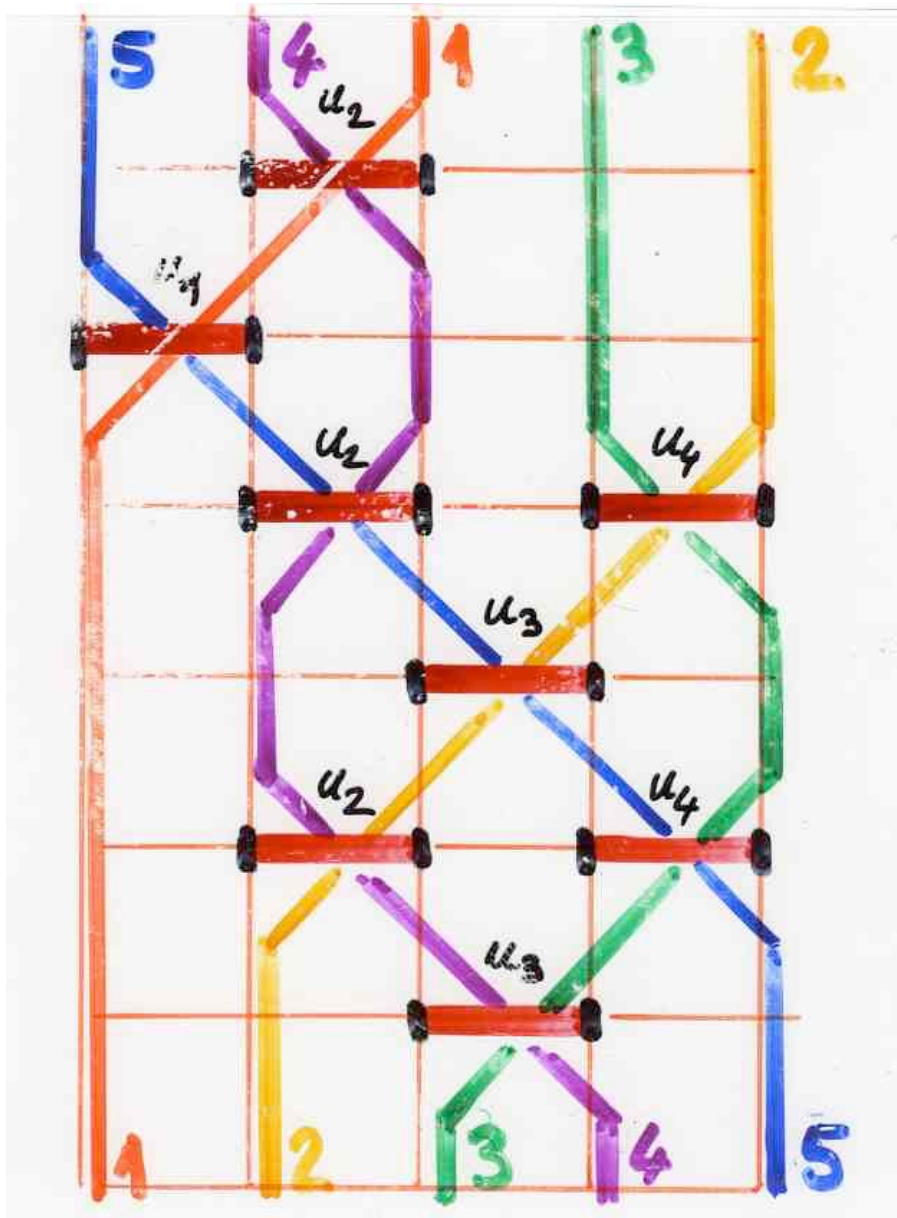
generators  $\{\sigma_0, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{n-1}\}$

$$\sigma_i \sigma_j = \sigma_j \sigma_i$$

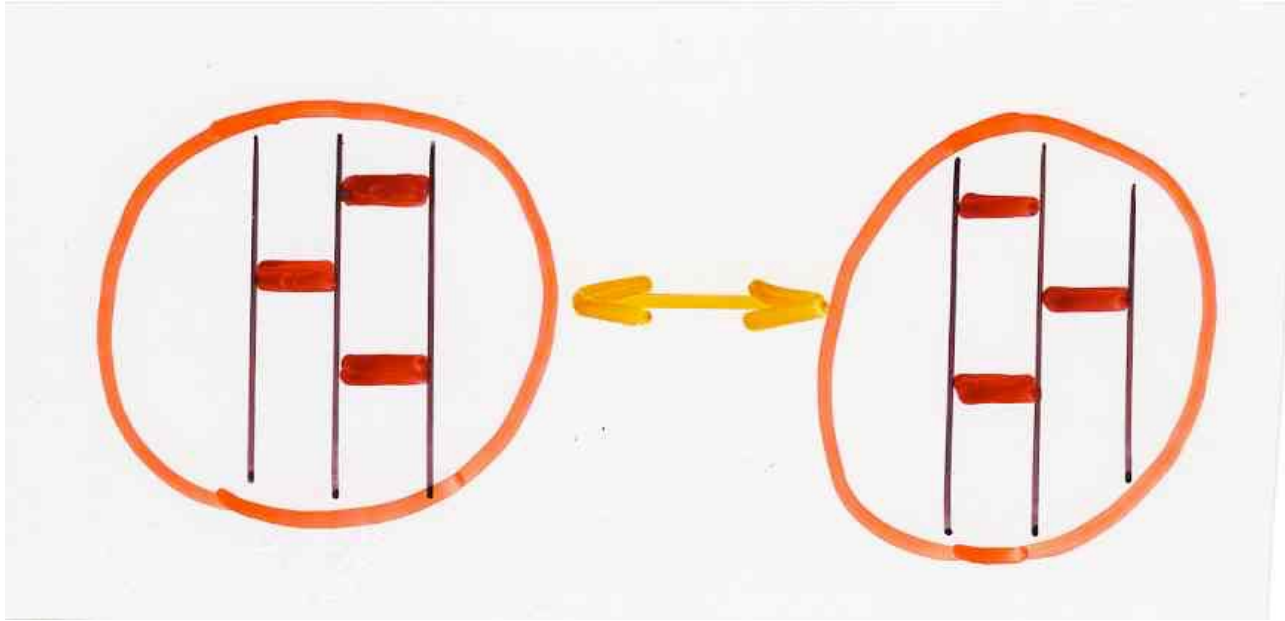
iff  $|i-j| \geq 2$



heap  
 of  
 dimers  $[1, n]$   $\longrightarrow$  permutation  
 $S_n$



heap  
 of  
 dimers  $[1, n]$   $\longrightarrow$  permutation  
 $S_n$



fully commutative elements  
in Coxeter groups

Definition An element  $w$  of the Coxeter group  $W$  is fully commutative iff  $R(w)$  is reduced to one commutation class.

The corresponding heap  $H(w)$  will also be called fully commutative (FC)



Lemma (Stembridge) (1995)

A **reduced** word  $w$  represents a **FC** element iff no elements of its **commutation class**  $[w]$  contains a factor  $\underbrace{sts\dots}_{m_{s,t}}$  for a  $m_{s,t} \geq 3$

Proposition (Stembridge, 1995)

A **heap**  $H \in H(w, S)$  is **FC** iff

and <sup>(i)</sup>  
<sub>(ii)</sub>

**strict heap**

**convex chain**

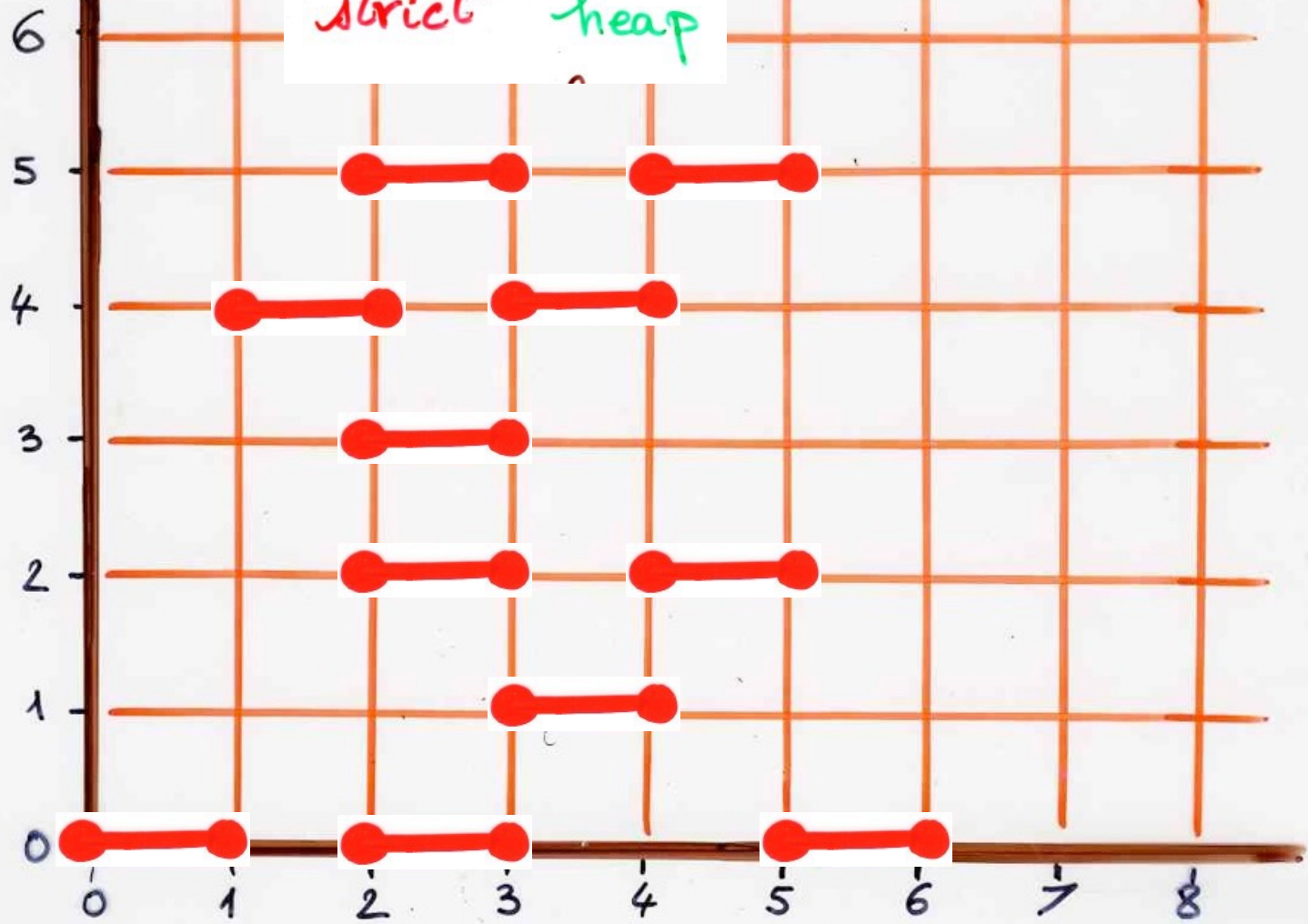
strict heap

Definition strict heap  $H$

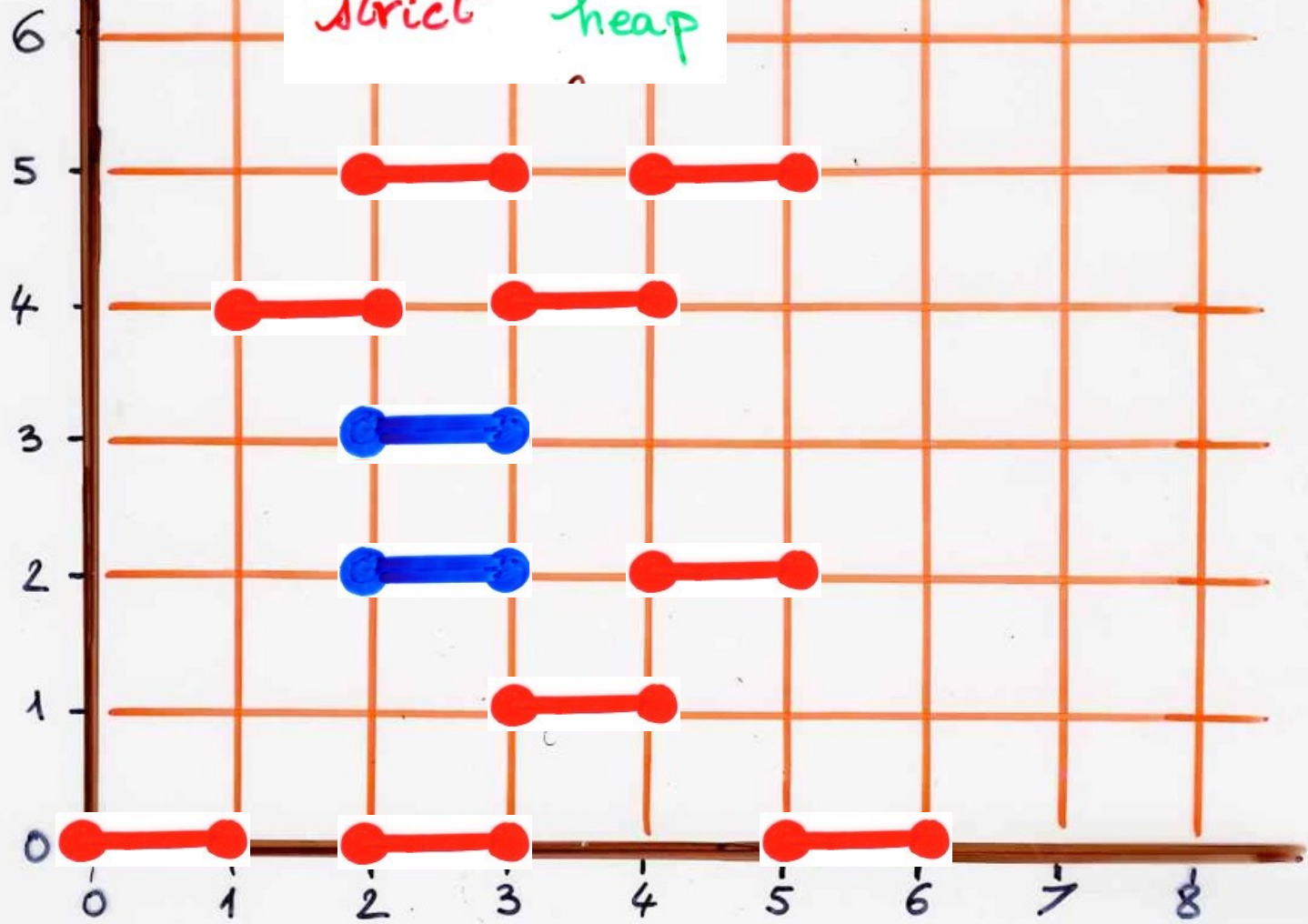
iff no covering relation  $x < y$  in  $H$   
such that  $\pi(x) = \pi(y)$

example heaps of dimers on  $\mathbb{N}$

strict heap



strict heap



## convex chain

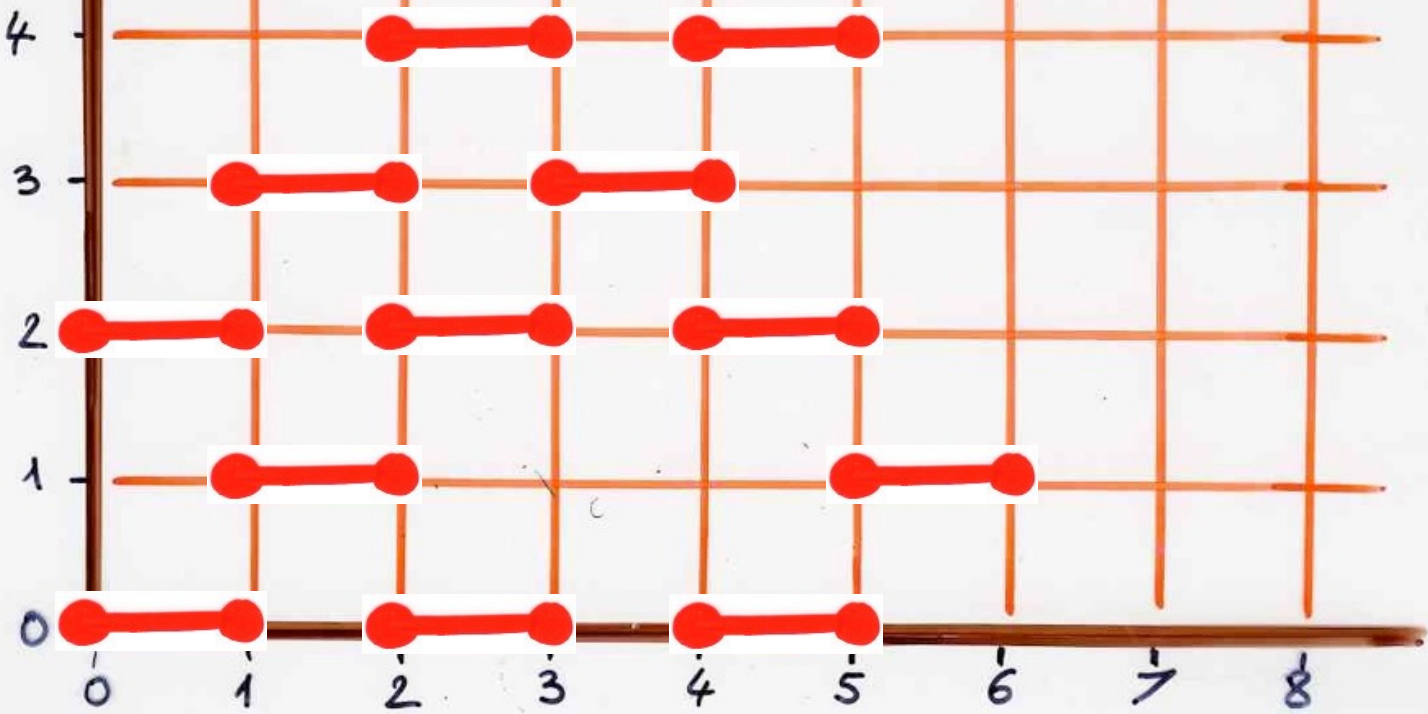
Definition convex chain in a poset

$$x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_k \quad \text{iff}$$

the only elements  $z$  with  $x_1 < z < x_k$   
are the elements of the chain

6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
0

convex chain



$F_8$

$$m_{2,3} = 4$$

6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
0

convex chain

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



$F_8$

$$m_{2,3} = 4$$

6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
0

convex chain

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



$F_8$

$$m_{2,3} = 4$$



6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
0

convex chain

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



$F_8$

$$m_{2,3} = 4$$

6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
0

convex chain

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



$F_8$

$$m_{2,3} = 4$$

Proposition (Stembridge, 1995)

A heap  $H \in H(W, S)$  is FC iff

and (i)  $H$  is strict

(ii)  $H$  does not contain a convex chain such that

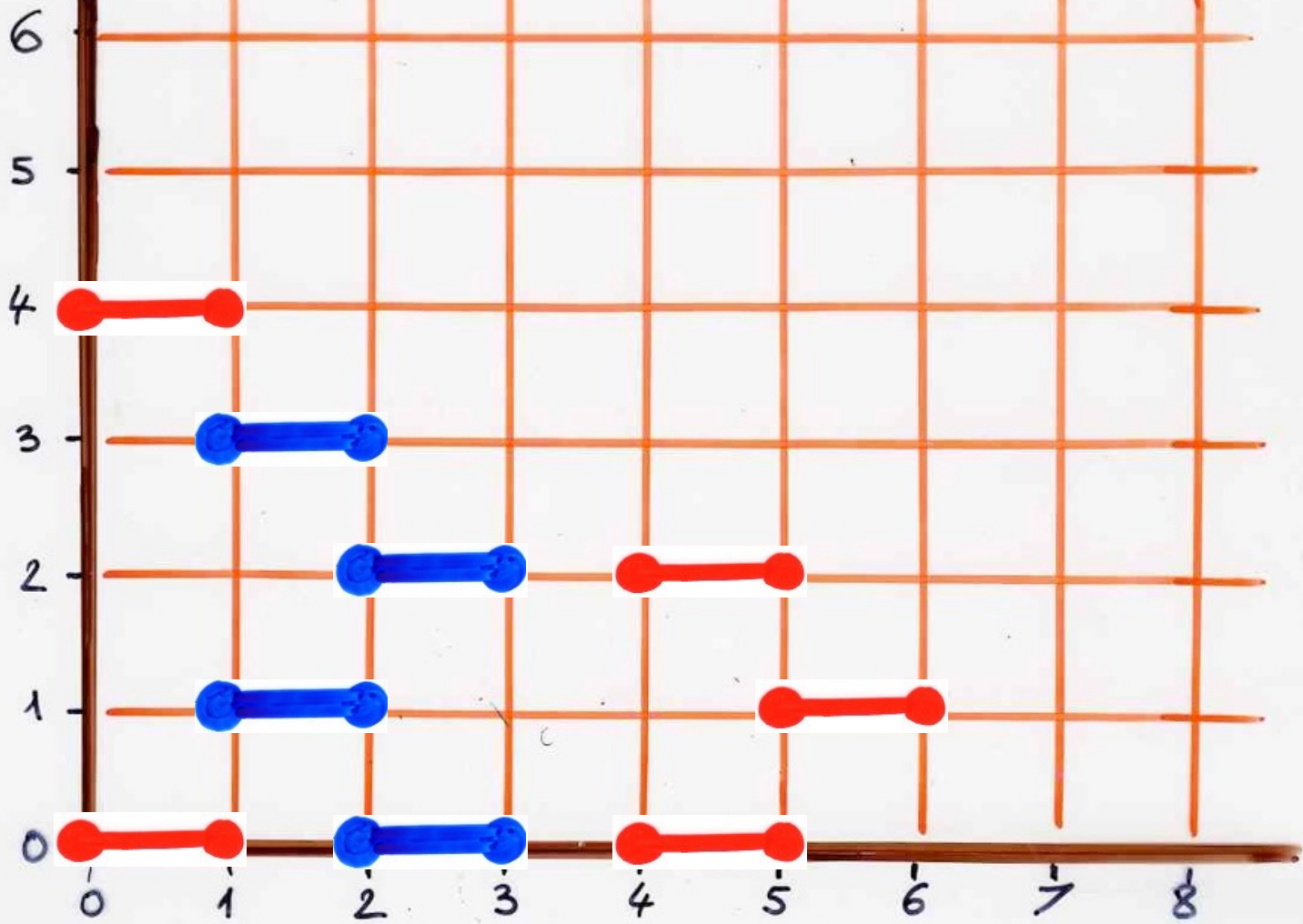
$$x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_{m_{s,t}}$$

$$x_1, x_3, x_5, \dots \in \pi^{-1}(s)$$

$$x_2, x_4, \dots \in \pi^{-1}(t)$$

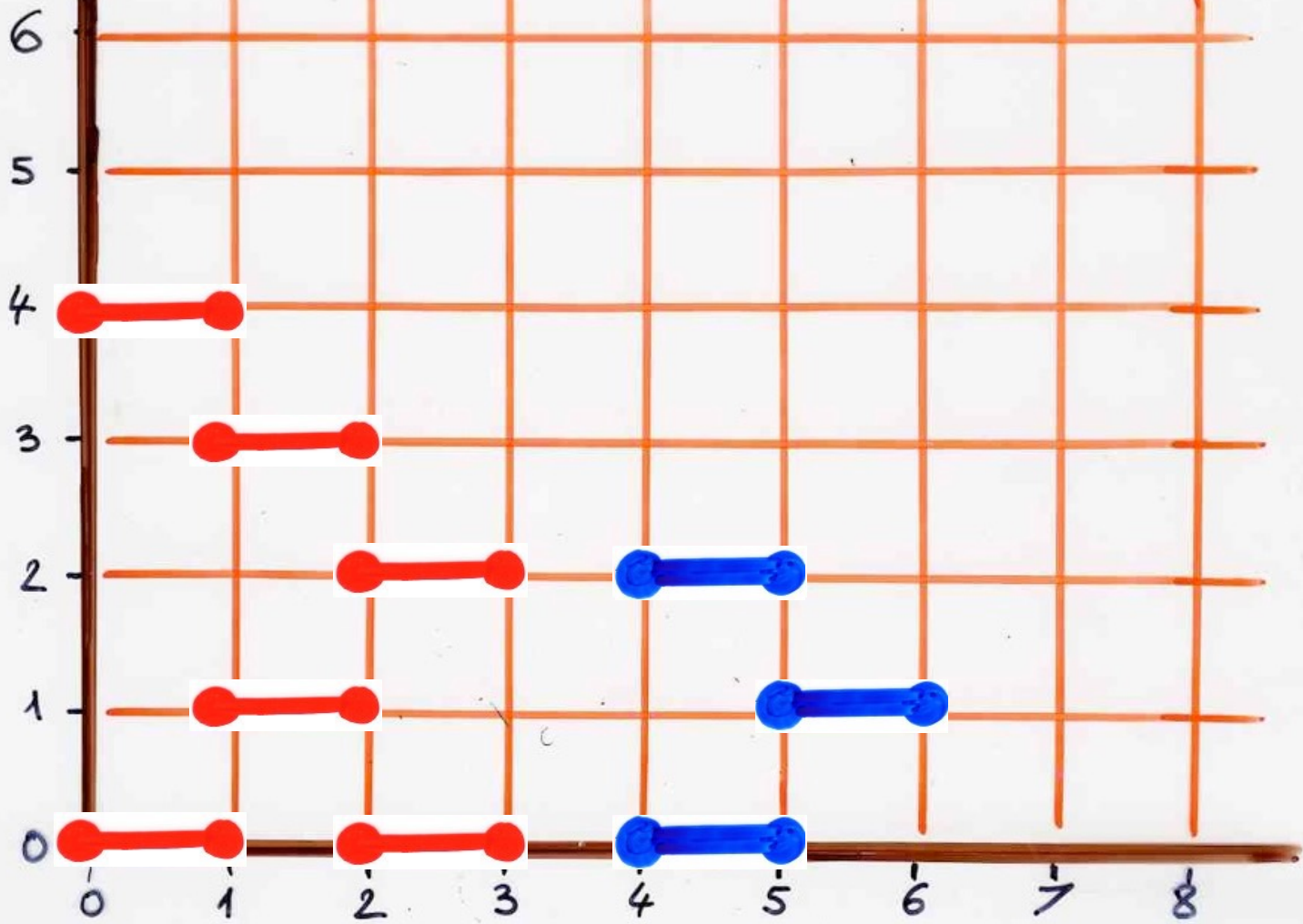
where

$$3 \leq m_{s,t} < \infty$$



$$m_{2,3} = 4$$

**F**<sub>8</sub>



$F_8$

$$m_{2,3} = 4$$

seminal papers

→ Stembridge (1996, 98)

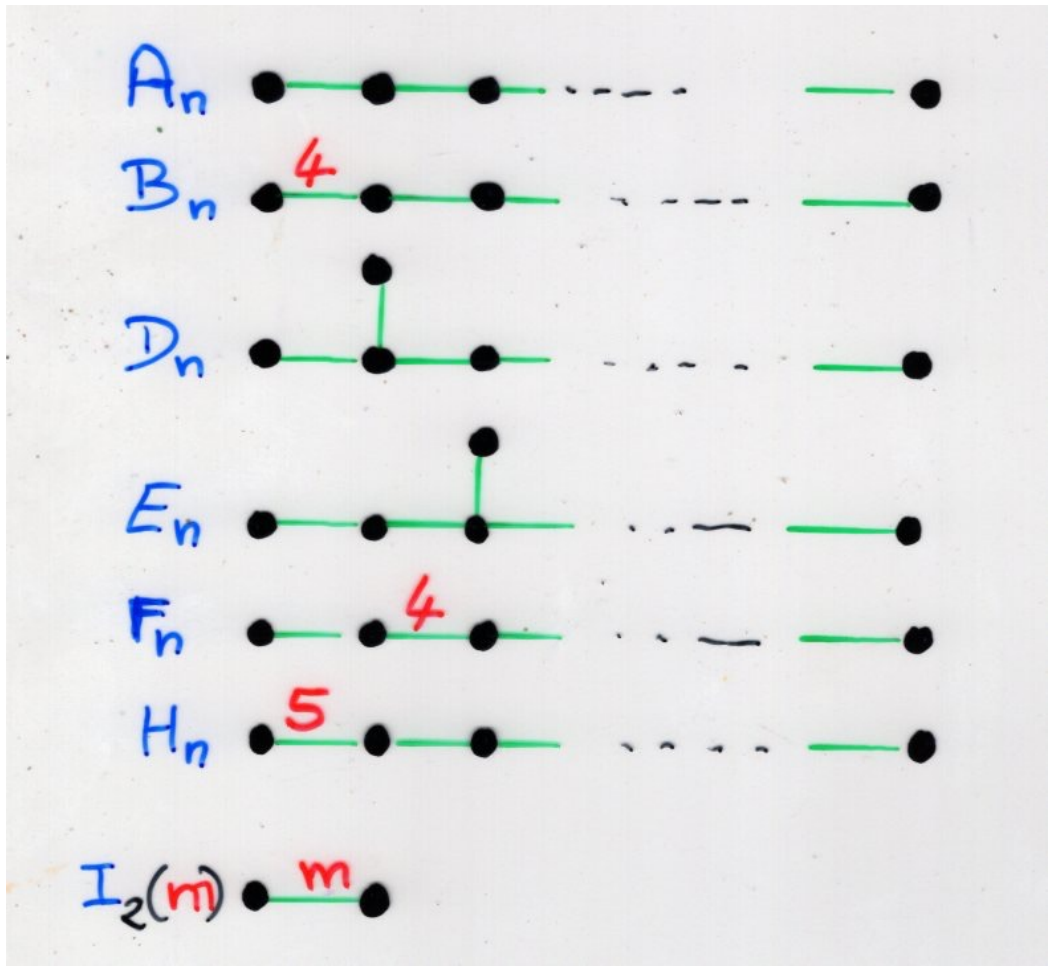
- classification of Coxeter groups with a finite number of FC elements
- enumeration in each of these cases  
→ always algebraic generating functions

→ Fan (1995) for  $m_{s,t} \leq 3$  (simply laced)

→ Graham (1995)

FC elements in any Coxeter group  $W$   
naturally index a basis of the  
generalized Temperley-Lieb algebra  
of  $W$

# finite Coxeter groups



$A_n$   
 $B_n$   
 $D_n$

$E_6$   $E_7$   $E_8$

$F_4$

$H_3$   $H_4$

$I_2(m)$

The list of FC-finite Coxeter groups

$I_2(5) = H_2$   
 $I_2(6) = G_2$

→ FC elements in relation with  
Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials  
Greene, Shi, Cellini, Papi, ...

affine Coxeter groups

Biagioli, Touhet, Nadeau (2014, 2015)

" " " , Bousquet-Mélou  
(2016)

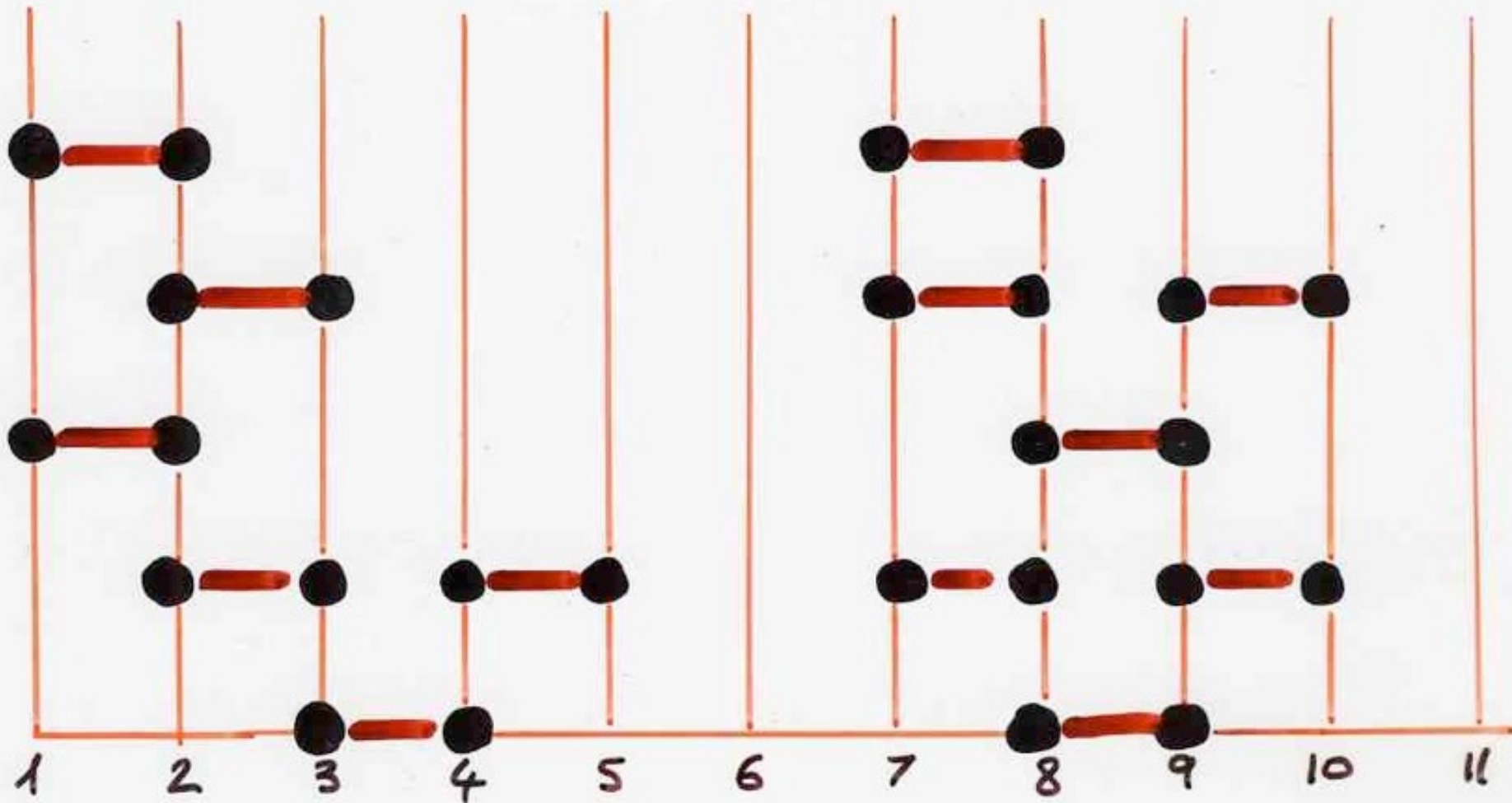
Hanus, Jones (2010)



fully commutative elements

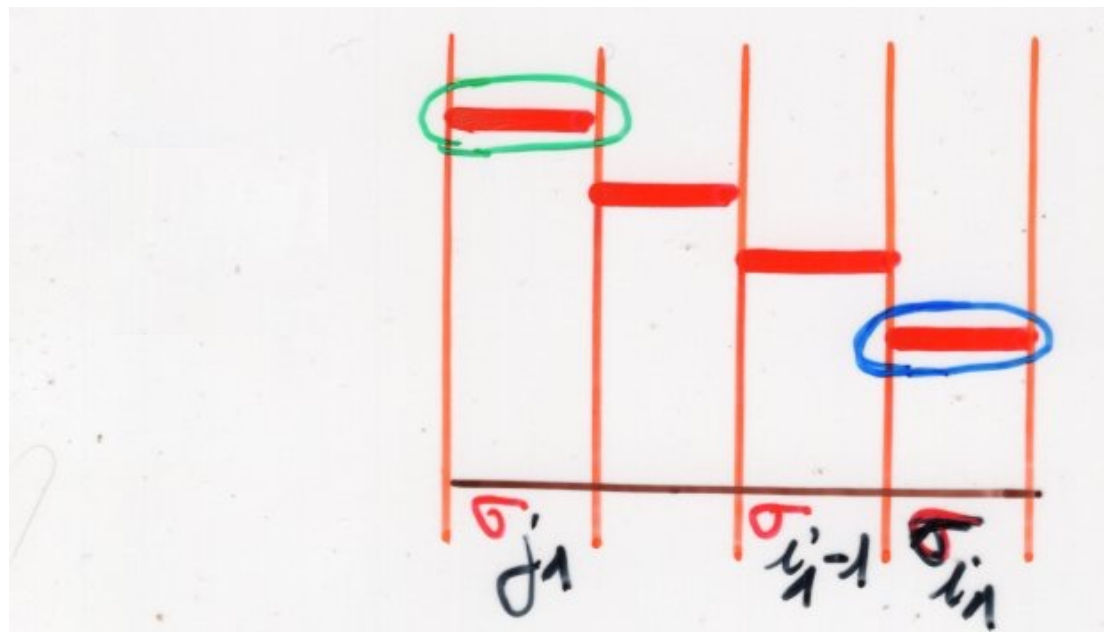
(for the symmetric group)

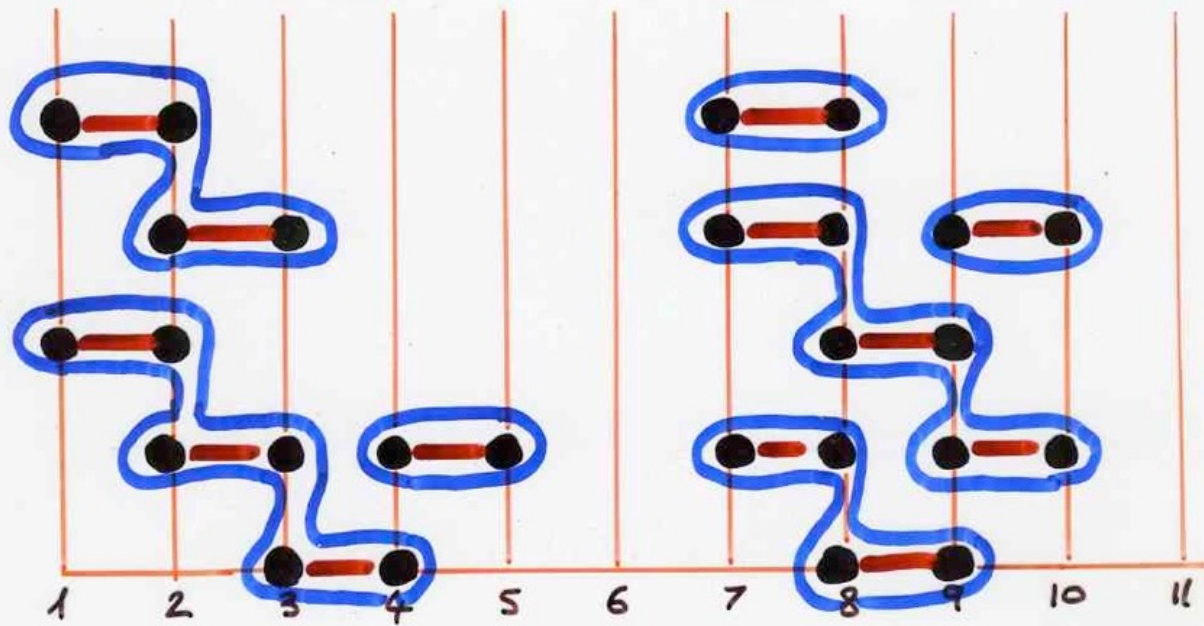
the stairs decomposition  
of a heap of dimers



a stair is  
a convex chain of dimers

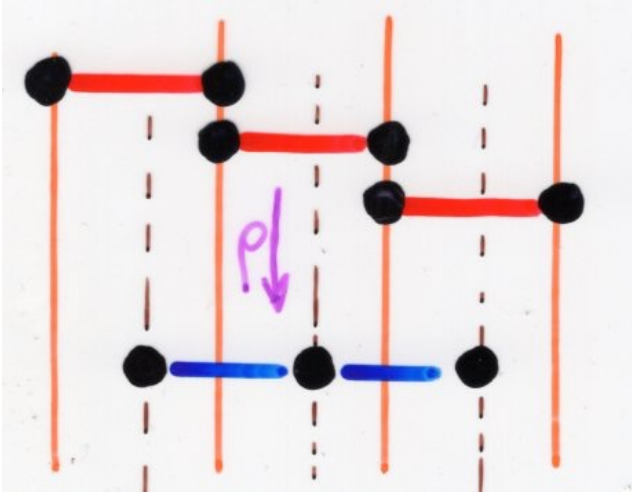
$$d_i < d_{i-1} < \dots < d_k$$

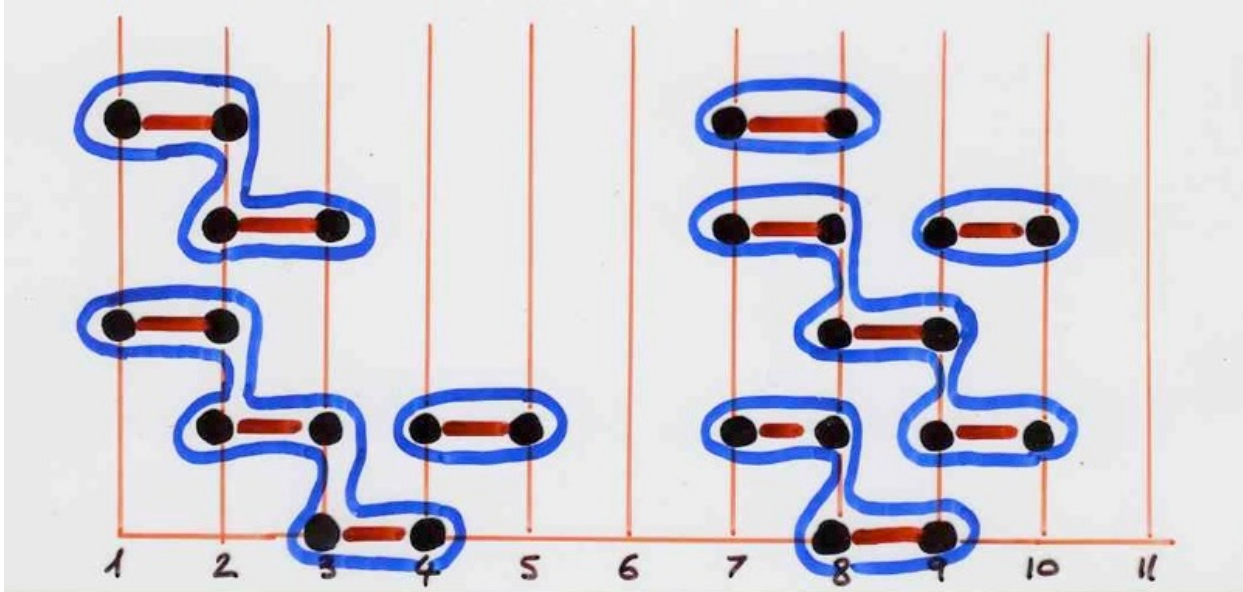




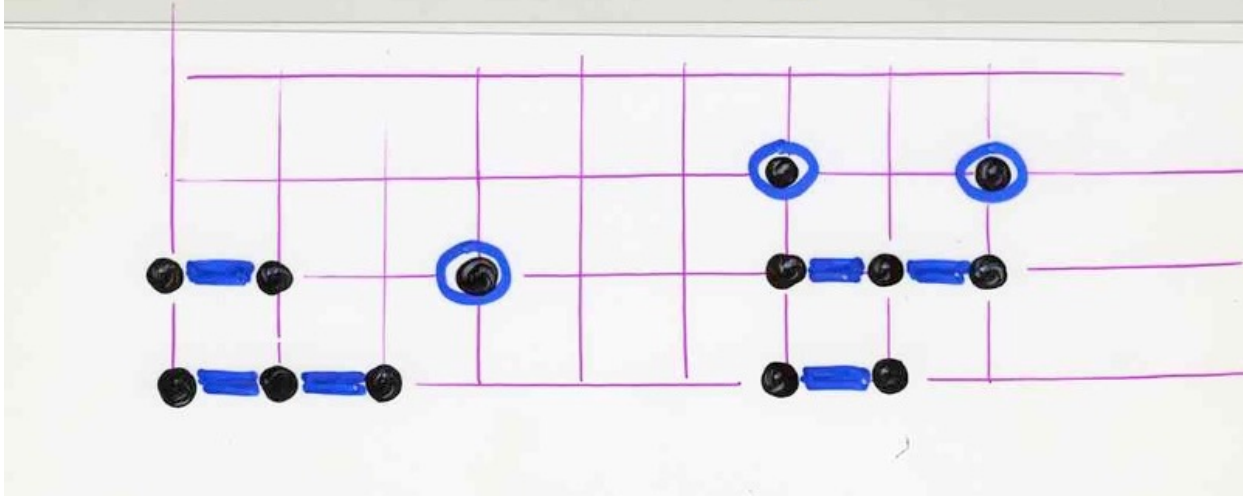
stairs decomposition

substitution



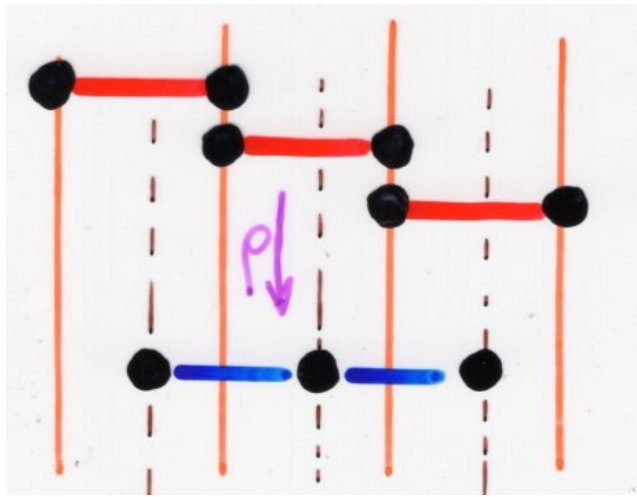


stairs decomposition

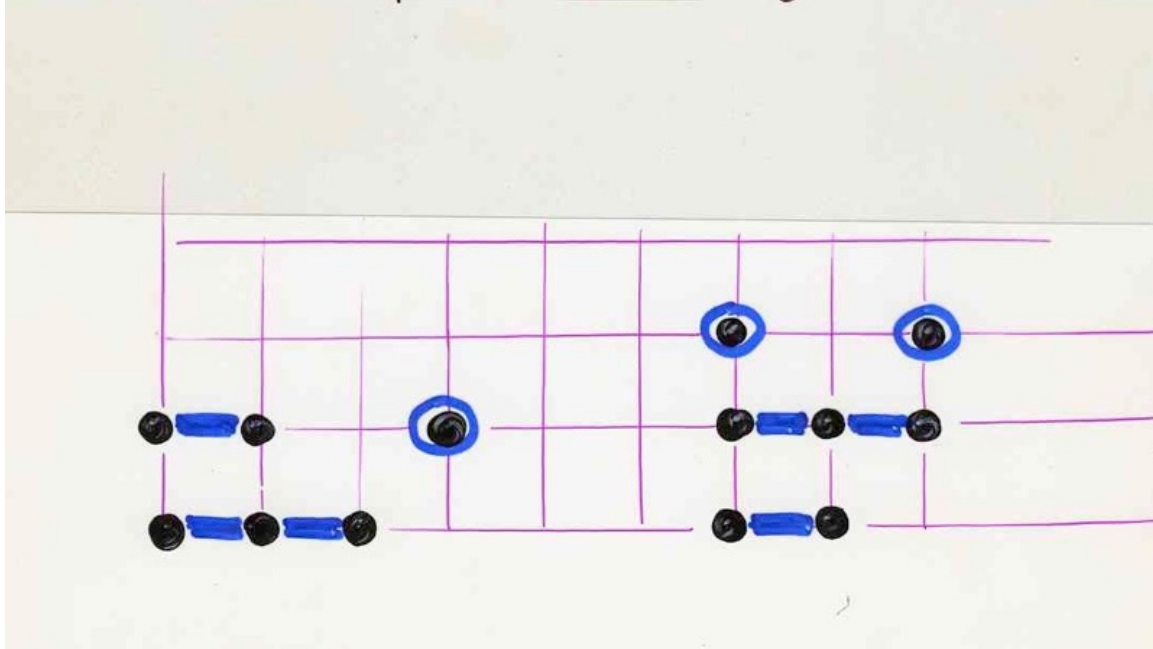
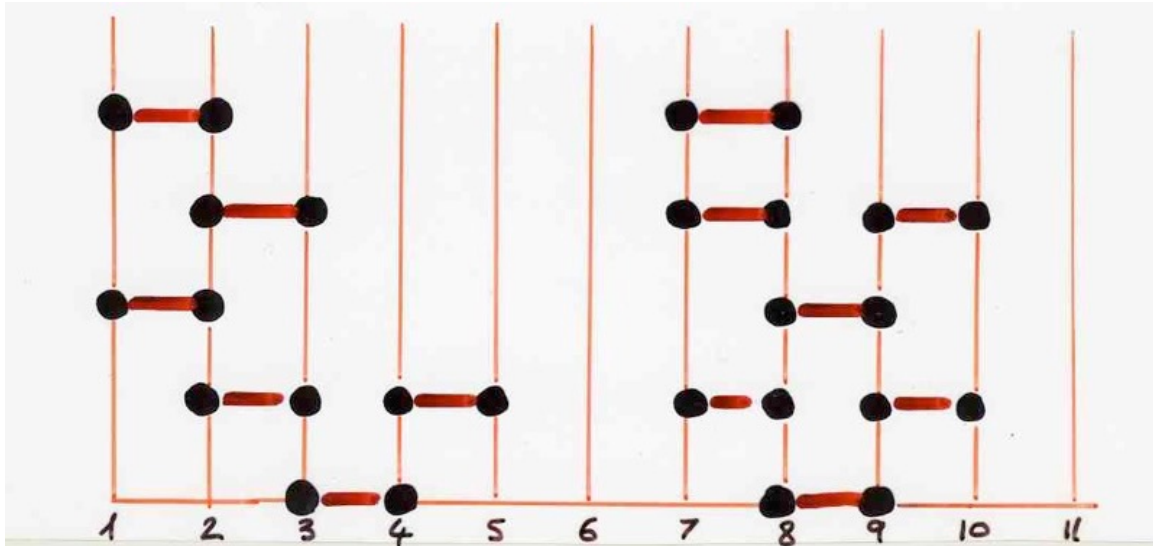


Proposition The stairs decomposition  
of a heap of dimers on  $\mathbb{N}$  gives  
a bijection  $\rho$   
heap of dimers on  $\mathbb{N}$   $\xrightarrow{\rho}$  heap of segments on  $\mathbb{N}$

substitution

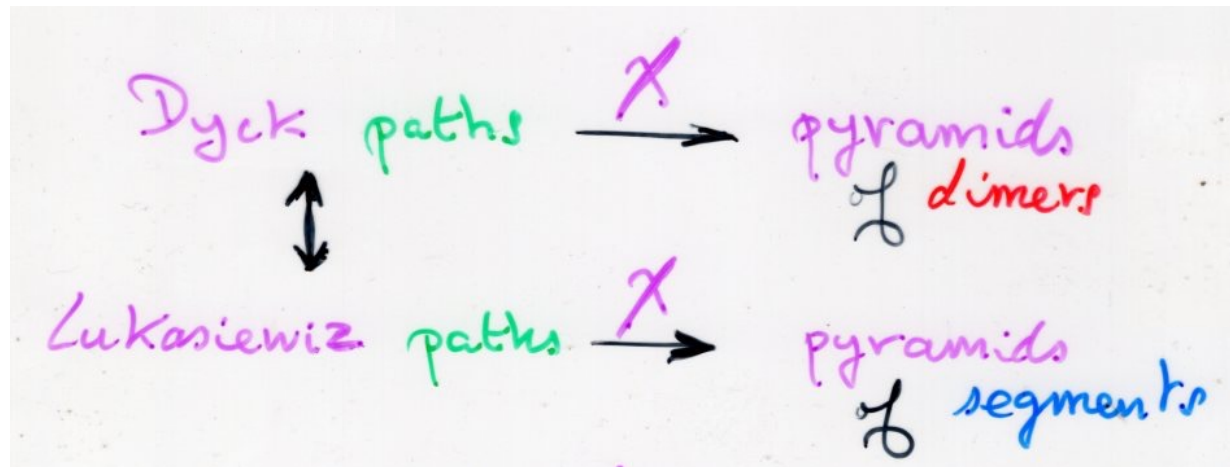






exercise

exercise



from course IMSc 2016

p51 and p60-63

bijection

Dyck paths

Lukasiewicz paths

Lukasiewicz path

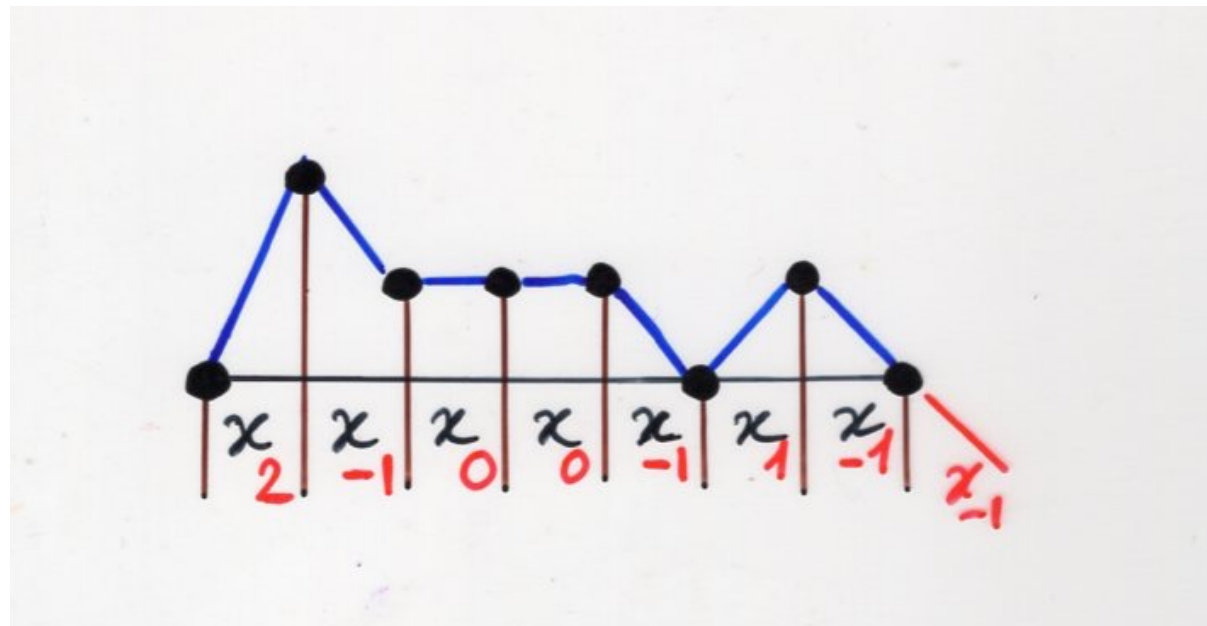
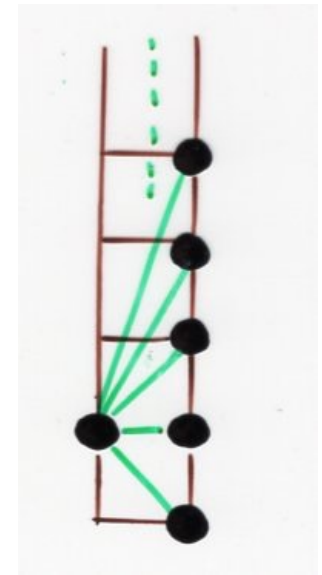
$$w = (\lambda_0, \dots, \lambda_n)$$

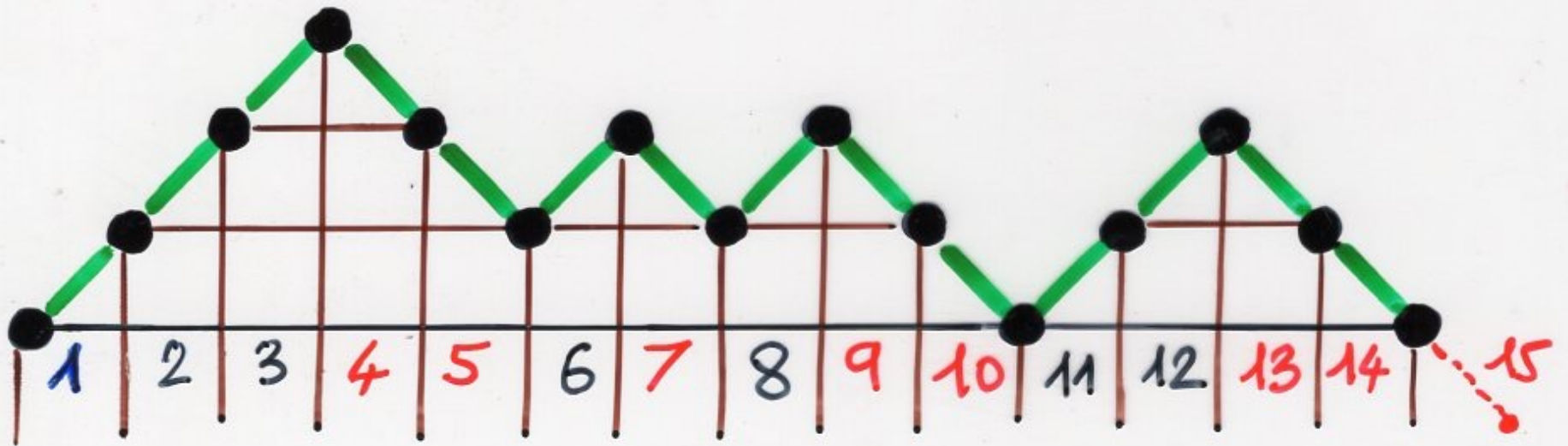
$$\lambda_0 = (0, 0), \quad \lambda_n = (n, 0)$$

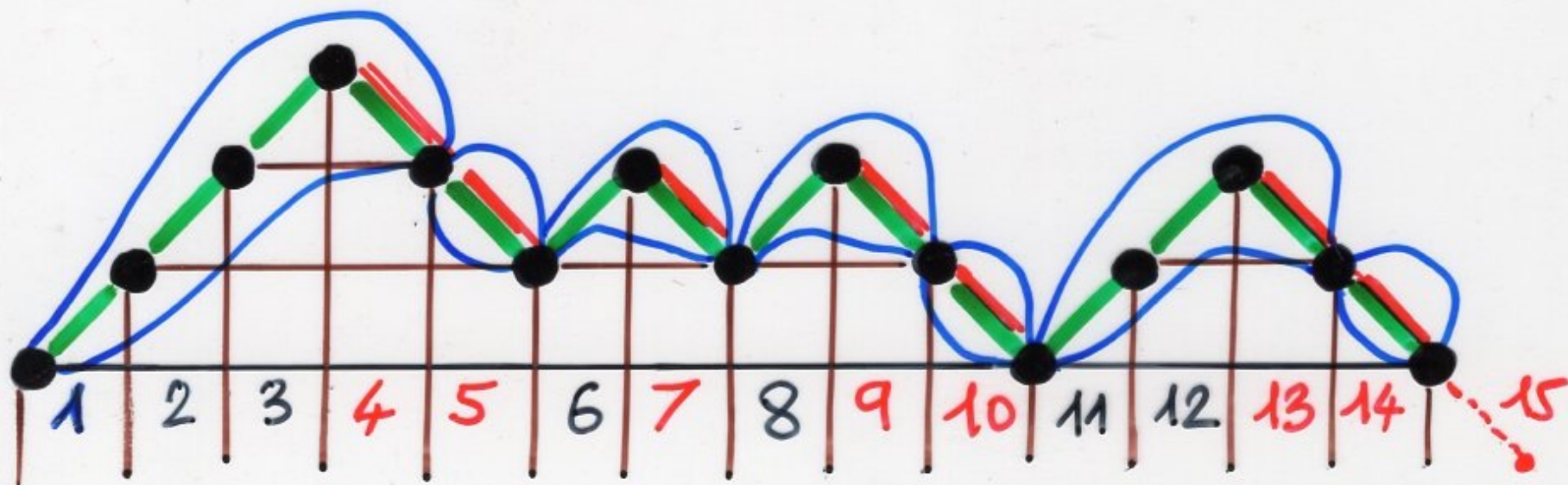
elementary step  $\lambda_i = (x_i, y_i)$   $\lambda_{i+1} = (x_{i+1}, y_{i+1})$

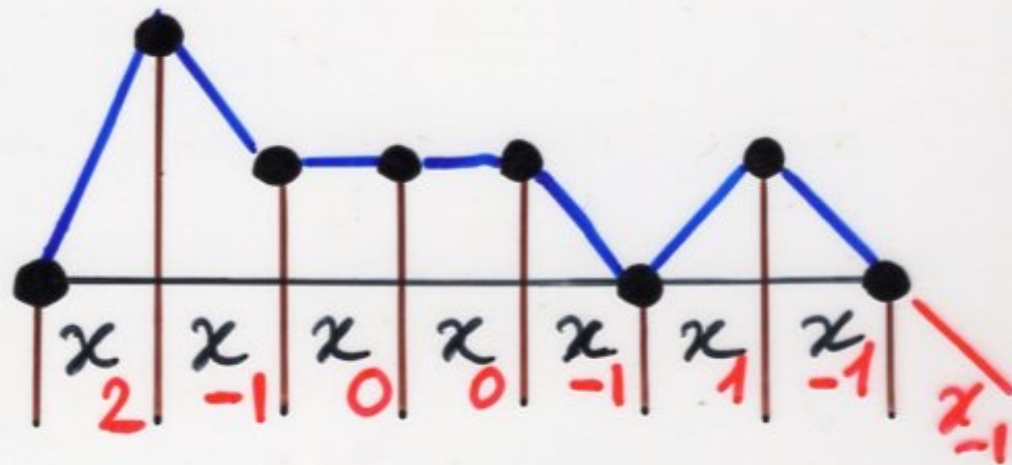
$$x_{i+1} = 1 + x_i$$

with  $y_{i+1} \geq y_i - 1$



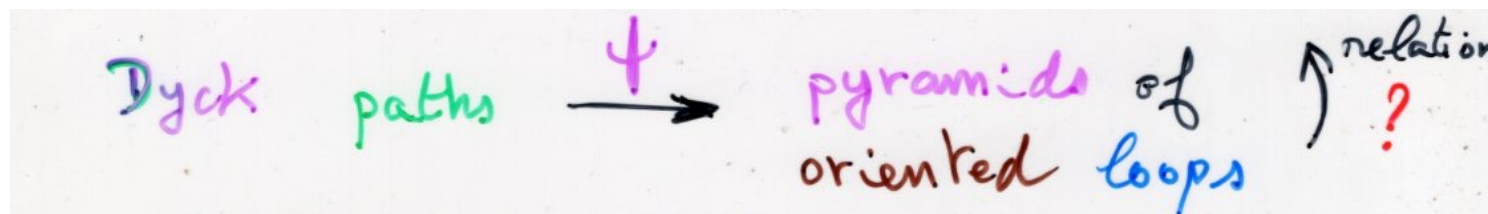
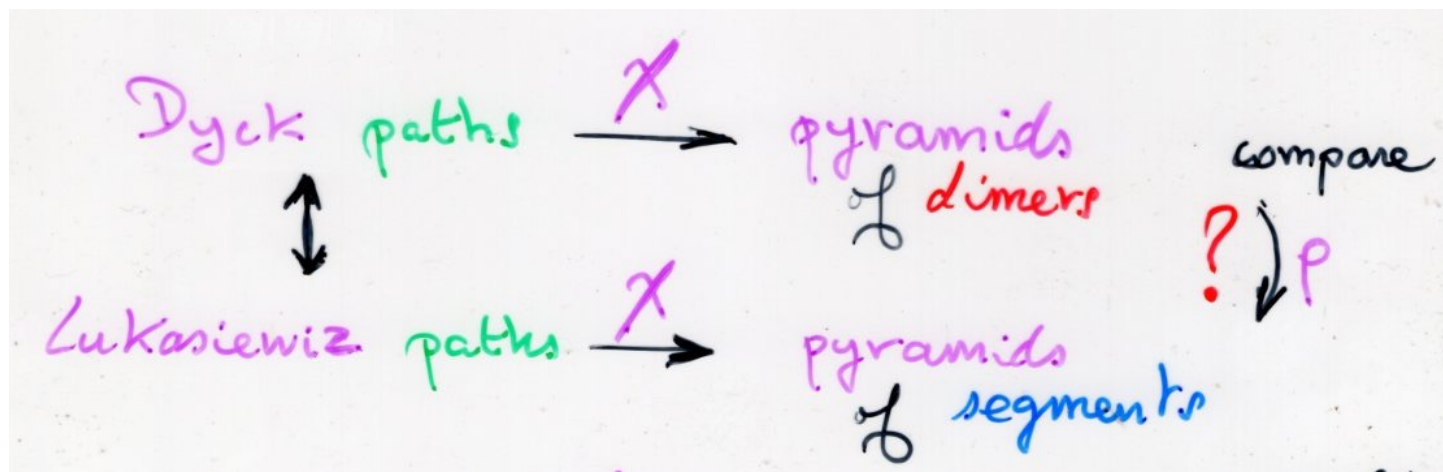




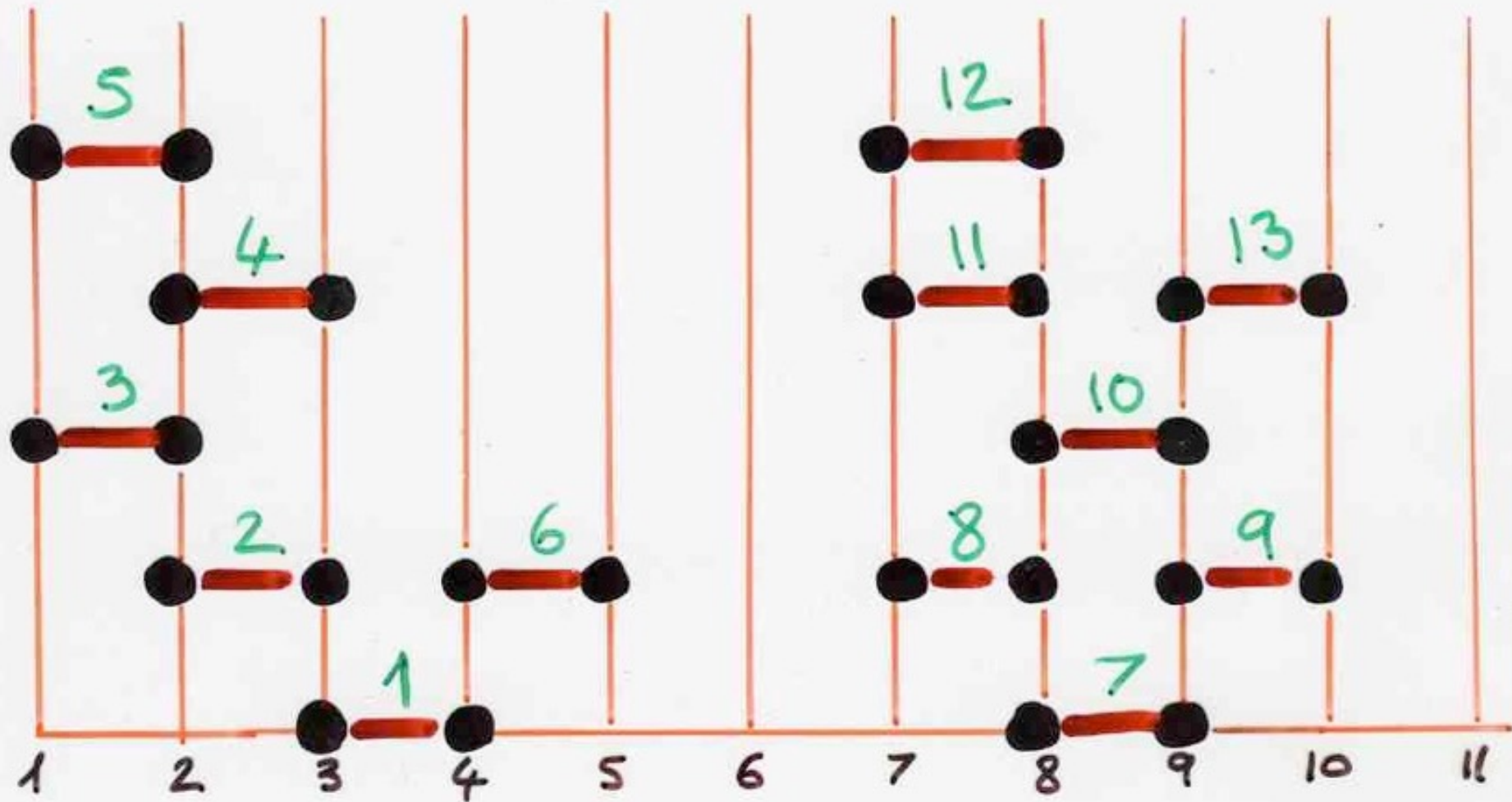




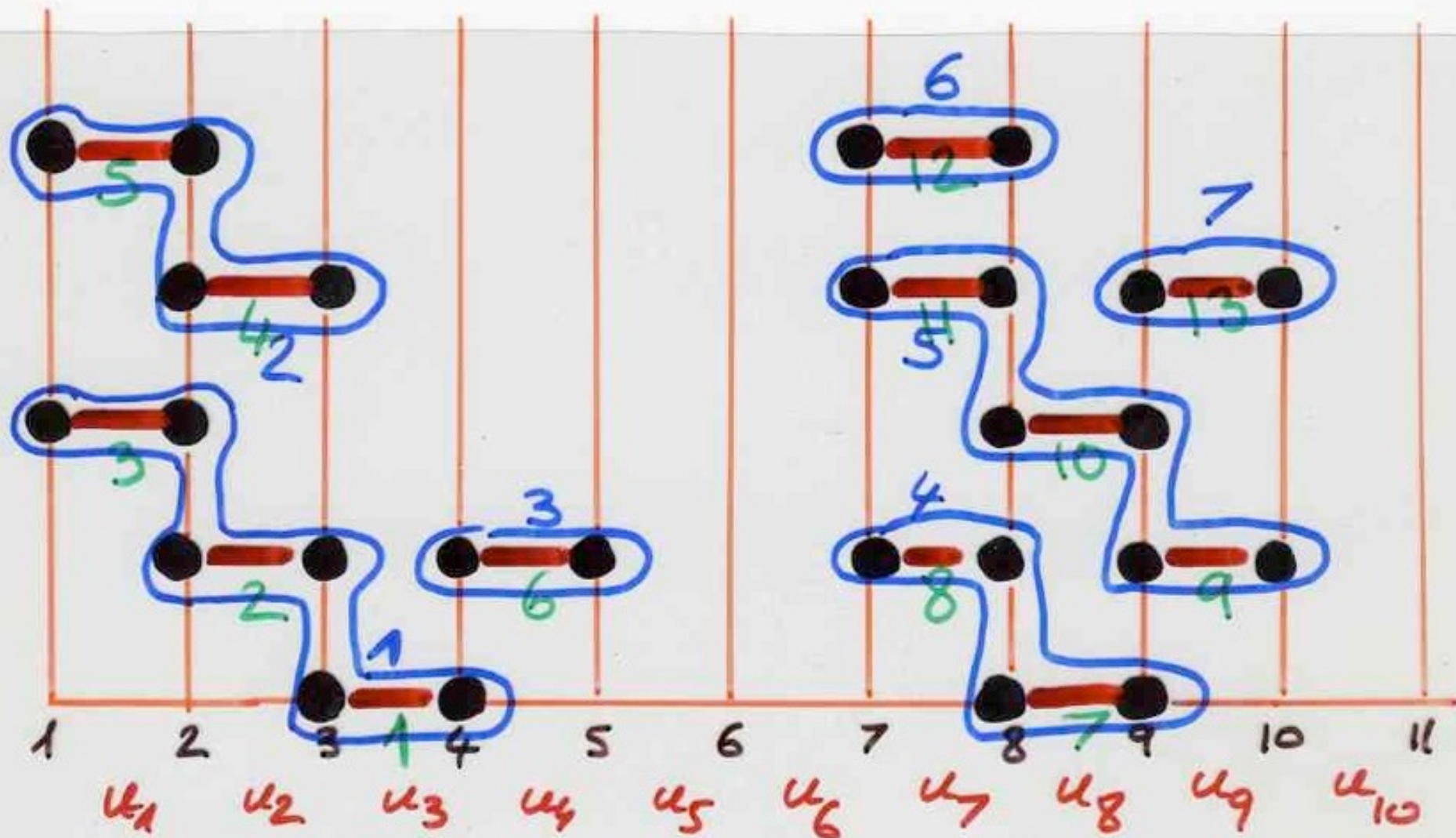
# exercise



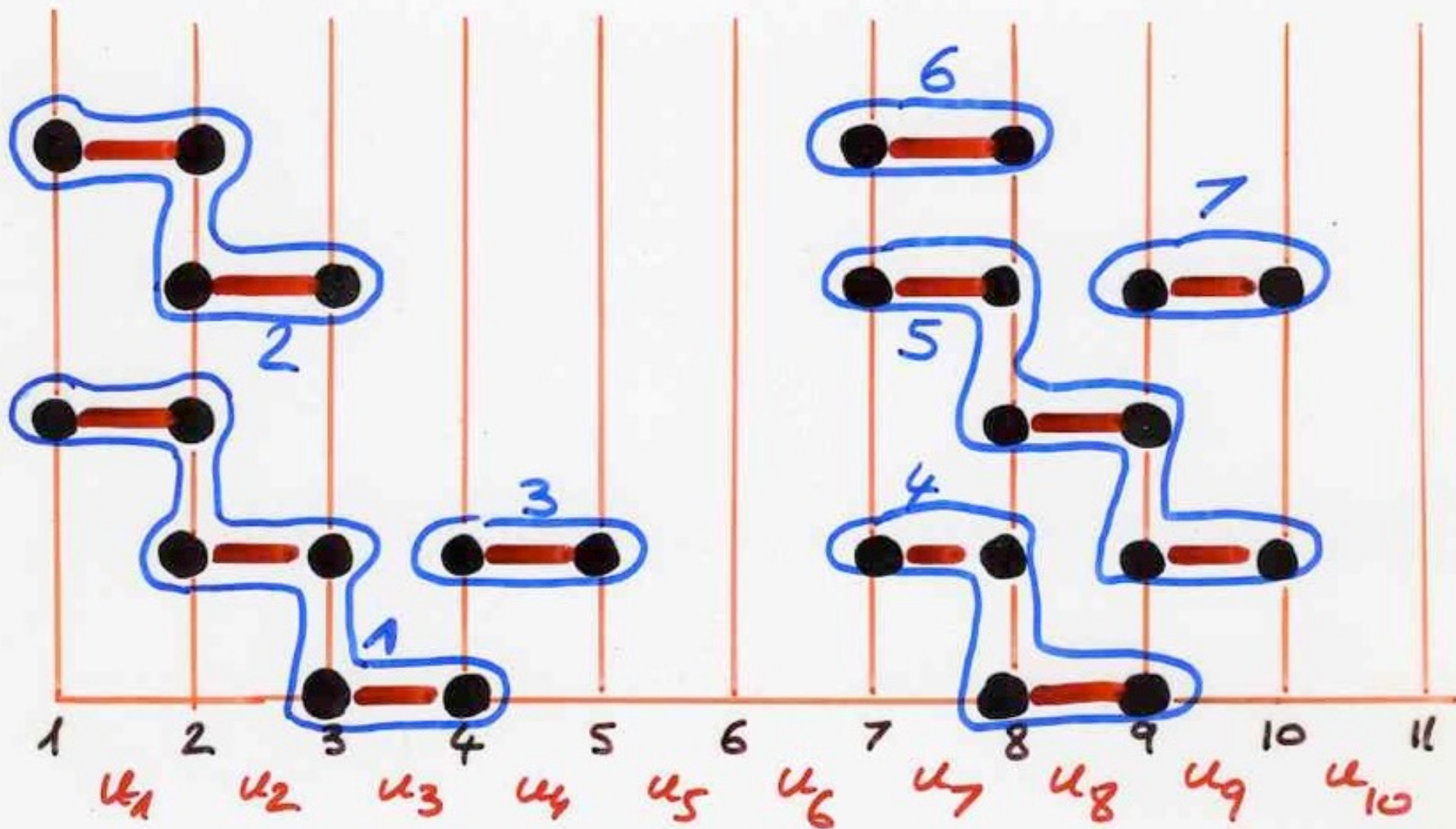
total order  
of the stairs  
in a heap  
of dimers




lexicographic normal form



lexicographic normal form



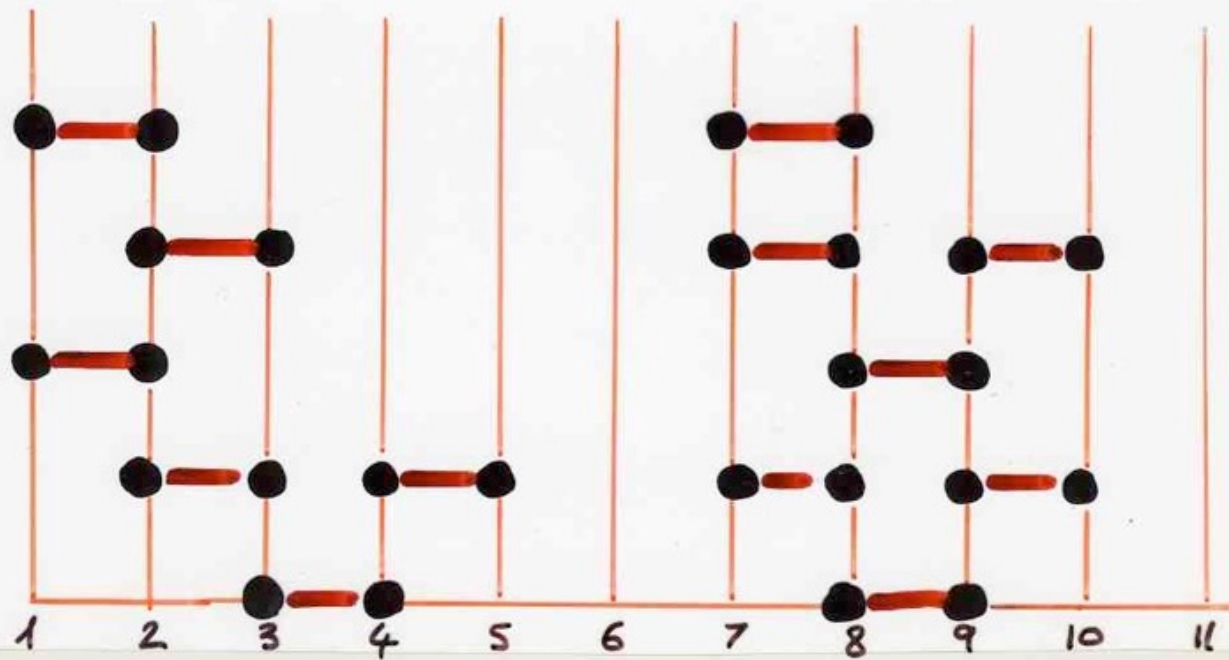
ordering the segments



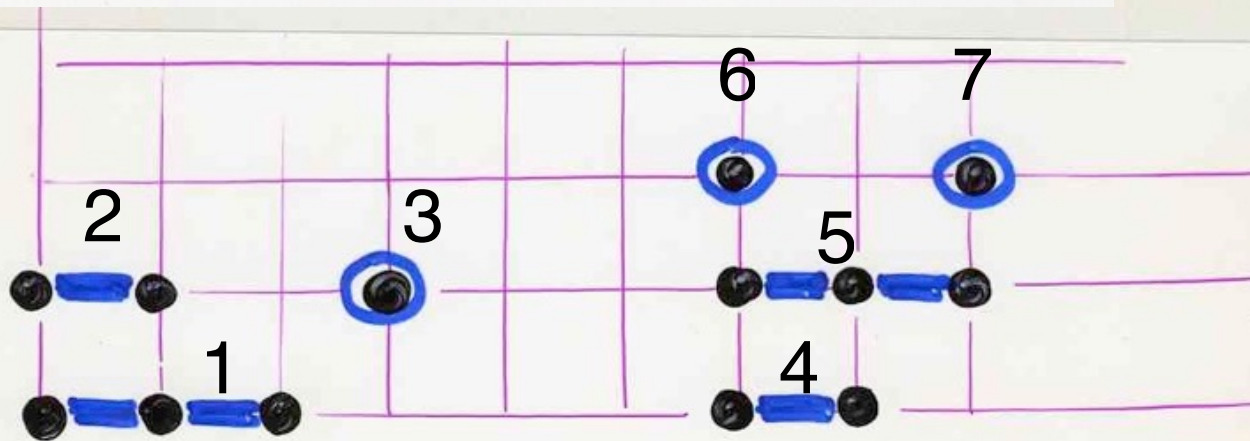
total order of the  
segments in a  
heap of segments

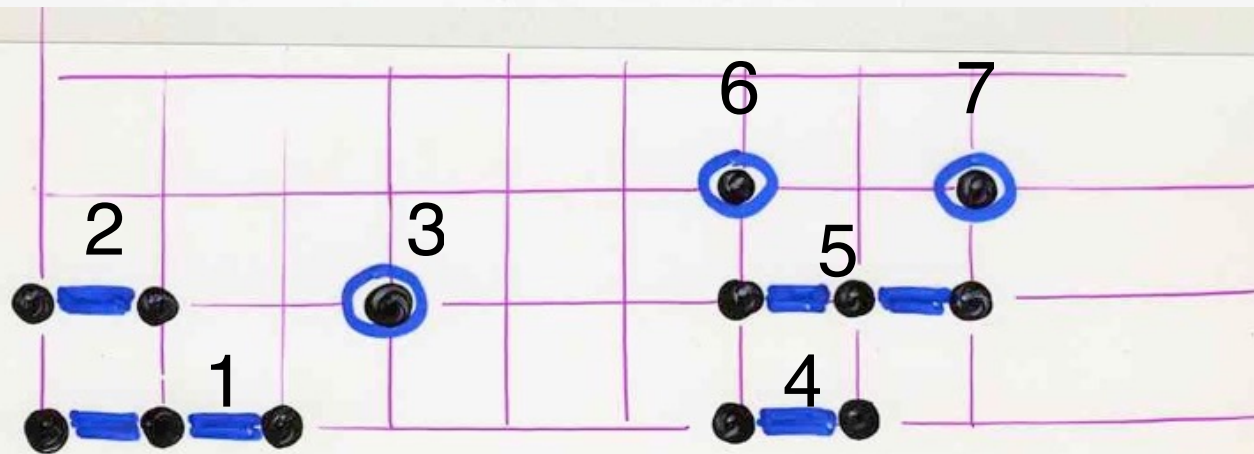
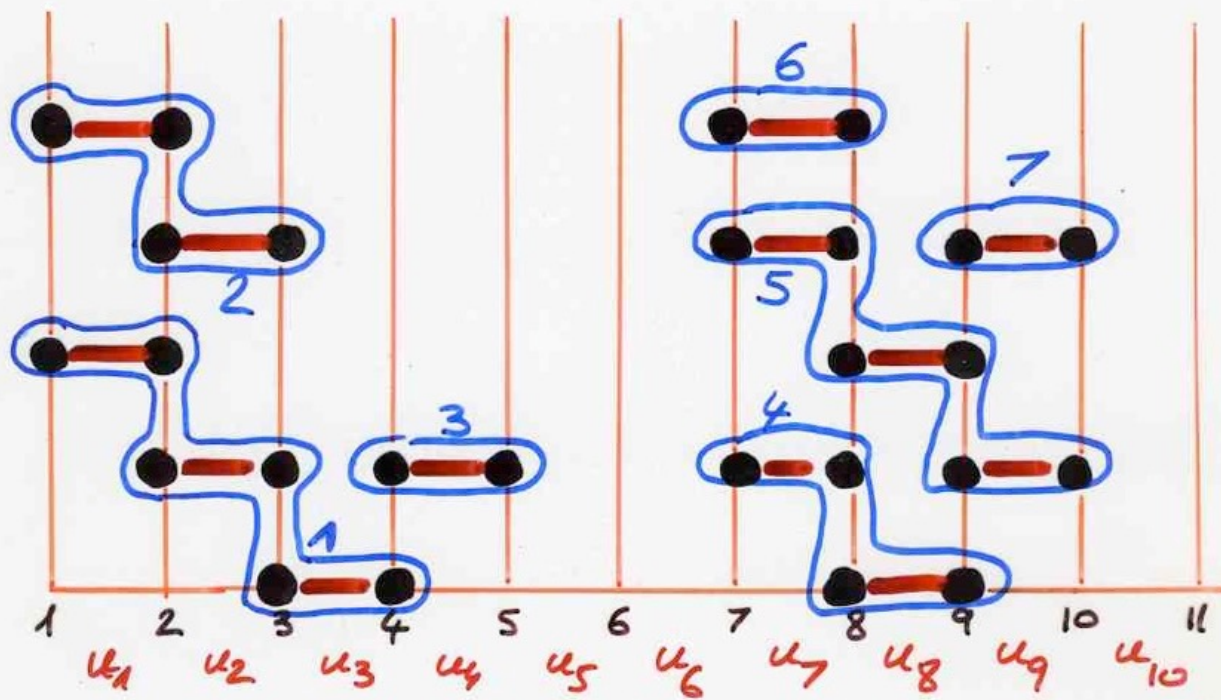


total order  
of the stairs  
in a heap  
of dimers

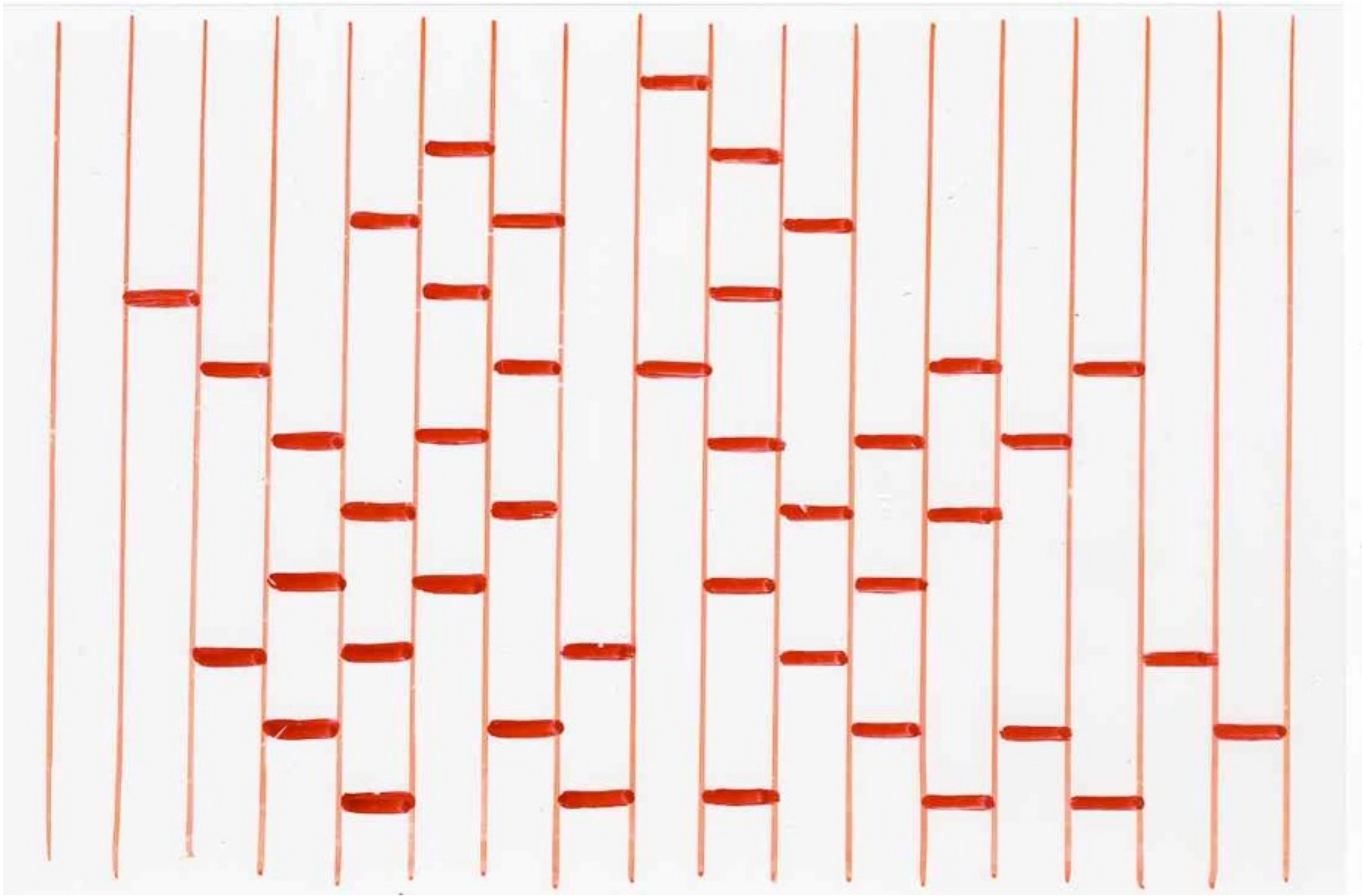


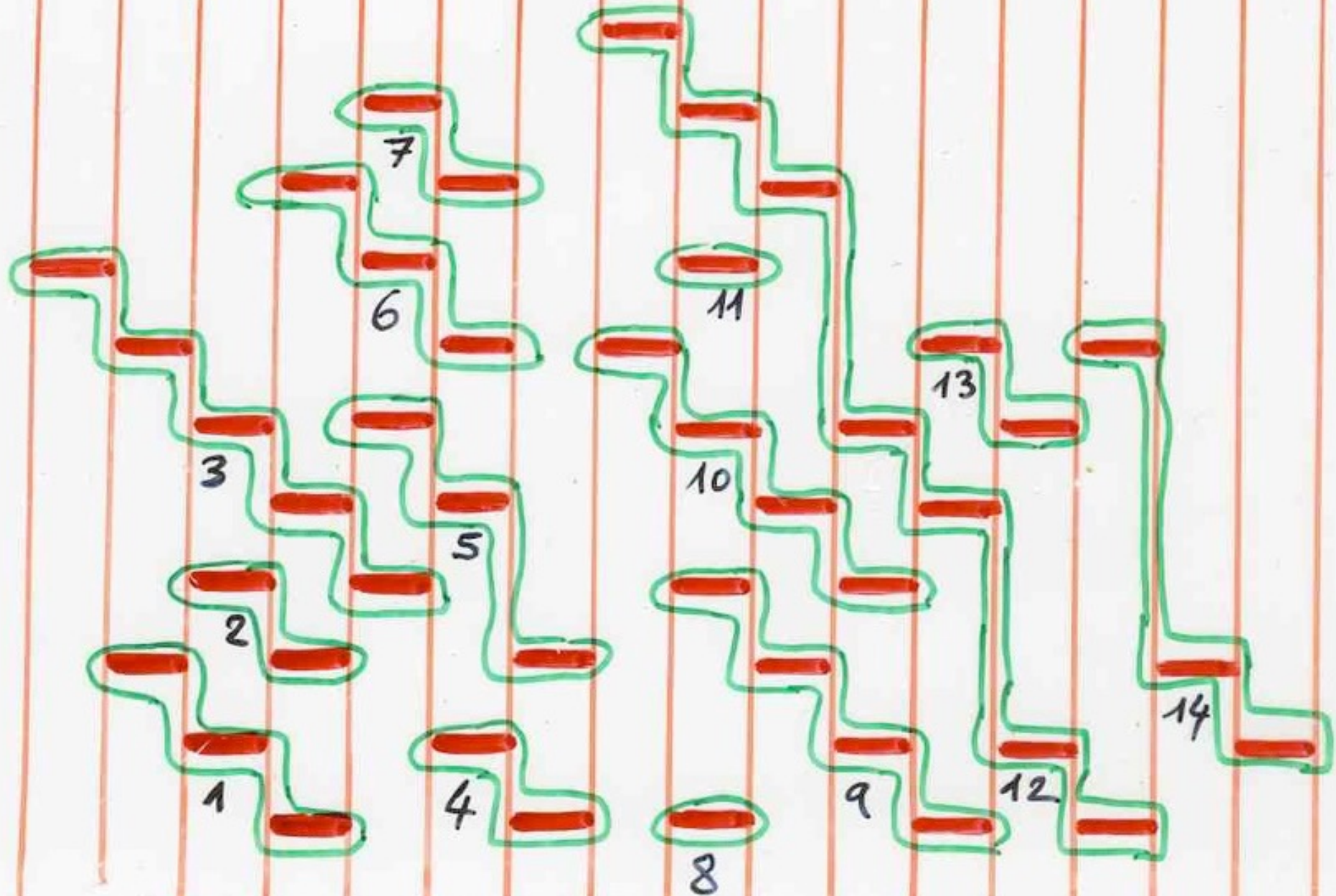
lexicographic normal form











the stair lemma

# The stair lemma

Let  $H$  be a strict heap of dimers on  $\mathbb{N}$

$$\text{and } H = S_1 \circ S_2 \circ \dots \circ S_k$$

its stair decomposition with

$$S_1 < S_2 < \dots < S_k$$

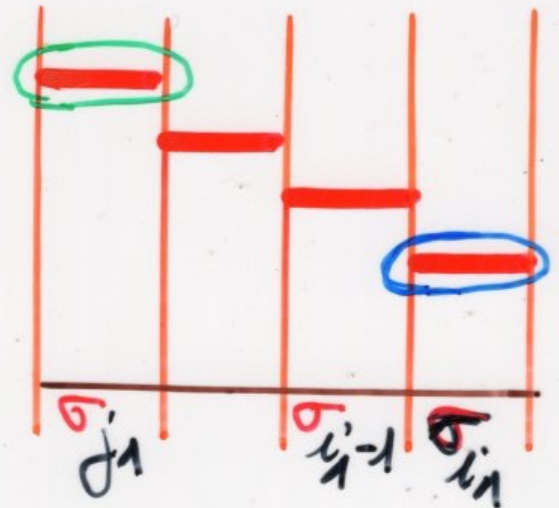
$$S_i = \sigma_{j_1} \circ \sigma_{j_1-1} \circ \dots \circ \sigma_{i_1} \quad (\text{product of dimers})$$

notation

$$\sigma_{i_1} = \min(S_i)$$

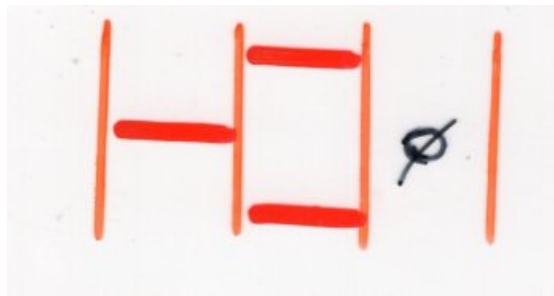
$$\sigma_{j_1} = \max(S_i)$$

$$S_i =$$



# The stair lemma

no occurrences of

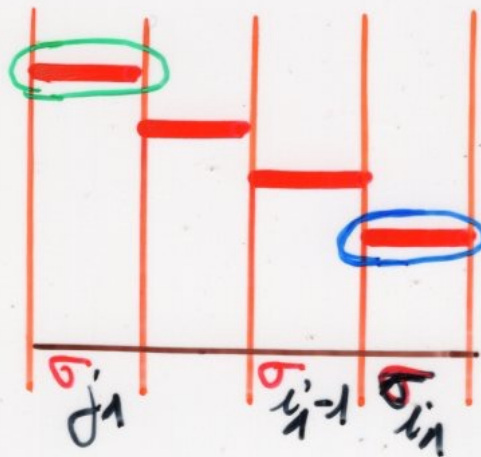


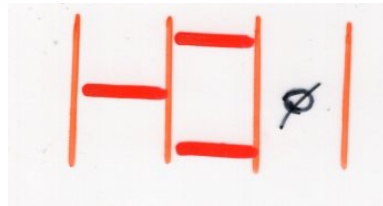
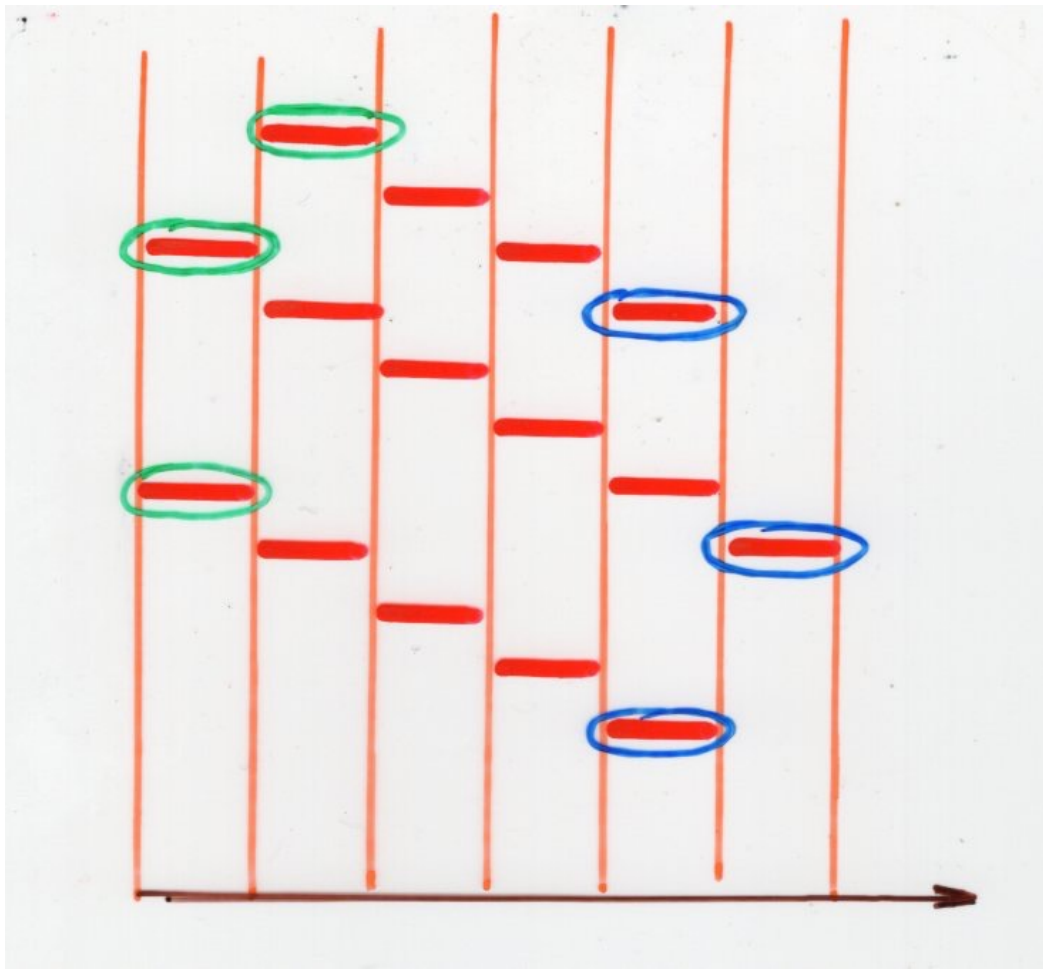
$$\min(S_1) < \dots < \min(S_k)$$



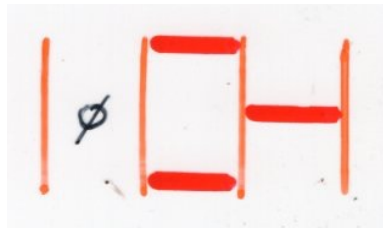
$$\max(S_1) < \dots < \max(S_k)$$

$S_i =$



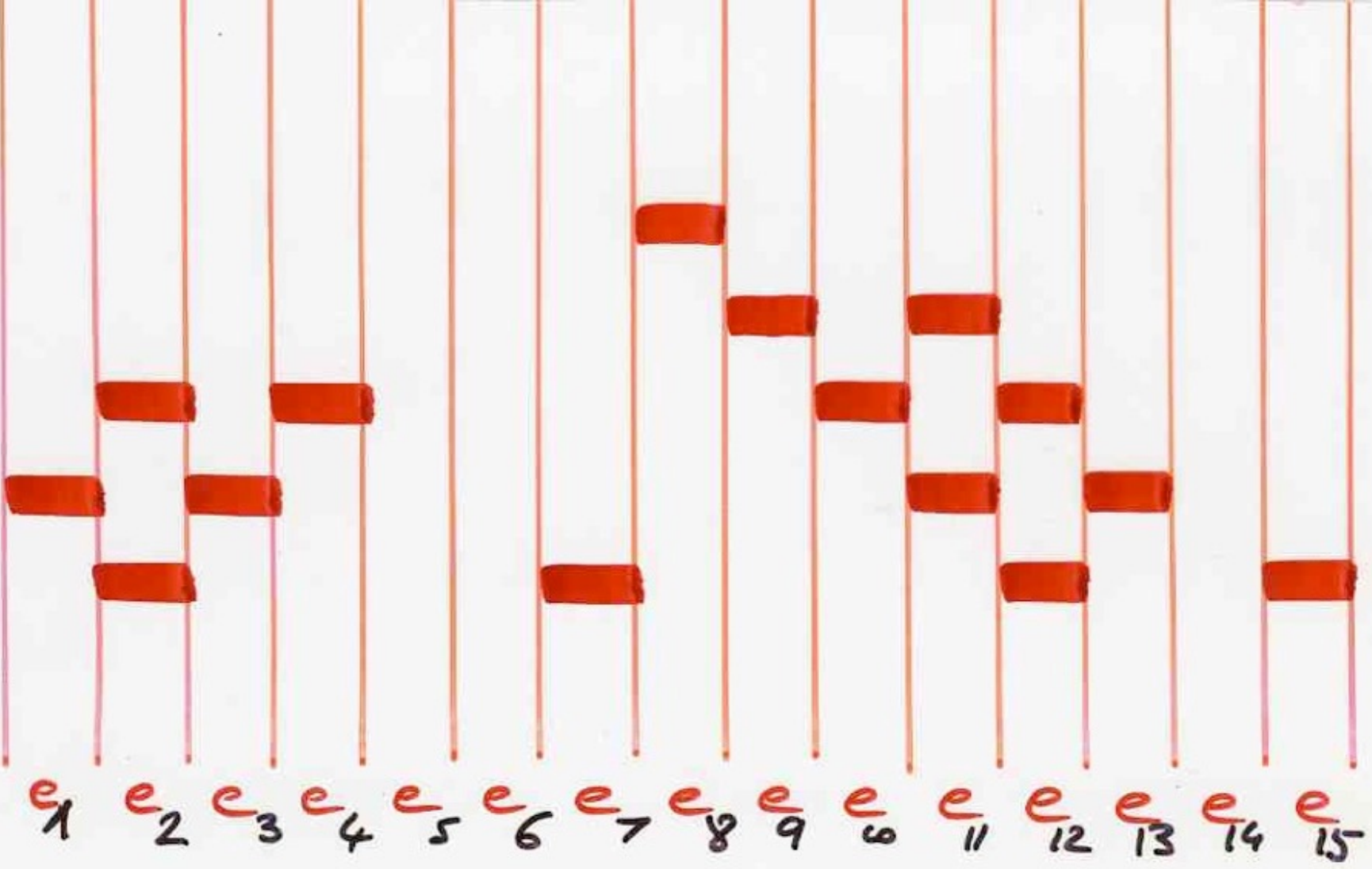


$$\min(S_1) < \dots < \min(S_k)$$

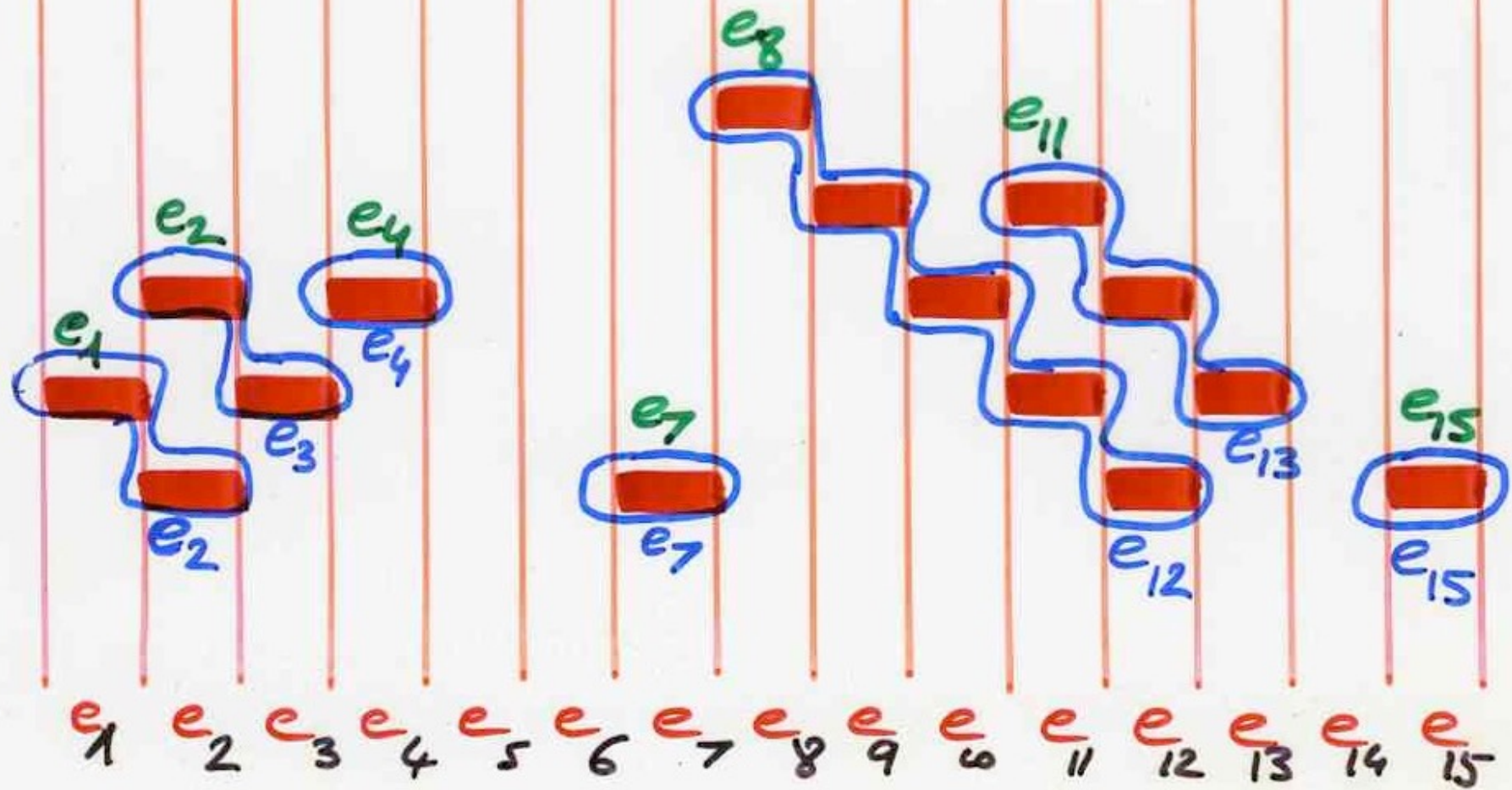


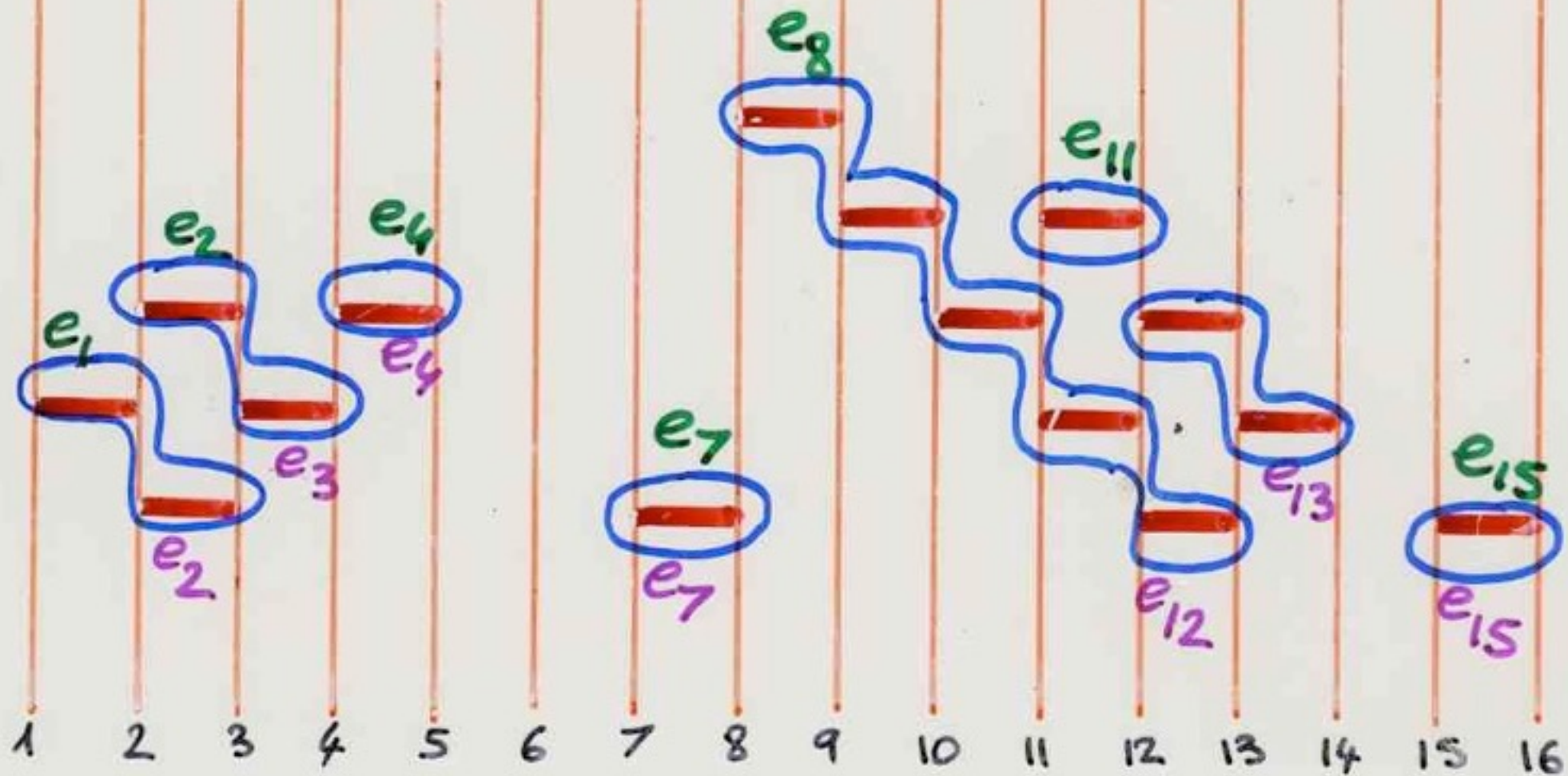
$$\max(S_1) < \dots < \max(S_k)$$

fully commutative heaps  
(of dimers)









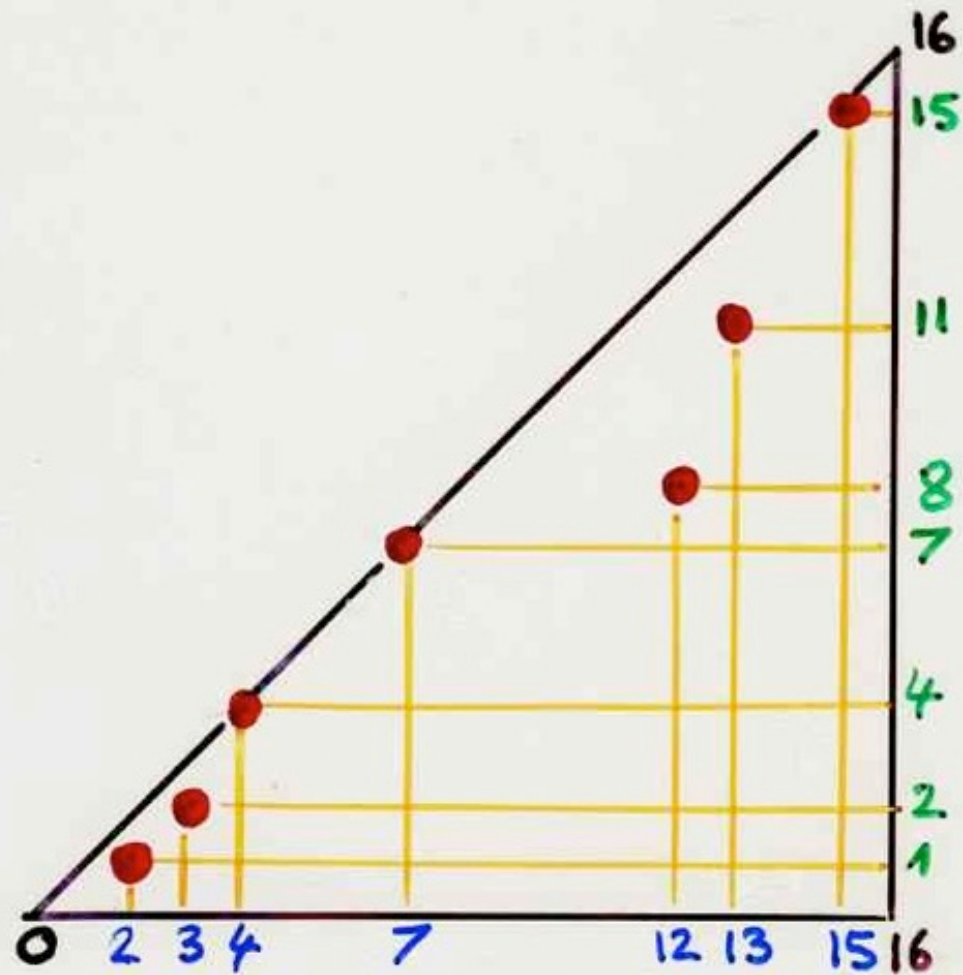
$$1 \leq \underset{\vee}{2} < \underset{\vee}{3} < \underset{\vee}{4} < \underset{\vee}{7} < \underset{\vee}{12} < \underset{\vee}{13} < \underset{\vee}{15} \leq n$$

$$1 < \underset{\vee}{2} < \underset{\vee}{4} < \underset{\vee}{7} < \underset{\vee}{8} < \underset{\vee}{11} < \underset{\vee}{15} \leq n$$

bijection

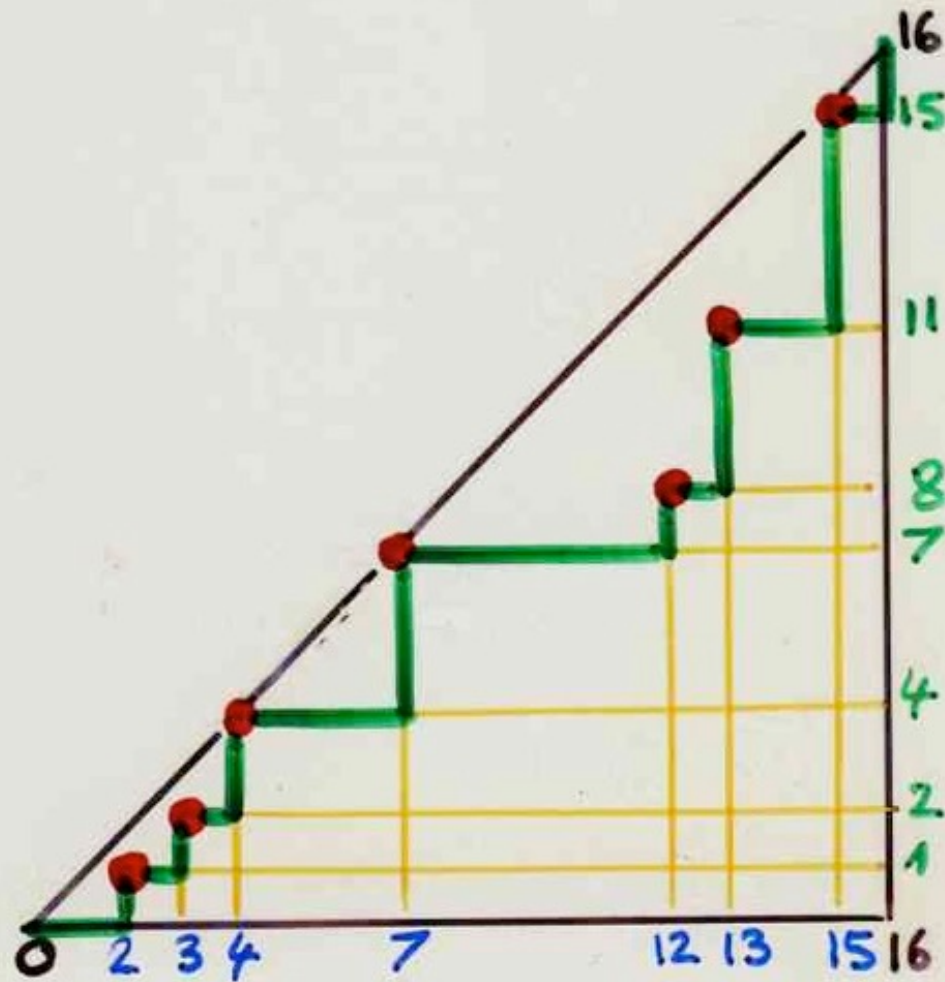
fully commutative heaps

Dyck paths



$$1 \leq \underbrace{2}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{3}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{4}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{7}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{12}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{13}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{15}_{\checkmark} \leq n$$

$$1 < \underbrace{2}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{4}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{7}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{8}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{11}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{15}_{\checkmark}$$



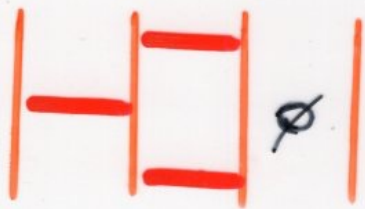
$$1 \leq \underbrace{2}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{3}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{4}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{7}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{12}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{13}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{15}_{\checkmark} \leq n$$

$$1 < \underbrace{2}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{4}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{7}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{8}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{11}_{\checkmark} < \underbrace{15}_{\checkmark} \leq n$$

exercice

# exercise

The number of **strict** **heaps** satisfying the condition:

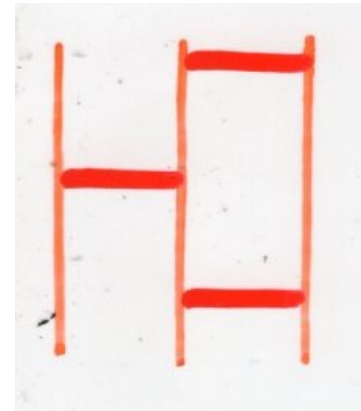
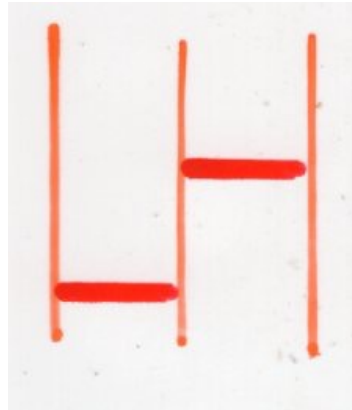
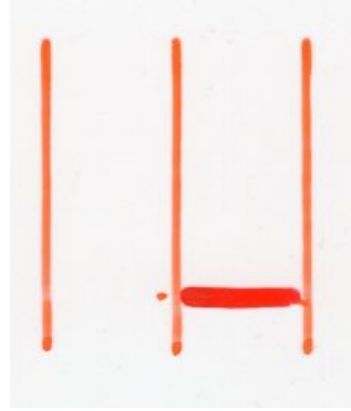
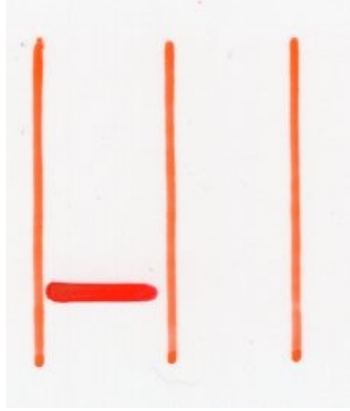


$$\min(S_1) < \dots < \min(S_k)$$

is  $n!$



$$\max(S_1) < \dots < \max(S_k)$$



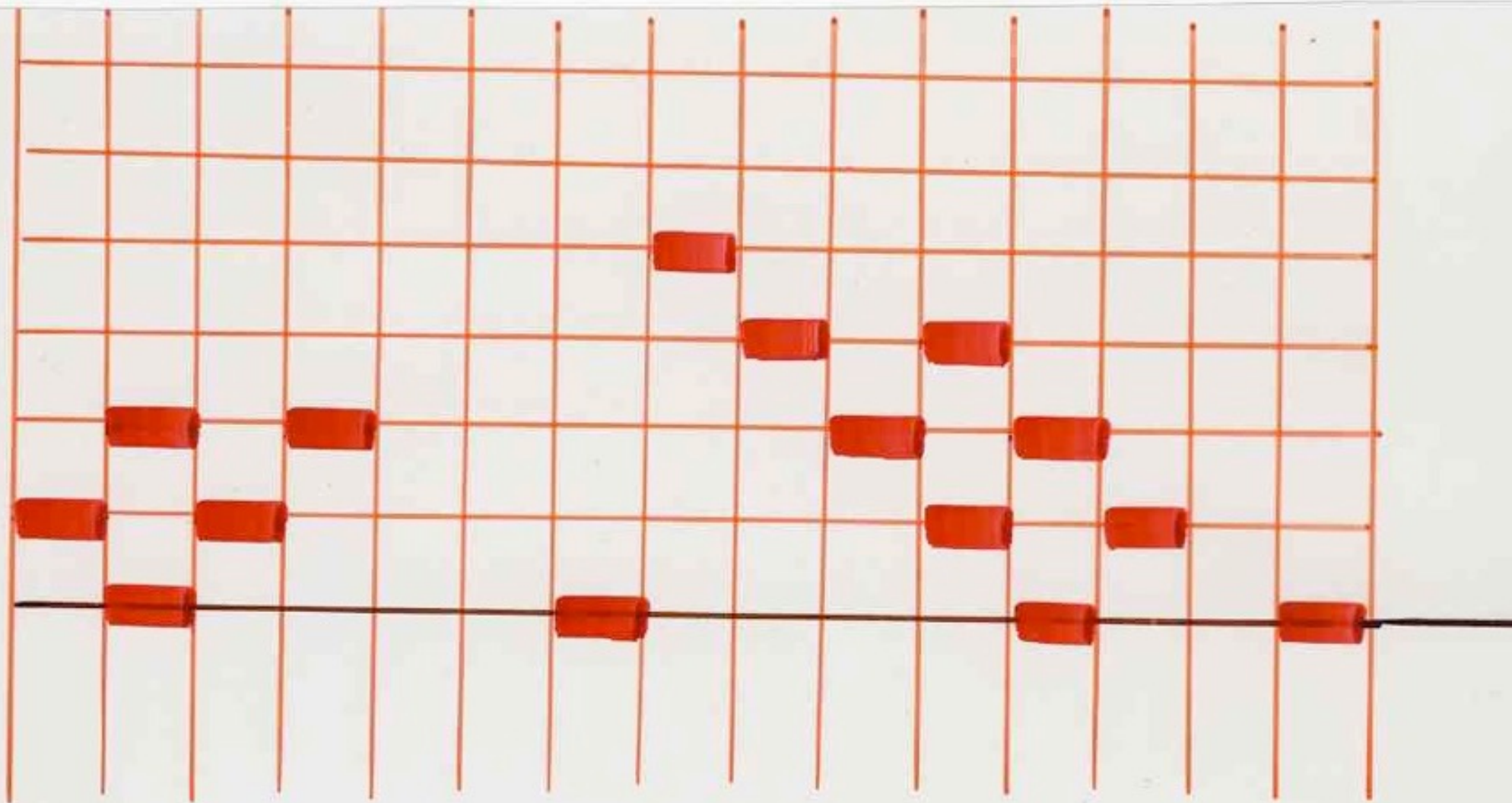


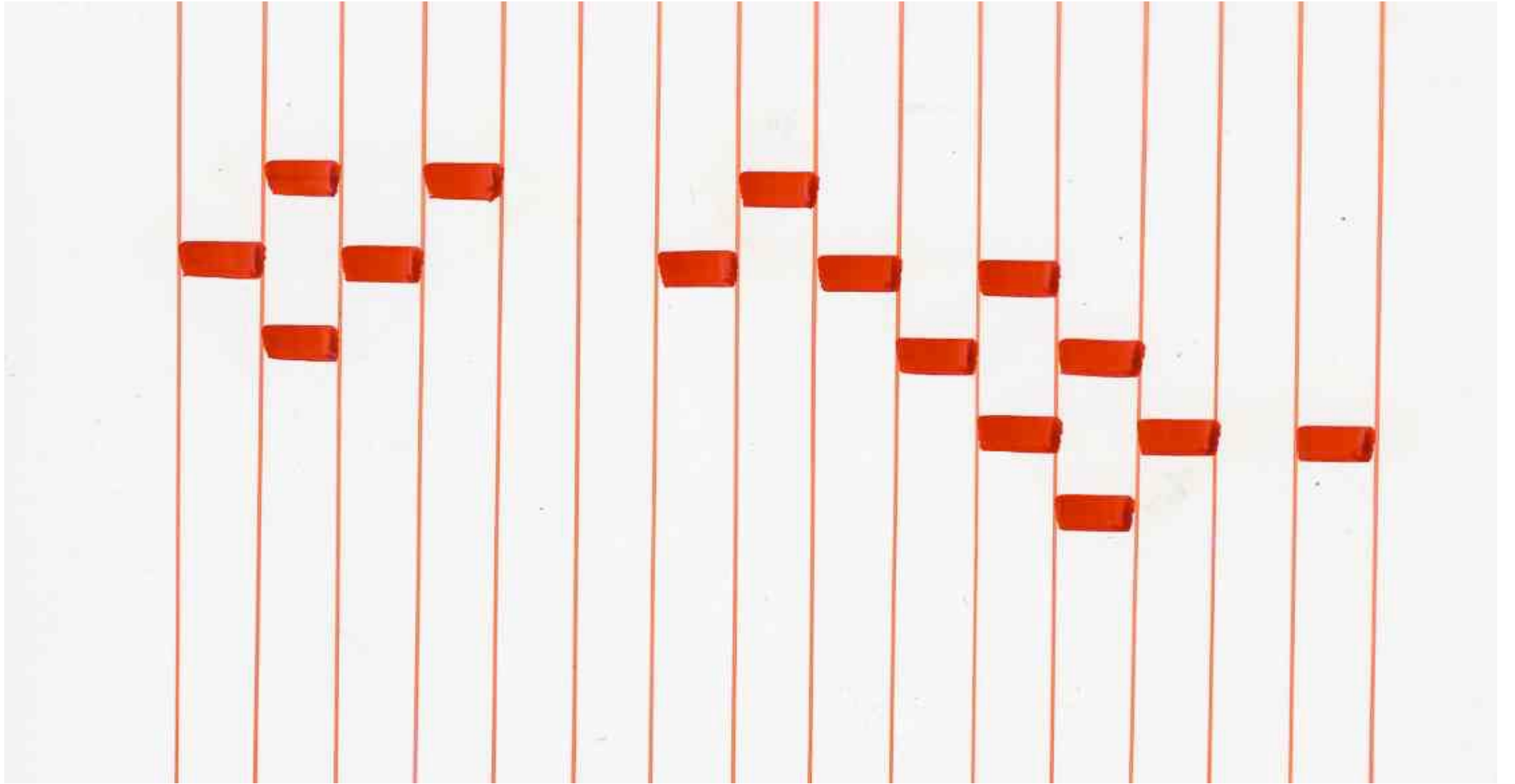
bijection

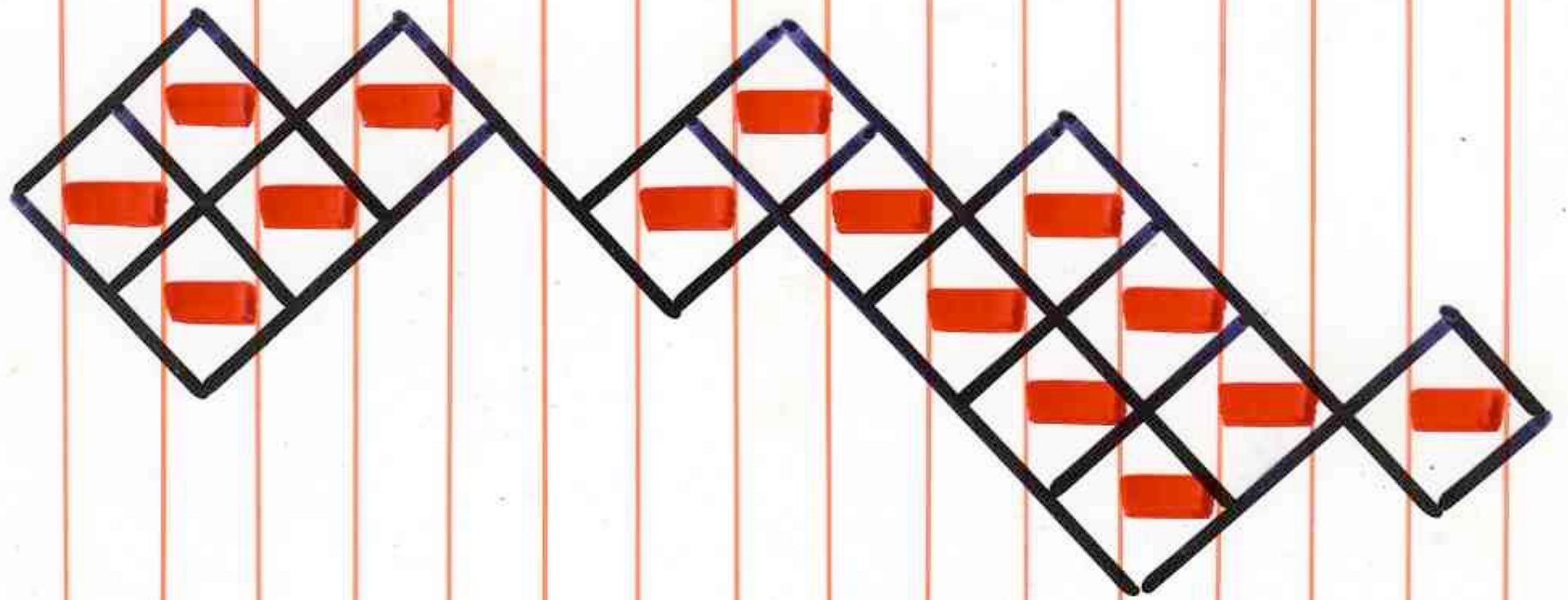
fully commutative heaps

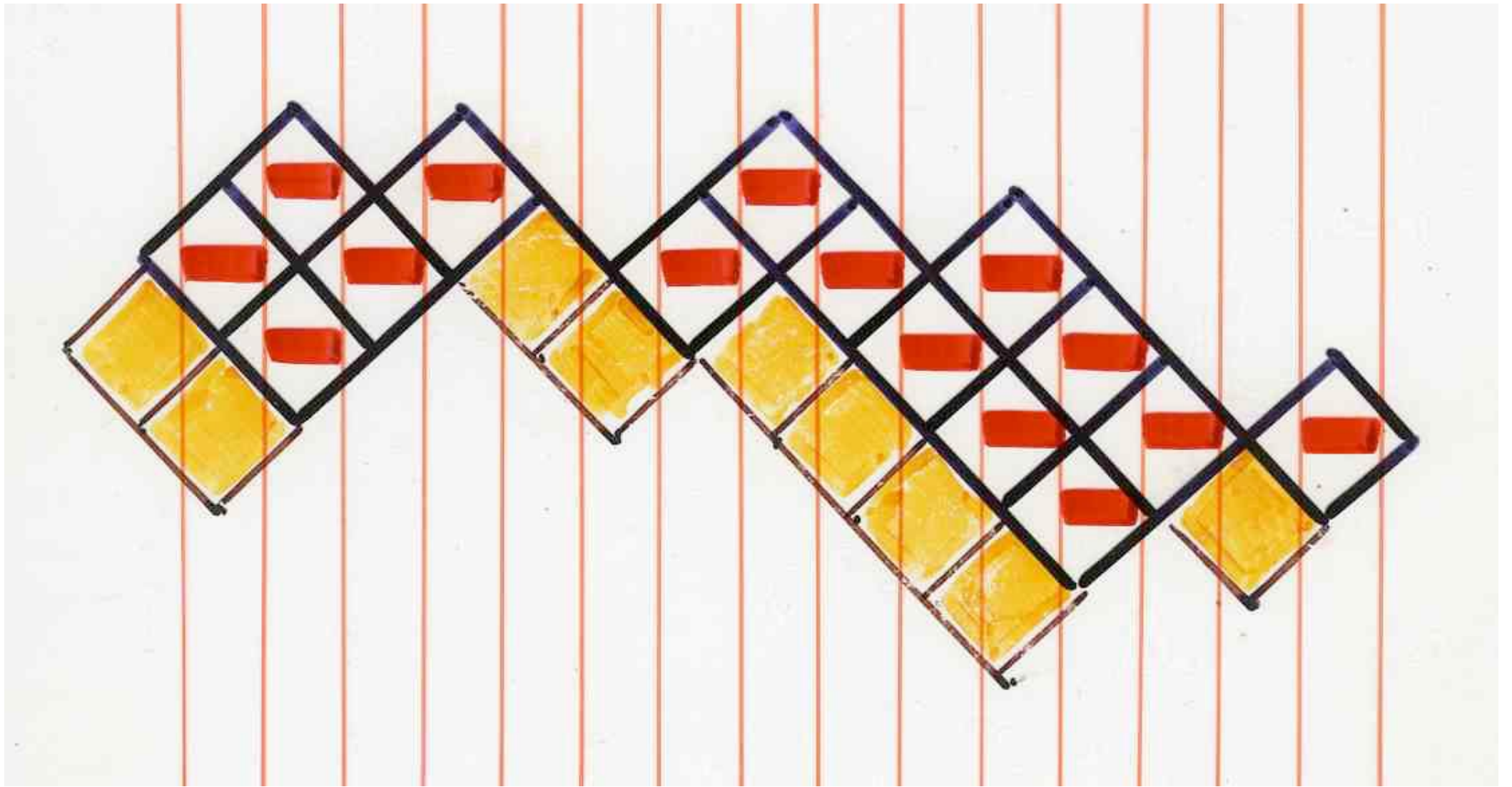
parallelogram polyomínos

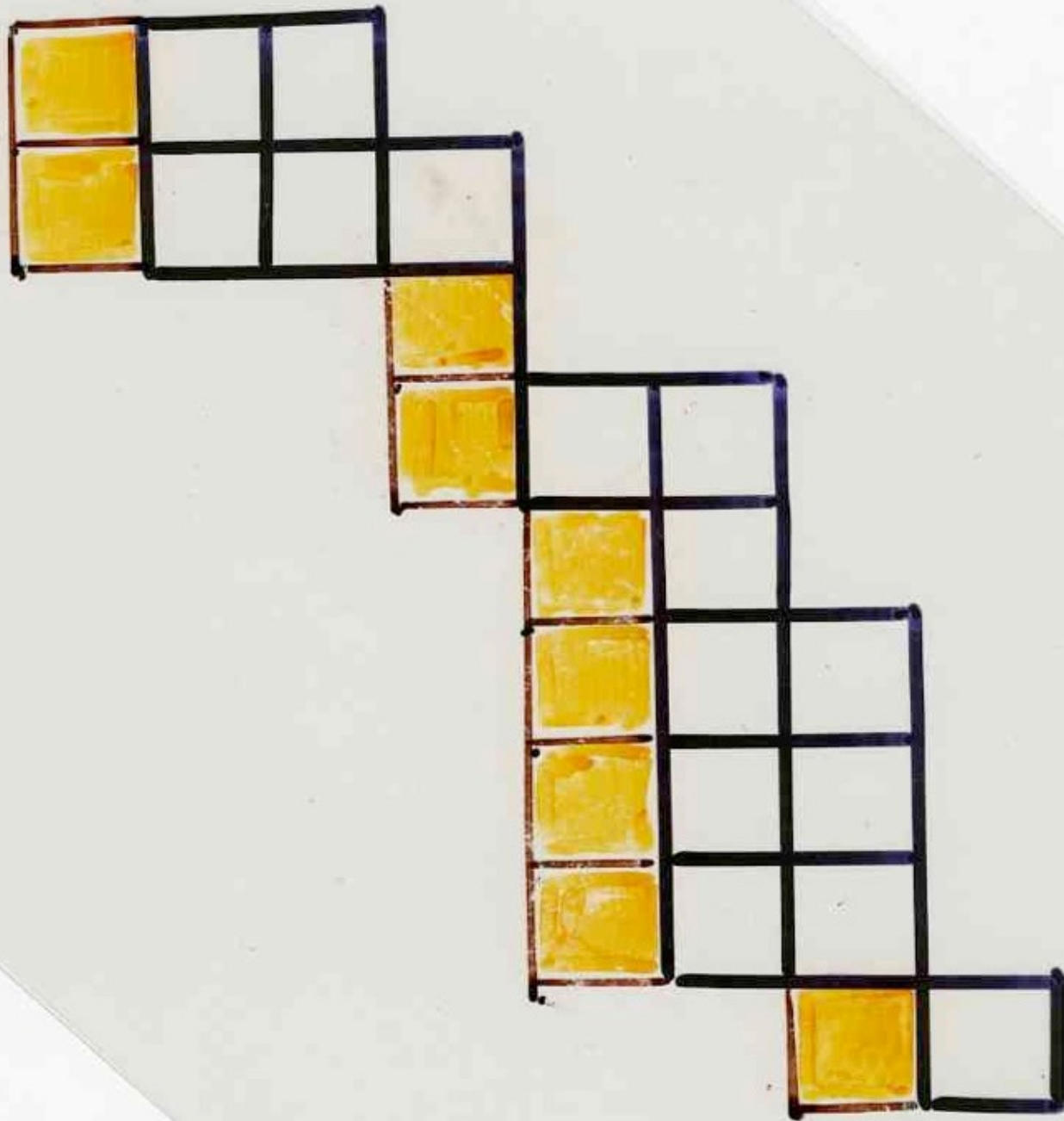
(staircase polygons)

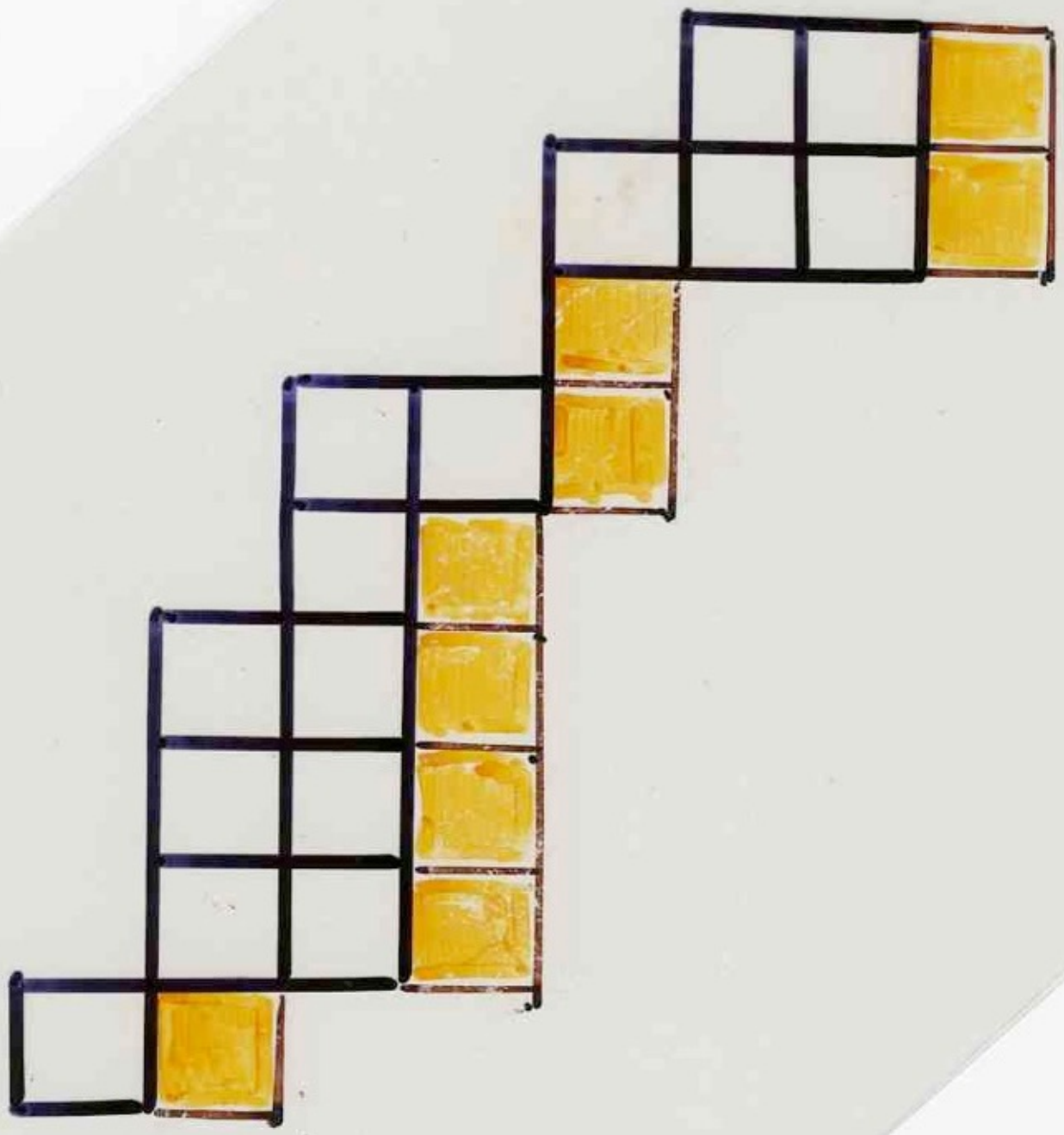


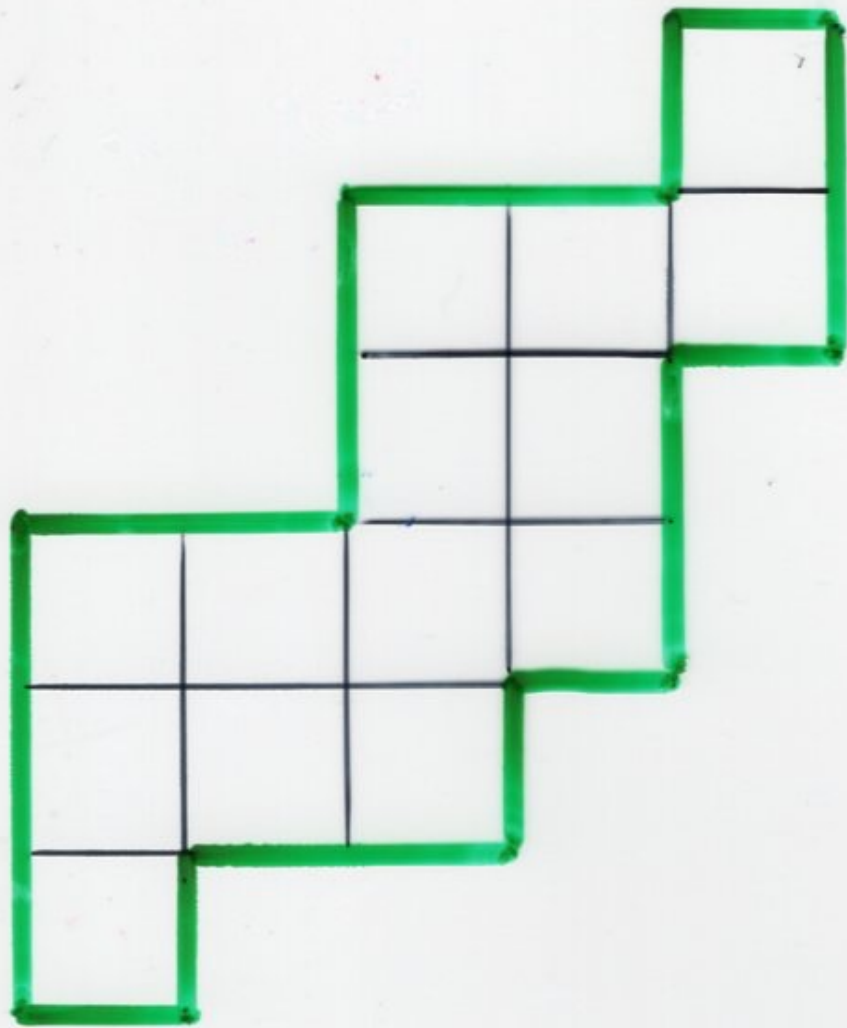












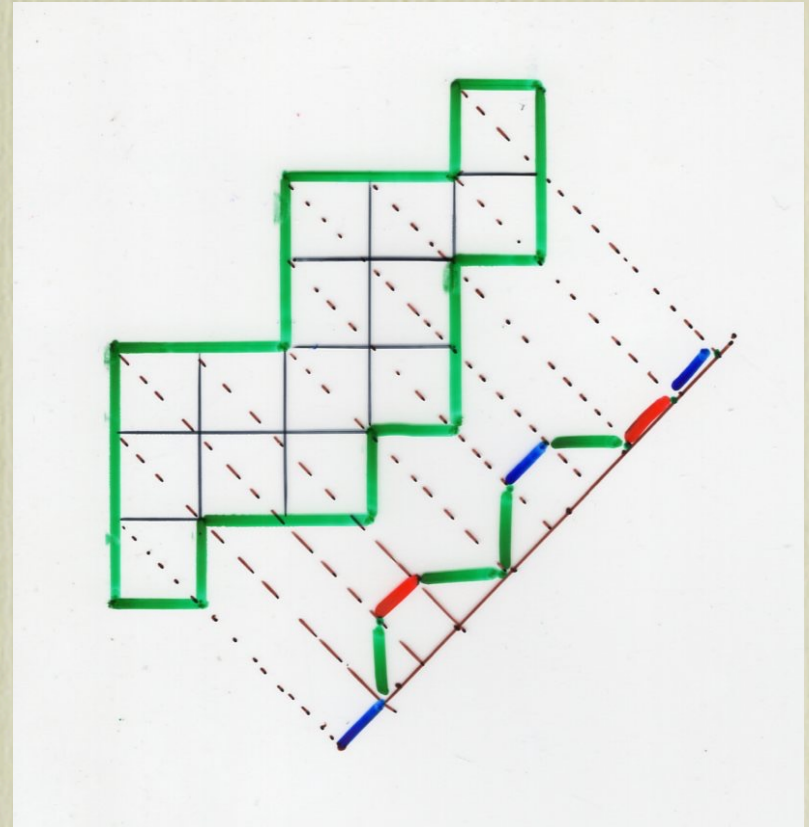


cours IMSc 2016 Ch2a, p105-109

bijection

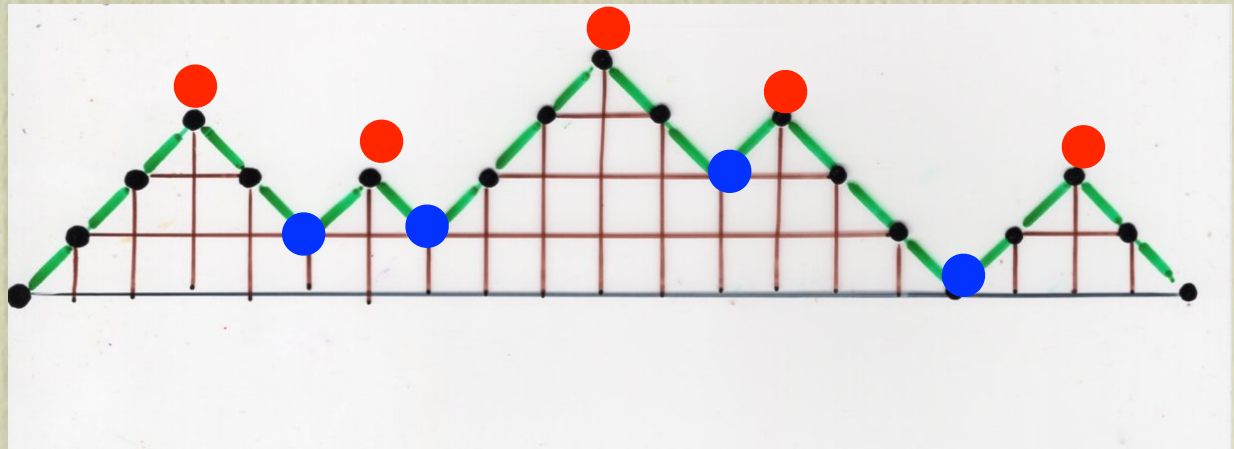
staircase polygons

2-colored Motzkin paths



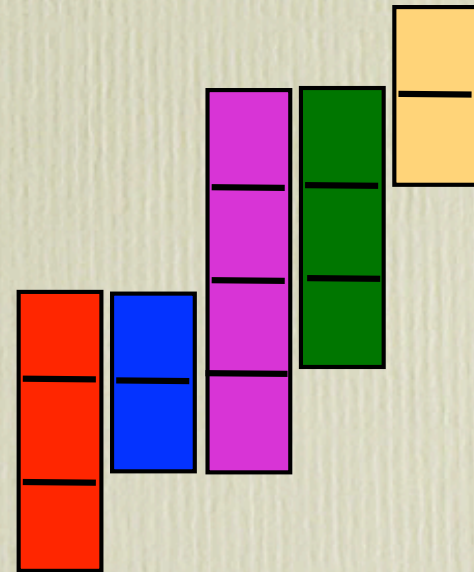
cours IMSc 2016 Ch2a, p110-116

bijection



staircase polygons

Dyck paths



$$H_n(q)$$

$C_n$   $q$ -Polya  
Catalan

$$H_1(q) = 1 + q$$

$$H_2(q) = 1 + 2q + 2q^2$$

$$H_3(q) = 1 + 3q + 5q^2 + 4q^3 + q^4$$

-----

$$H(q, t) = \sum_{n \geq 1} H_n(q) t^n$$

ratio  $\mathcal{L}$   $q$ -Bessel

Delst, Fedou  
(1993)

→ see Ch 7

heaps and statistical mechanics

$q$ -Bessel functions in physics

## affine Coxeter groups

Biagioli, Touhet, Nadeau (2014, 2015)

" " " , Bousquet-Mélou (2016)

Hanuska, Jones (2010)

enumeration  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} - \text{number of FC elements} \\ - q\text{-enumeration} \end{array} \right.$

$$W(x, q) = \sum_n W_n^{\text{FC}}(q) x^n$$

$n$  for the family  $A_n, B_n, D_n, \dots$

$q$  enumeration by the length  $l(w)$  of FC elements

Proposition Nadeau (2015)

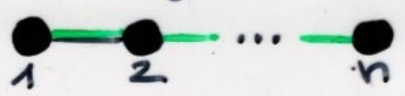
for any Coxeter group  $W$ ,

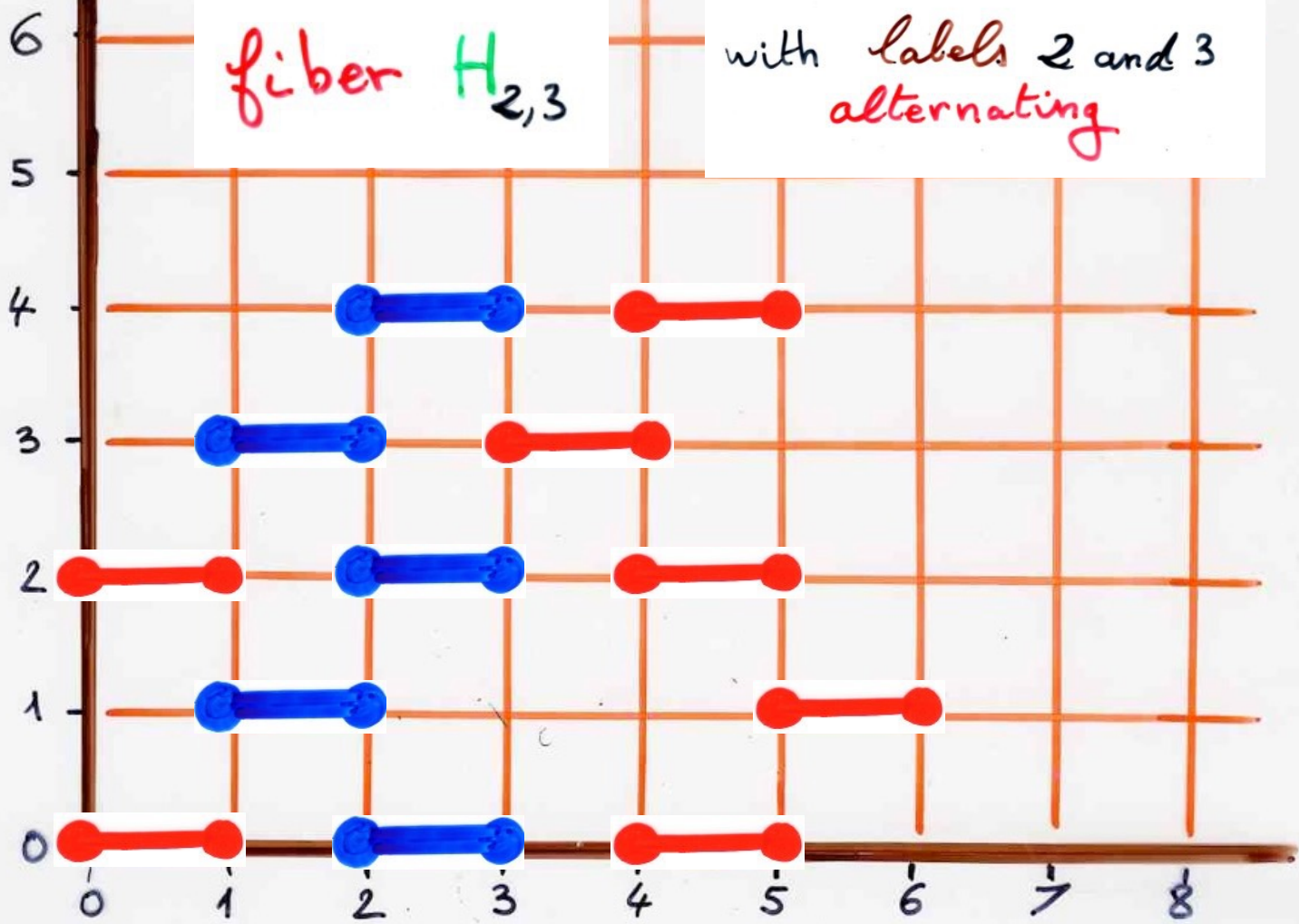
$W^{FC}(q)$  is a rational power series  
coeff. ultimately periodic

exercise

Definition A heap  $H$  over the graph  $\Gamma$  is **alternating** iff for all  $s$  and  $t$  adjacent vertices of  $\Gamma$ , the **fiber**  $H_{s,t}$  the elements of the **fiber**  $H_{s,t}$  over  $\{s, t\}$  are alternatingly **labeled**  $s$  and  $t$

[in (i)'  $H_{s,t} = \pi^{-1}(\{s, t\})$  is a **chain**]

exercise Prove the following characterization of **FC heaps** over  ( $A_n$ )  
 $H$  is **FC** iff  $H$  is **alternating** and the **fibers**  $H_1 = \pi^{-1}(1)$  and  $H_n = \pi^{-1}(n)$  have at most one element



fiber  $H_{2,3}$

with labels 2 and 3 alternating



$F_8$

$m_{2,3} = 4$



