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## Definition

$b(n)$  = number of chiral partitions of  $n$ .

$n$	$p(n)$	$b(n)$	$b(n)/p(n)$
1	1	1	_____
2	2	1	_____
3	3	2	_____
4	5	3	_____
5	7	5	_____
6	11	<b>4</b>	_____
7	15	8	_____
8	22	12	_____
9	30	20	_____
10	42	<b>8</b>	_____
11	56	16	_____
12	77	24	_____
13	101	40	_____
14	135	32	_____
15	176	64	_____
16	231	88	_____
17	297	152	_____
18	385	<b>16</b>	-
19	490	32	-
20	627	48	-
21	792	80	-
22	1002	64	-
23	1255	128	-
24	1575	192	-
25	1958	320	-
26	2436	128	-
27	3010	256	-
28	3718	384	-
29	4565	640	-
30	5604	512	-
31	6842	1024	-
32	8349	1360	-
33	10143	2384	-
34	12310	<b>32</b>	-



$n$	$p(n)$	$b(n)$	$b(n)/p(n)$
100	190569292	6144	$3.2240241518 \times 10^{-05}$
200	3972999029388	98304	$2.47430213984 \times 10^{-08}$
300	9253082936723602	196608	$2.12478372176 \times 10^{-11}$
400	6727090051741041926	2883584	$4.28652504697 \times 10^{-13}$
500	2300165032574323995027	3221225472	$1.40043232828 \times 10^{-12}$
600	458004788008144308553622	6291456	$1.37366598881 \times 10^{-17}$
700	60378285202834474611028659	805306368	$1.33376820043 \times 10^{-17}$
800	5733052172321422504456911979	178257920	$3.10930224673 \times 10^{-20}$
900	415873681190459054784114365430	50331648	$1.21026288213 \times 10^{-22}$
1000	24061467864032622473692149727991	412316860416	$1.71359811773 \times 10^{-20}$
1100	1147240591519695580043346988281283	1572864	$1.37099751493 \times 10^{-27}$
1200	46240102378152881298913555099661657	369098752	$7.98222177325 \times 10^{-27}$
1300	1607818855017534550841511230454411672	12582912	$7.82607565568 \times 10^{-30}$
1400	49032194652550394774839040691532998261	103079215104	$2.10227618475 \times 10^{-27}$
1500	1329461690763193888825263136701886891117	824633720832	$6.20276407031 \times 10^{-28}$
1600	32417690376154241824102577250721959572183	22699573248	$7.0022179201 \times 10^{-31}$
1700	717802041964941442478681516751205185010007	6442450944	$8.97524744617 \times 10^{-33}$
1800	14552716211005418005132948684850541312590849	1610612736	$1.10674372581 \times 10^{-34}$
1900	272089289788583262011466359201428623427767364	6597069766656	$2.42459737088 \times 10^{-32}$

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A045923

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**[A045923](#)** Number of irreducible representations of symmetric group  $S_n$  for which every matrix has determinant 1. +30  
0

1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 7, 7, 10, 10, 34, 40, 53, 61, 103, 112, 143, 145, 369, 458, 579, 712, 938, 1127, 1383, 1638, 2308, 2754, 3334, 3925, 5092 ([list](#); [graph](#); [refs](#); [listen](#); [history](#); [text](#); [internal format](#))

OFFSET 1,4

COMMENTS Irreducible representations of  $S_n$  contained in the special linear group were first considered by L. Solomon (unpublished).

REFERENCES R. P. Stanley, Enumerative Combinatorics, vol. 2, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge and New York, 1999, Exercise 7.55.

LINKS [Table of n, a\(n\) for n=1..30.](#)

EXAMPLE  $a(5)=2$ , since only the irreducible representations indexed by the partitions (5) and (3,2) are contained in the special linear group.

KEYWORD nonn,nice

AUTHOR [Richard Stanley](#)

STATUS approved

page 1

Search completed in 0.768 seconds

# Closed Formula for number of representations of $S_n$ with non-trivial determinant

Suppose  $n$  has binary expansion:

$$n = \epsilon + 2^{k_1} + 2^{k_2} + \cdots + 2^{k_r}, \text{ with } 0 < k_1 < \cdots < k_r, \epsilon \in \{0, 1\},$$

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Then the number of partitions  $\lambda$  of  $n$  for which  $w \mapsto \det(\rho_\lambda(w))$  is the sign character is

$$2^{k_2 + \cdots + k_r} \left( 2^{k_1 - 1} + \sum_{v=1}^{k_1 - 1} 2^{(v+1)(k_1 - 2) - \binom{v}{2}} + \epsilon 2^{\binom{k_1}{2}} \right).$$

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$$b(41) = 2^5 \times (2^{3-1} + 2^{2 \times 1 - \binom{1}{2}} + 2^{3 \times 1 - \binom{2}{2}} + 2^{\binom{3}{2}}) = 640.$$

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## Conclusion

$\det \circ \rho_\lambda$  is the sign character if and only if  $g_\lambda$  is odd.

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The character value  $\chi_\lambda(2, 1^{n-2})$  has a nice formula:

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(Macdonald, *Symmetric functions and Hall polynomials*, p. 118,  
using the theory of skew-Schur functions)

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Character Formula:

$$\chi_{\lambda}(2, 1^{n-2}) = \frac{f_{\lambda} C(\lambda)}{\binom{n}{2}}.$$

## Formula for $g_\lambda$

$$\begin{aligned} g_\lambda &= (f_\lambda - \chi_\lambda(2, 1^{n-2}))/2 \\ &= f_\lambda\left(\frac{\binom{n}{2} - C(\lambda)}{\binom{n}{2}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

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So  $\rho_\lambda$  is chiral if and only if:

$$v_2(f_\lambda) + v_2\left(\binom{n}{2} - C(\lambda)\right) = v_2\left(\binom{n}{2}\right)$$

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One ingredient is the hook-length formula (Frame, Robinson and Thrall):

$$f_\lambda = \frac{n!}{\prod_{(i,j) \in \lambda} h(i,j)}$$



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$$f_{(4,2)} = \frac{6!}{5 \times 4 \times 2 \times 1 \times 2 \times 1} = 9.$$

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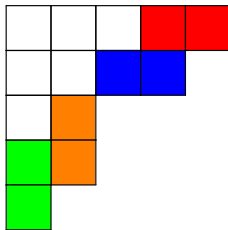
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$$|\lambda| = |\text{core}_p \lambda| + p(|\lambda_0| + \dots + |\lambda_{p-1}|).$$

The size of the partition  $\lambda_k$  in the  $p$ -quotient is the number of nodes in the Young diagram of  $\lambda$  whose hook-lengths are multiples of  $p$ , and whose hand-nodes have content congruent to  $k$  modulo  $p$  (by definition, the content of the node  $(i, j)$  is  $j - i$ ). The partition  $\lambda$  can be recovered uniquely from  $\text{core}_p \lambda$  and  $\text{quo}_p \lambda$ .

## Example of core

The 2-core of  $(5, 4, 2, 2, 1)$  is  $(3, 2, 1)$ :



## Example of quotient

The hook-lengths of  $(5, 4, 2, 2, 1, 1)$  are:

10	7	4	3	1
8	5	2	1	
5	2			
4	1			
2				
1				

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And its 2-quotient is given by


# A result from Frame-Robinson-Thrall

## Lemma

There exists a bijection from the set of cells in  $\text{quo}_p \lambda$  onto the set of cells in  $\lambda$  whose hook-lengths are divisible by  $p$  under which a cell of hook-length  $h$  in  $\text{quo}_p \lambda$  is mapped to a cell of hook-length  $ph$  in  $\lambda$ .

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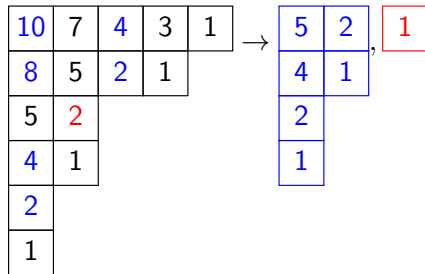
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# Recursive Criterion for odd Dimensionality

If  $n$  has binary expansion

$$n = \epsilon + 2^{k_1} + 2^{k_2} + \cdots + 2^{k_r}, \text{ with } 0 < k_1 < \cdots < k_r, \epsilon \in \{0, 1\},$$

and  $\lambda$  is a partition of  $n$  with  $\text{core}_2 \lambda$  of size  $a$ , and  $\text{quo}_2 \lambda$  having partitions  $\mu_0$  and  $\mu_1$  of sizes  $m_0$  and  $m_1$  (so  $n = a + 2m_0 + 2m_1$ ),



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## Theorem (Macdonald)

$f_\lambda$  is odd if and only if

- ▶  $a = \epsilon$ ,
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## Remark

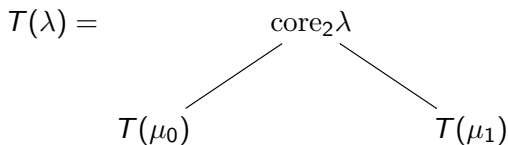
The binomial coefficient  $\frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$  is odd if and only if the binary digits of  $k$  and  $n - k$  are in disjoint positions.

# Recursion of core and quotient construction: the core tower

If  $\lambda$  is a partition with core  $\alpha$  and quotient  $\mu_0$  and  $\mu_1$ , then its 2-core tower  $T(\lambda)$  is a binary tree, defined recursively as follows:

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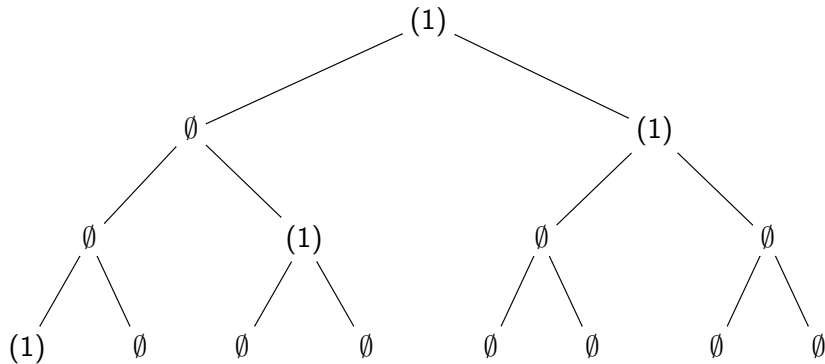
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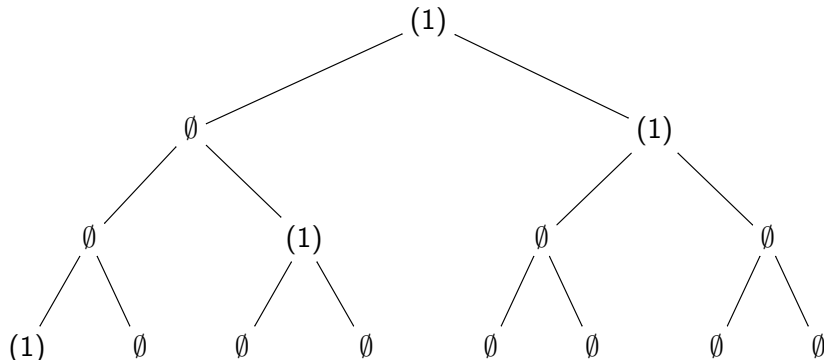
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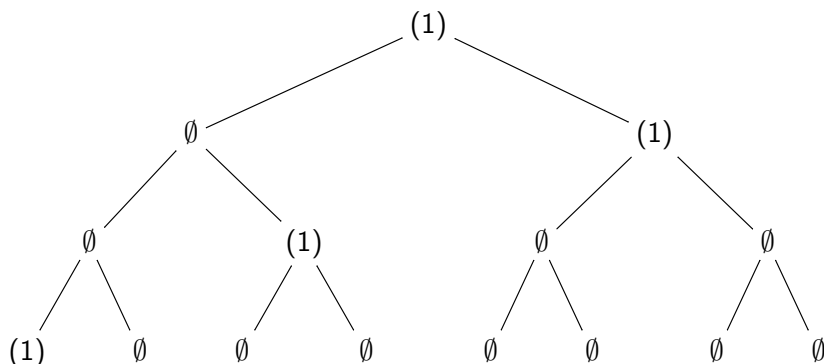


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Here:  $w_i(\lambda) = 1$  for  $i = 0, 1, 2, 3$ , and 0 otherwise.

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## Theorem

Let  $\lambda$  be a partition of  $n$ . Then  $f_\lambda$  is odd if and only if

$$\sum w_i(\lambda) = \sum \nu_i(n).$$

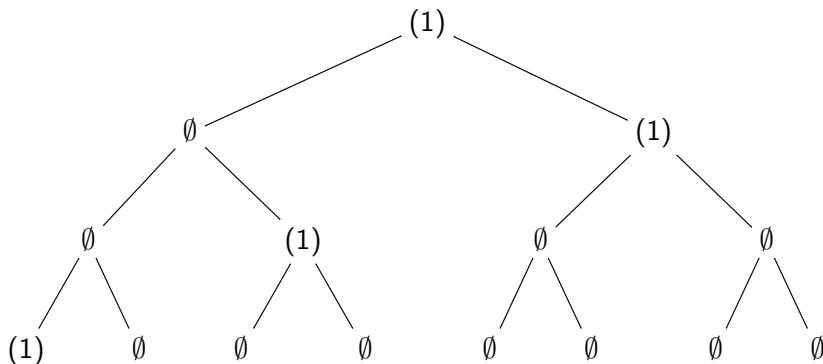
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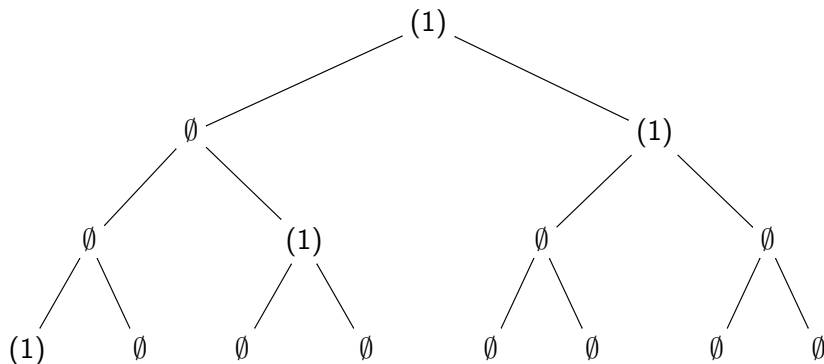
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Theorem (Macdonald, bijective proof via Olsson)

The number of partitions  $\lambda$  of  $n$  such that  $f_\lambda$  is odd is  $2^{\sum_i i\nu_i(n)}$ .

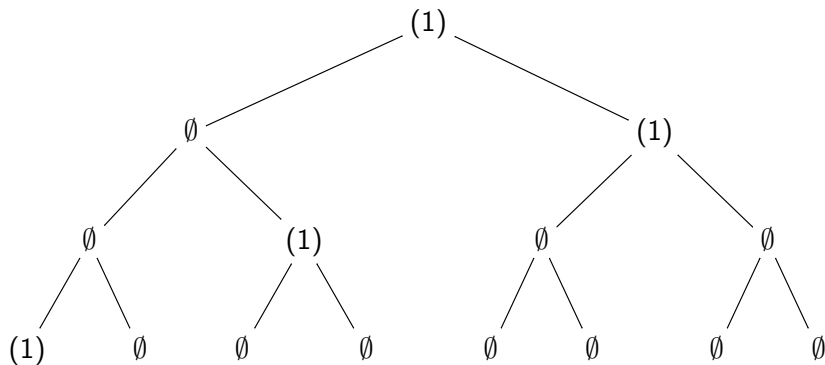
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To prove, count the possible 2-core towers.

$n = 15$



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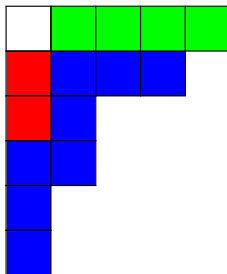


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## Contents in a rim-hook

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-3	-2			
-4				
-5				

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The **head node contribution** is even on the left side of the tree and odd on the right side.

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By carefully keeping track of the contributions of different rim-hooks, we were able to characterize the 2-core towers of chiral partitions.

If  $n = \epsilon + 2^{k_1} + 2^{k_2} + \cdots + 2^{k_r}$ , with  $0 < k_1 < \cdots < k_r$ ,  $\epsilon \in \{0, 1\}$ . Then a partition  $\lambda$  of  $n$  is chiral if and only if one of the following happens:

1. The partition  $\lambda$  satisfies

$$w_i(\lambda) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \in \{k_1, \dots, k_r\}, \text{ or if } \epsilon = 1 \text{ and } i = 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and the unique non-trivial partition in the  $k_1$ th row of the 2-core tower of  $\lambda$  is  $\alpha_x$ , where the binary sequence  $x$  of length  $k$  begins with  $\epsilon$ . In this case  $f_\lambda$  is odd.

2. For some  $0 < v < k_1$ ,

$$w_i(\lambda) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } i = k_1 - v, \\ 1 & \text{if } k_1 - v + 1 \leq i \leq k_1 - 1 \text{ or } i \in \{k_2, \dots, k_r\}, \\ & \text{or if } \epsilon = 1 \text{ and } i = 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and the two non-trivial partitions in the  $(k - v)$ th row of the 2-core tower of  $\lambda$  are  $\alpha_x$  and  $\alpha_y$ , for binary sequences  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $x$  begins with 0 and  $y$  begins with 1. In this case  $v_2(f_\lambda) = v$ .

3. We have  $\epsilon = 1$  and the partition  $\lambda$  satisfies

$$w_i(\lambda) = \begin{cases} 3 & \text{if } i = 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } i \in \{1, \dots, k_1 - 1, k_2, \dots, k_r\}. \end{cases}$$

In this case,  $v_2(f_\lambda) = k_1$ .

Counting such towers gives:

If  $n = \epsilon + 2^{k_1} + 2^{k_2} + \cdots + 2^{k_r}$ , with  $0 < k_1 < \cdots < k_r$ ,  $\epsilon \in \{0, 1\}$ , then the number  $b_v(n)$  of chiral partitions  $\lambda$  of  $n$  for which  $v_2(f_\lambda) = v$  is given by

$$b_v(n) = 2^{k_2 + \cdots + k_r} \times \begin{cases} 2^{k_1-1} & \text{if } v = 0, \\ 2^{(v+1)(k_1-2) - \binom{v}{2}} & \text{if } 0 < v < k_1, \\ \epsilon 2^{\binom{k_1}{2}} & \text{if } v = k_1, \\ 0 & \text{if } v > k_1. \end{cases}$$



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$$b(n) = 2^{k_2 + \cdots + k_r} \left( 2^{k_1-1} + \sum_{v=1}^{k_1-1} 2^{(v+1)(k_1-2) - \binom{v}{2}} + \epsilon 2^{\binom{k_1}{2}} \right).$$

# Growth

Let  $a(n)$  be the number of partitions of  $n$  for which  $f_\lambda$  is odd.  
Recall  $b(n)$  is the number of chiral partitions of  $n$ .

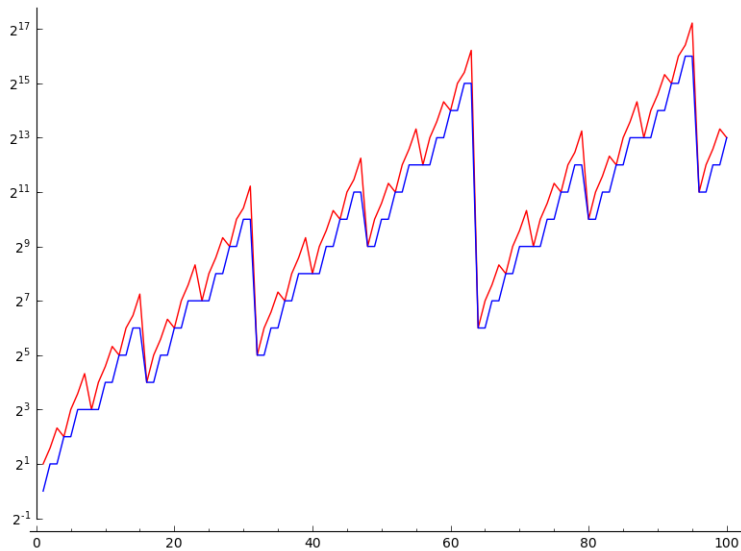
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$$a(n) = 2^{k_1 + \cdots + k_r},$$

$$b(n) = 2^{k_2 + \cdots + k_r} \left( 2^{k_1 - 1} + \sum_{v=1}^{k_1 - 1} 2^{(v+1)(k_1 - 2) - \binom{v}{2}} + \epsilon 2^{\binom{k_1}{2}} \right).$$

# Comparison of $a(n)$ and $b(n+2)$



$$2/5 \leq a(n)/b(n+2) \leq 1.$$

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For all  $n$ :

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So  $a(n)/p(n) \rightarrow 0$ , and  $b(n)/p(n) \rightarrow 0$ .

$n$	$p(n)$	$b(n)$	$b(n)/p(n)$
100	190569292	6144	$3.2240241518 \times 10^{-05}$
200	3972999029388	98304	$2.47430213984 \times 10^{-08}$
300	9253082936723602	196608	$2.12478372176 \times 10^{-11}$
400	6727090051741041926	2883584	$4.28652504697 \times 10^{-13}$
500	2300165032574323995027	3221225472	$1.40043232828 \times 10^{-12}$
600	458004788008144308553622	6291456	$1.37366598881 \times 10^{-17}$
700	60378285202834474611028659	805306368	$1.33376820043 \times 10^{-17}$
800	5733052172321422504456911979	178257920	$3.10930224673 \times 10^{-20}$
900	415873681190459054784114365430	50331648	$1.21026288213 \times 10^{-22}$
1000	24061467864032622473692149727991	412316860416	$1.71359811773 \times 10^{-20}$
1100	1147240591519695580043346988281283	1572864	$1.37099751493 \times 10^{-27}$
1200	46240102378152881298913555099661657	369098752	$7.98222177325 \times 10^{-27}$
1300	1607818855017534550841511230454411672	12582912	$7.82607565568 \times 10^{-30}$
1400	49032194652550394774839040691532998261	103079215104	$2.10227618475 \times 10^{-27}$
1500	1329461690763193888825263136701886891117	824633720832	$6.20276407031 \times 10^{-28}$
1600	32417690376154241824102577250721959572183	22699573248	$7.0022179201 \times 10^{-31}$
1700	717802041964941442478681516751205185010007	6442450944	$8.97524744617 \times 10^{-33}$
1800	14552716211005418005132948684850541312590849	1610612736	$1.10674372581 \times 10^{-34}$
1900	272089289788583262011466359201428623427767364	6597069766656	$2.42459737088 \times 10^{-32}$



