

# A survey of the combinatorial theory of orthogonal polynomials and continued fractions

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Xavier Viennot  
CNRS, LaBRI, Bordeaux  
[www.viennot.org](http://www.viennot.org)

# Orthogonal Polynomials

classical analysis

special functions

trigonometric  
hypergeometric  
Bessel, elliptic      ) functions

numerical analysis

interpolation  
mechanical quadrature  
differential and integral equations

Probabilities  
theory

quantum  
statistical mechanics

$$\sin((n+1)\theta) = \sin \theta U_n(\cos \theta)$$

$U_n(x)$

Tchebychef  
polynomial 2<sup>nd</sup> kind



$$\int_{-1}^{+1} U_m(x) U_n(x) (1-x^2)^{1/2} = \frac{\pi}{2} \delta_{m,n}$$

$$\cos(n\theta) = T_n(\cos \theta)$$

$T_n(x)$   
Tchebychef  
polynomial 1st kind

$$\{P_n(x)\}_{n \geq 0}$$

sequence of  
polynomials

$$P_n(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$$

$$\deg(P_n(x)) = n$$

degree

$$f(P(x)Q(x))$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}} P(x) Q(x) d\mu(x)$$

measure  $\mu$   
on  $\mathbb{R}$

origin: continued fractions

DIVERGENTIBVS. 225

Euler

224

DE SERIEBVS

§. 21. Datur vero alias modus in summam huius seriei inquirendi ex natura fractionum continuarum petitus, qui multo facilius et promptius negotium conficit: sit enim formulam generalius exprimendo:

$$A = 1 - x + 2x^2 - 6x^3 + 24x^4 - 120x^5 + 720x^6 - 5040x^7 + \text{etc.} = \frac{1}{1+x}$$

$$A = \frac{1}{1+x} = \frac{1}{1+\frac{x}{1+\frac{x}{1+\frac{2x}{1+\frac{2x}{1+\frac{3x}{1+\frac{3x}{1+\frac{4x}{1+\frac{4x}{1+\frac{5x}{1+\frac{5x}{1+\frac{6x}{1+\frac{6x}{1+\frac{7x}{\text{etc.}}}}}}}}}}}}$$

§. 22. Quemadmodum autem huiusmodi fractio-

DE  
**FRACTIONIBVS CONTINVIS.**  
 DISSERTATIO.  
 AVCTORE  
*Leonb. Euler.*

§. 1.

**V**ARII in Analysis recepti sunt modi quantitates, quae alias difficulter assignari queant, commode exprimendi. Quantitates scilicet irrationales et transcendentes, cuiusmodi sunt logarithmi, arcus circulares, alias curvarum quadraturae; per series infinitas exhiberi solent, quae, cum terminis constent cognitis, valores illarum quantitatum satis distincte indicant. Series autem istae duplices sunt generis, ad quorum prius pertinent illae series, quarum termini additione subtractione sunt connexi; ad posterius vero referri possunt eae, quarum termini multiplicatione coniunguntur. Sic utroque modo area circuli, cuius diameter est = 1, exprimi solet; priore nimurum area circuli aequalis dicitur  $1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} - \dots$  etc. in infinitum; posteriore vero modo eadem area aequatur huic expressioni  $\frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdot 8 \cdot 10 \cdot 10}{3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 7 \cdot 9 \cdot 9 \cdot 11}$  etc. in infinitum. Quarum serierum illae reliquis merito praeferuntur, quae maxime conuergant, et paucissimis sumendis terminis valorem quantitatis quaesitae proxime praebant.

§. 2. His duobus serierum generibus non immerito superaddendum videtur tertium, cuius termini continua diui-



# continued fractions

# Stieljes

$$S(t; \lambda) = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{\lambda_1 t}{1 - \frac{\lambda_2 t}{\dots}}}$$



$$\lambda_k = \left\lceil \frac{k}{2} \right\rceil$$

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} n! t^n =$$

Euler

$$\frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{1 - \frac{t}{1 - \frac{2}{1 - \frac{t}{1 - \frac{2}{1 - \frac{3}{1 - \dots}}}}}}}$$



$$\frac{1}{1-b_0t - \frac{\lambda_1 t^2}{1-b_1t - \frac{\lambda_2 t^2}{\dots}}} \\ \dots \\ \frac{1-b_Rt - \lambda_{R+1}t^2}{\dots}$$

$J(t; b, \lambda)$

Jacobi

continued  
fraction

$$b = \{b_k\}_{k \geq 0} \quad \lambda = \{\lambda_k\}_{k \geq 1}$$

equivalence

orthogonal polynomials       $\longleftrightarrow$       continued fractions

# classical theory

## continued fractions

## orthogonal polynomials

## J-fraction

$$J(t) = \frac{1}{1 - b_0 t - \lambda_1 \frac{t^2}{2!} - \dots}$$

$$P_{k+1}(x) = (x - b_k) P_k(x) - \lambda_k P_{k-1}(x)$$

$$f(x^n) = \mu_n$$

moments

classical theory

continued fractions

orthogonal polynomials

J-fraction

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

$\vdots$

moments  
generating  
function

$$P_{k+1}(x) =$$

$$(x - b_k) P_k(x) - \lambda_k P_{k-1}(x)$$

$$f(x^n) = \mu_n$$

moments

classical theory

continued fractions

orthogonal polynomials

J-fraction

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

moments  
generating function

$$P_{k+1}(x) = (x - b_k) P_k(x) - \lambda_k P_{k-1}(x)$$

$$f(x^n) = \mu_n$$

moments

convergents

$$J_k(t) = \frac{s P_k^*(x)}{P_{k+1}^*(x)}$$

late 70's, early 80's

combinatorial interpretations

of classical orthogonal polynomials

Hermite, Laguerre, Jacobi

## combinatorial interpretations

of linearization coefficients

$$P_k(x) P_l(x) = \sum_n c_{kl}^n P_n(x)$$

positivity

Combinatorial interpretation  
of some orthogonal polynomials

Hermite polynomials



## Hermite polynomial

$$H_n(x)$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} H_n(x) H_m(x) e^{-x^2} dx = \sqrt{\pi} 2^n n! S_{nm}$$

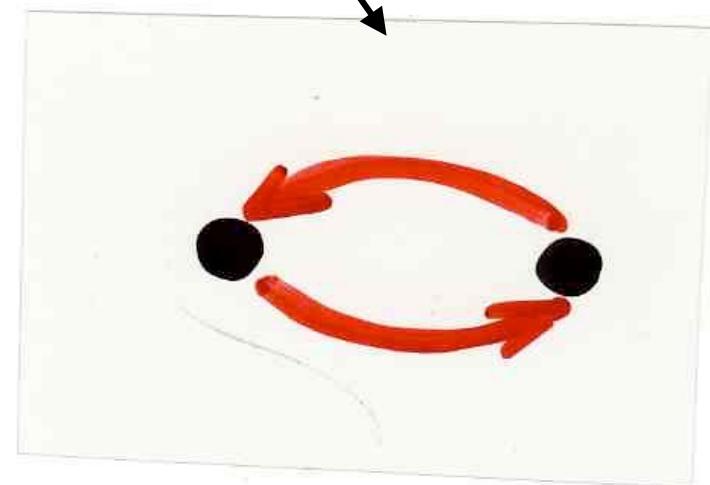
"physicists" Hermite polynomial  $H_n(x)$

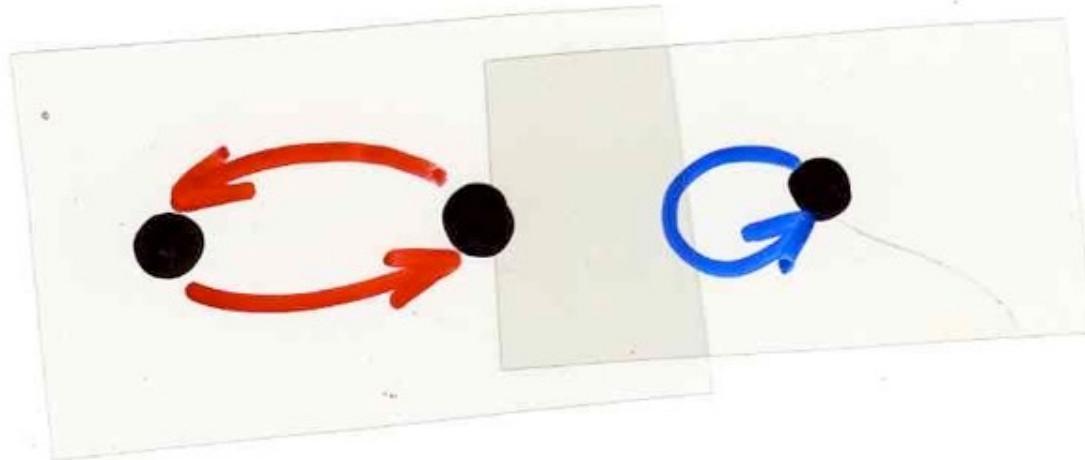
$$\sum_{n \geq 0} H_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = \exp(2xt - t^2)$$

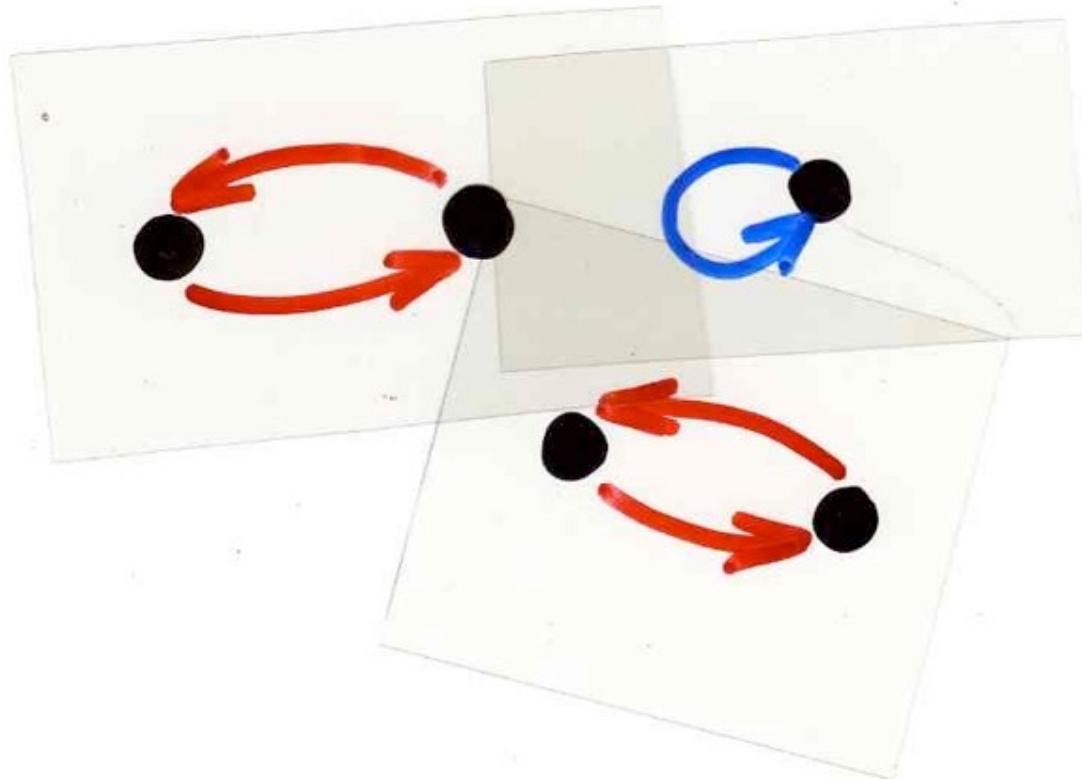
$$\exp\left(\frac{x}{2} + \frac{(-1)^n}{n!}\right)$$

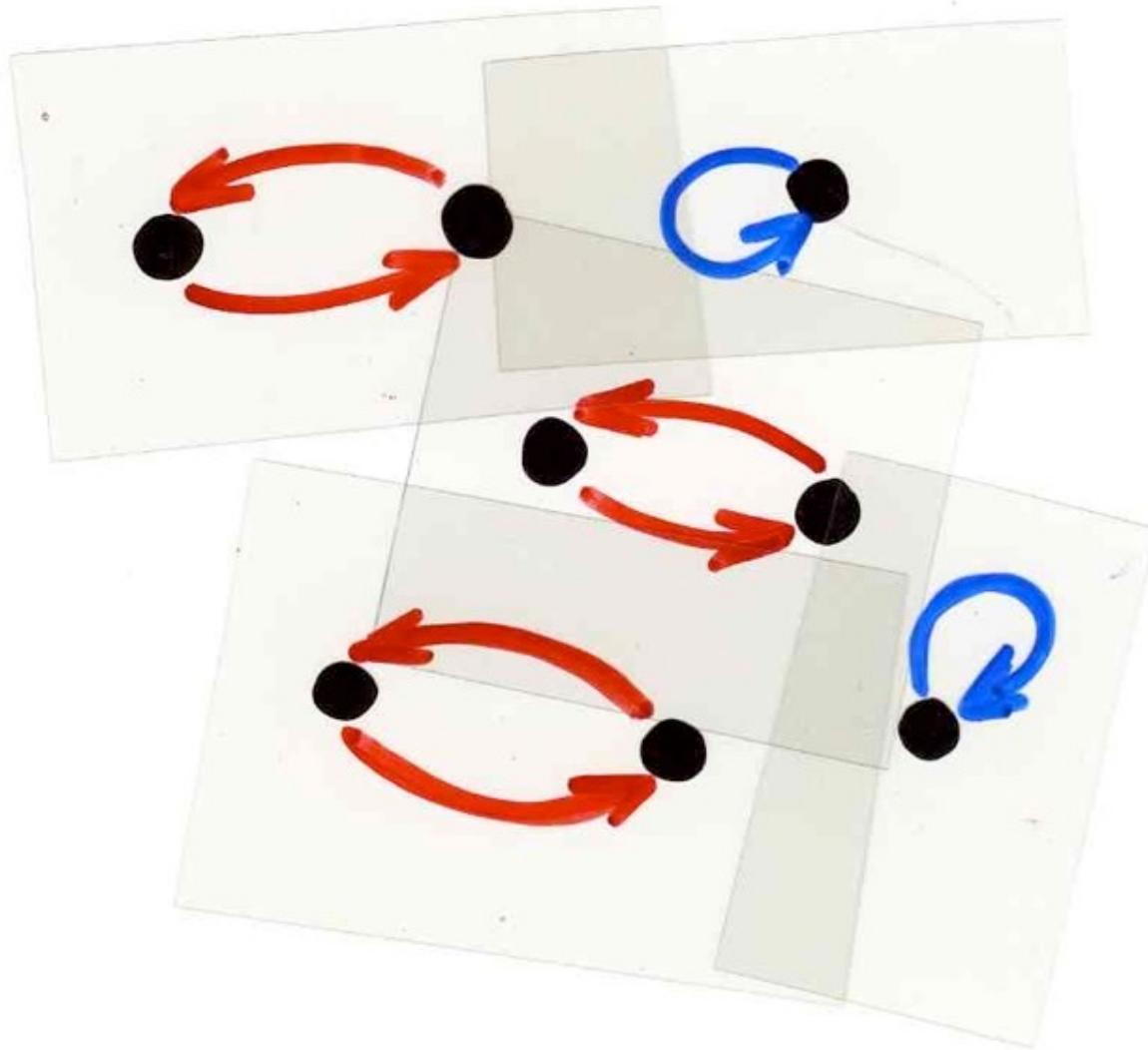
$$\sum_{n \geq 0} H_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = \exp\left(xt - \frac{t^2}{2}\right)$$

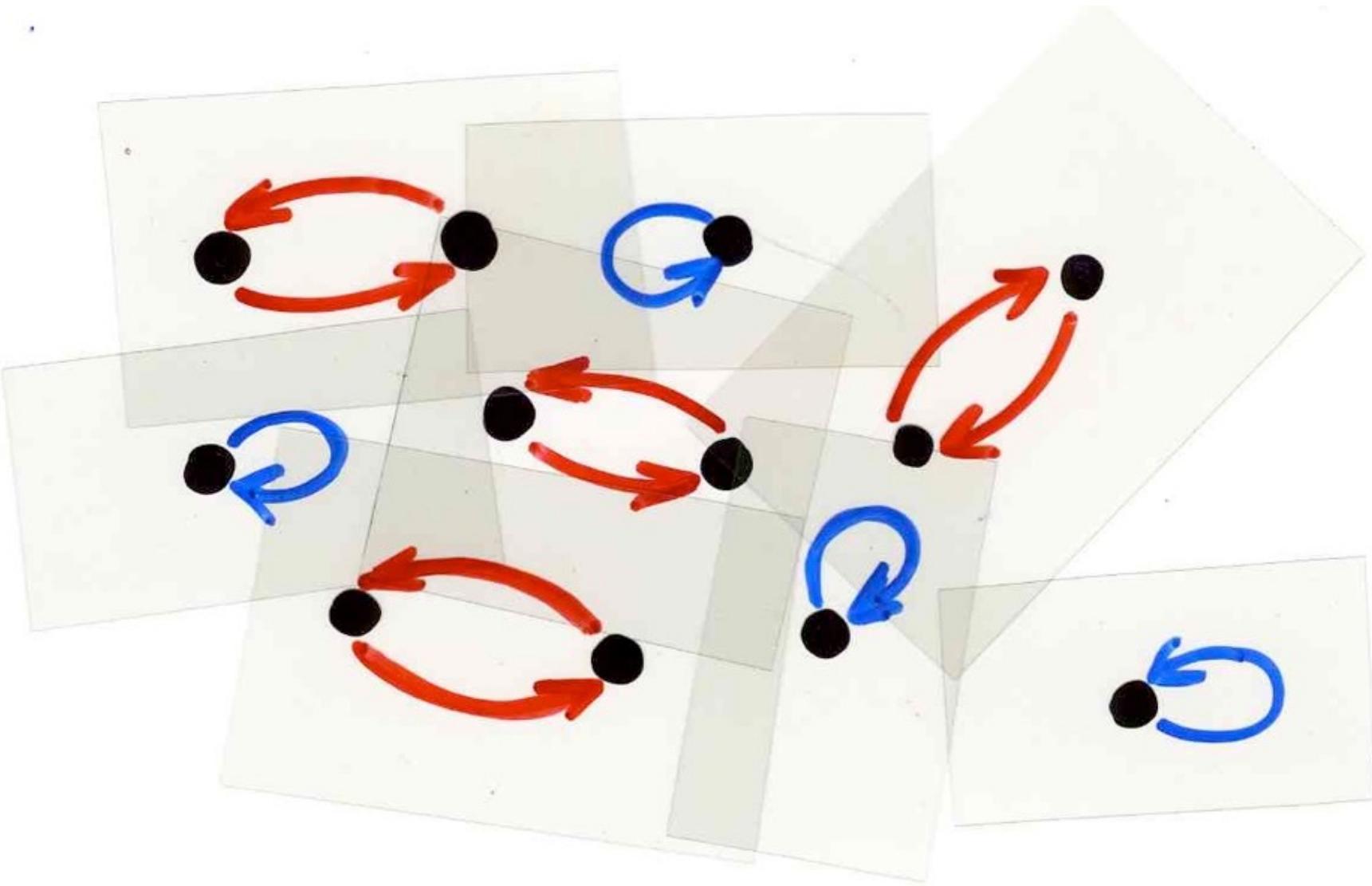
(combinatorial)  
Hermite polynomials

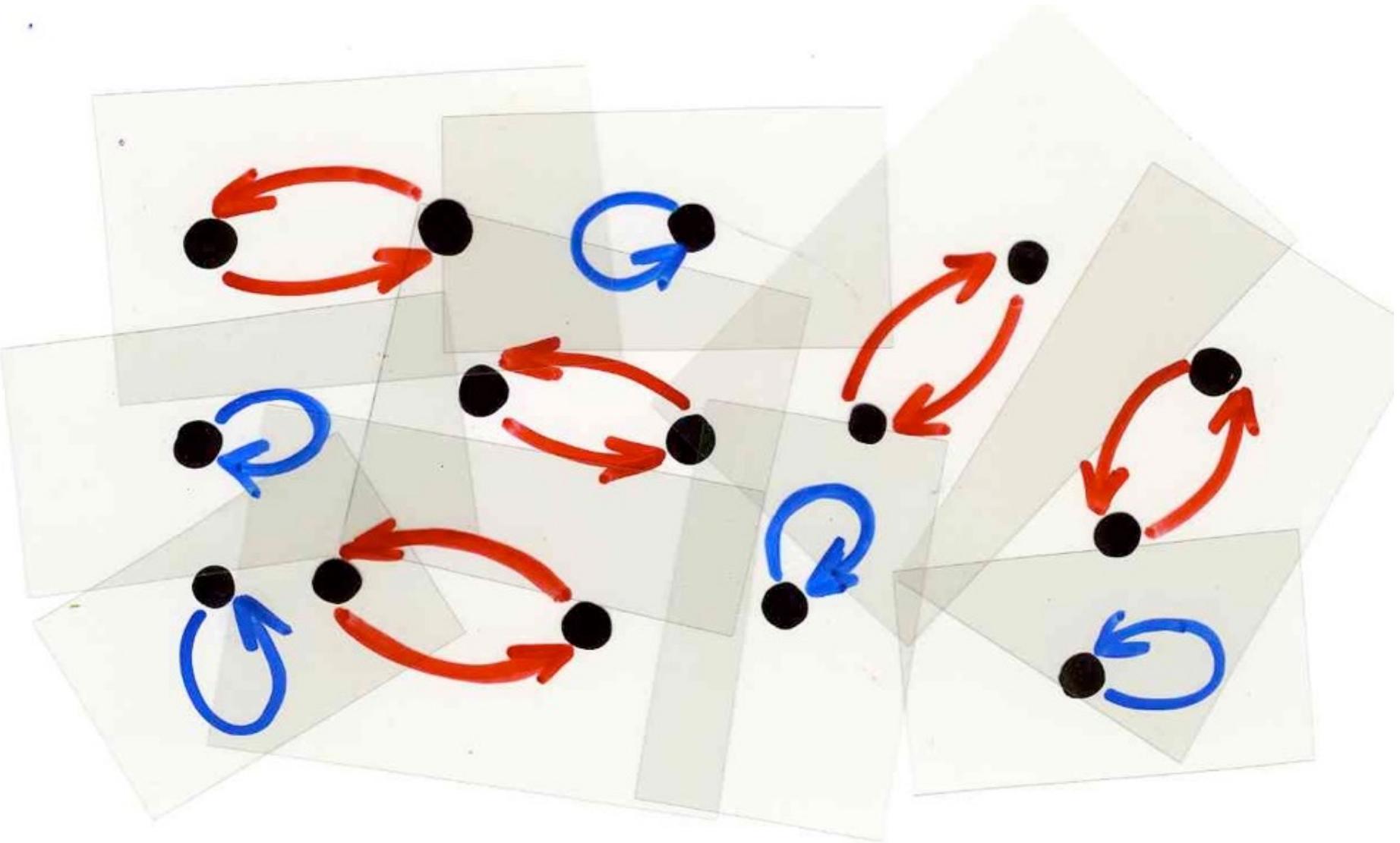




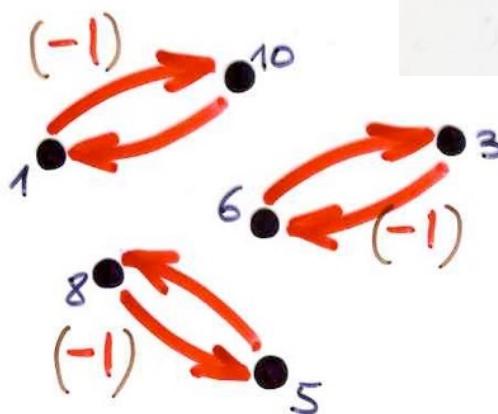
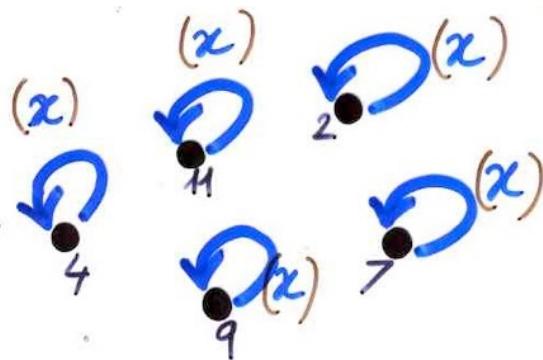








# Hermite configuration



weight  $(x)$   
 $(-1)$

(combinatorial)  
Hermite polynomials

$$H_n(x) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} (-1)^{d(\sigma)} x^{\text{fix}(\sigma)}$$

involution

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 \\ 10 & 2 & 6 & 4 & 8 & 3 & 7 & 5 & 9 & 1 & 11 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$H_n(x) = \sum_{0 \leq 2k \leq n} (-1)^k \frac{n!}{2^k k! (n-2k)!} x^{n-2k}$$

(combinatorial)  
Hermite polynomials

$$H_n(x) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} (-1)^{d(\sigma)} x^{\text{fix } (\sigma)}$$

involution

Mehler identity  
for Hermite polynomials

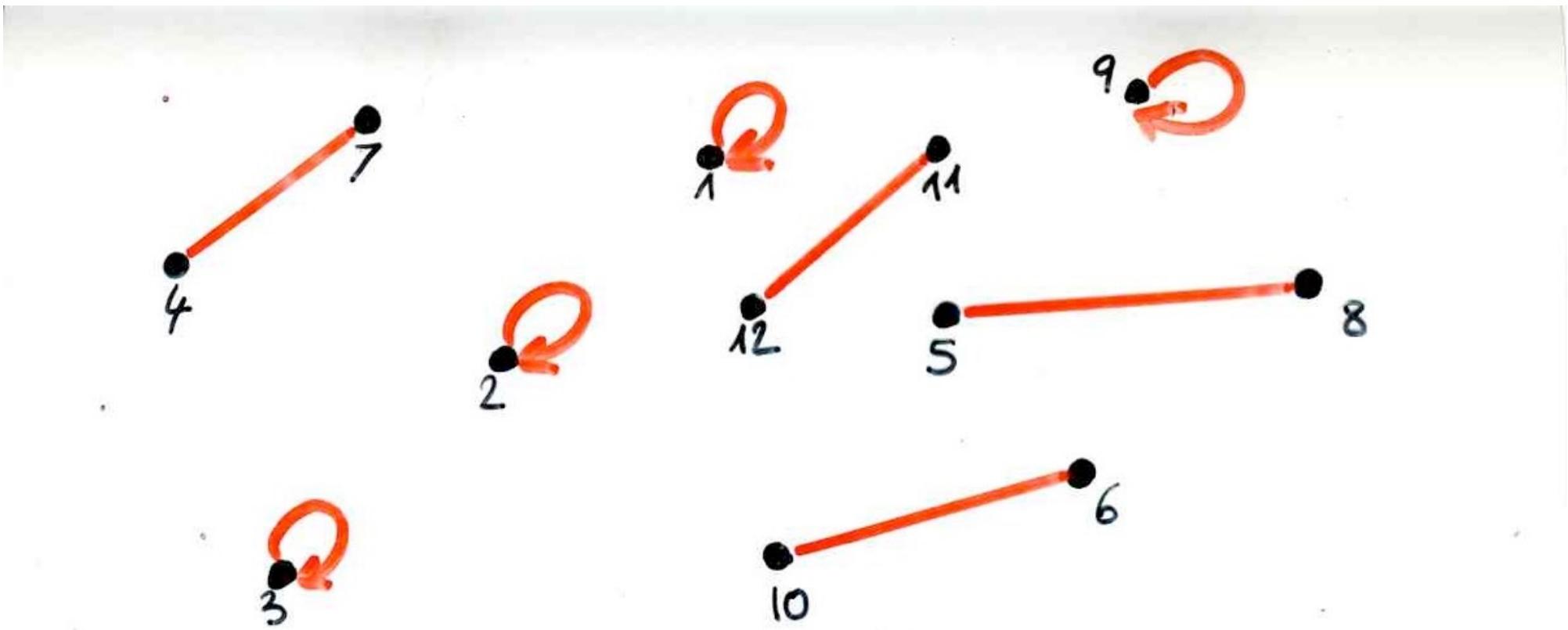
Foata (1978)

# Combinatorial proof of formulae

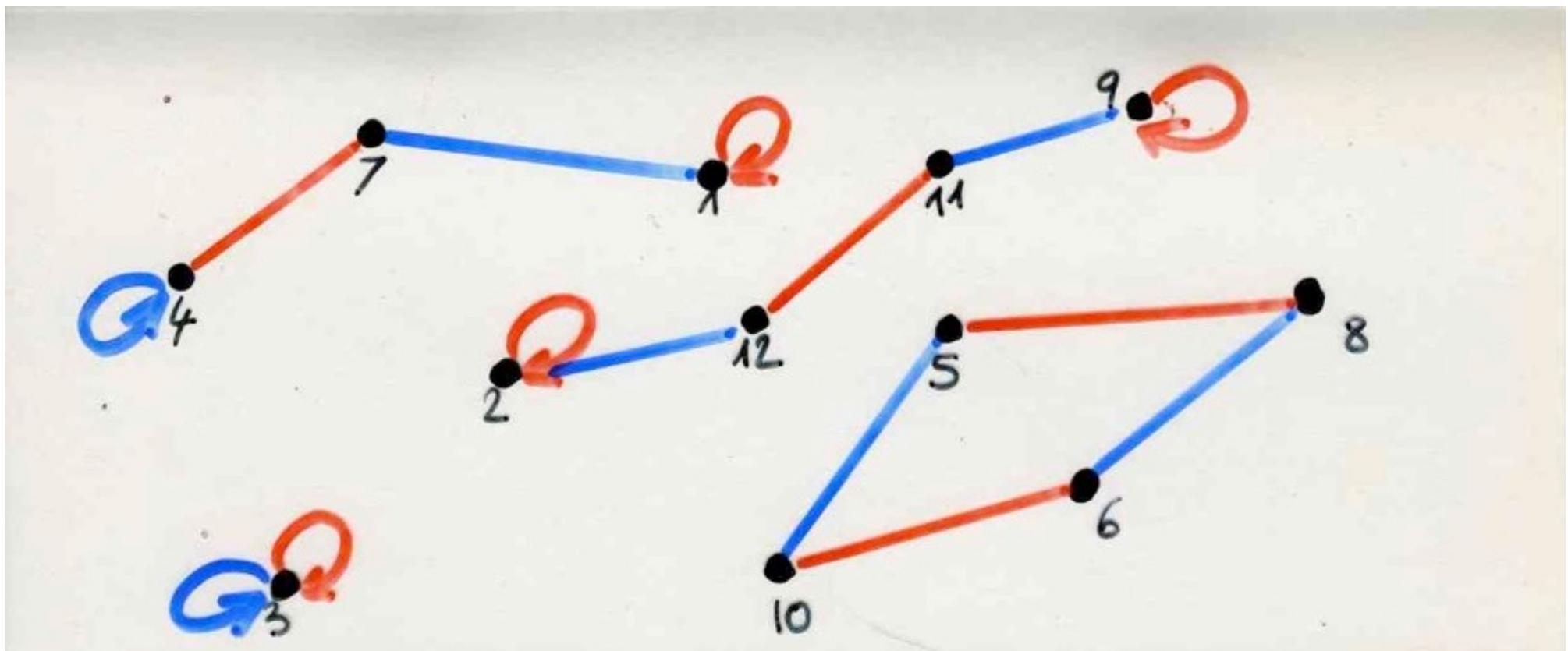
Mehler identity

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} H_n(x) H_n(y) \frac{t^n}{n!}$$

$$= (1 - 4t^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp \left[ \frac{4xyt - 4(x^2 + y^2)t^2}{1 - 4t^2} \right]$$

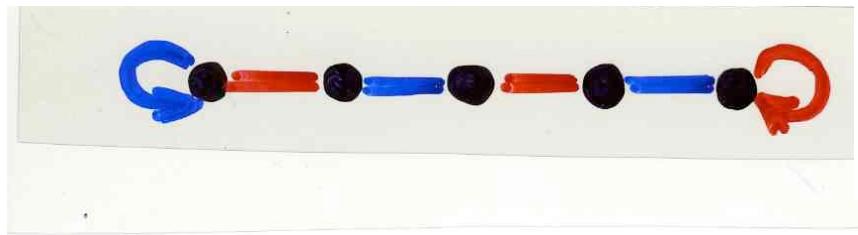


$$\sum_{n \geq 0} H_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!}$$

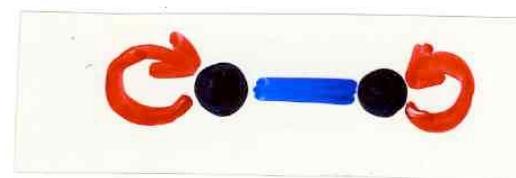


$$\sum_{n \geq 0} H_n(x) H_n(y) \frac{t^n}{n!}$$

$$(1-4t^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp \left[ \frac{4xyt - 4(x^2 + y^2)t^2}{1-4t^2} \right]$$



$$\frac{4xyt}{(1-4t^2)}$$



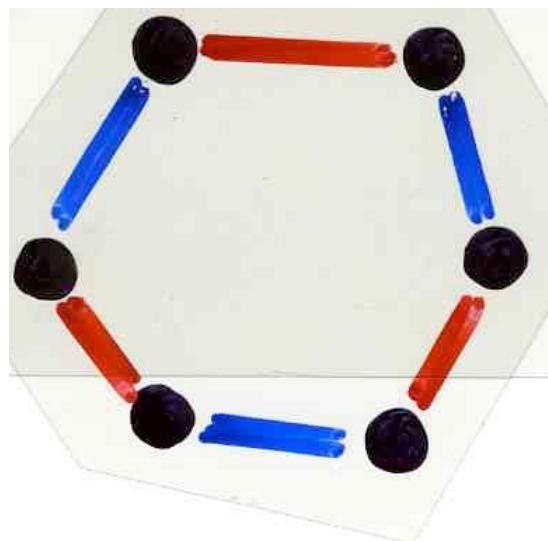
$$\frac{-4x^2t^2}{(1-4t^2)}$$



$$\frac{-4y^2t^2}{(1-4t^2)}$$

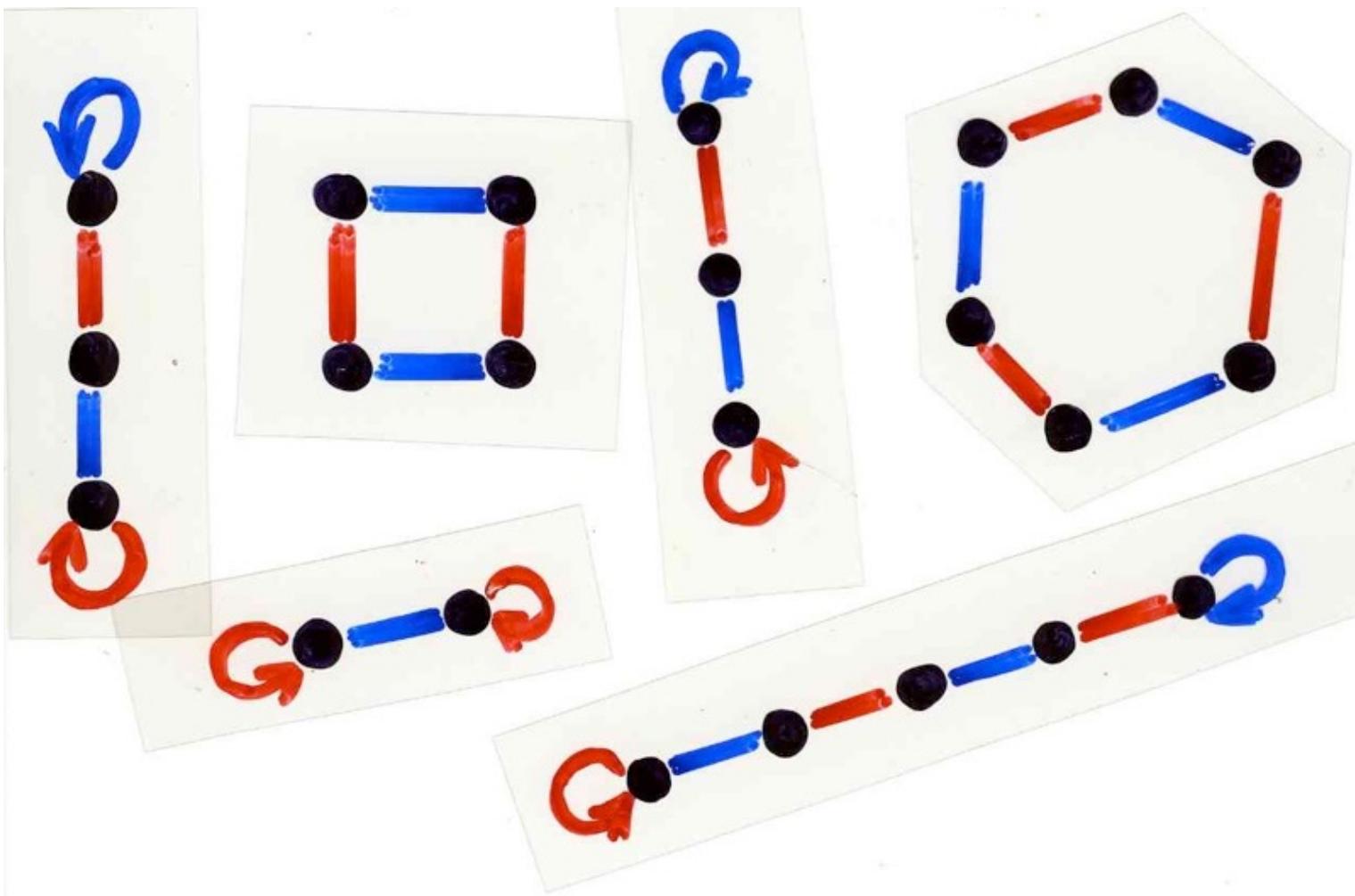
$$= (1 - 4t^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp \left[ \frac{4xyt - 4(x^2 + y^2)t^2}{1 - 4t^2} \right]$$

$$\exp \left[ \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{1}{(1 - 4t^2)} \right]$$



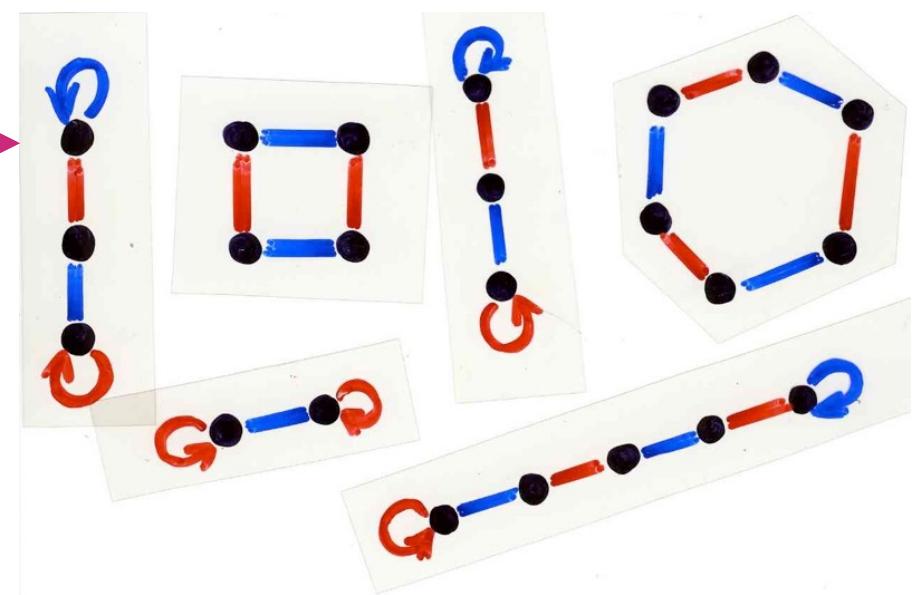
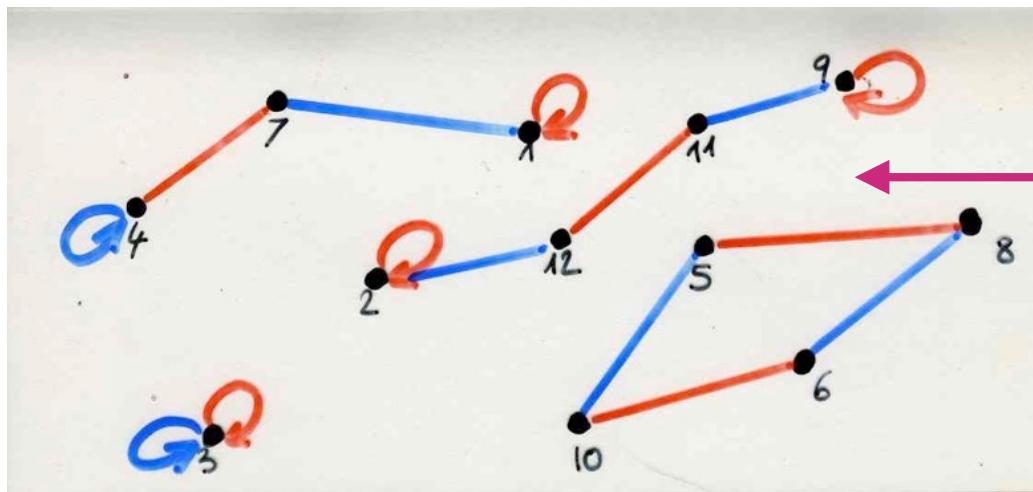
$$\exp \left[ \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{1}{(1-4t^2)} \right]$$

$$\exp \left[ \frac{4xyt - 4(x^2 + y^2)t^2}{1-4t^2} \right]$$



$$\sum_{n \geq 0} H_n(x) H_n(y) \frac{t^n}{n!}$$

$$= (1 - 4t^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp \left[ \frac{4xyt - 4(x^2 + y^2)t^2}{1 - 4t^2} \right]$$



Laguerre polynomials

valued combinatorial  
objects

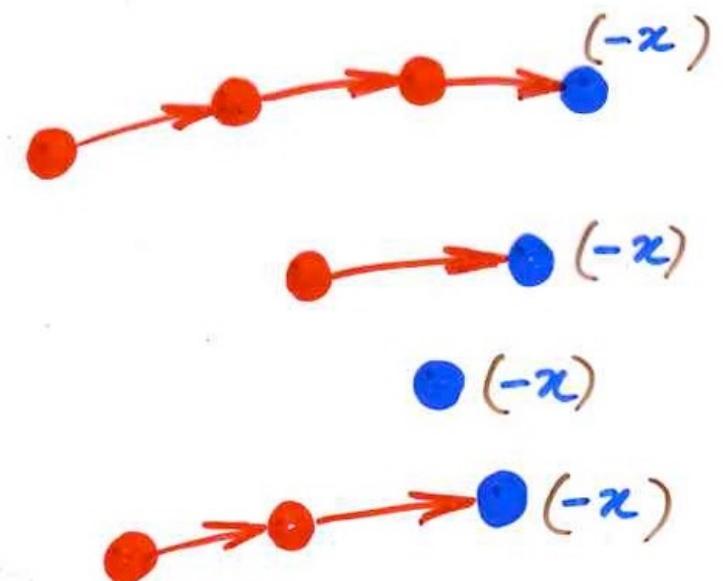
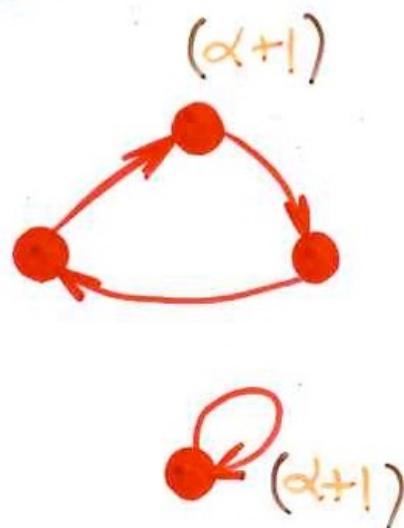


weight function

Laguerre  
polynomials

$$\int_0^\infty L_m^{(\alpha)}(x) L_n^{(\alpha)}(x) e^{-x} x^\alpha dx = \frac{\Gamma(n+\alpha+1)}{n!} \delta_{mn}$$

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \tilde{L}_n^{(\alpha)}(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = \frac{1}{(1-t)^{\alpha+1}} \exp\left(\frac{-xt}{1-t}\right)$$



Laguerre configuration

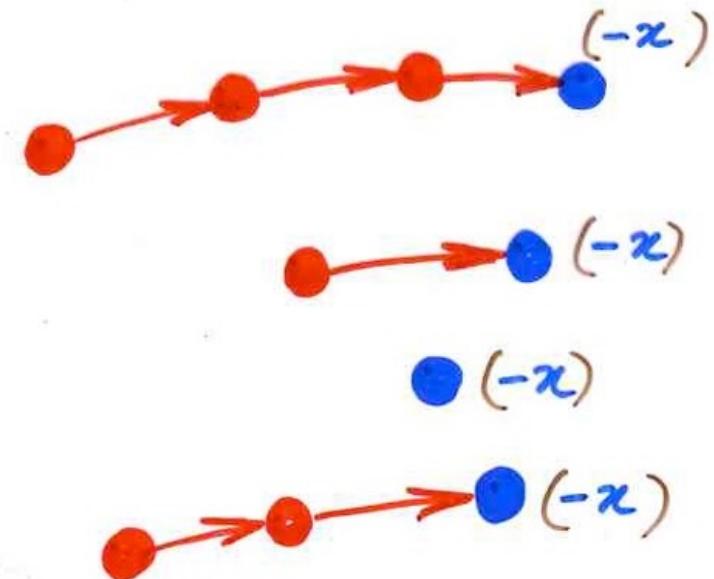
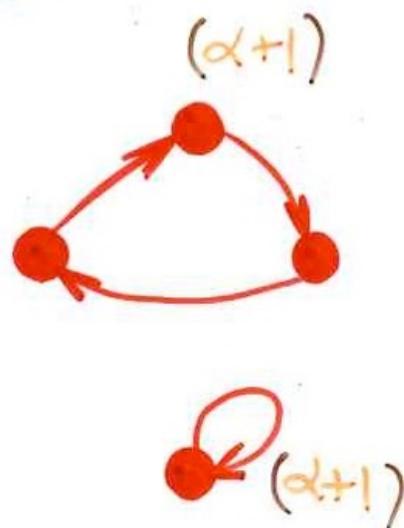
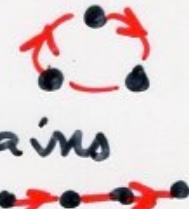
$$L_n^{\alpha}(x) = \sum_{LC} V(LC)$$

Laguerre  
configurations  
on  $[1, n]$

$$V(LC) = (\alpha+1)^i (-x)^j$$

$i$  = number of cycles

$j$  = number of chains



$(-\bar{x})$

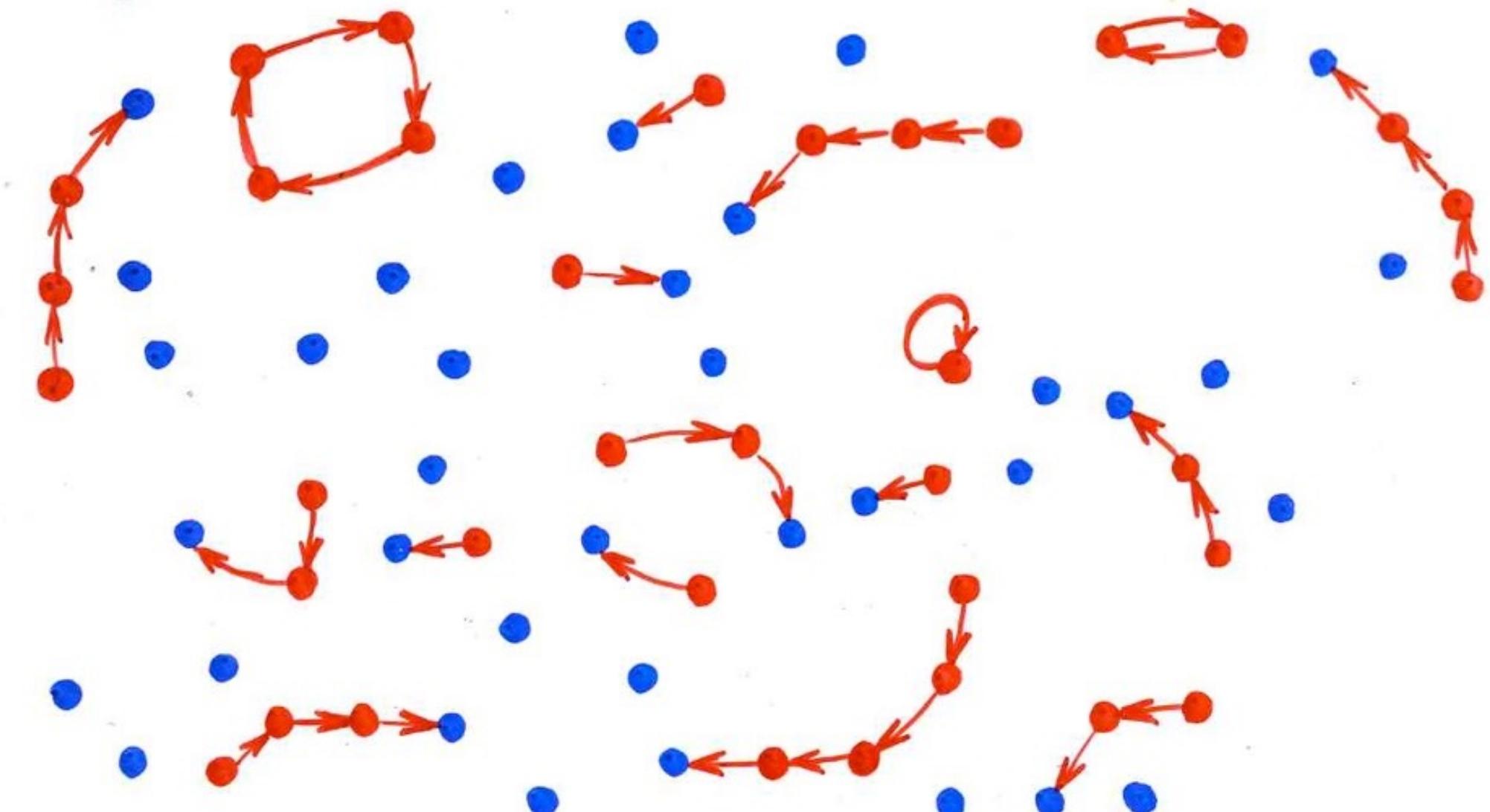


# Jacobi polynomials

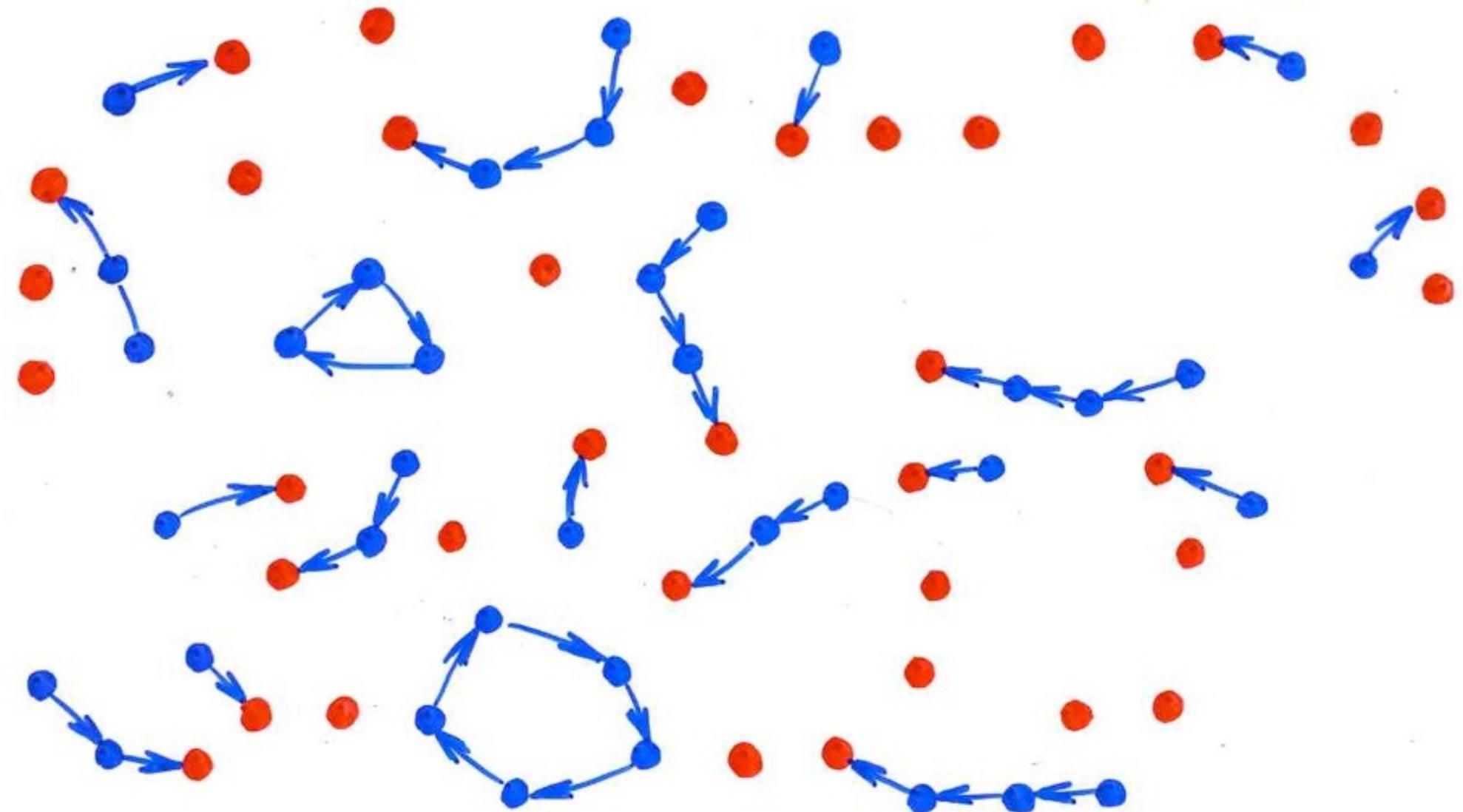
Foata, Leroux (1983)

(A, B)

f : A → A + B



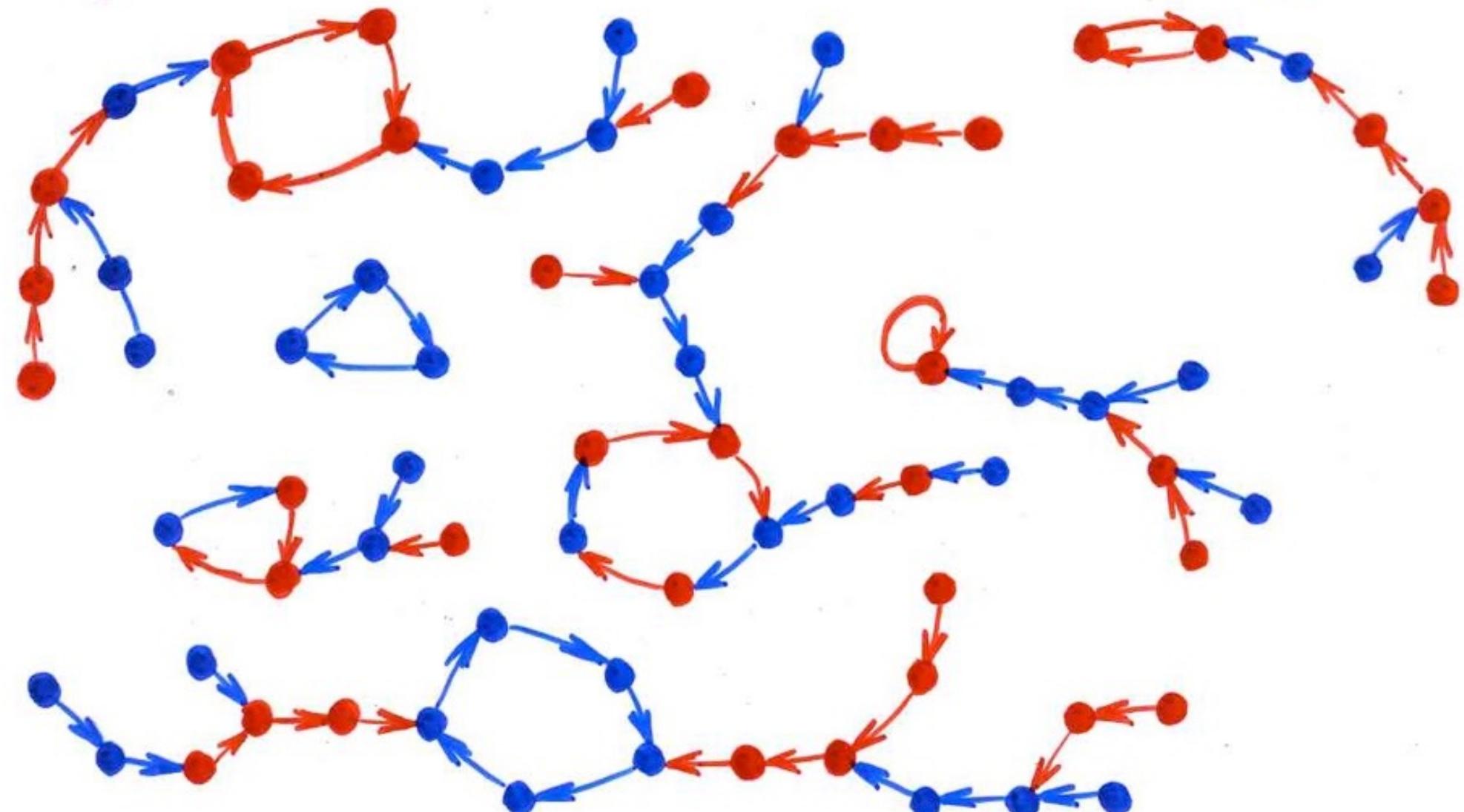
(A, B)



(A, B)

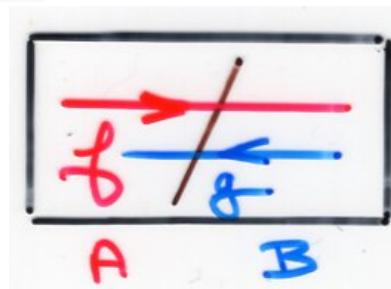
f : A → A + B

A + B ← B : g

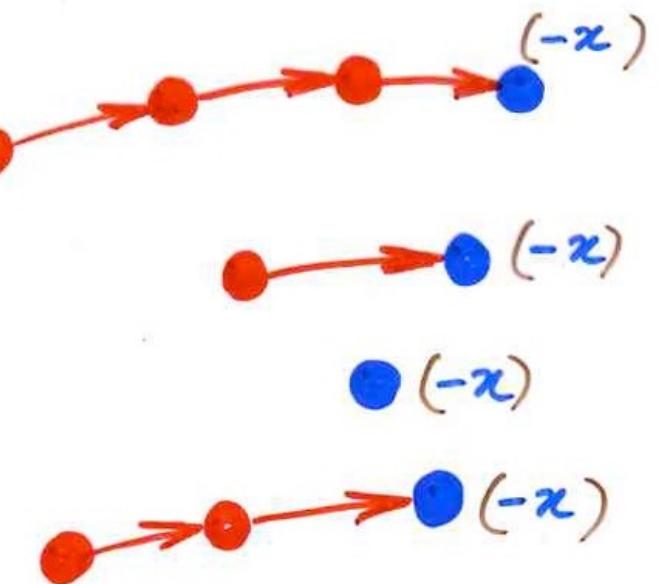
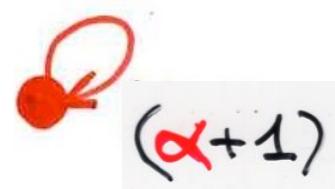
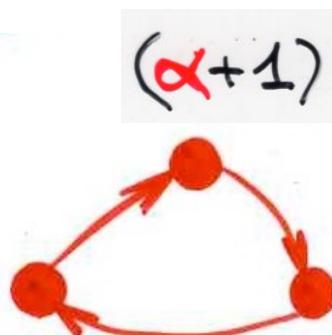


## Jacobi configurations

$$J[A, B] = L[A, B] \times L[B, A]$$

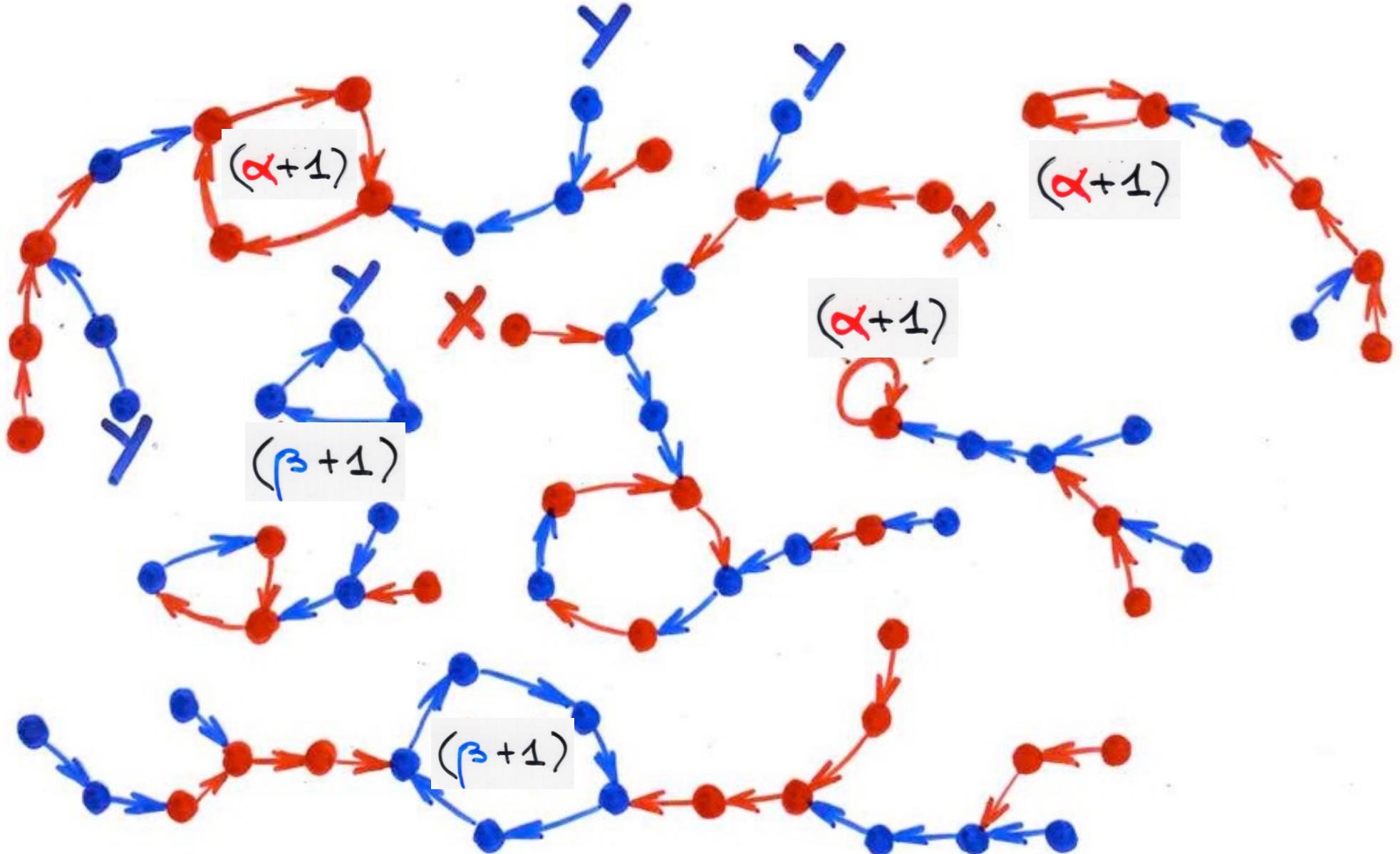


## Laguerre configuration



$(f, g) \in L[A, B]$

$$w(f, g) = (\alpha+1)^{\text{cyc}(f)} (\beta+1)^{\text{cyc}(g)} \times |A| \times |B|$$



$$(f, g) \in L[A, B]$$

$$w(f, g) = (\alpha+1)^{\text{cyc}(f)} (\beta+1)^{\text{cyc}(g)} x^{|A|} y^{|B|}$$

Proposition

$$|E|=n \quad (A, B)$$

$$\mathcal{P}_n^{(\alpha, \beta)}(x, y) = \sum_{(f, g) \in J[A, B] = L[A, B] \times L[B, A]} w(f, g)$$

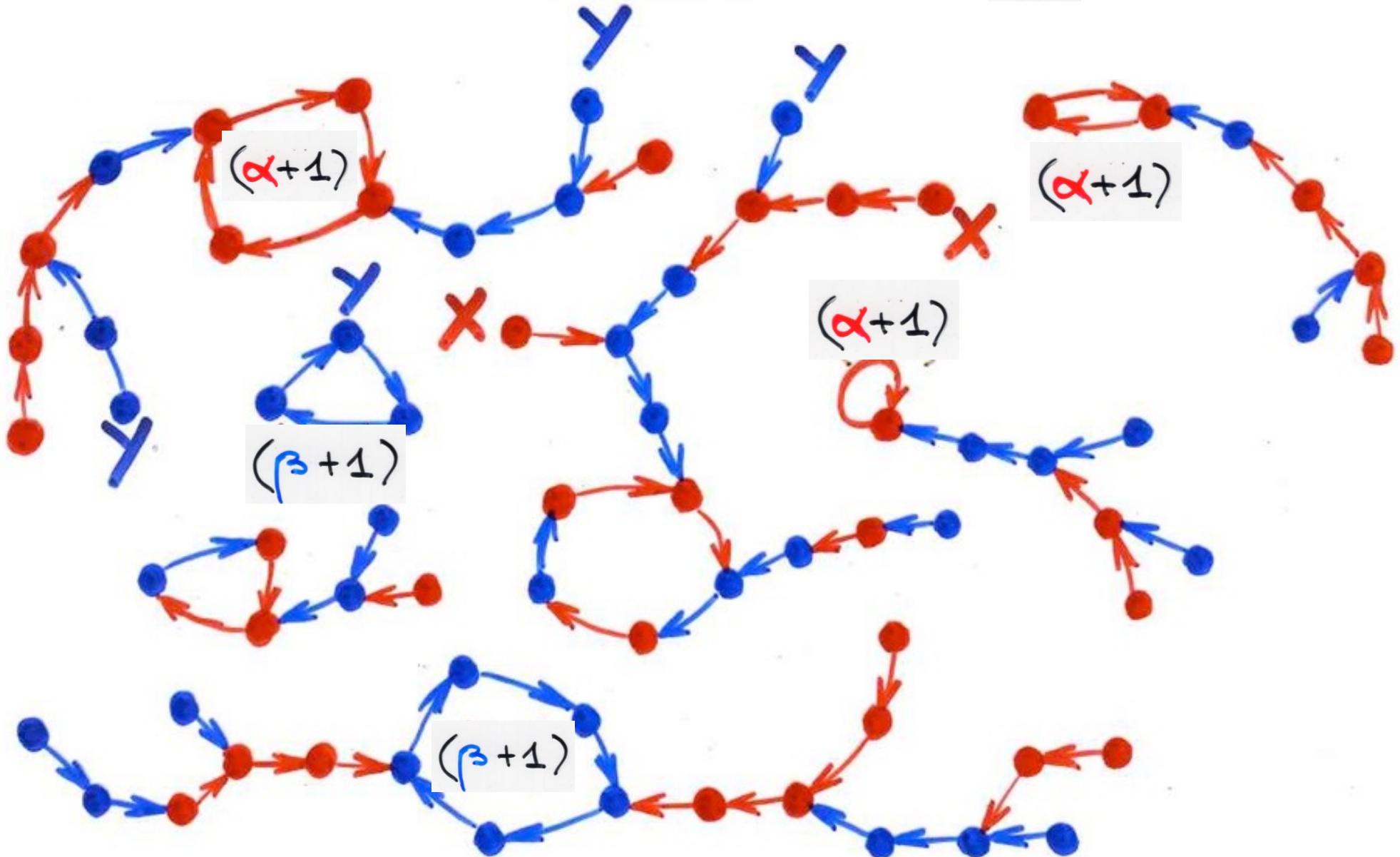
Proposition

$$R = [1 - 2(x+y)t + (x-y)^2 t^2]^{1/2}$$

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{P}_n^{(\alpha, \beta)}(x, y) \frac{t^n}{n!} = 2^{\alpha+\beta} R^{-1} [1 - (x-y)t + R^{-\alpha} [1 - (y-x)t + R^{-\beta}]$$

$(f, g) \in L[A, B]$

$$w(f, g) = (\alpha+1)^{\text{cyc}(f)} (\beta+1)^{\text{cyc}(g)} \times |A| \times |B|$$



# limit formula

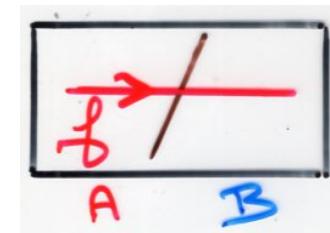
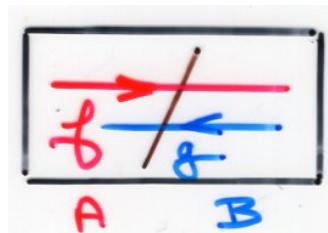
example

$$\lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} P_n^{(\alpha, \beta)}(1 - 2x\beta^{-1}) = L_n^{(\alpha)}(x)$$

Jacobi

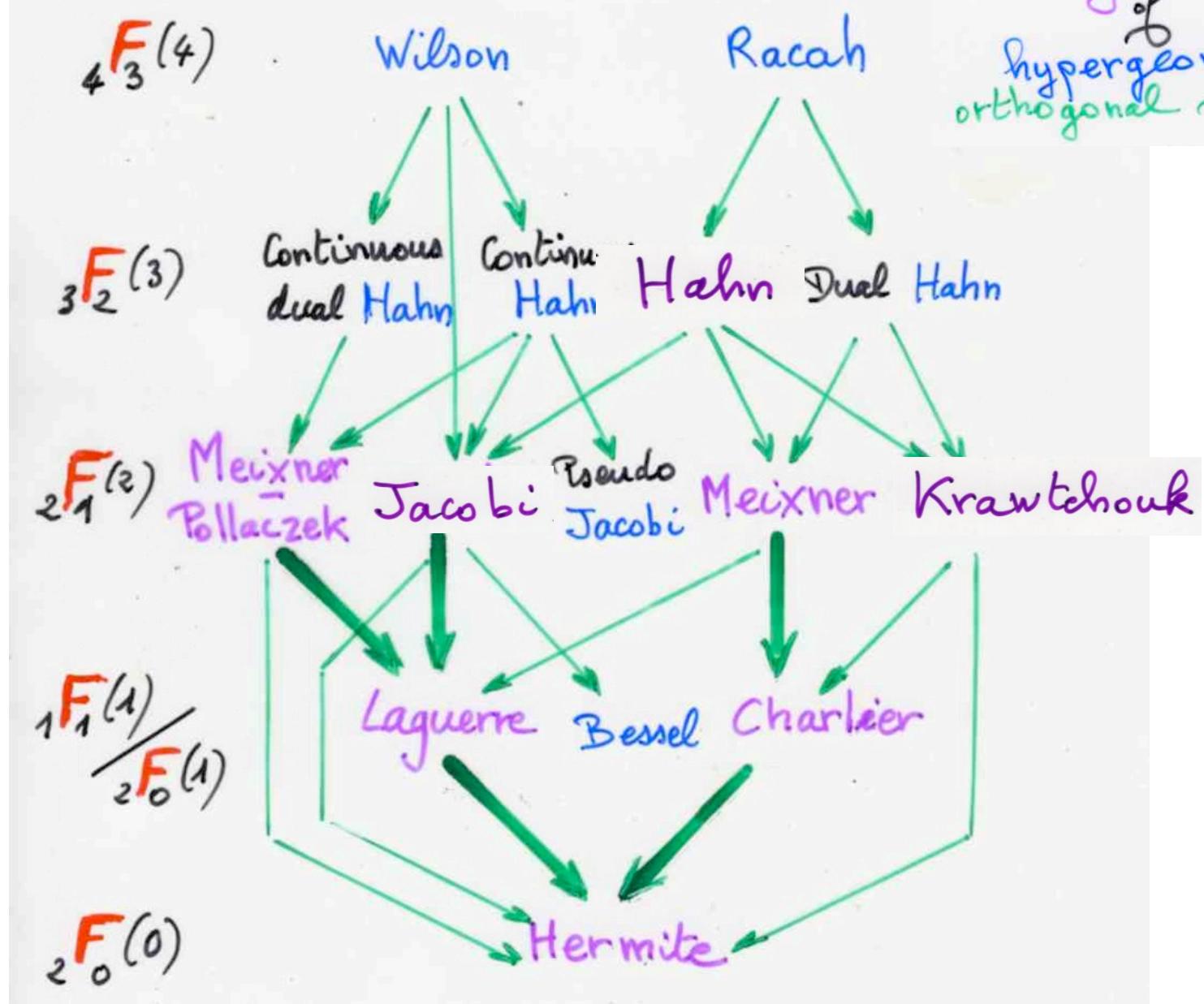


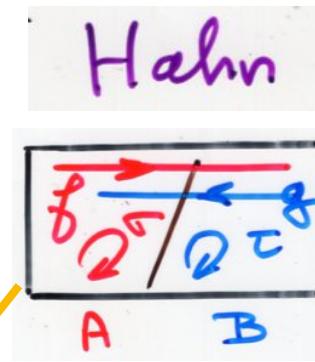
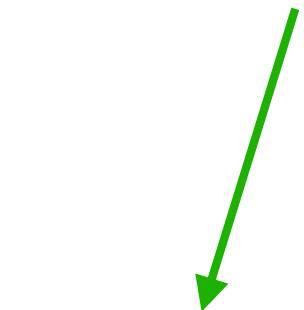
Laguerre



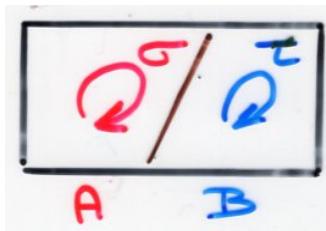
J. Labelle, Y.N. Yeh (1989)

Askey scheme  
of  
hypergeometric  
orthogonal polynomials

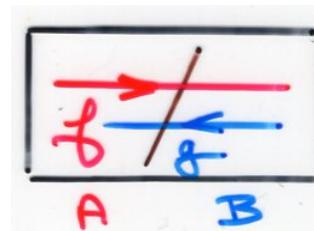




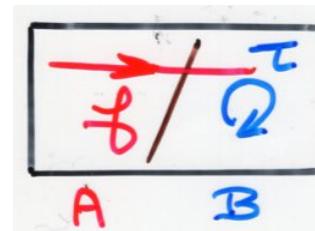
Meixner  
Pollaczek



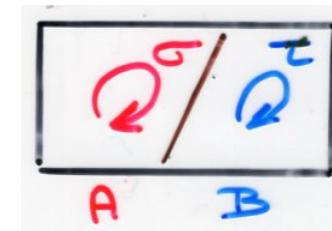
Jacobi



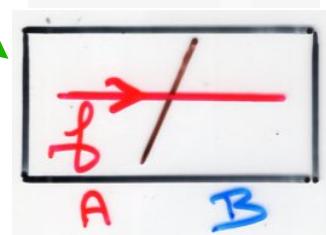
Meixner



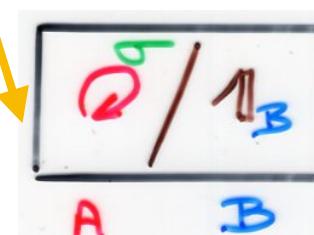
Krawtchouk



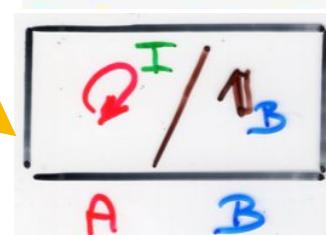
Laguerre



Charlier



Hermite



(formal) orthogonal polynomials

$$f(P(x)Q(x)) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} P(x)Q(x) d\mu(x)$$

measure  $\mu$   
on  $\mathbb{R}$

$$f(x^n) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} x^n d\mu(x)$$

moments  
problem

$$f(x^n) = \mu_n$$

moments

$\mathbb{K}$  ring

field  $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$   
or  $\mathbb{Q}[\alpha, \beta, \dots]$

$\mathbb{K}[x]$   
polynomials in  $x$

$\{P_n(x)\}_{n \geq 0}$   
sequence of  
polynomials

$P_n(x) \in \mathbb{K}[x]$ .

Definition

$\{P_n(x)\}_{n \geq 0}$   
sequence of  
polynomials

orthogonal iff  $\exists$

$f: K[x] \rightarrow K$   
linear functional

(i)  $\deg(P_n) = n$ , for  $n \geq 0$   
degree

(ii)  $f(P_k P_l) = 0$ , for  $k \neq l \geq 0$

(iii)  $f(P_k^2) \neq 0$ , for  $k \geq 0$

$$f(x^n) = \mu_n$$

moments

moments of 1 st kind  
 (Tchebychev) 2 nd kind

$$\begin{cases} \mu_{2n} = \binom{2n}{n} \\ \mu_{2n+1} = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \mu_{2n} = C_n \\ \mu_{2n+1} = 0 \end{cases}$$

Catalan  
number

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \int_{-1}^1 x^{2n} (1-x^2)^{1/2} dx = \frac{1}{4^n} C_n$$

Catalan

$E_{2n}$

secant  
number

$$\mu_n = n!$$

$$(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2) \cdots (\alpha+n)$$

Meixner  
-  
Pollaczek

Jacobi

Meixner

number of  
ordered  
partitions

Laguerre

Charlier

$B_n$

Bell number

number of  
partitions

Hermite

$$\mu_{2n+1} = 0$$

$$\mu_{2n} = 1 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot (2n-1)$$

number of  
involutions  
no fixed point  
on  $\{1, 2, \dots, 2n\}$

Combinatorial theory  
of orthogonal polynomials

$\{P_n(x)\}_{n \geq 0}$  sequence of monic  
orthogonal polynomials

There exist  $\{b_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ ,  $\{\lambda_k\}_{k \geq 1}$   
coefficients in  $\mathbb{K}$  such that

$$P_{k+1}(x) = (x - b_k) P_k(x) - \lambda_k P_{k-1}(x)$$

for every  $k \geq 1$

(formal) Favard's Theorem

3-terms linear recurrence relation

$\Rightarrow$  orthogonality

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

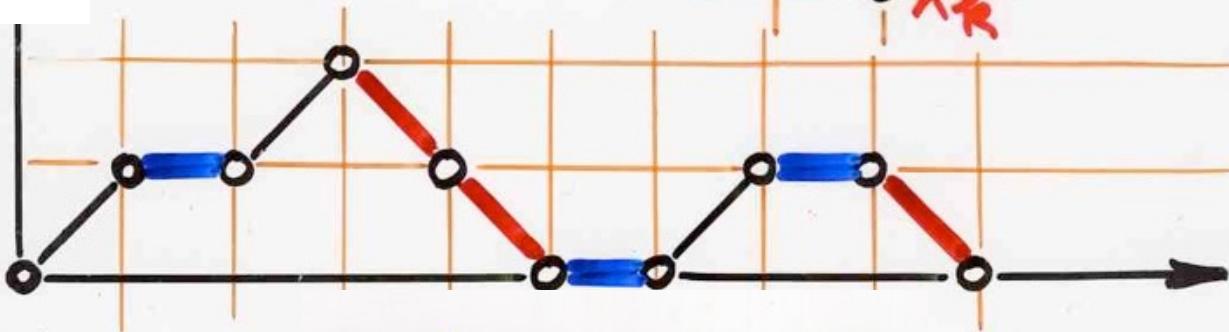
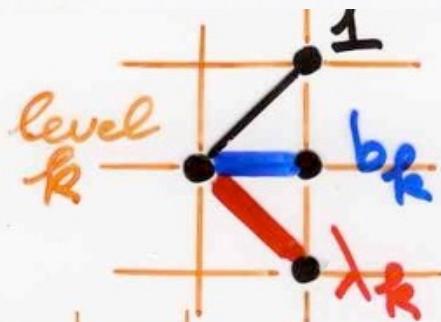
$$\{\lambda_k\}_{k \geq 1}$$

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

$\mu_n$  ?



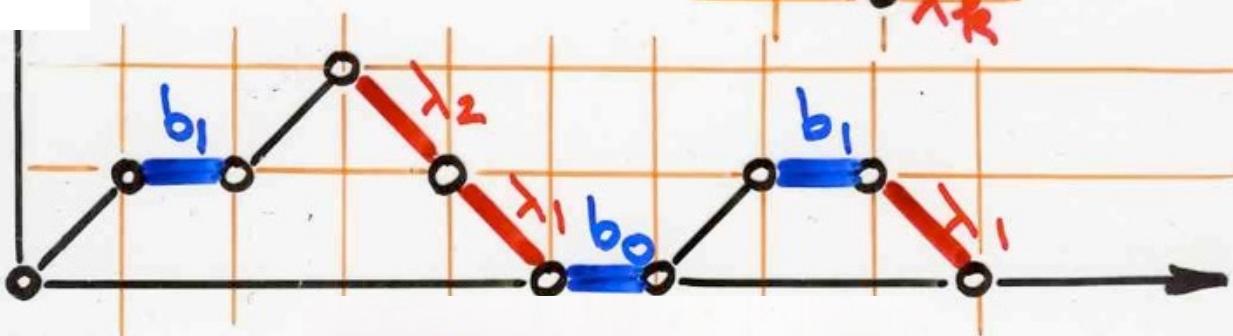
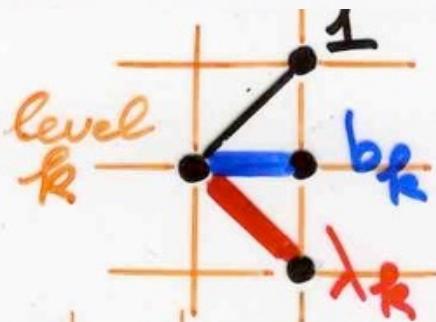
valuation  $v$



$\omega$  Motzkin path



valuation  $v$



$\omega$  Motzkin path

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

$$P_{k+1}(x) = (x - b_k) P_k(x) - \lambda_k P_{k-1}(x)$$

for every  $k \geq 1$

moments

$$\mu_n = \sum_{\omega} v(\omega)$$

Motzkin path  
 $|\omega| = n$

$$f(x^n) = \mu_n$$

length

combinatorial proof

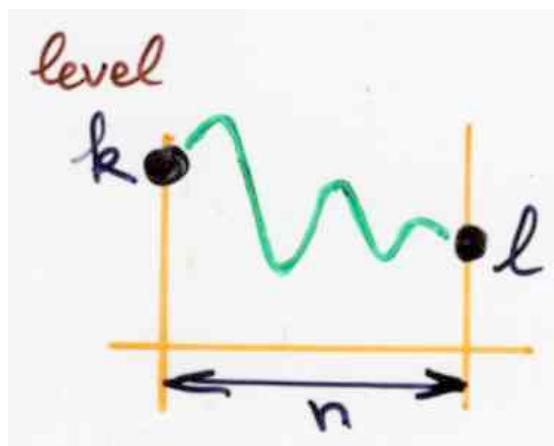
3-terms recurrence relation  
implies orthogonality

## Theorem

(X.V. 1983)

$$f(P_k P_l x^n) = \sum v(\omega) \lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_l$$

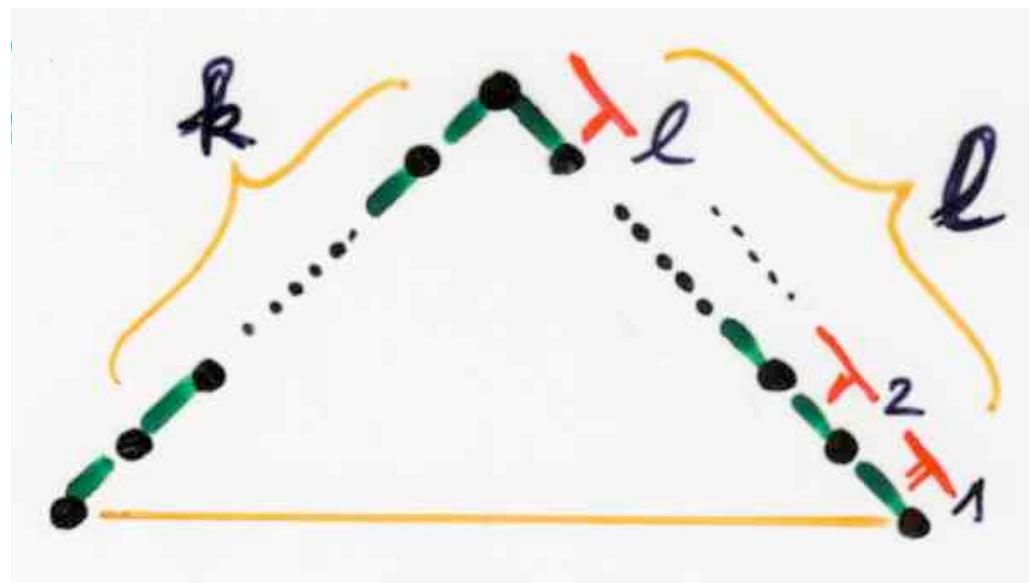
$\omega$   
"Motzkin path"  
 $|\omega| = n$  level  $k \approx l$



Corollary

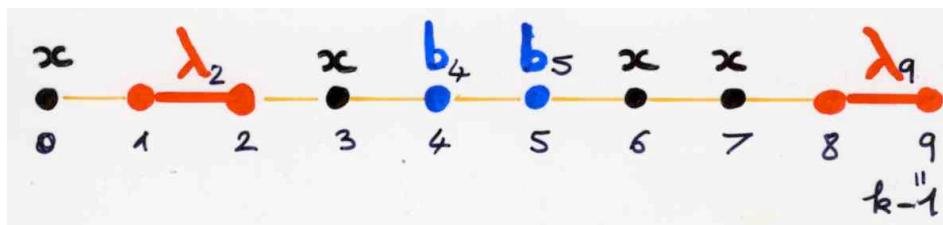
$\Rightarrow$  orthogonality  
 $n=0$

$$\delta(P_k P_l) = 0 \quad k \neq l$$
$$= \lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_l \quad k = l$$



orthogonal  
polynomial

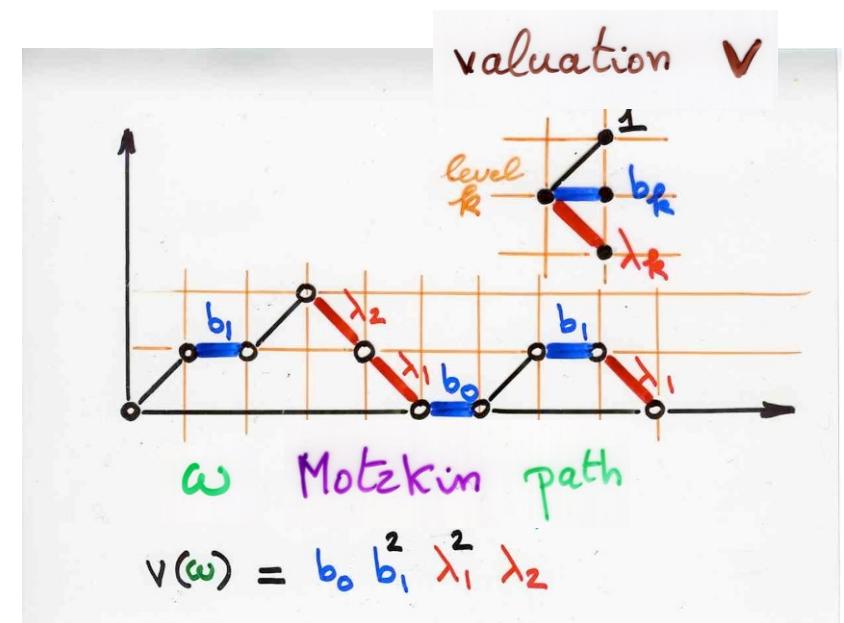
$$\{P_n(x)\}_{n \geq 0}$$



$$f(x^n) = \mu_n$$

moments  
 $\mu_n$

weighted  
Motzkin  
paths



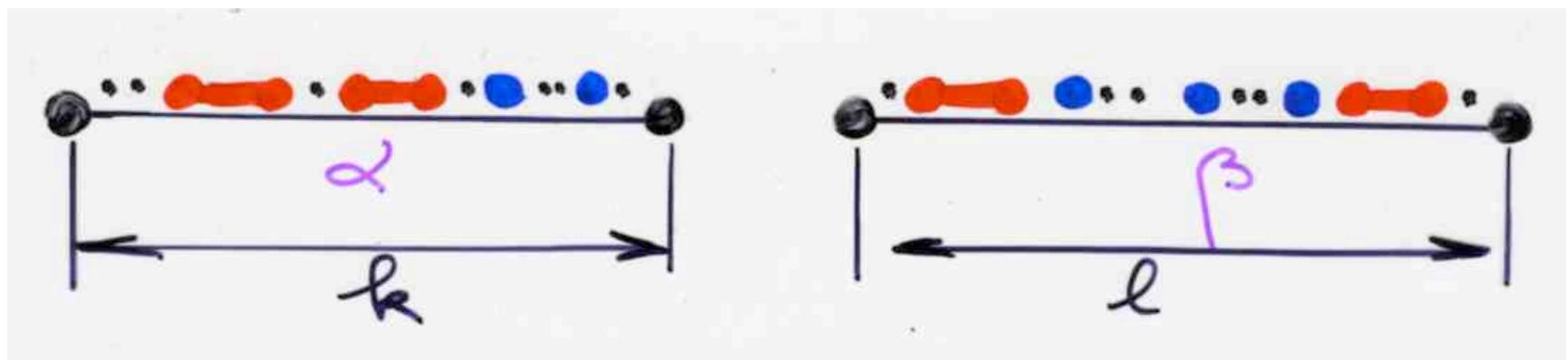
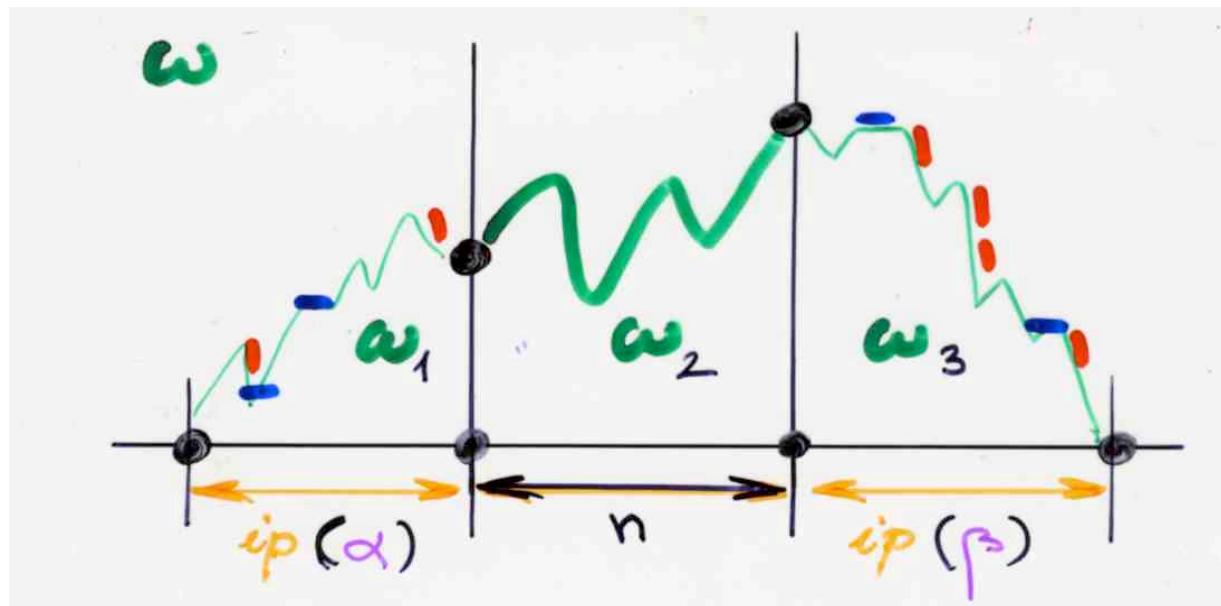
bijection proof

$$g(P_k P_l x^n) = \sum_{\alpha, \beta, \omega} (-1)^{|\alpha|+|\beta|} v(\alpha) v(\beta) v(\omega)$$

$\alpha$  Parage of  $[0, k-1]$   
 $\beta$  Parage of  $[0, l-1]$   
 $\omega$  Motzkin path  
(level  $0 \rightsquigarrow 0$ )

$$|\omega| = ip(\alpha) + ip(\beta) + n$$

$$(\alpha, \beta, \omega) \in E_{n, k, l}$$



$$(\alpha, \beta, \omega) \in E_{n, k, l}$$

# Hankel determinants

# Hankel determinant

any minor of the matrix

$$H(\{\mu_n\}_{n \geq 0})$$

LGV Lemma

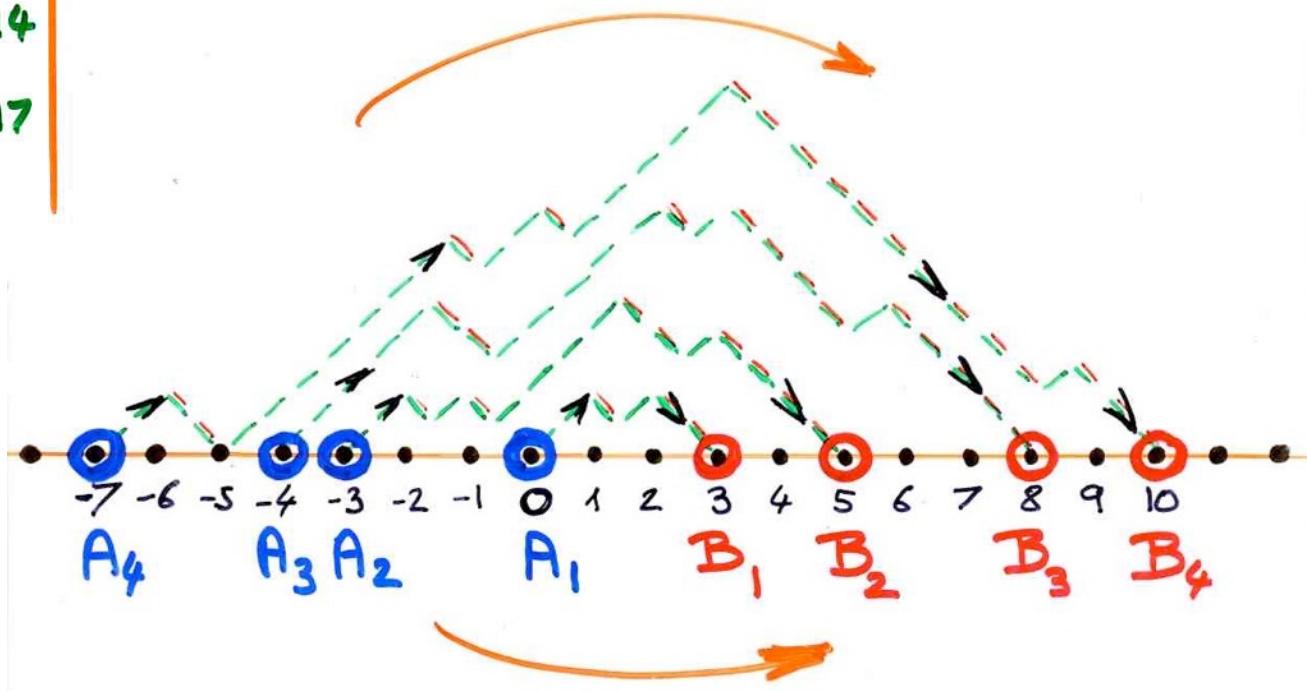
determinant



$$\begin{matrix} & & & & & j \\ \mu_0 & \mu_1 & \mu_2 & \mu_3 & \cdots & \\ \mu_1 & \mu_2 & \mu_3 & & & \\ \mu_2 & \mu_3 & & & & \\ \mu_3 & & & & & \\ \vdots & & & & & \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \mu_{i+j} \end{matrix}$$

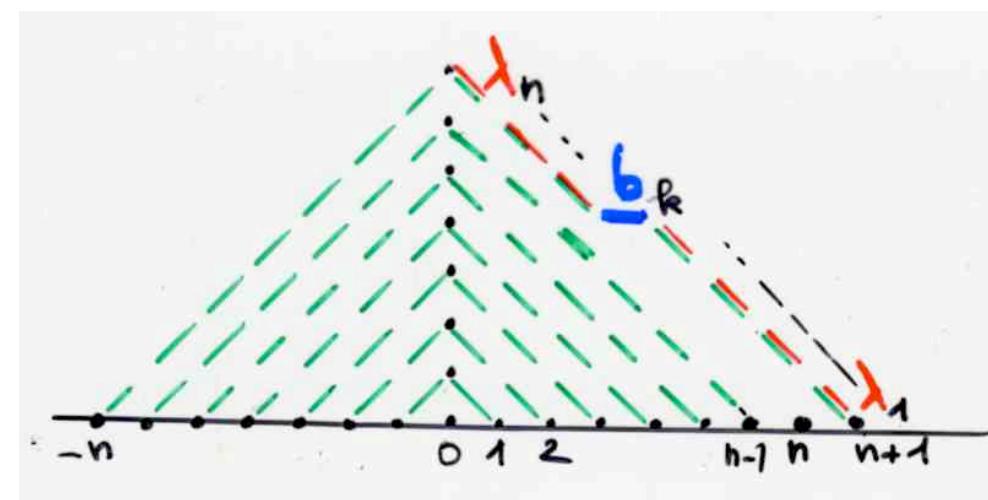
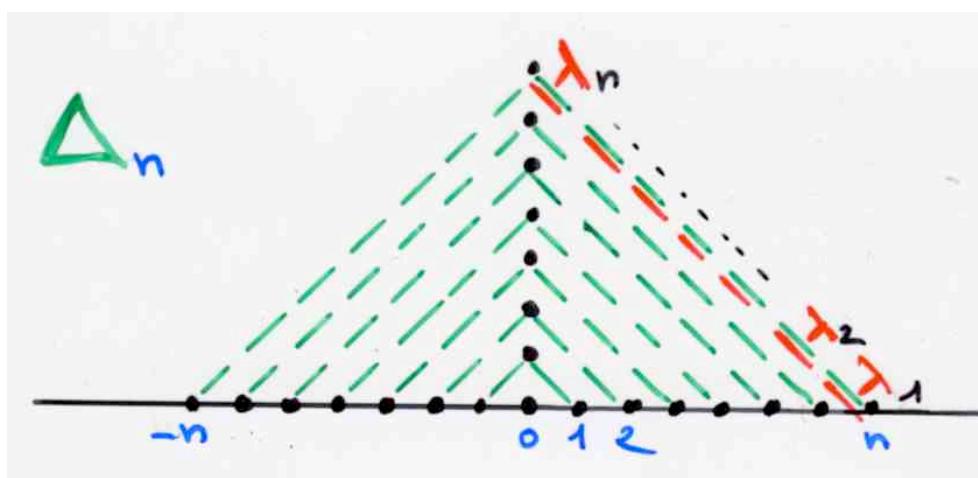
configuration  
of  
non-intersecting  
paths

$$\begin{vmatrix} \mu_3 & \mu_5 & \mu_8 & \mu_{10} \\ \mu_6 & \mu_8 & \mu_{11} & \mu_{13} \\ \mu_7 & \mu_9 & \mu_{12} & \mu_{14} \\ \mu_{10} & \mu_{12} & \mu_{15} & \mu_{17} \end{vmatrix}$$



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

$$X_n = \det \begin{bmatrix} \mu_1 & \mu_2 & \dots & \mu_{n-1} & \mu_{n+1} \\ \mu_2 & \mu_3 & \dots & \mu_n & \mu_{n+2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mu_n & \mu_{n+1} & \dots & \mu_{2n-1} & \mu_{2n+1} \end{bmatrix}$$



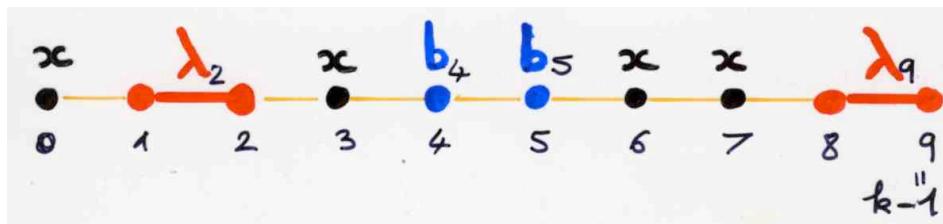
Duality

orthogonal  
polynomial

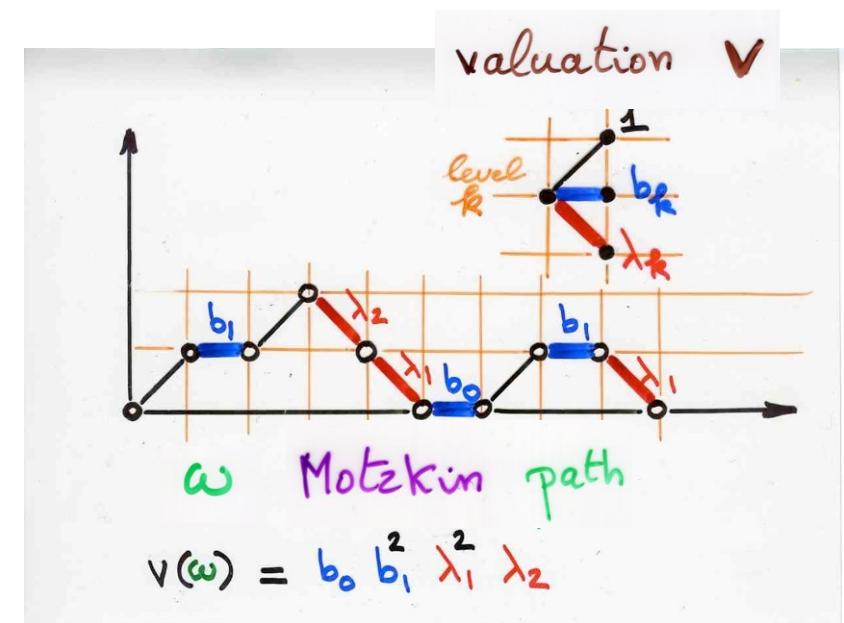
duality

moments  
 $\mu_n$

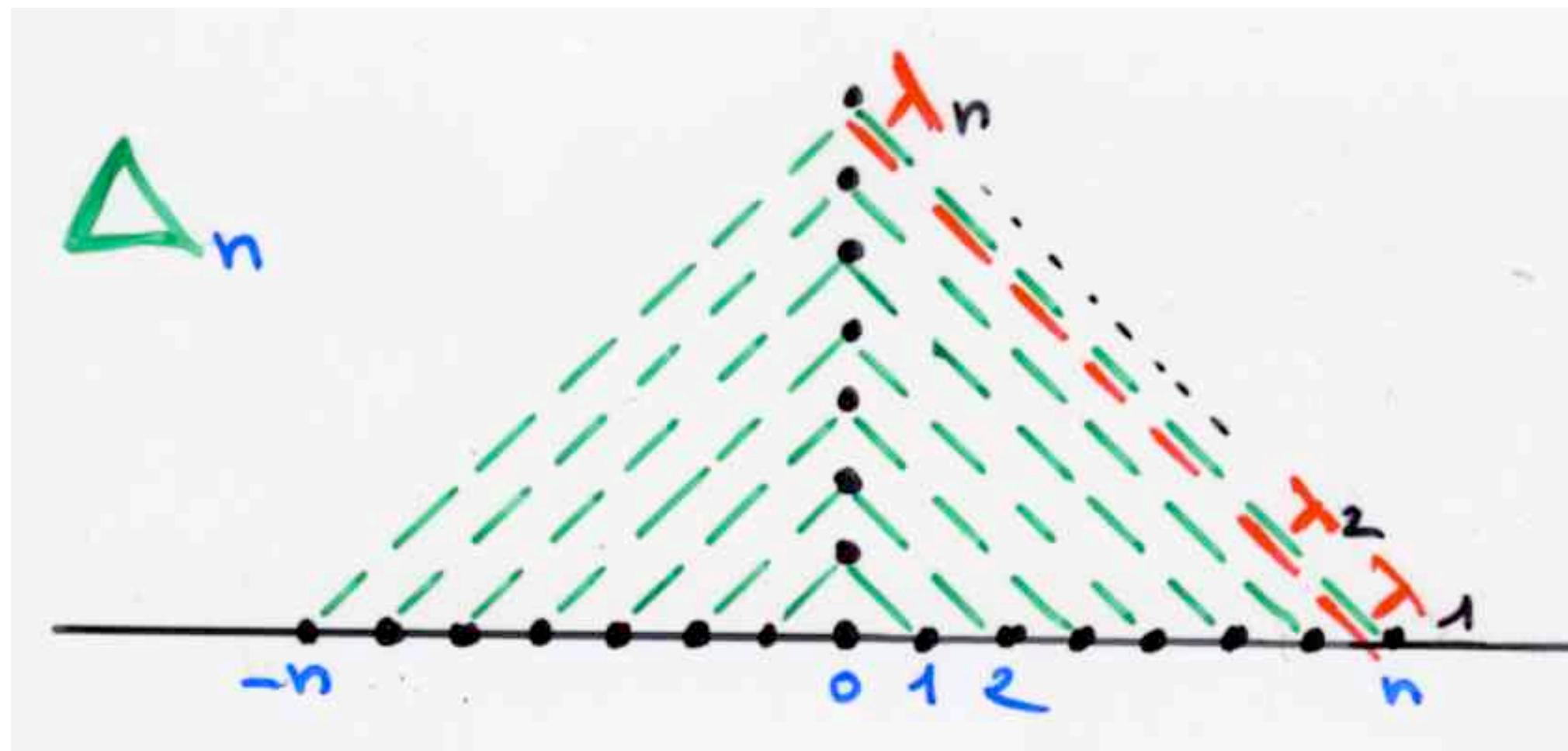
$$\{P_n(x)\}_{n \geq 0}$$

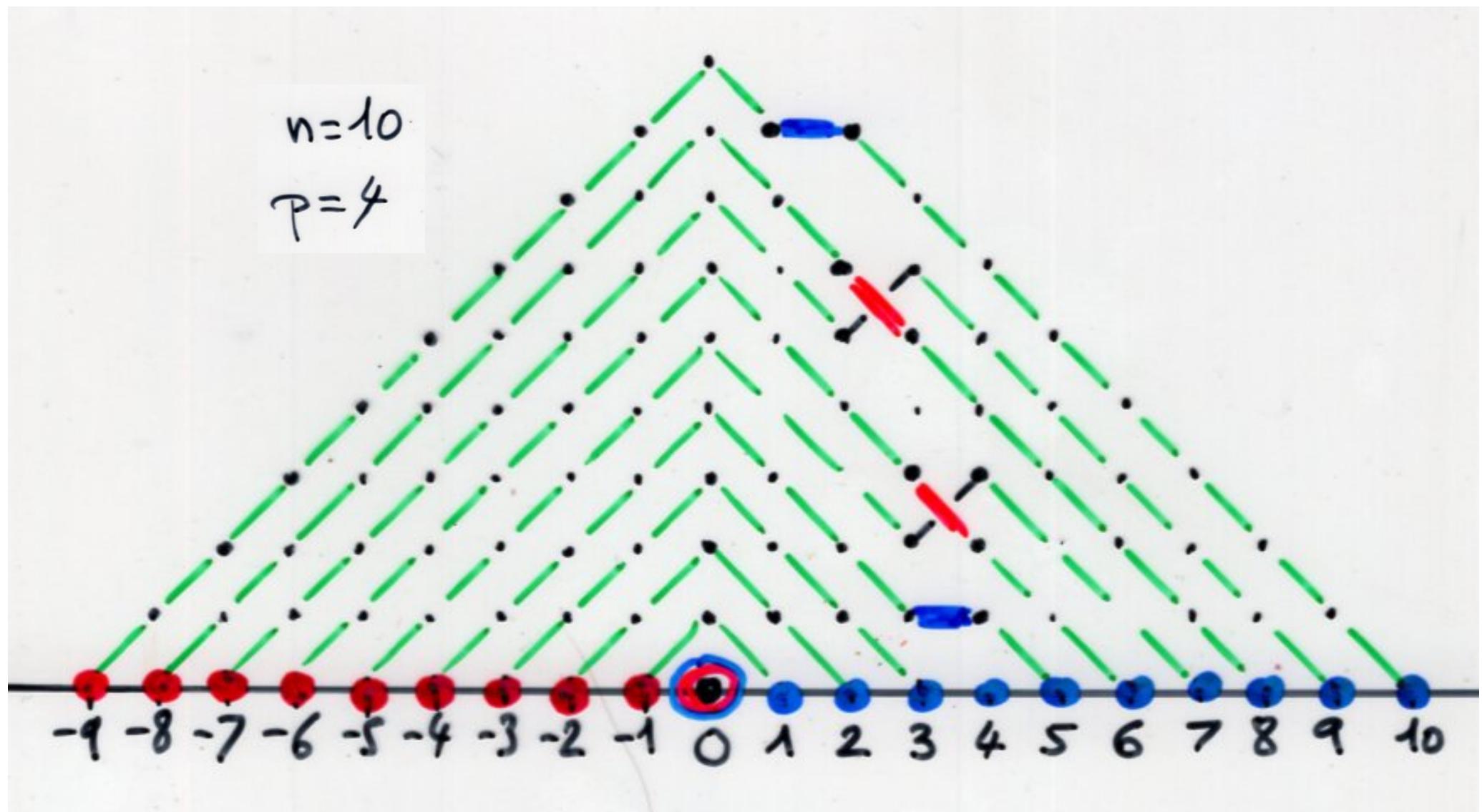


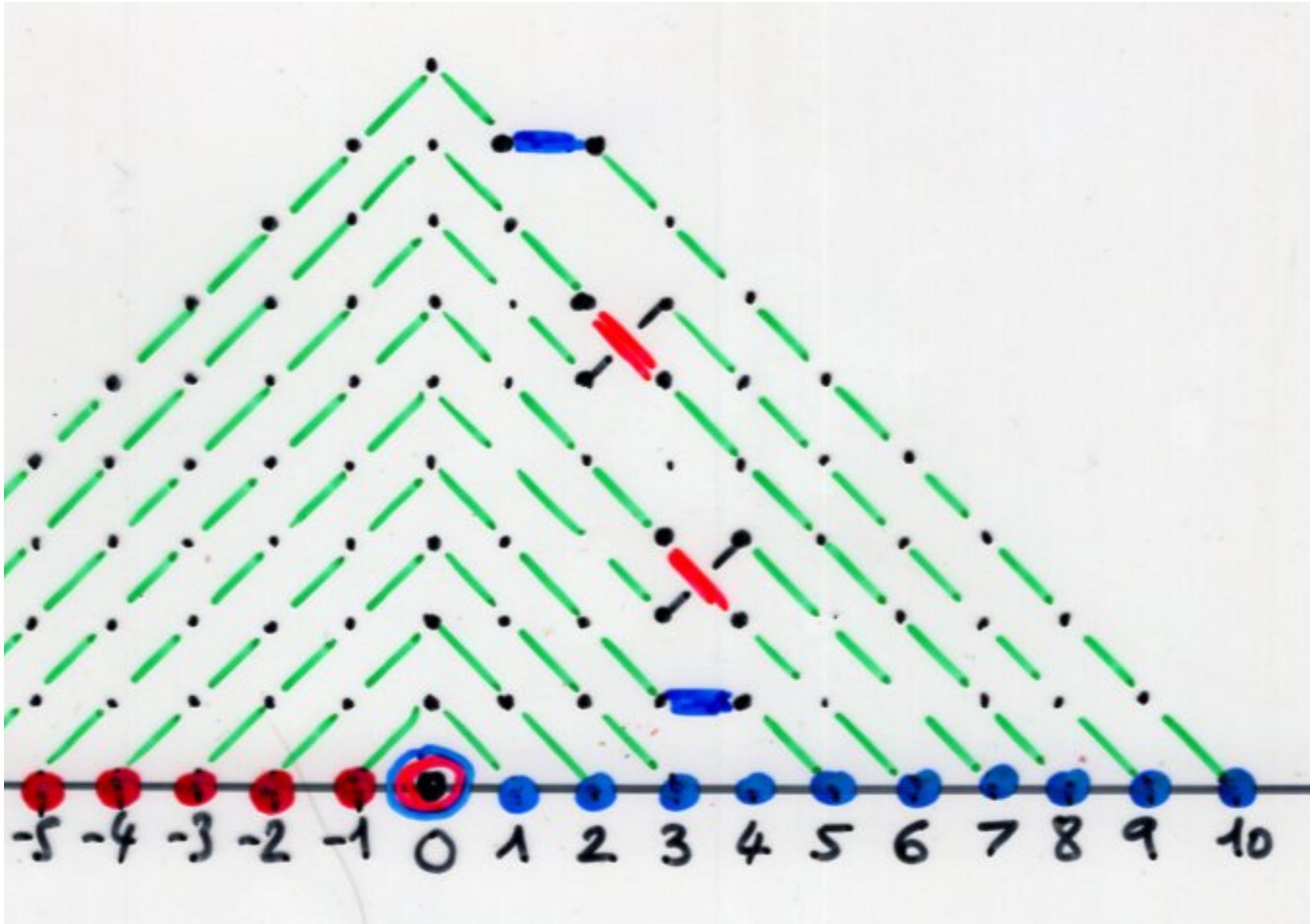
weighted  
Motzkin  
paths



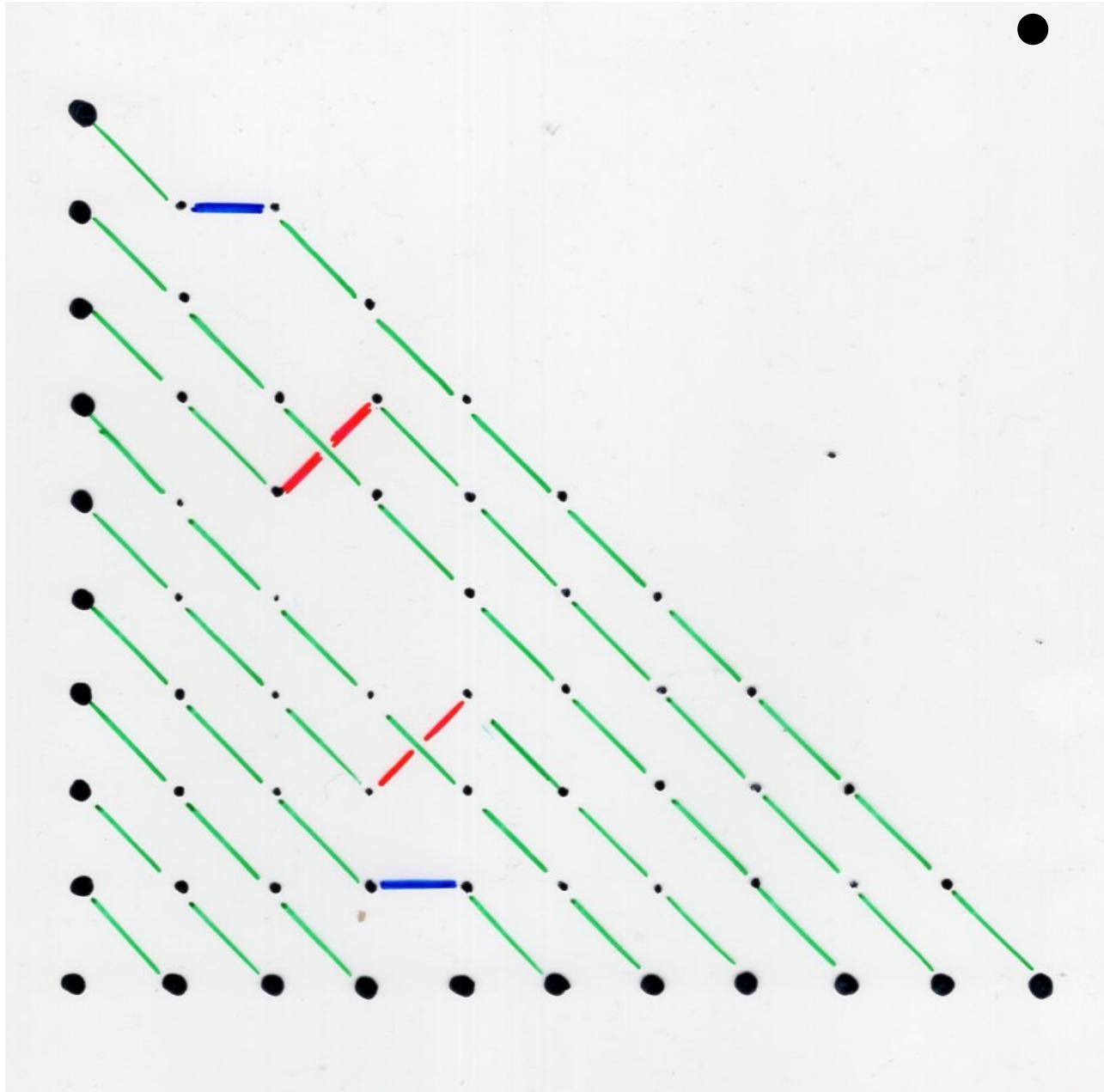
$$\Delta_n = \det \begin{bmatrix} \mu_0 & \mu_1 & \dots & \mu_n \\ \mu_1 & \mu_2 & \dots & \mu_{n+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \mu_n & \mu_{n+1} & \dots & \mu_{2n} \end{bmatrix}$$







$n=10$   
 $p=4$

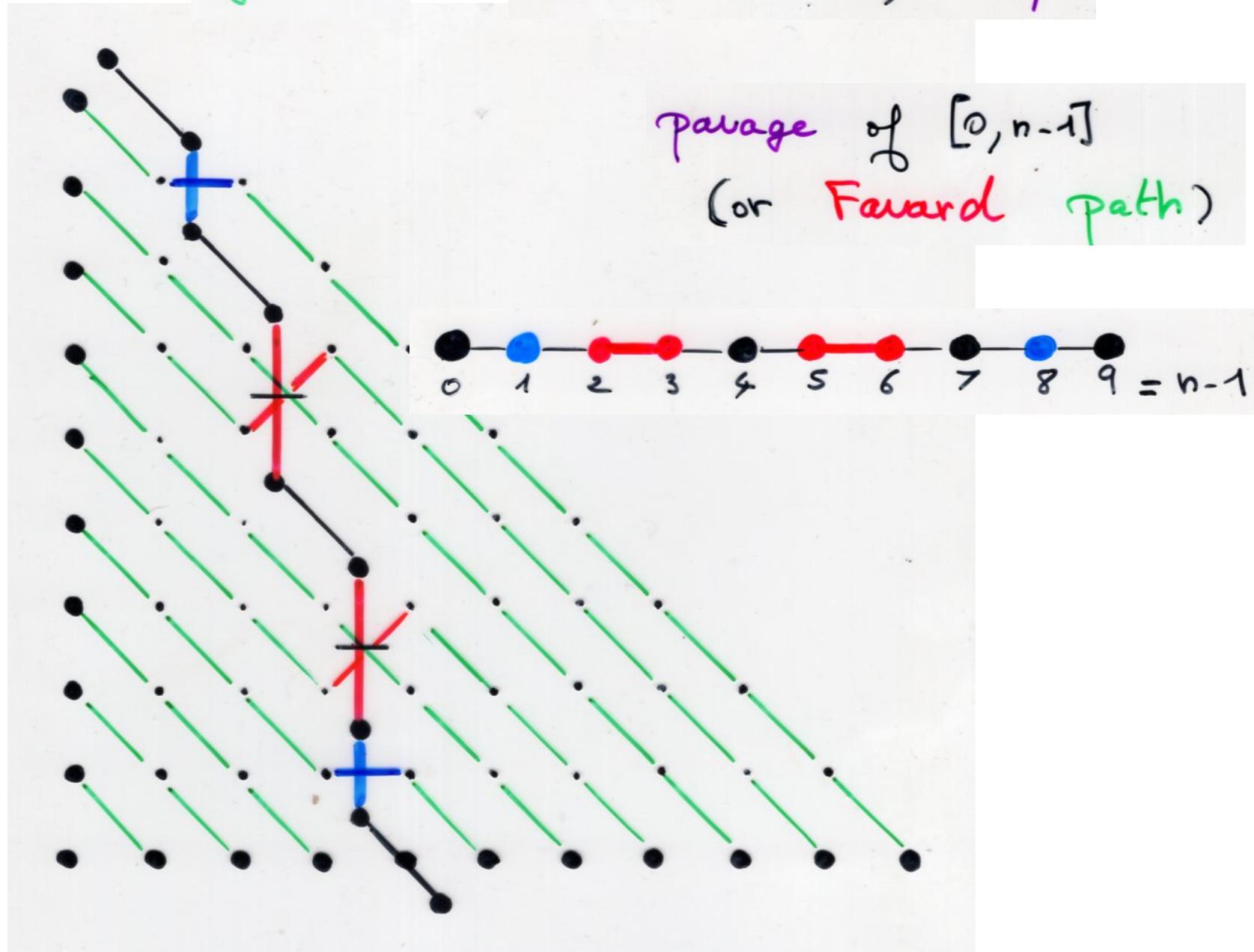


$$n=10$$
$$p=4$$

bijection:

$$\zeta = (\sigma; \omega_0, \dots, \omega_{n-1}) \rightarrow \beta$$

pavage of  $[0, n-1]$   
(or Fairard path)



analytic continued fractions

# continued fractions

# Stieljes

$$S(t; \lambda) = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{\lambda_1 t}{1 - \frac{\lambda_2 t}{\dots}}}$$





$$\frac{1}{1-b_0t - \frac{\lambda_1 t^2}{1-b_1t - \frac{\lambda_2 t^2}{\dots}}} \\ \dots \\ \frac{1-b_Rt - \lambda_{R+1}t^2}{\dots}$$

$J(t; b, \lambda)$

Jacobi      continued  
fraction

$$b = \{b_k\}_{k \geq 0} \quad \lambda = \{\lambda_k\}_{k \geq 1}$$

# The fundamental Flajolet Lemma



[www.mathinfo06.iecn.u-nancy.fr](http://www.mathinfo06.iecn.u-nancy.fr)

combinatorial interpretation of a  
continued fraction with weighted paths

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

$\omega$   
Motzkin  
path

$$\frac{1}{1-b_0t - \frac{\lambda_1 t^2}{1-b_1t - \frac{\lambda_2 t^2}{\dots}}} \\ \dots \\ \frac{1-b_Kt - \lambda_{K+1} t^2}{\dots}$$

$$J(t; b, \lambda)$$

Jacobi

continued  
fraction

Philippe Flajolet  
fundamental  
Lemma

$$b = \{b_k\}_{k \geq 0} \quad \lambda = \{\lambda_k\}_{k \geq 1}$$

## continued fractions

J-fraction

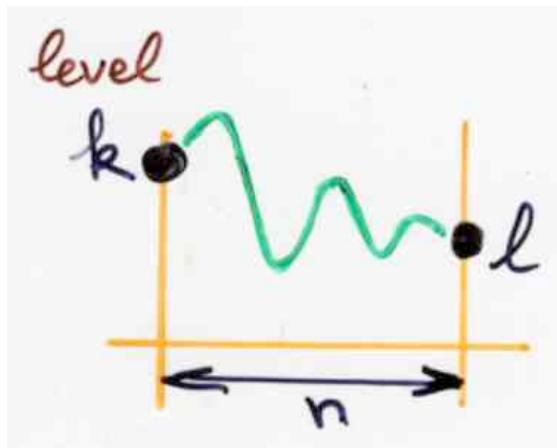
$$\sum_{\omega} v(\omega) = \frac{1}{1 - b_0 t - \frac{\lambda_1 t^2}{1 - b_1 t - \frac{\lambda_2 t^2}{1 - b_2 t - \dots}}}$$

Motzkin path  
 $|\omega| = n$

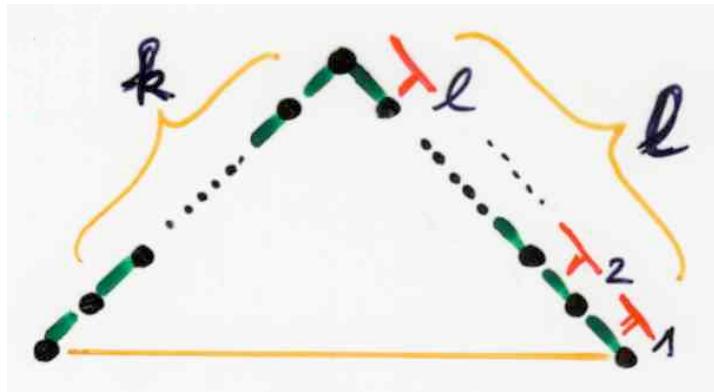
$$1 - b_k t - \frac{\lambda_{k+1} t^2}{1 - b_{k+1} t - \dots}$$

Philippe Flajolet  
fundamental  
Lemma

$$f(P_k P_l x^n) =$$



$$\begin{aligned} f(P_k P_l) &= 0 \quad k \neq l \\ &= \lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_l \quad k = l \end{aligned}$$



orthogonal polynomials

$$\begin{aligned} P_{k+1}(x) &= \\ (x - b_k) P_k(x) - \lambda_k P_{k-1}(x) \end{aligned}$$

$$f(x^n) = \mu_n \text{ moments}$$

$$\mu_n = \sum_{\omega} v(\omega)$$

Motzkin path  
 $|\omega| = n$

classical theory

continued fractions

J-fraction

$$\mu_n = \sum_{\omega} v(\omega) = \frac{1}{1 - b_0 t - \frac{\lambda_1 t^2}{\dots}}$$

Motzkin path  
 $|\omega| = n$

$$1 - b_k t - \frac{\lambda_{k+1} t^2}{\dots}$$

orthogonal polynomials

$$P_{k+1}(x) = (x - b_k) P_k(x) - \lambda_k P_{k-1}(x)$$

$$f(x^n) = \mu_n$$

moments

$$\mu_n = \sum_{\omega} v(\omega)$$

Motzkin path  
 $|\omega| = n$

same « essence »

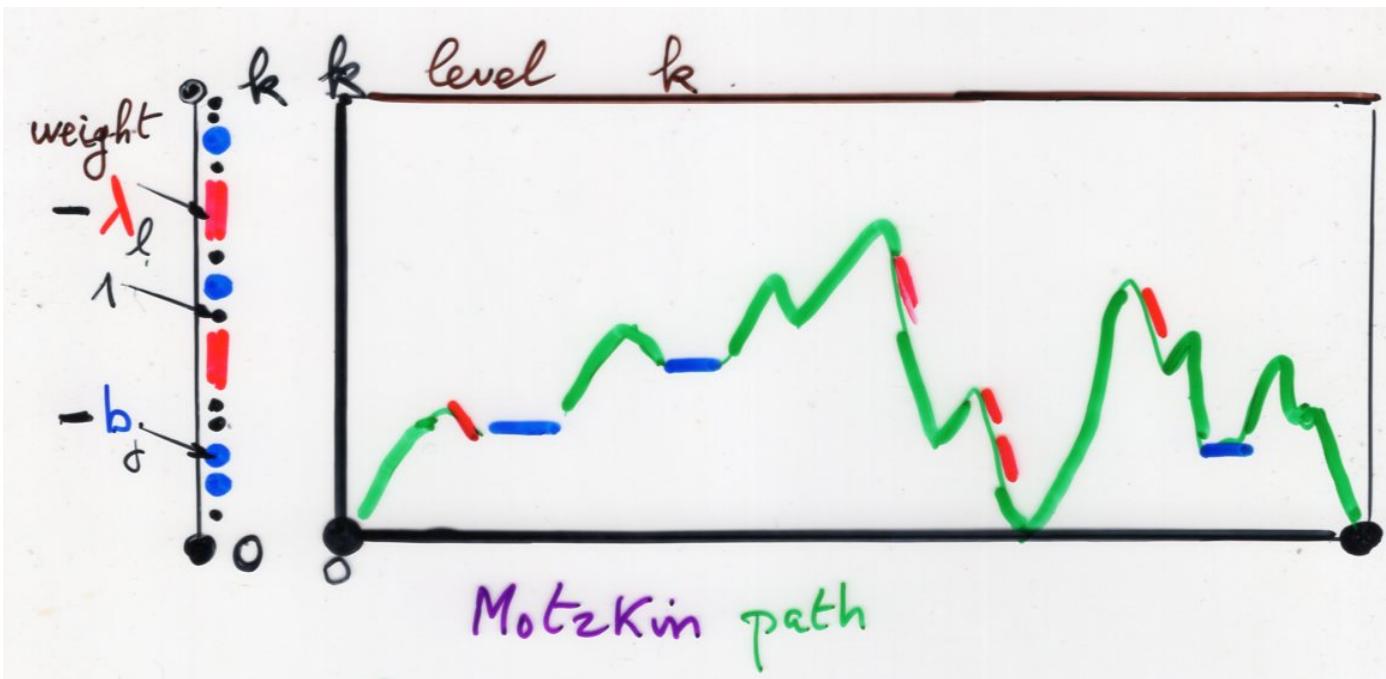
for various bijective proofs

- Ramanujan's formula  
(Notebook, entry 17, Ch. 12)
- The "main theorem" Ch 1  
⇒ Favard's theorem
- Convergents of continued fractions

.....

same "essence" of the involution  
sign-reversing, weight preserving

(with some variations  
and "different" "border conditions")



# The notion of histories

example: Hermite histories



Hermite  
polynomials

$$\begin{cases} b_k = 0 \\ \lambda_k = k \end{cases}$$

moments

Hermite  
polynomials

$$\begin{cases} b_k = 0 \\ \lambda_k = k \end{cases}$$

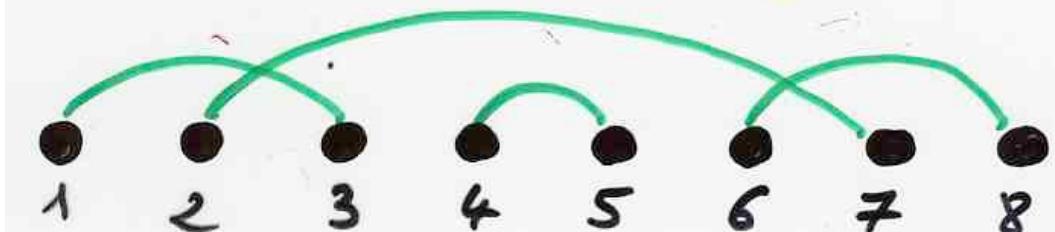
$$\mu_{2n+1} = 0$$

$$\mu_{2n} = 1 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot (2n-1)$$

number of  
involutions

no fixed point  
on  $\{1, 2, \dots, 2n\}$

chord diagrams  
perfect matching



moments

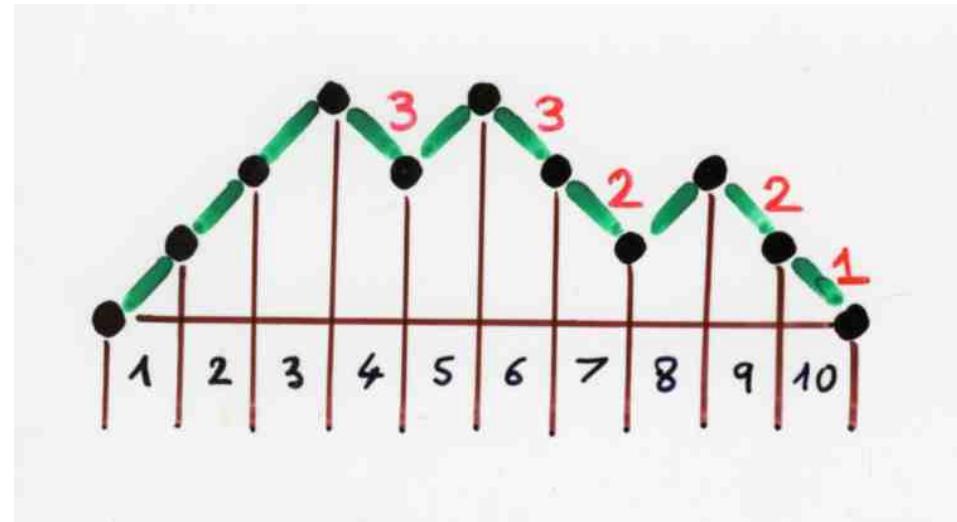
Hermite  
polynomials

$$\mu_{2n+1} = 0$$

$$\mu_{2n} = 1 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot (2n-1)$$

number of  
involutions

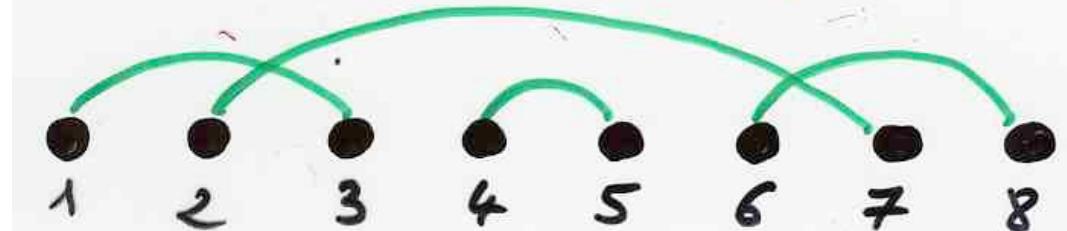
no fixed point  
on  $\{1, 2, \dots, 2n\}$



$$\begin{cases} b_k = 0 \\ \lambda_k = k \end{cases}$$



chord diagrams  
perfect matching



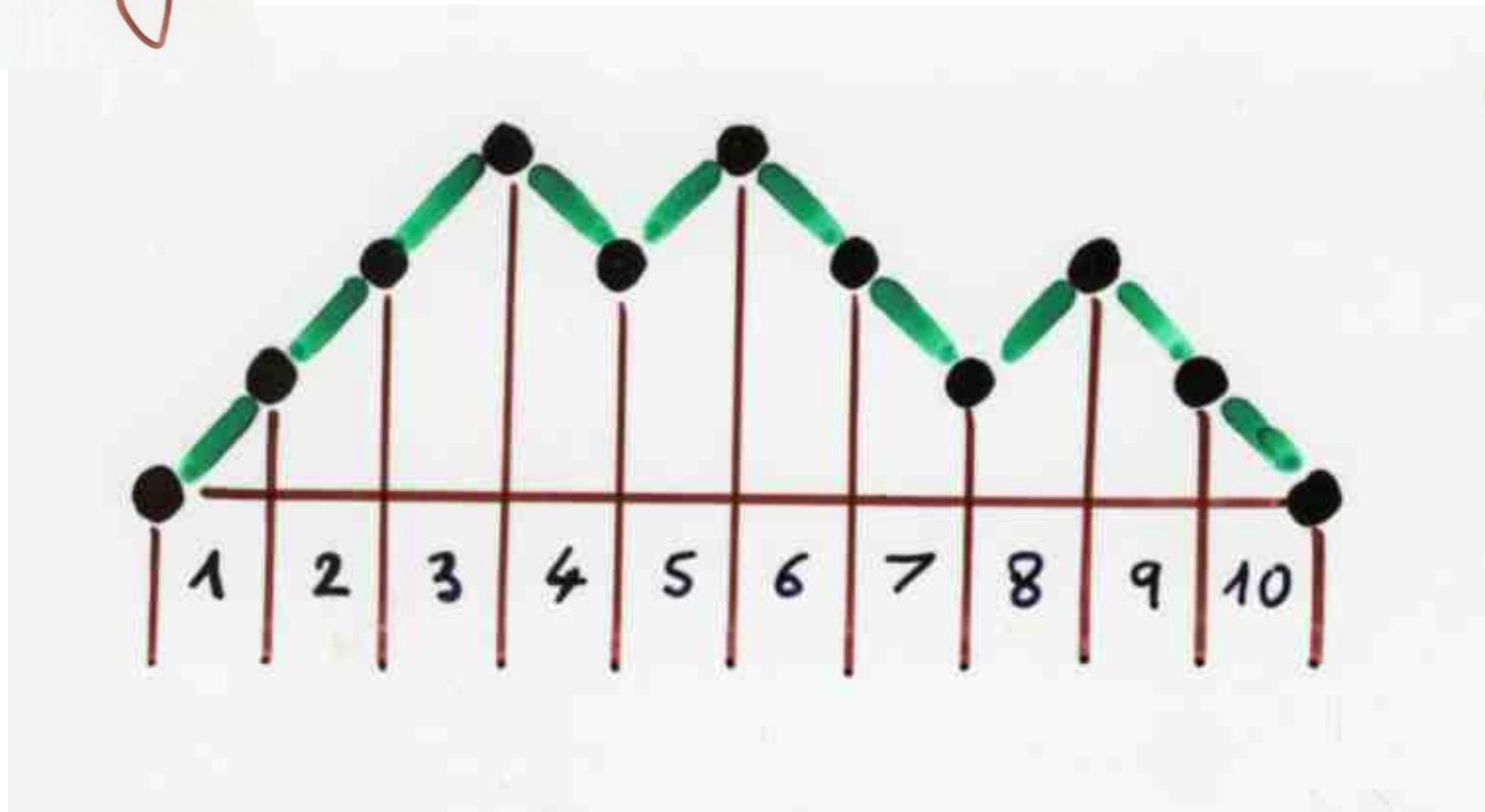
history

Franson (1978)

data structures  
in  
computer science

sequence  
of  
primitive  
operations

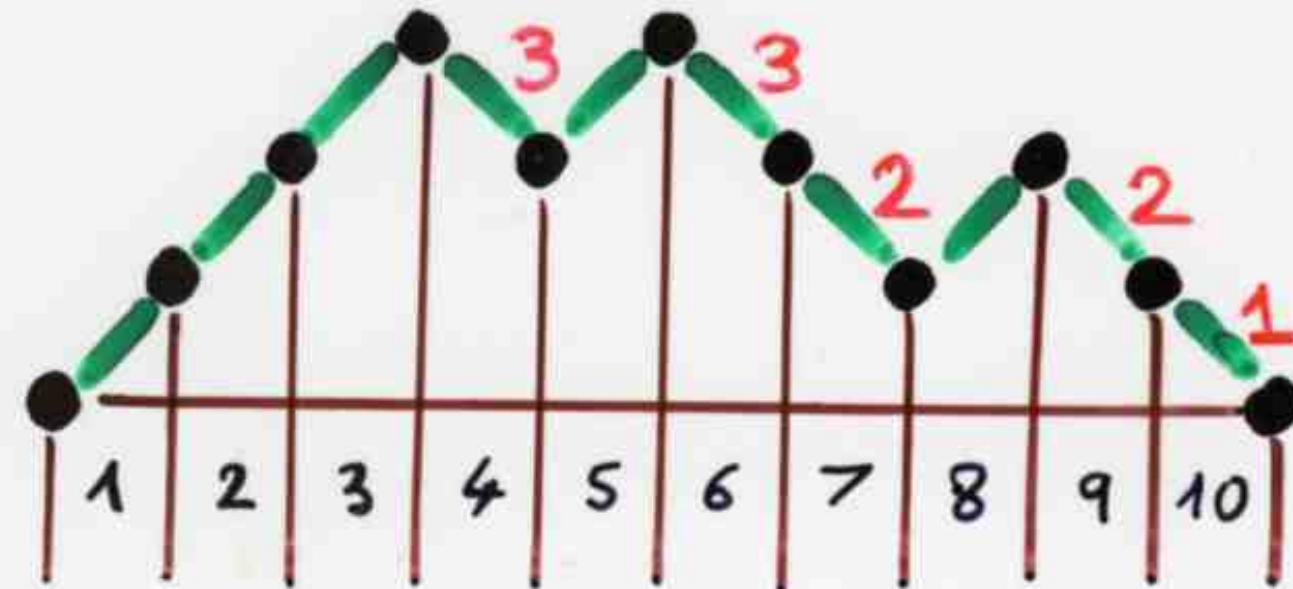
Hermite  
history



Hermite  
history

Hermite  
polynomials

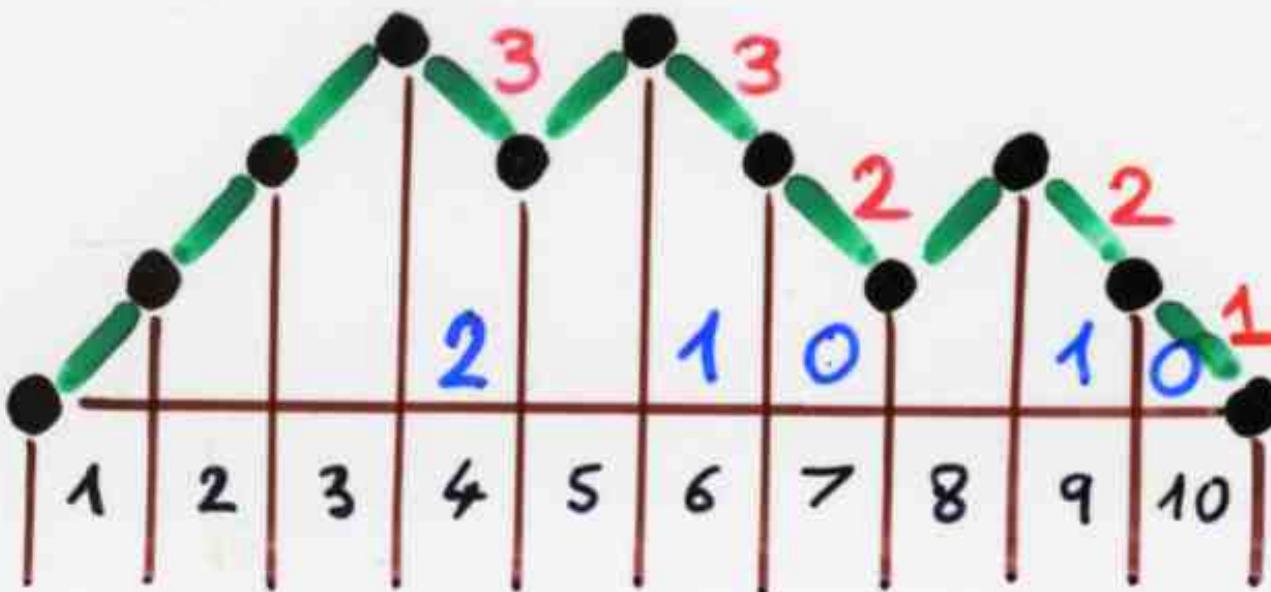
$$\begin{cases} b_k = 0 \\ \lambda_k = k \end{cases}$$



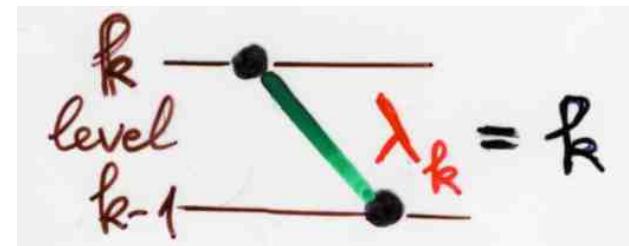
Hermite  
history

Hermite  
polynomials

$$\begin{cases} b_k = 0 \\ \lambda_k = k \end{cases}$$



$$0 \leq i < \lambda_k = k$$

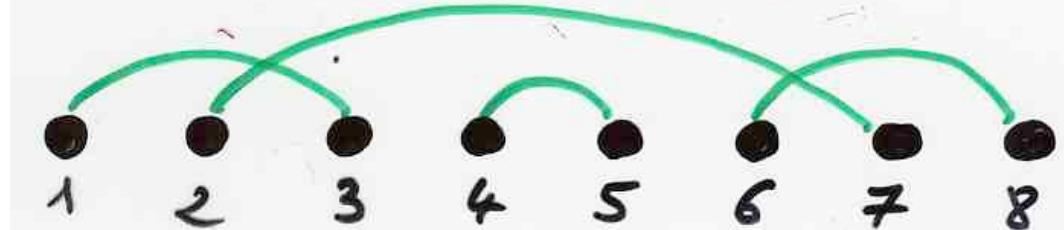


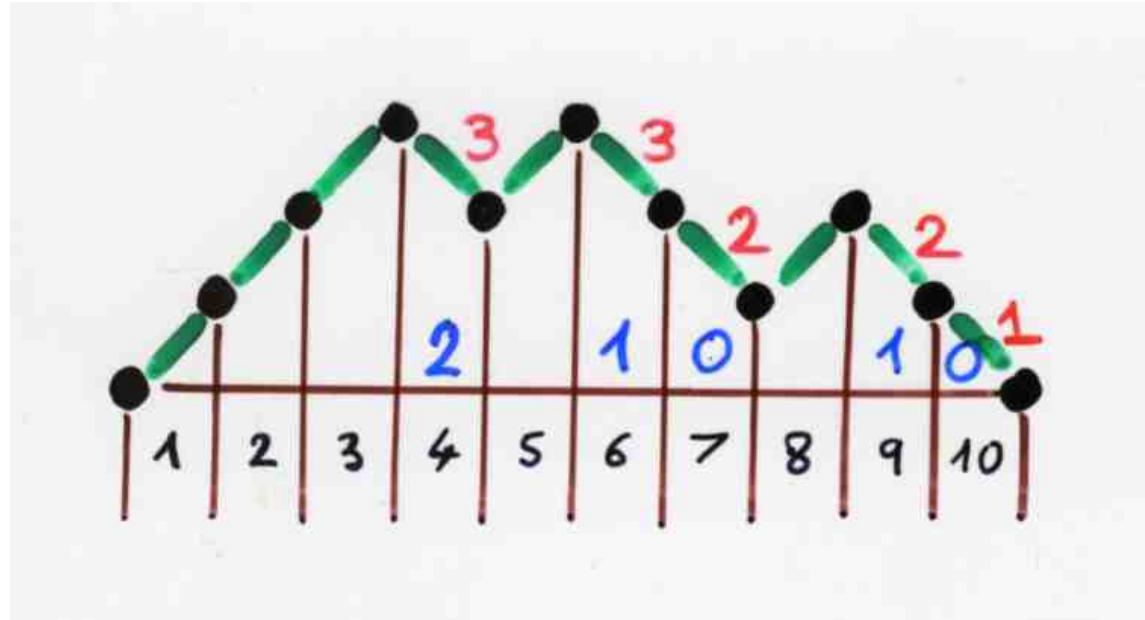
bijection

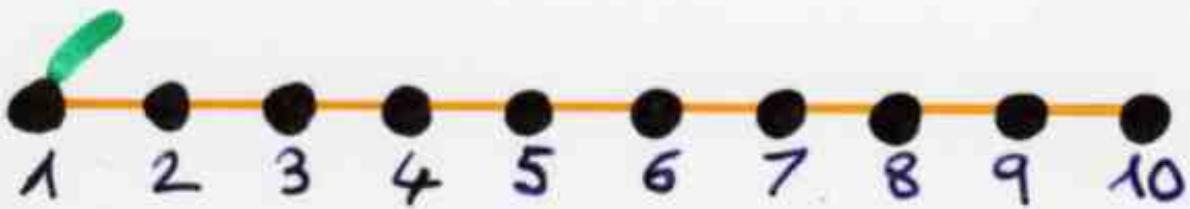
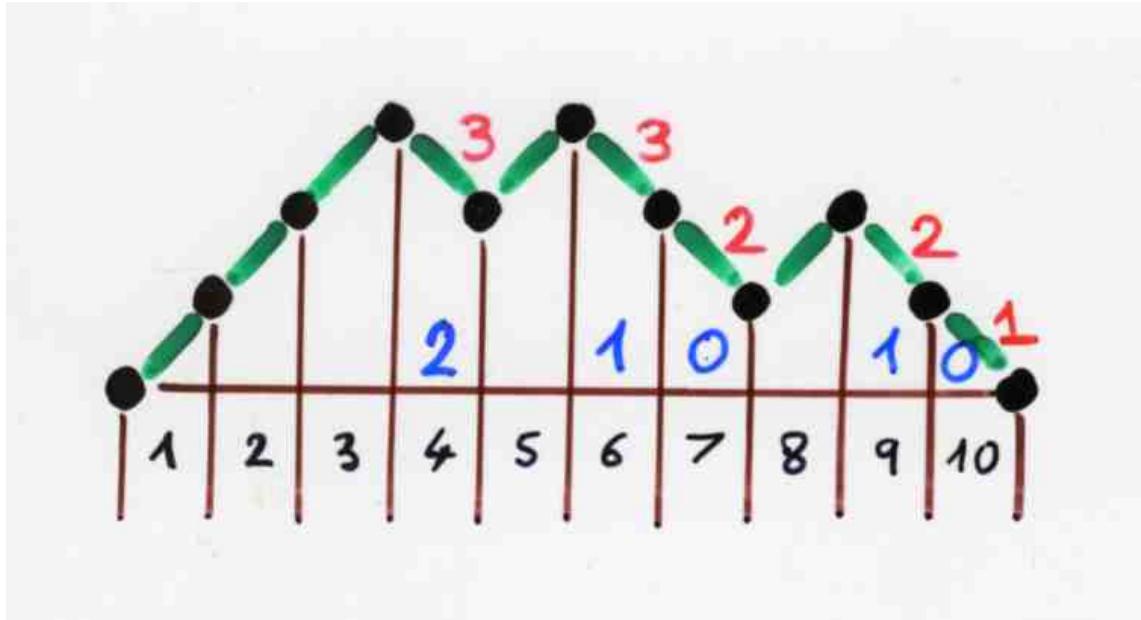
Hermite  
history

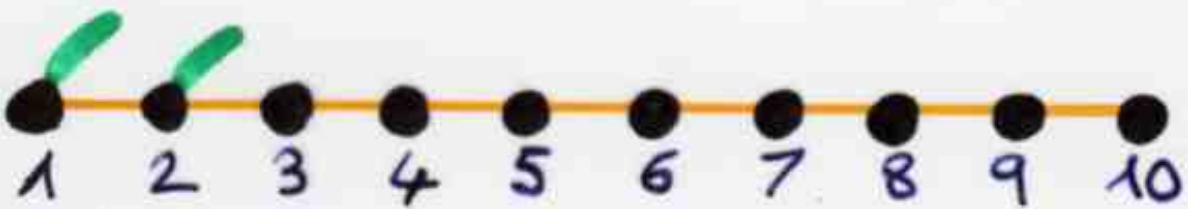
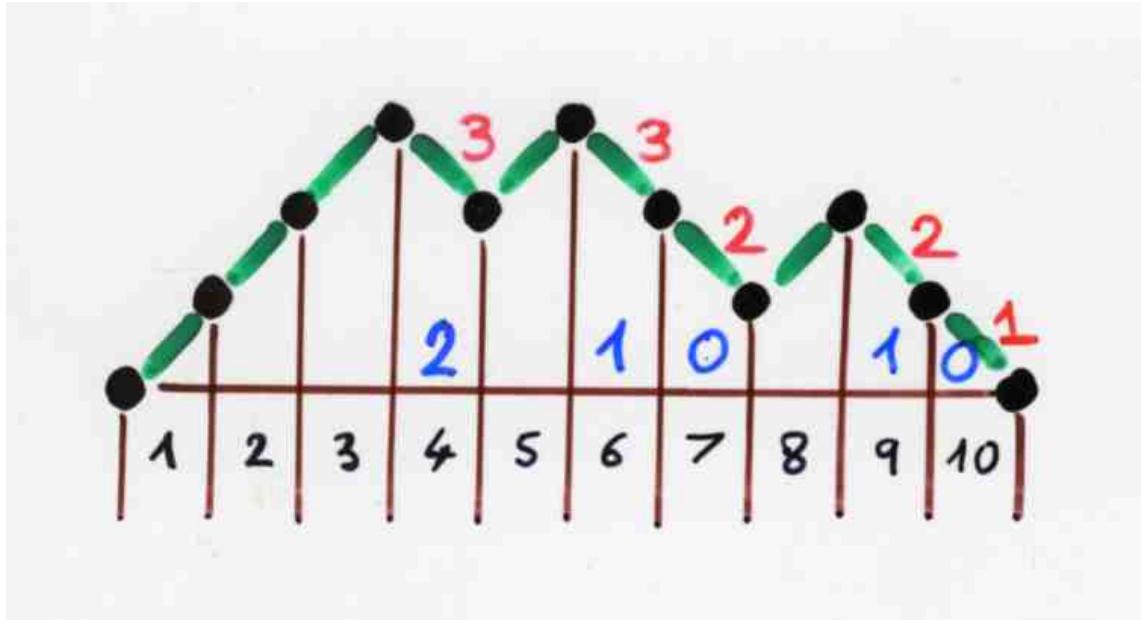


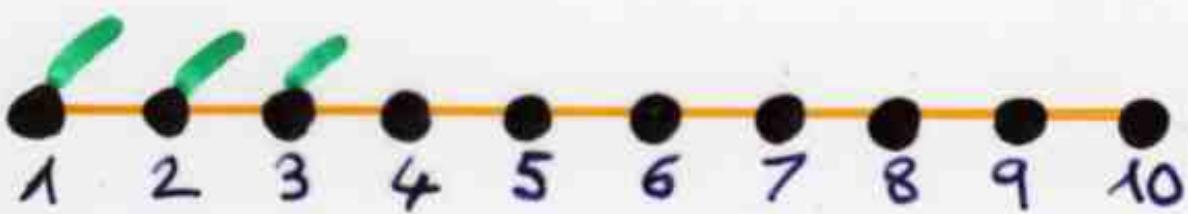
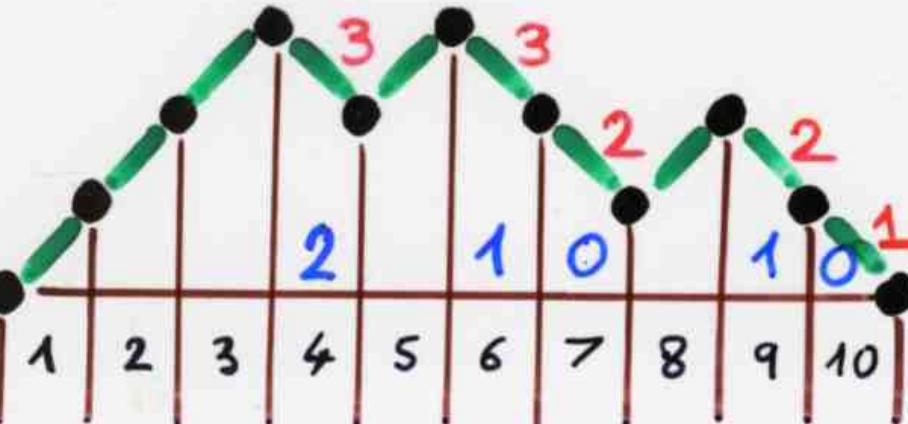
chord diagrams  
perfect matching

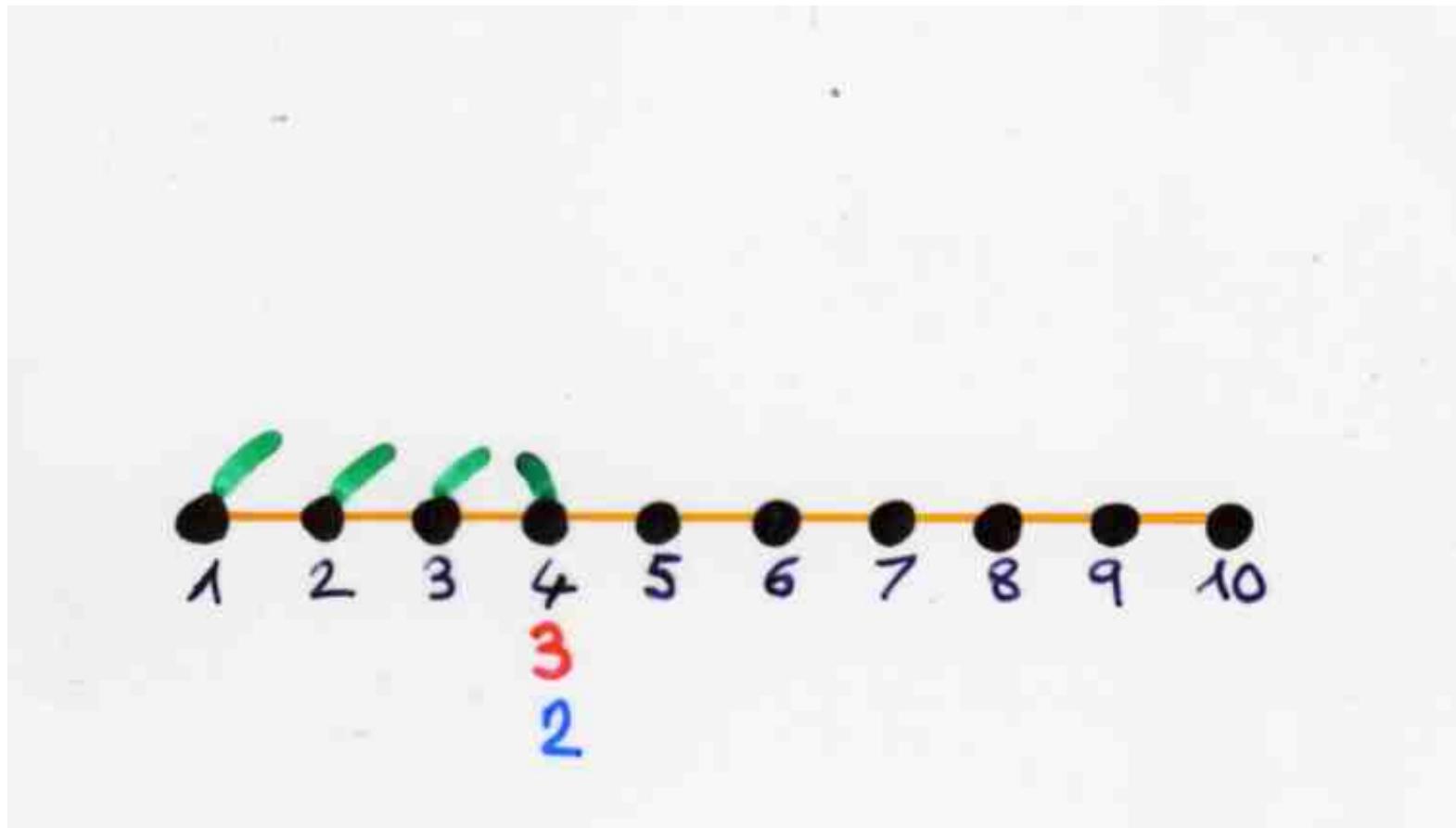
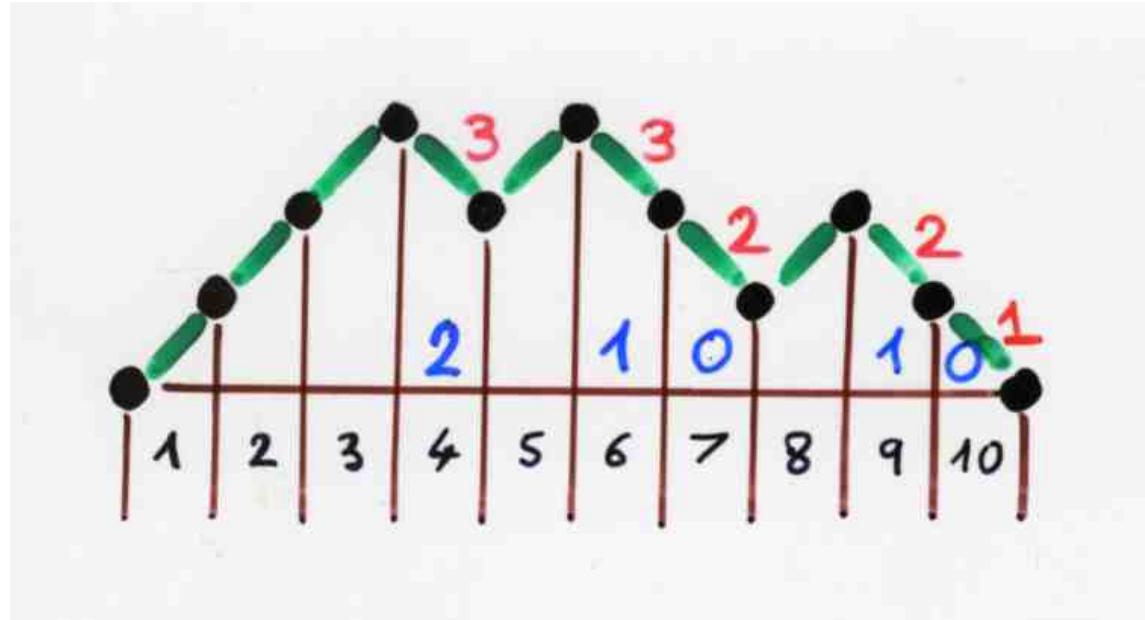


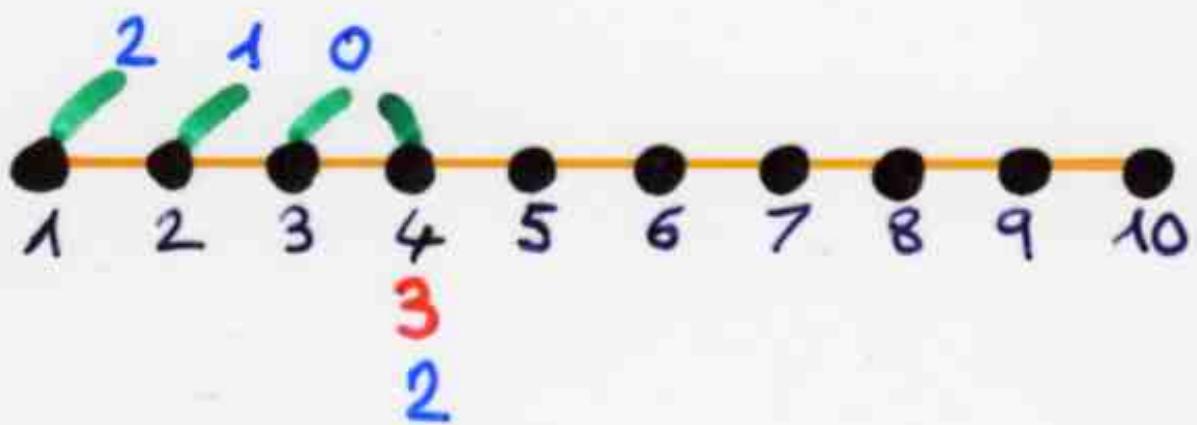
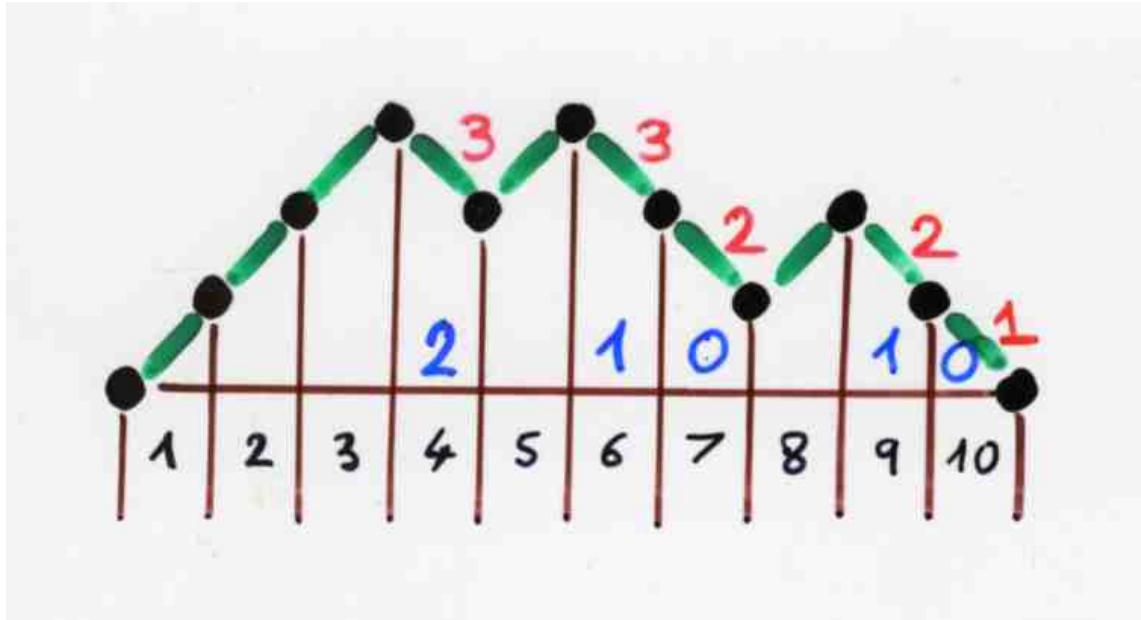


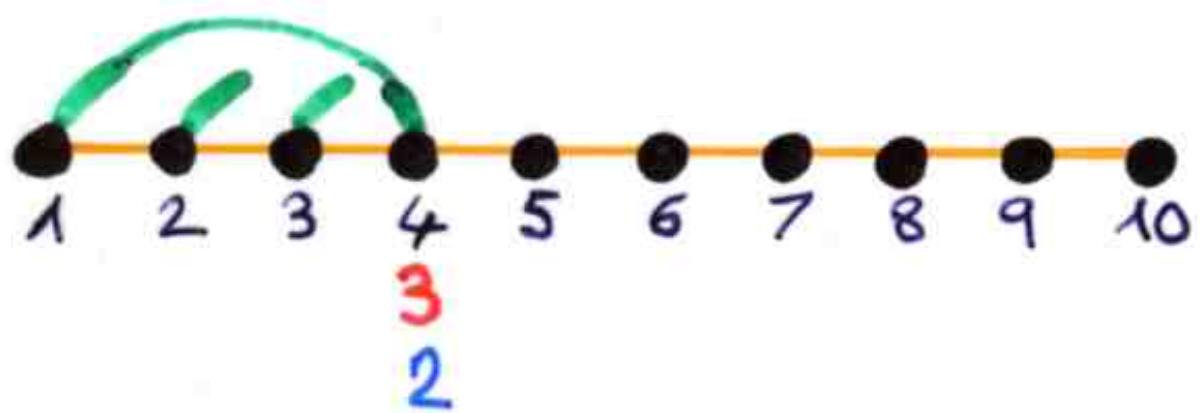
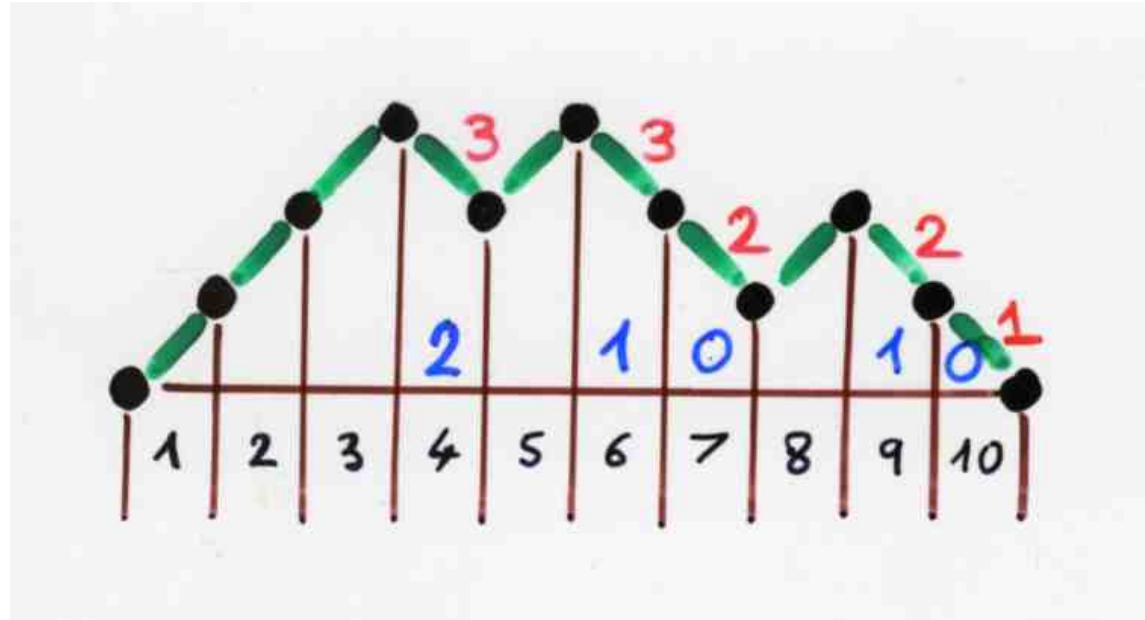


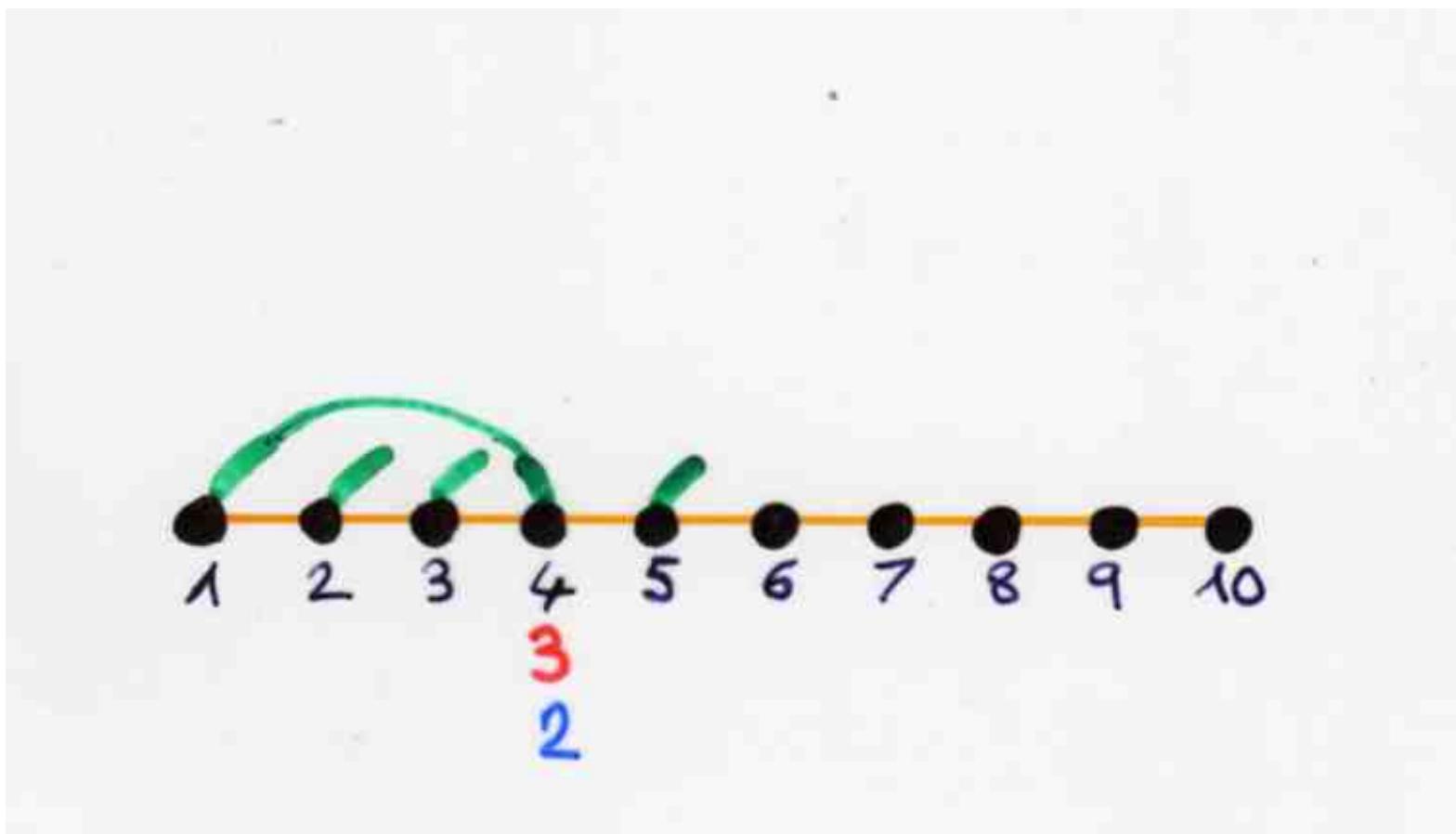
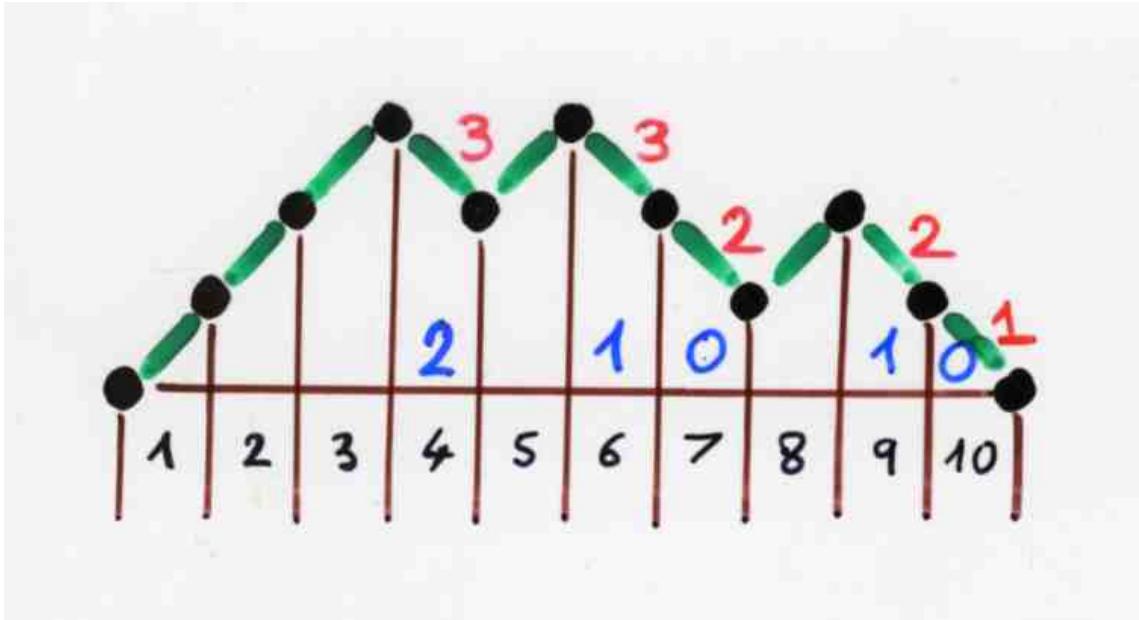


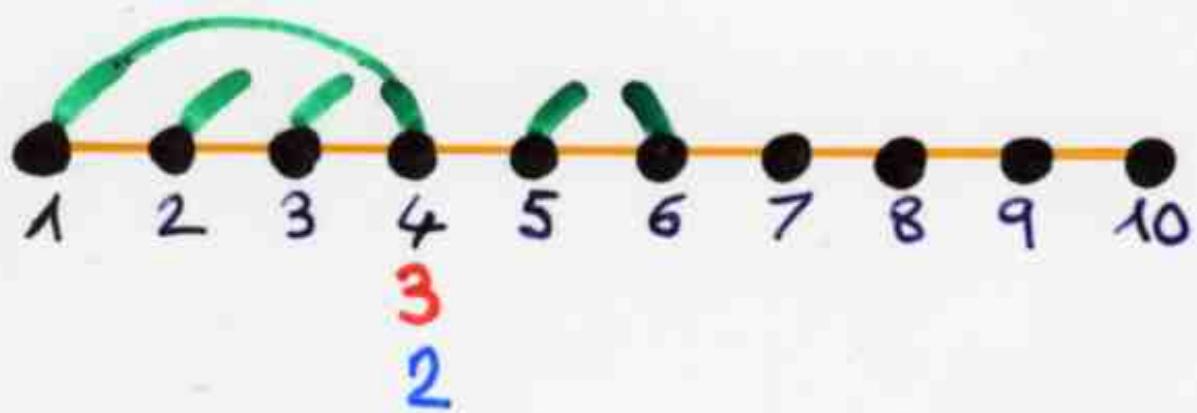
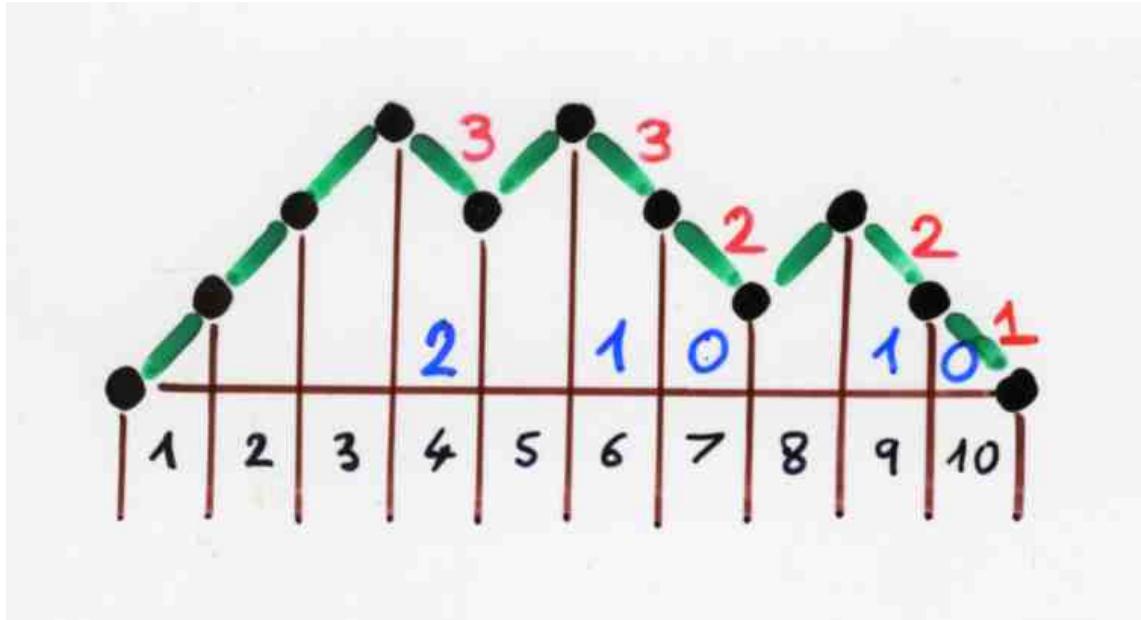


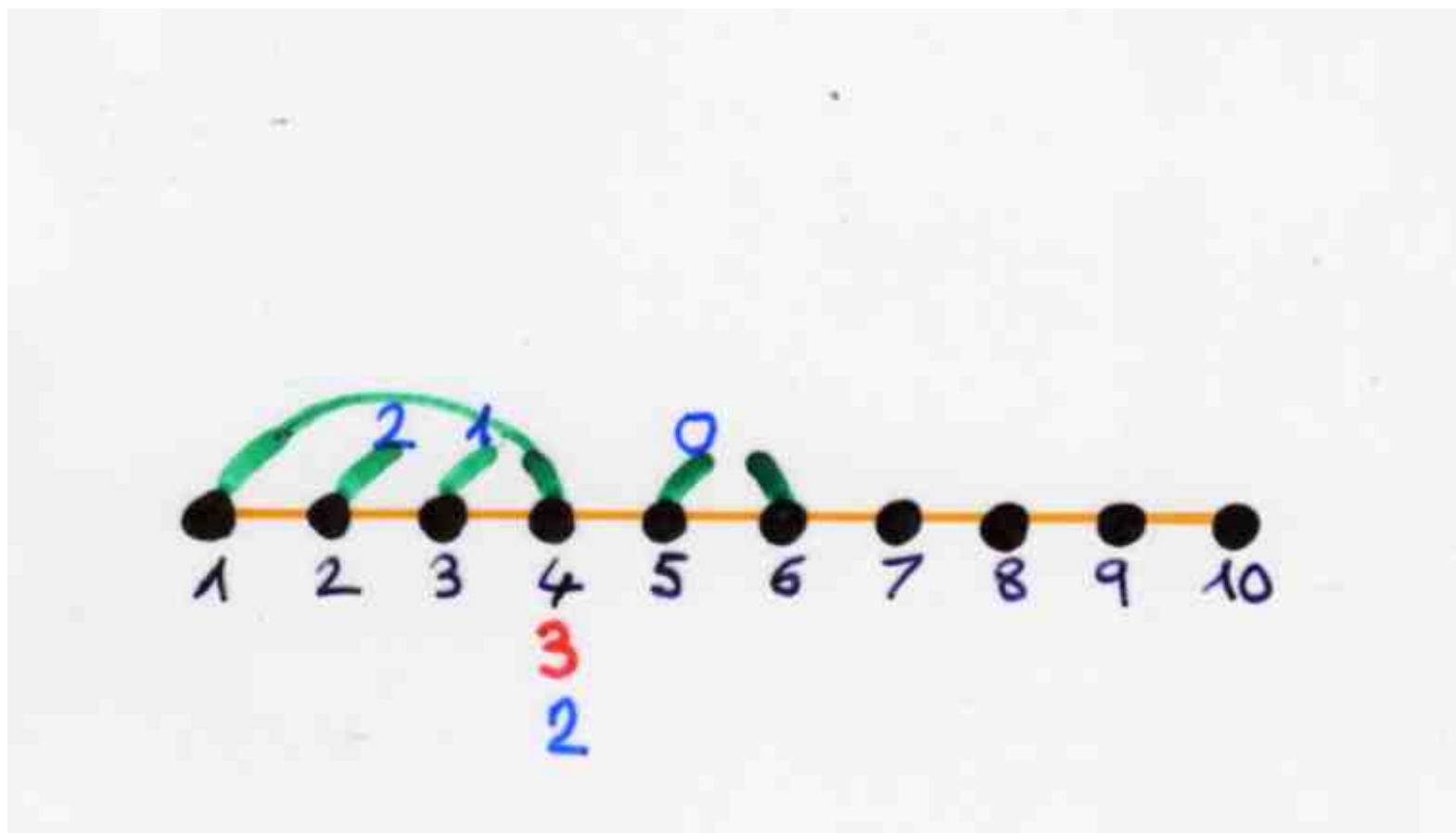
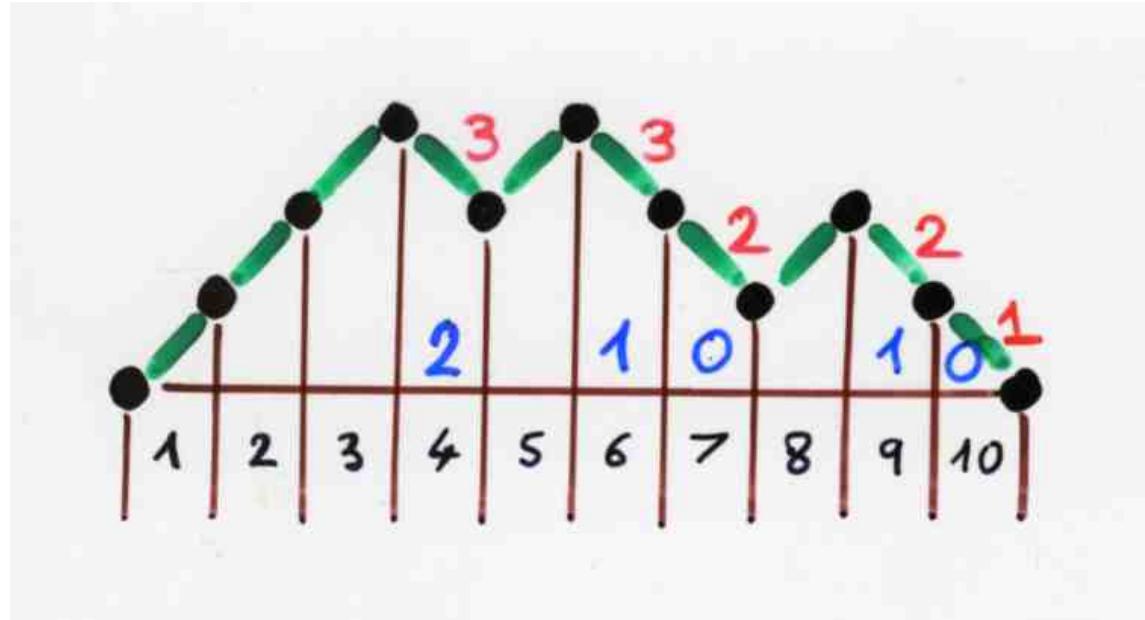


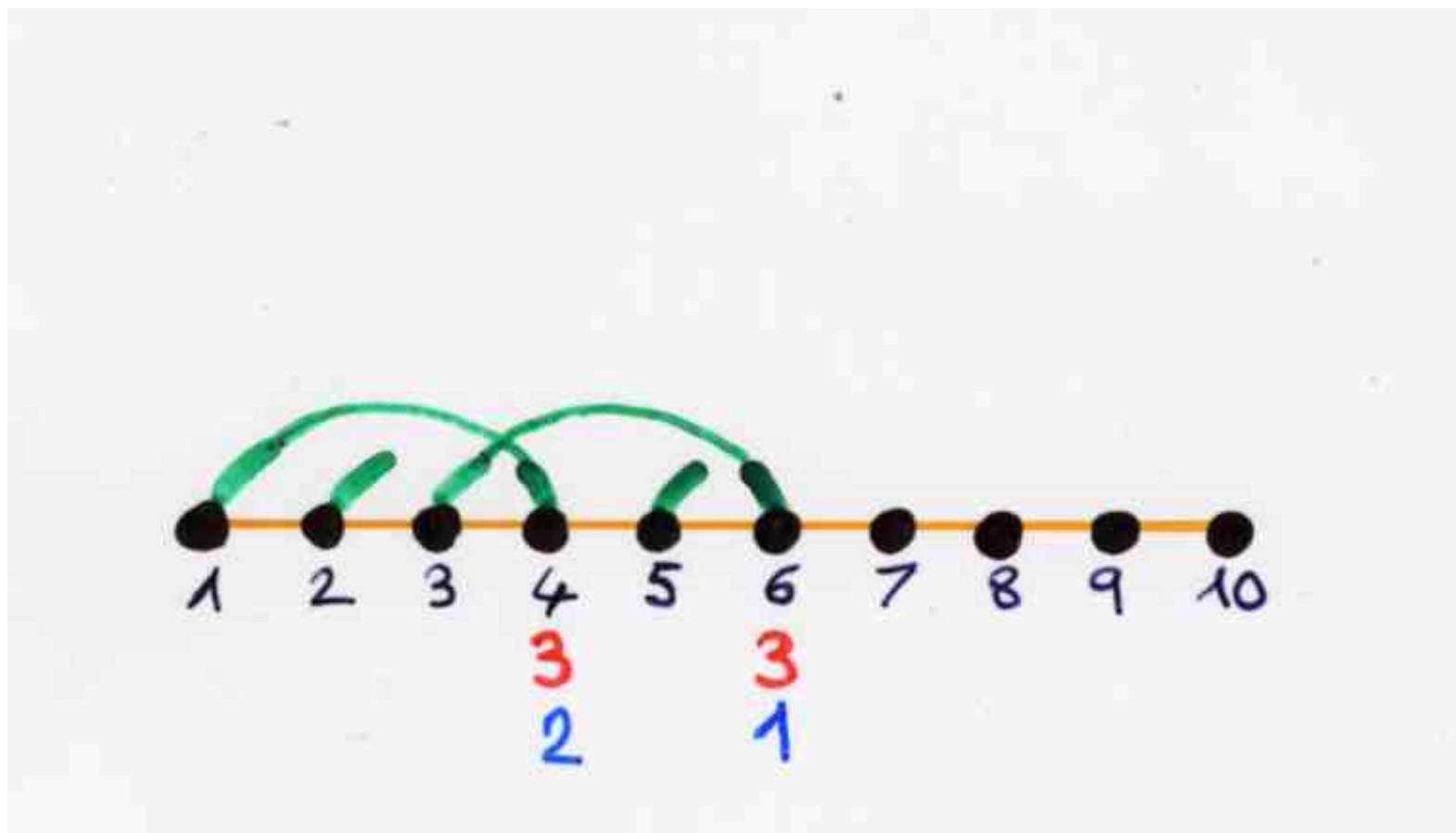
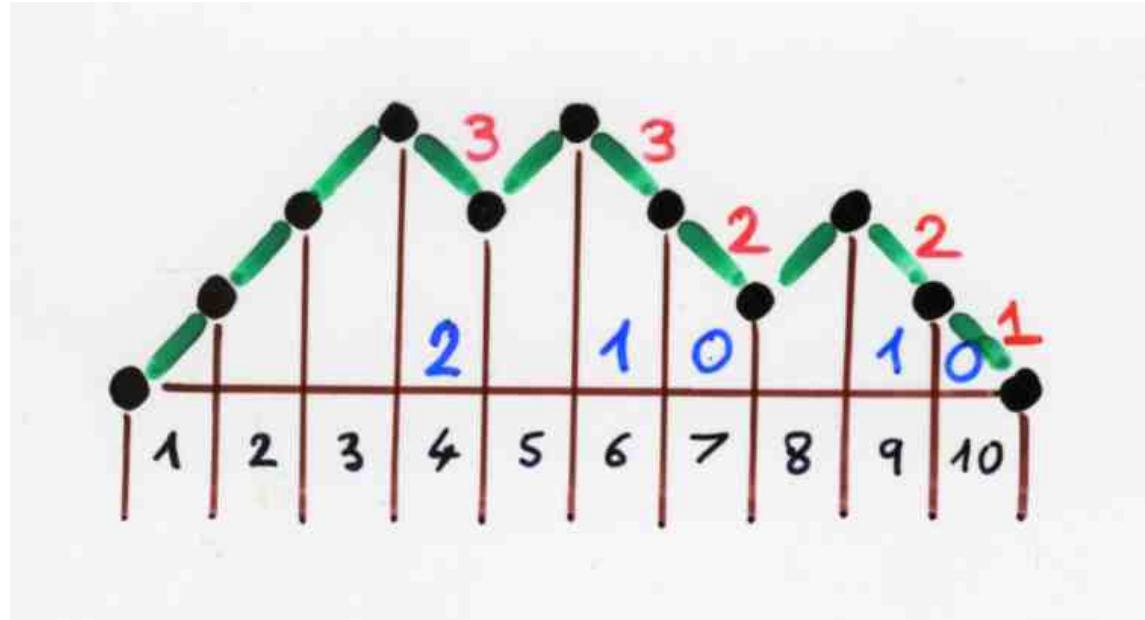


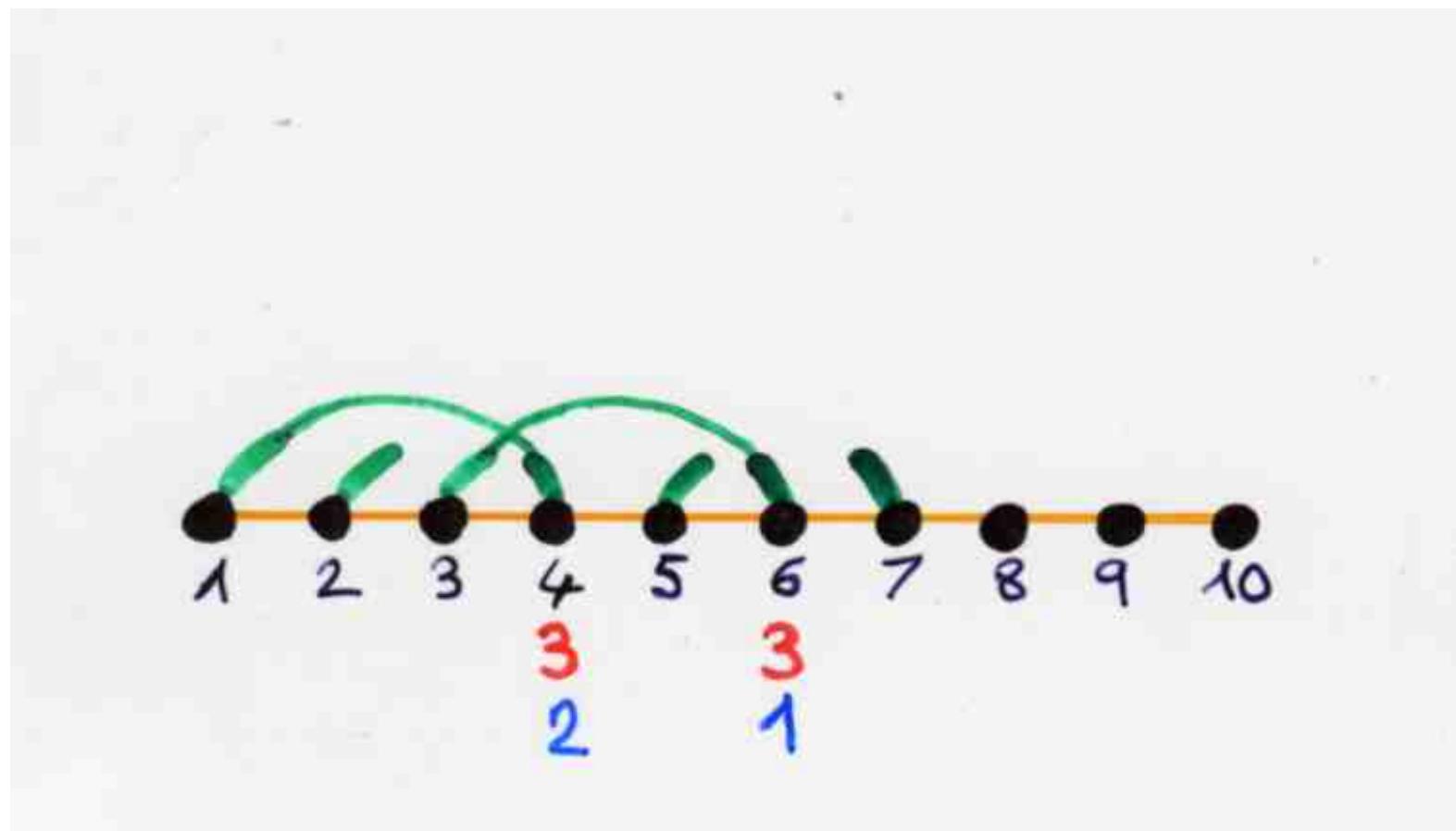
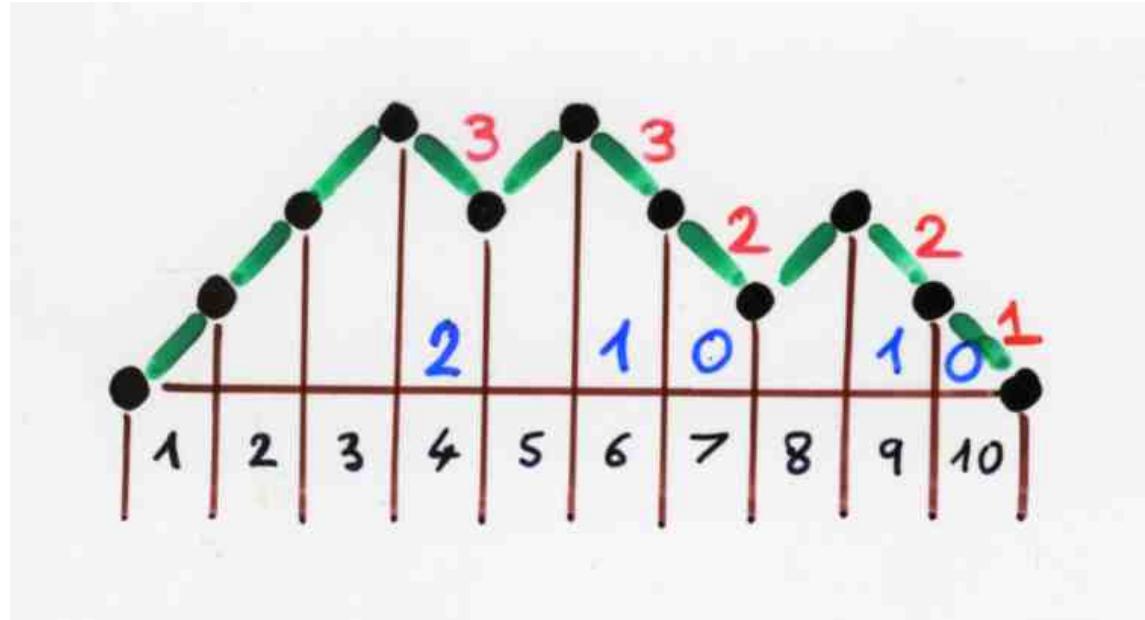


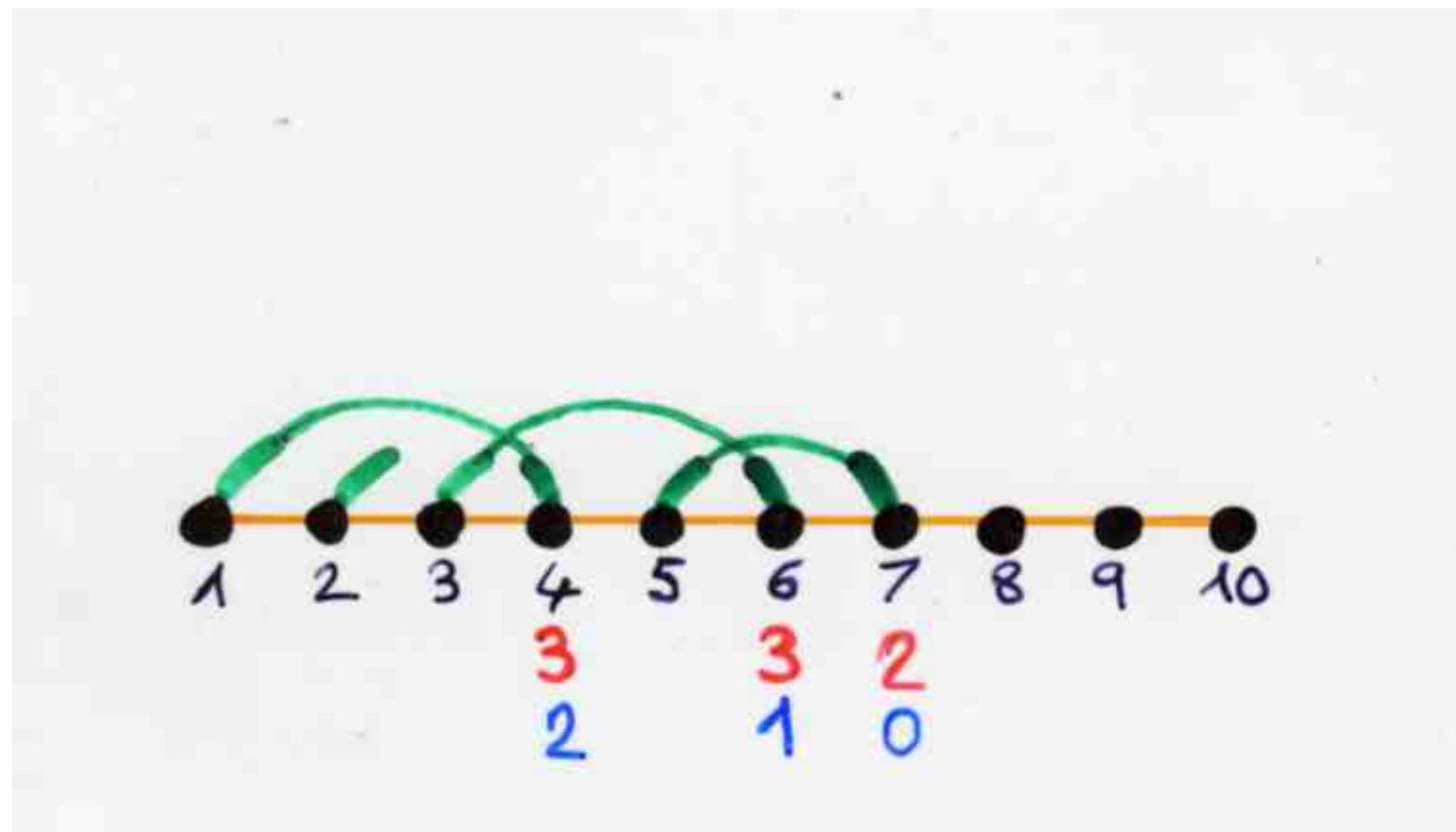
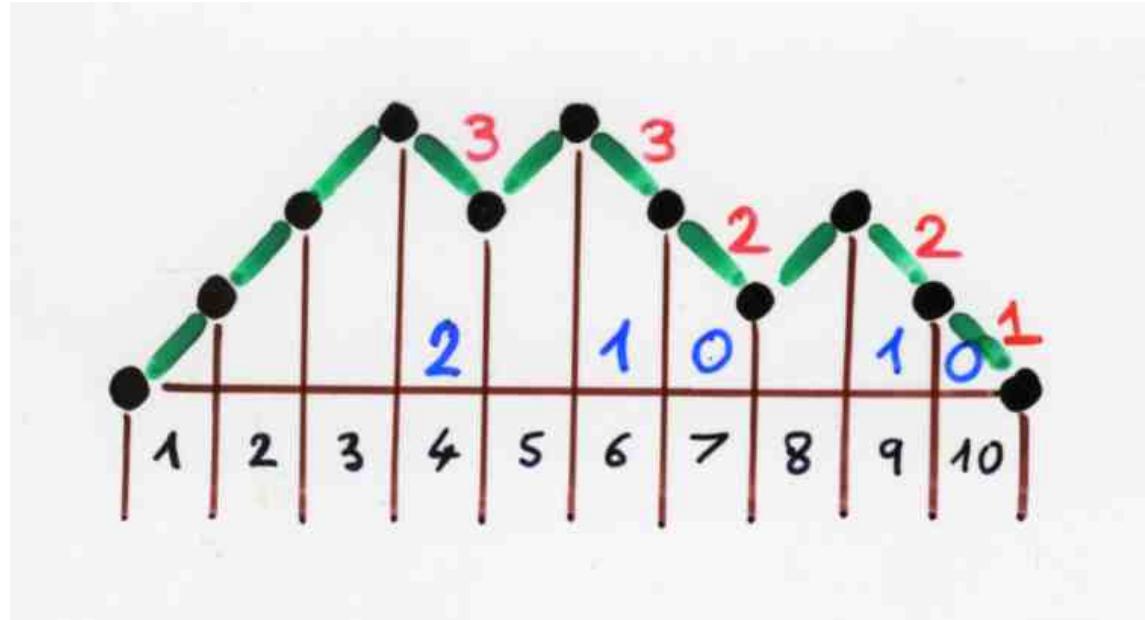


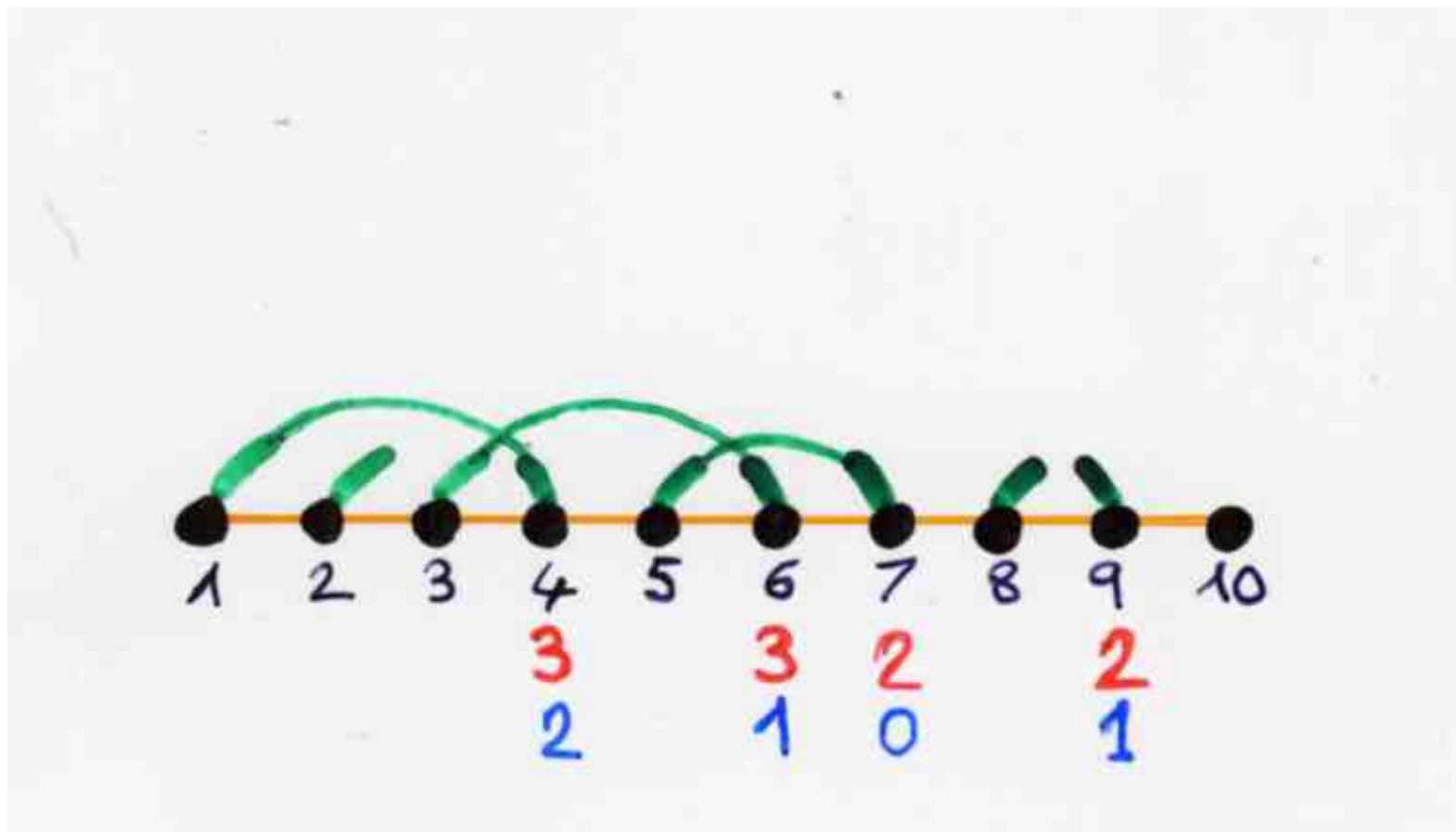
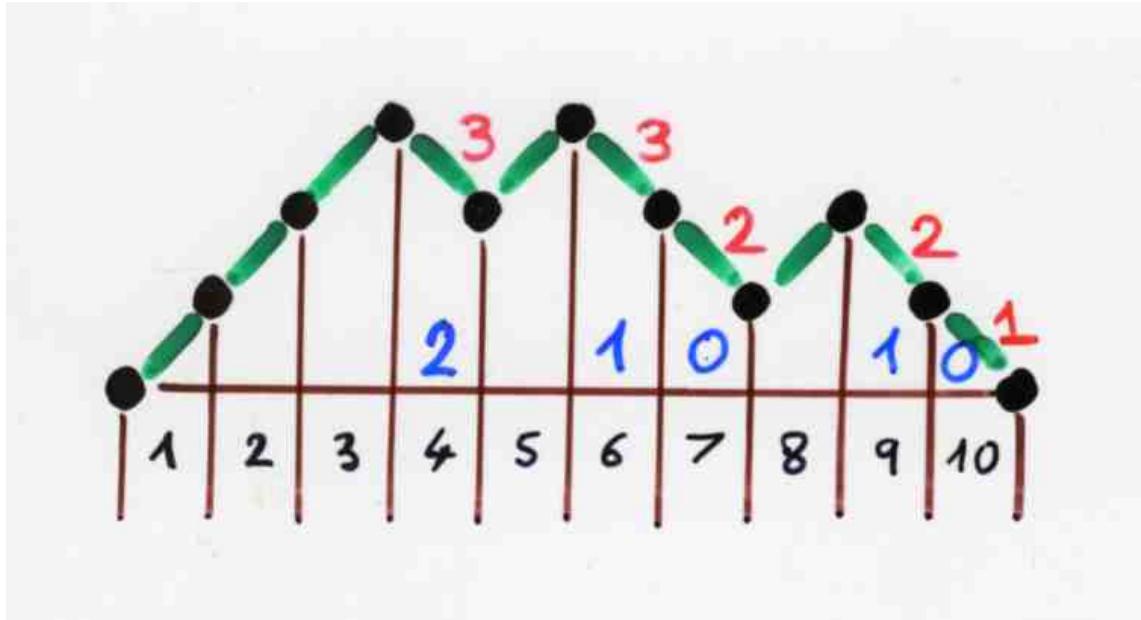


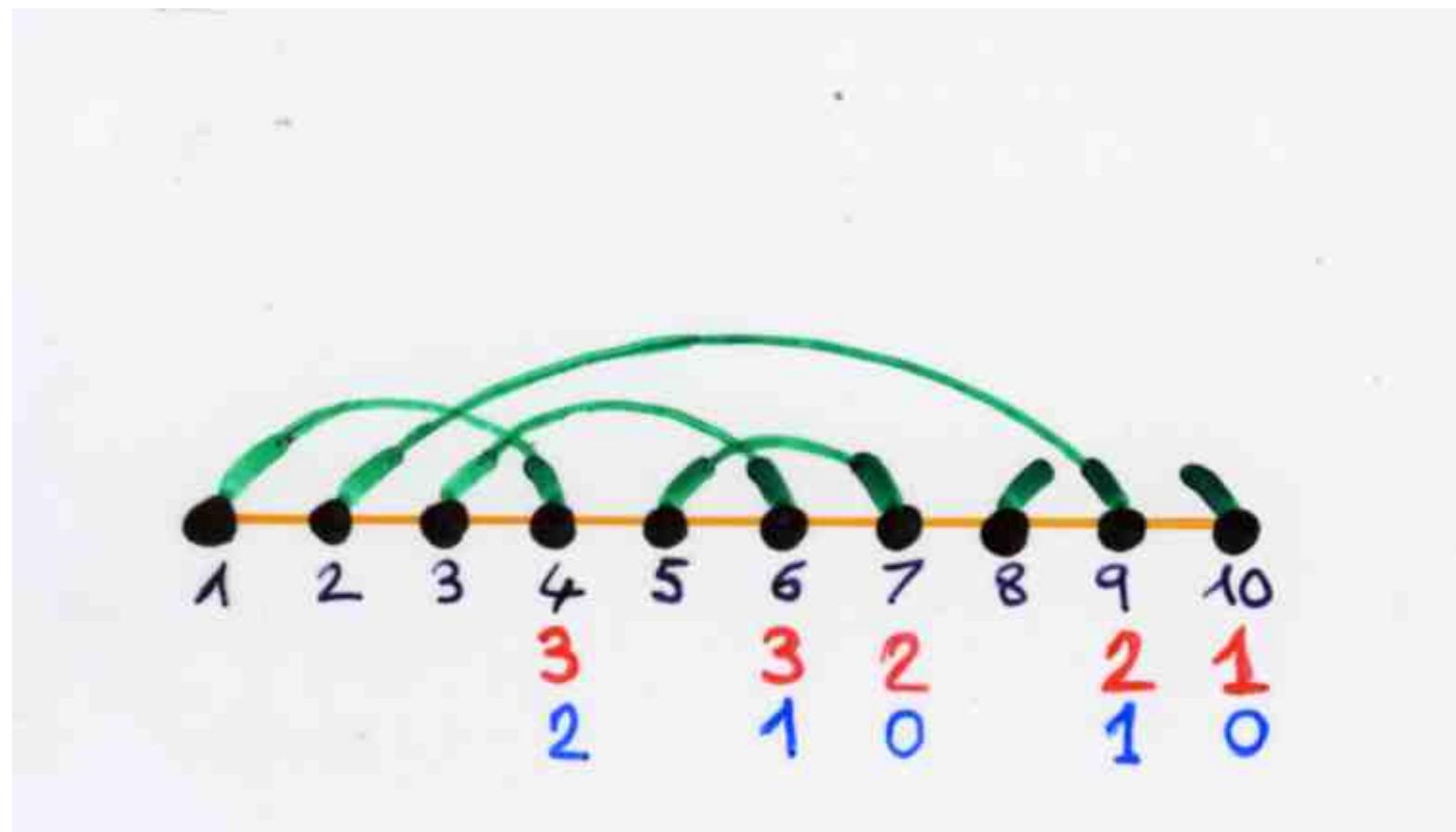
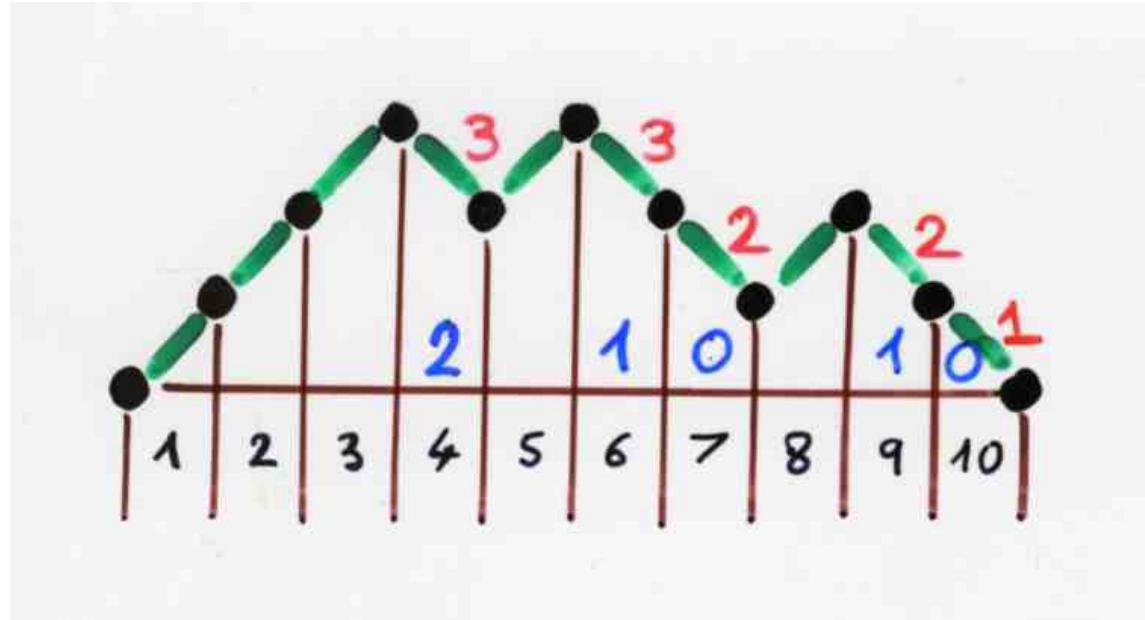


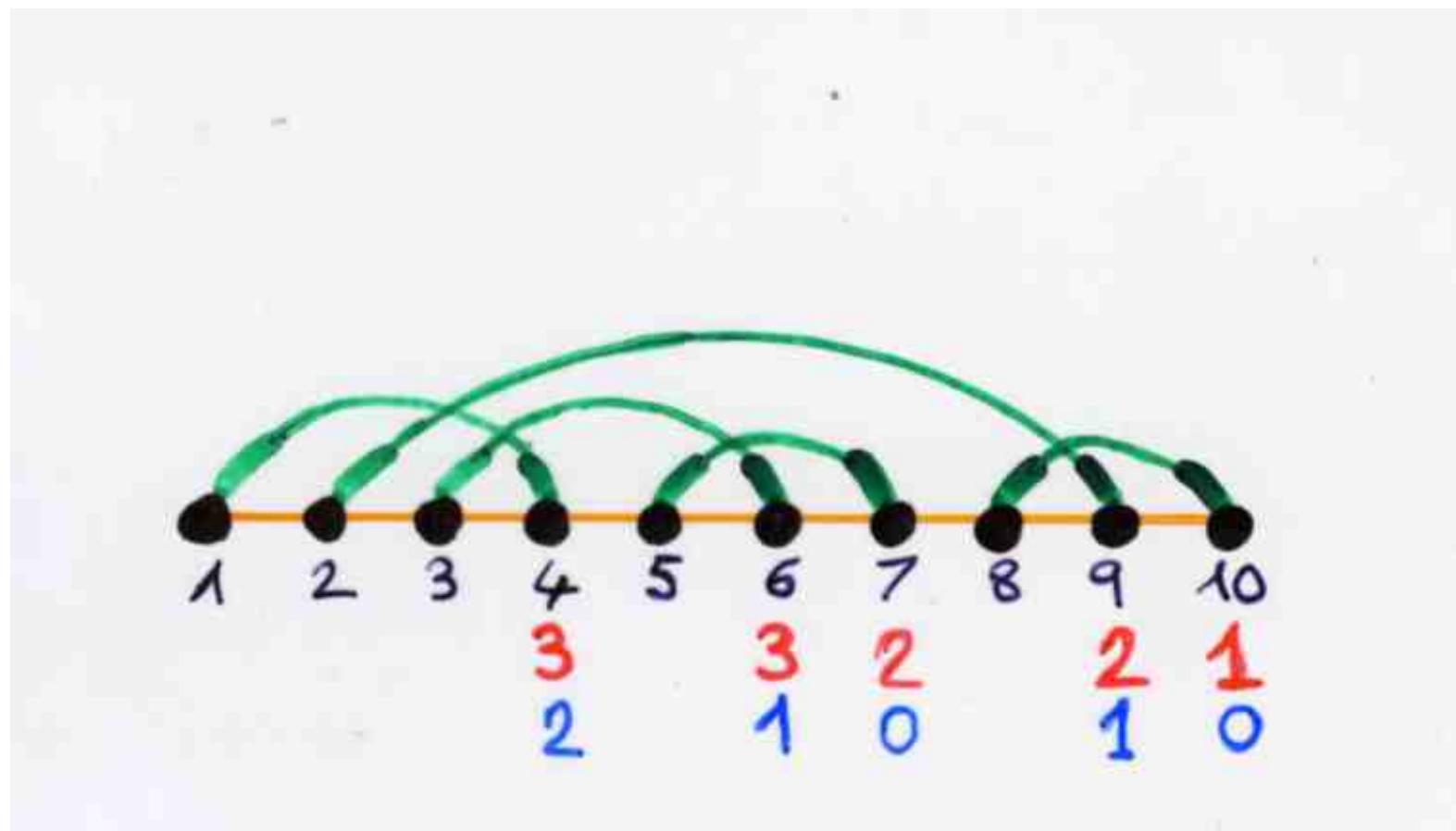
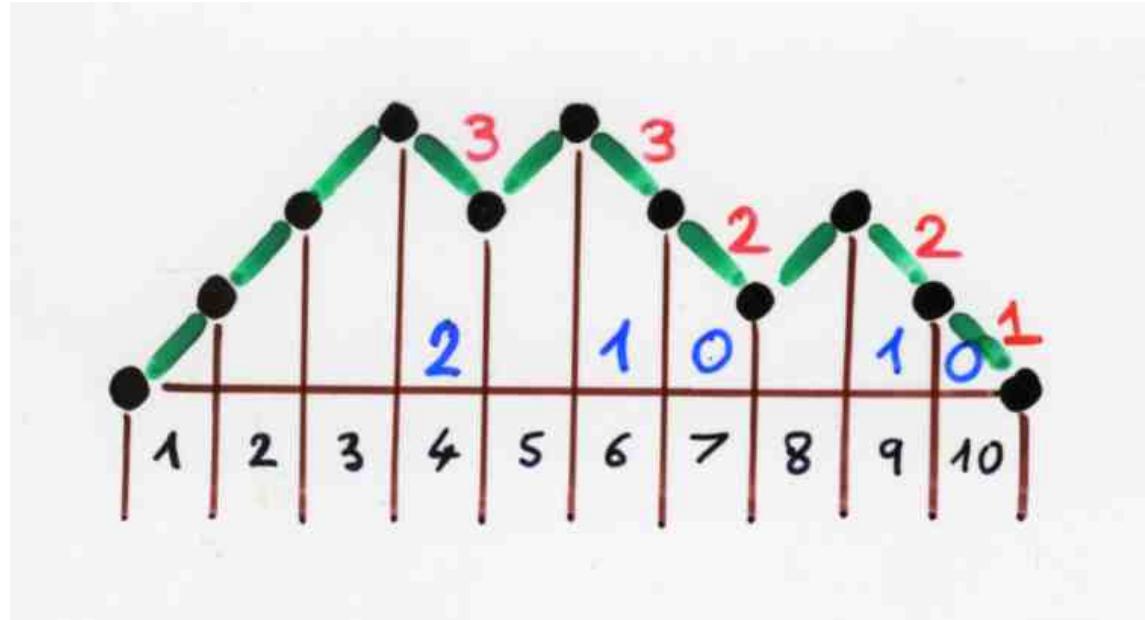












Laguerre histories

The FV bijection

114



Laguerre  
polynomials

$$b_k = (2k+2)$$

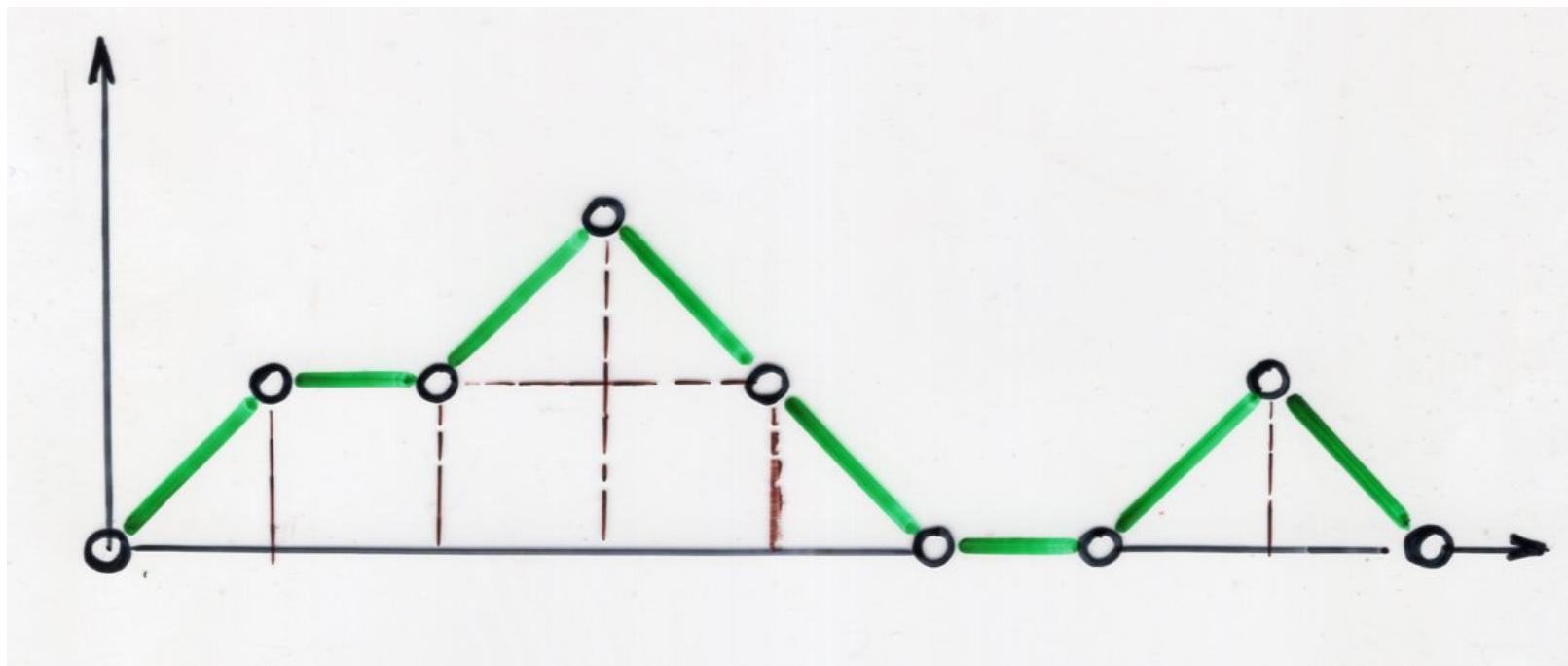
$$\lambda_k = k(k+1)$$

$$\mu_n = (n+1)!$$

Laguerre  
history

$$h = (\omega_c, p)$$

Motzkin  
path

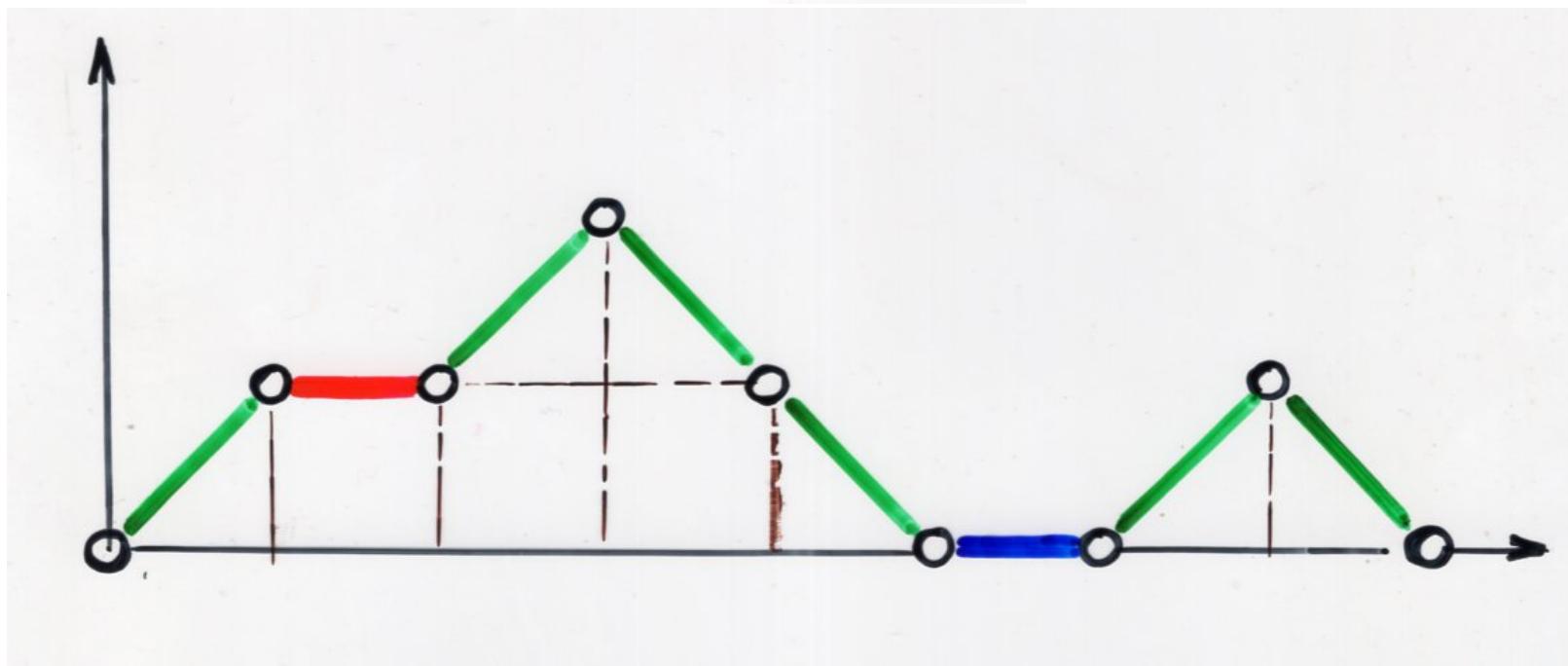


Laguerre  
history

$$h = (\omega_c, p)$$

Motzkin  
path

2 colors  
East steps

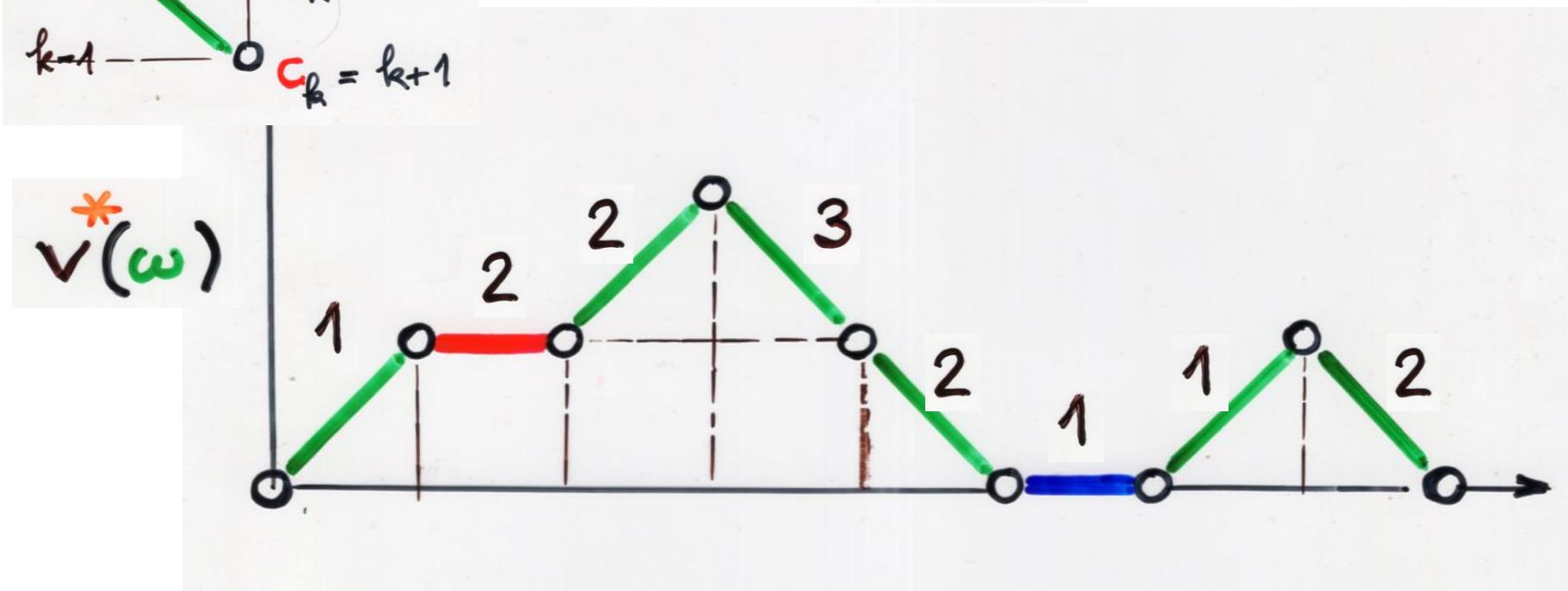
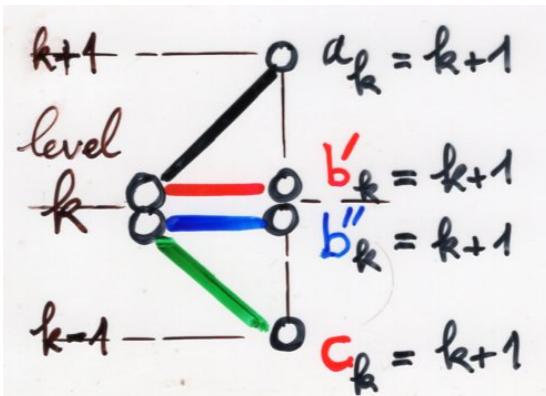


Laguerre  
history

$$h = (\omega_c, p)$$

Motzkin  
path

2 colors  
East steps

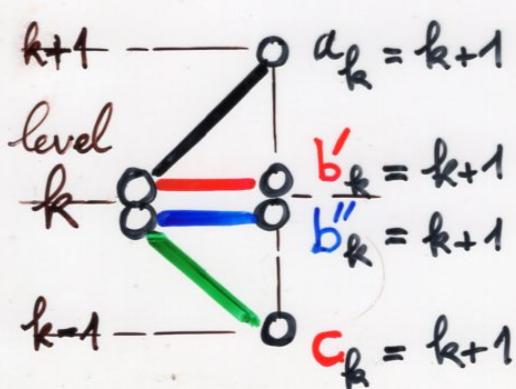


# Laguerre history

$$h = (\omega_c, P)$$

Motzkin path

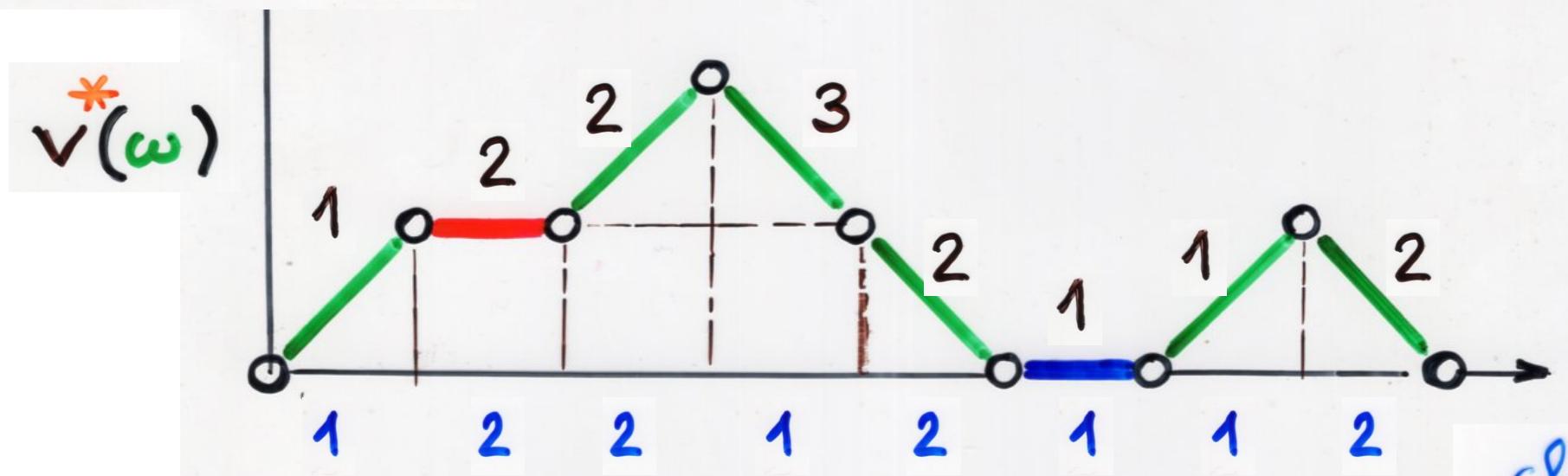
2 colors  
East steps



$$P = (P_1, \dots, P_n)$$

$$1 \leq P_i \leq v(\omega_i)$$

$$\omega = (\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n)$$



choice  
function

bijection

$$h = (\omega_c; \underbrace{(p_1, \dots, p_n)}_{P})$$

$|\omega| = n$



permutations  
 $\sigma \in S_{n+1}$

Laguerre  
histories

$$(n+1)!$$

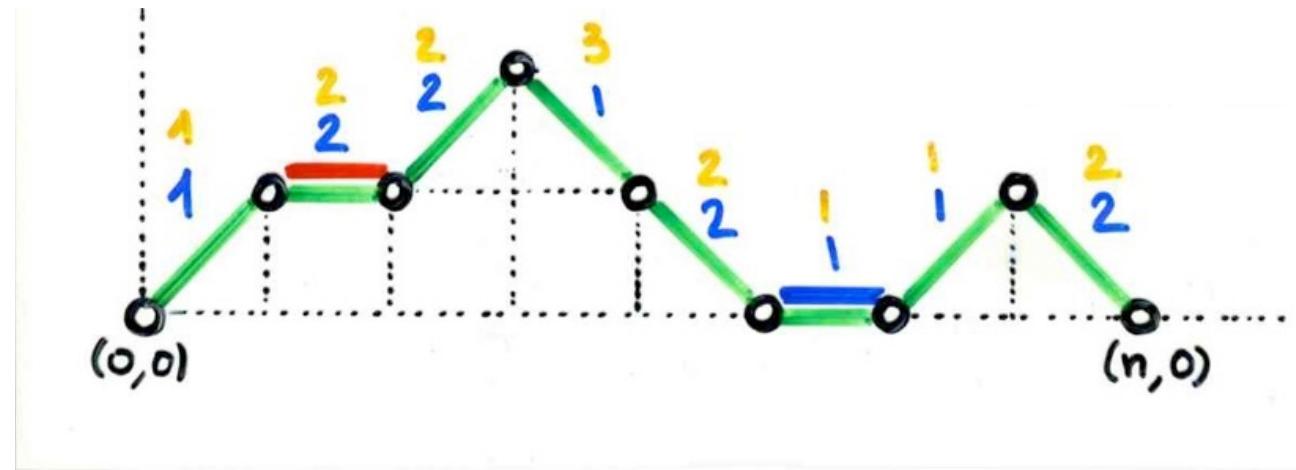
$$|h| = |\omega|$$

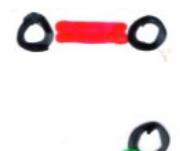
length of  
the history

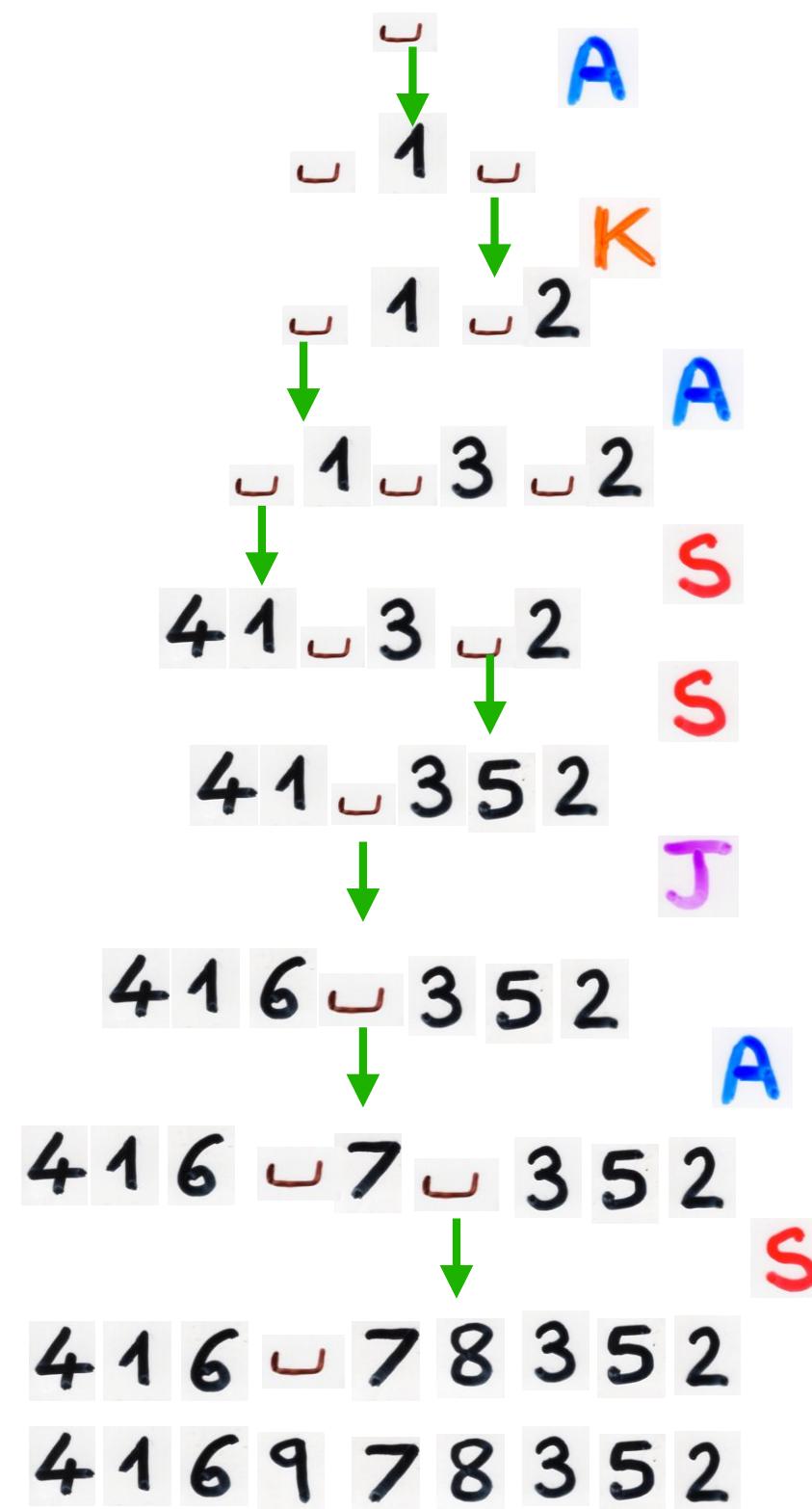
J. Frangon , X.V. (1979)

1		1	1
2		2	2
3		2	2
4		3	1
5		2	2
6		1	1
7		1	1
8		2	2

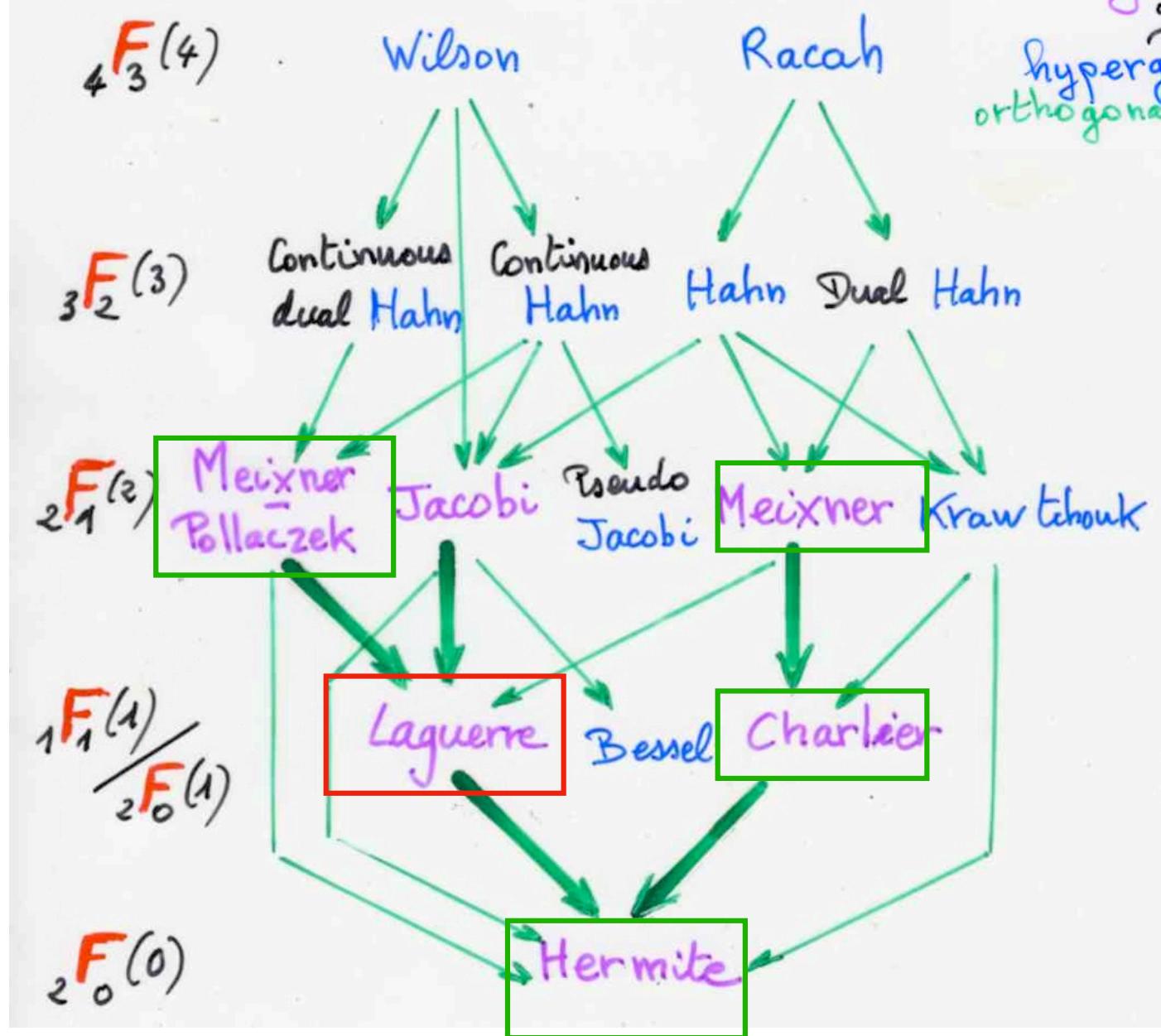
Laguerre  
history



1		1	1
2		2	2
3		2	2
4		3	1
5		2	2
6		1	1
7		1	1
8		2	2



Askey scheme  
of  
hypergeometric  
orthogonal polynomials



Sheffer polynomials

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} T_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = g(t) \exp(x f(t))$$

$\{P_n(x)\}_{n \geq 0}$  orthogonal polynomials

Meixner  
(1934)

are

Sheffer polynomials



$\{P_n(x)\}_{n \geq 0}$  are one of  
the 5 possible types :

Hermite

Laguerre

Charlier

Meixner

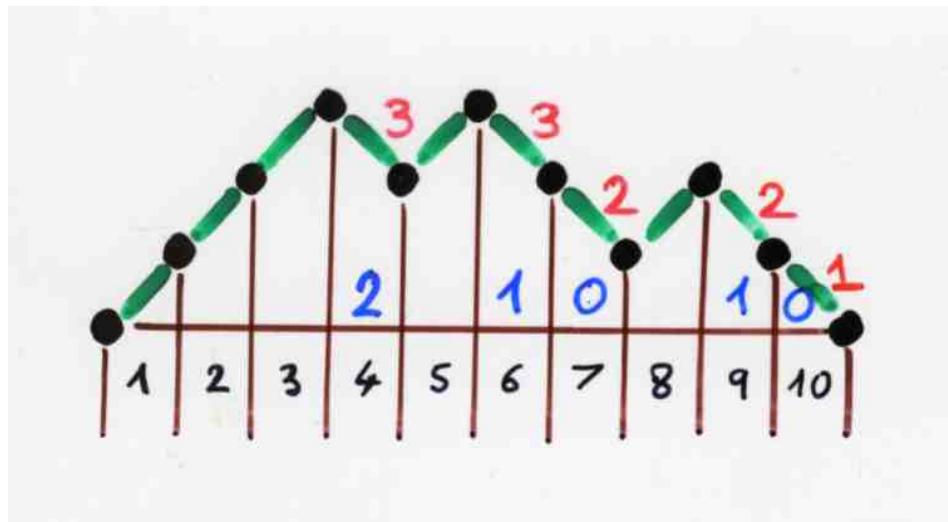
Meixner  
-  
Pollaczek

Sheffer orthogonal polynomials	$b_k$	$\lambda_k$	moments $\mu_n$
Laguerre $L_n^{(\alpha)}(x)$	$2k + \alpha + 1$	$k(k + \alpha)$	$(\alpha + 1)_n = (\alpha + 1) \dots (\alpha + n)$
Hermite $H_n(x)$	0	$k$	$\mu_{2n} = 1 \times 3 \times \dots \times (2n - 1)$ $\mu_{2n+1} = 0$
Charlier $C_n^{(\alpha)}(x)$	$k + \alpha$	$\alpha k$	$\sum_{k=1}^n S_{n,k} \alpha^k$
Meixner $m_n(\beta, c; x)$	$\frac{(1+c)k + \beta c}{(1-c)}$	$\frac{c k (k-1+\beta)}{(1-c)^2}$	$\sum_{\sigma \in G_n} \frac{\beta^{s(\sigma)} c^{1+d(\sigma)}}{(1-c)^n}$
Meixner Pollaczek $P_n(\delta, \eta; z)$	$(2k + \gamma) \delta$	$(\delta^2 + 1) k (k-1+\gamma)$	$\delta^n \sum_{\sigma \in G_n} \eta^{s(\sigma)} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\delta^z}\right)^{p(\sigma)}$

Some q-analogues of  
orthogonal polynomials

$$\lambda_k = [k]_q$$

$$[k]_q = 1 + q + q^2 + \dots + q^{k-1}$$



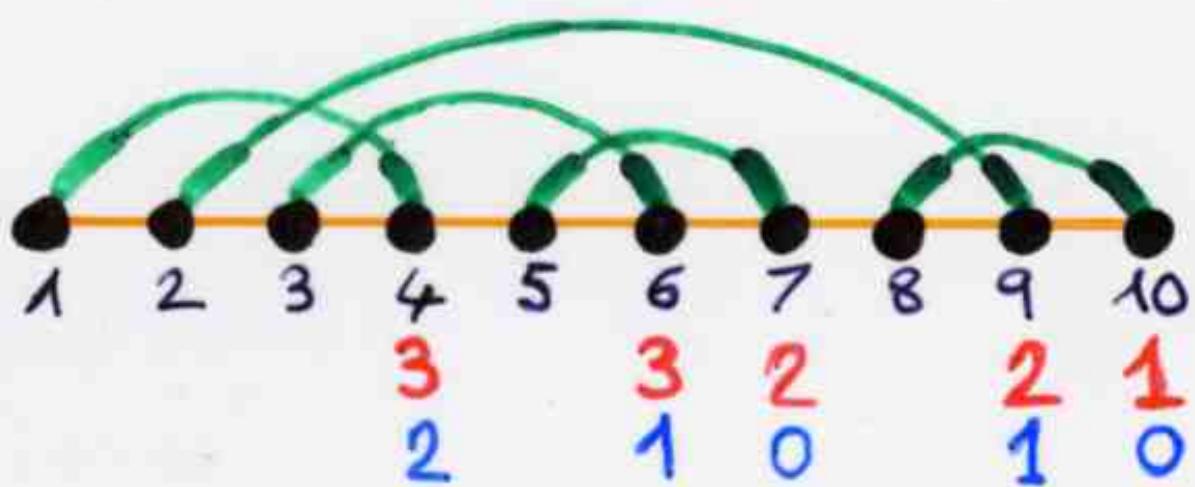
Hermite history related to  $\omega$

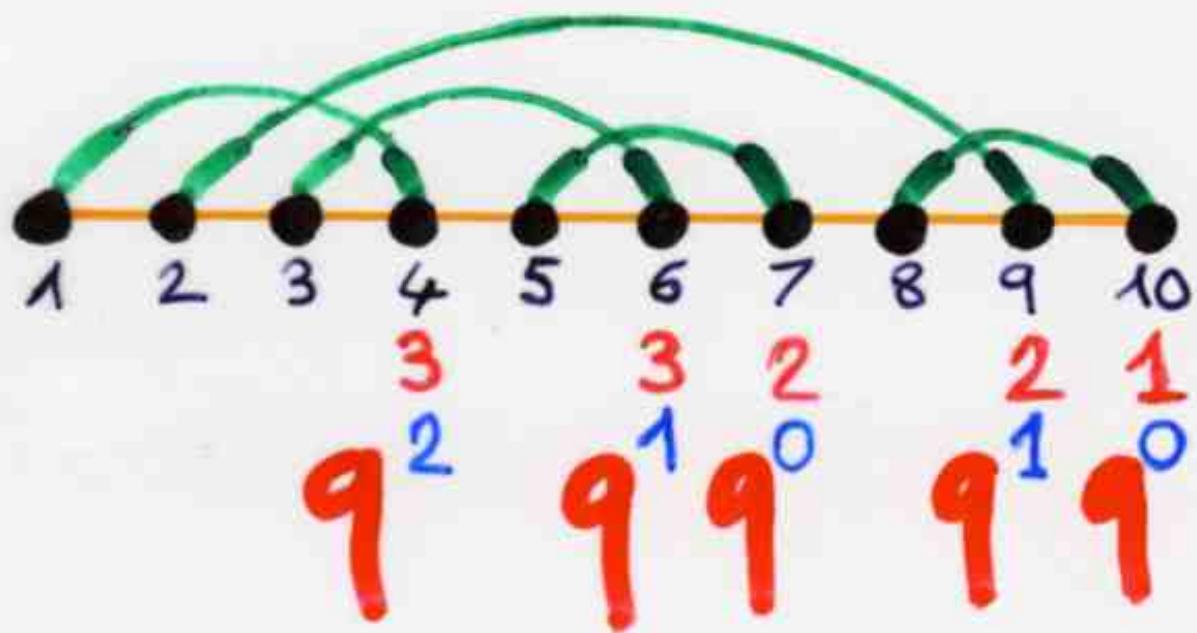
$\omega$   
Dyck path

$$v_q(h)$$

$$q^{2+1+0+1+0}$$

$$= q^4$$

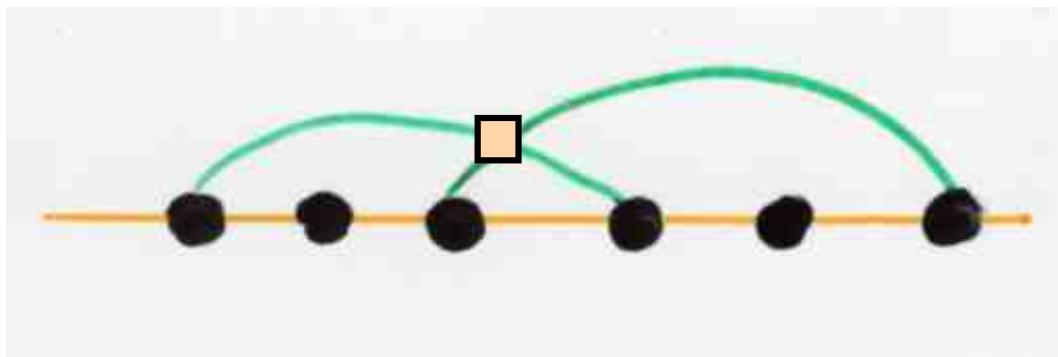




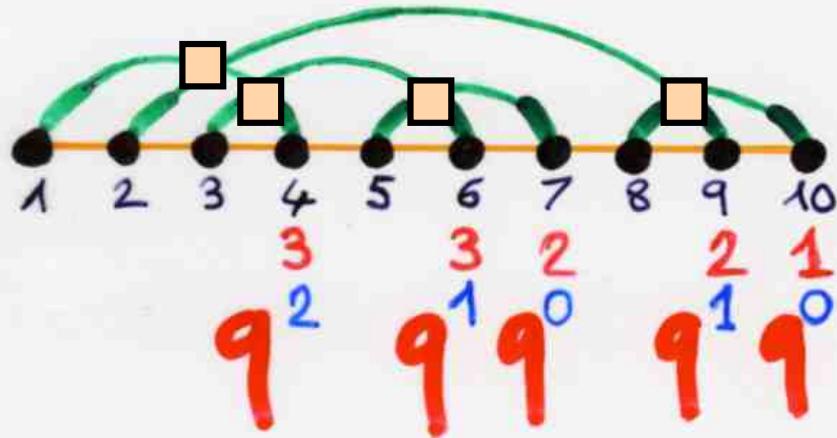
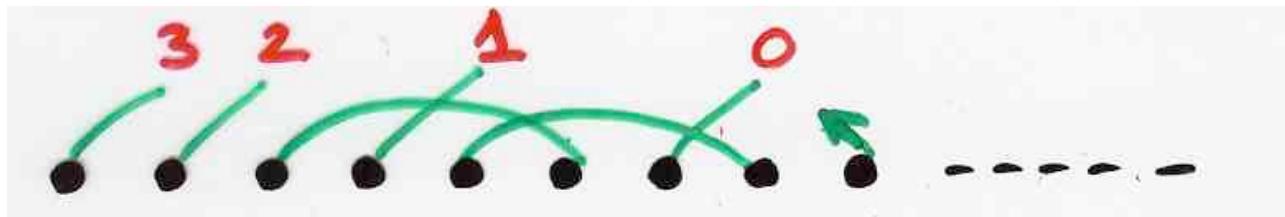
$$9^{2+1+0+1+0}$$

$$= 9^4$$

$$\sqrt[4]{9} (\text{h})$$



crossing



$$v_q(h)$$

$$9^{2+1+0+1+0} = 9^4$$

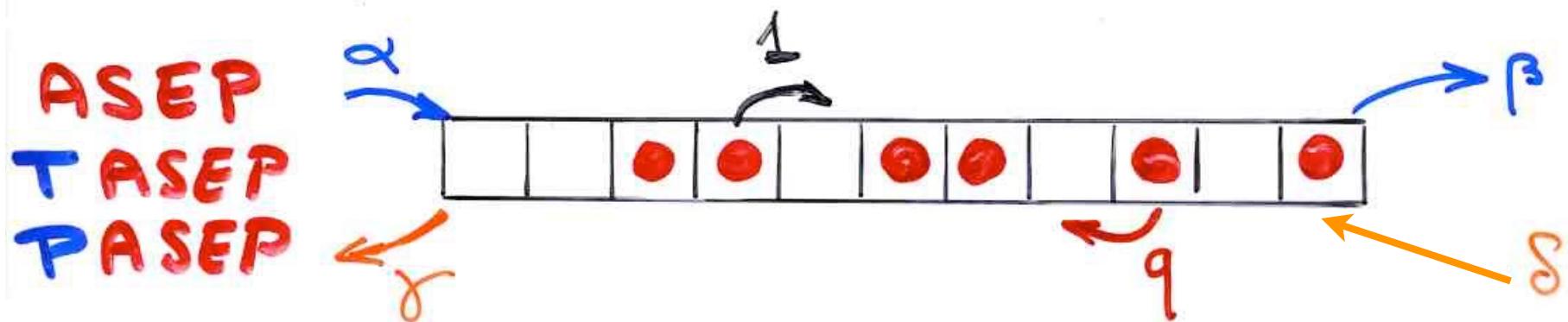
Epilogue

PASEP

and

orthogonal polynomials

toy model in the *physics* of  
dynamical systems far from equilibrium



computation of the  
"stationary probabilities"

seminal paper

"matrix ansatz"

Derrida, Evans, Hakim, Pasquier (1993)

$D, E$  matrices  
(may be  $\infty$ )

{

$$DE = qED + E + D$$

$$\langle w | (\alpha E - \gamma D) = \langle w |$$

$$(\beta D - \delta E) | v \rangle = | v \rangle$$

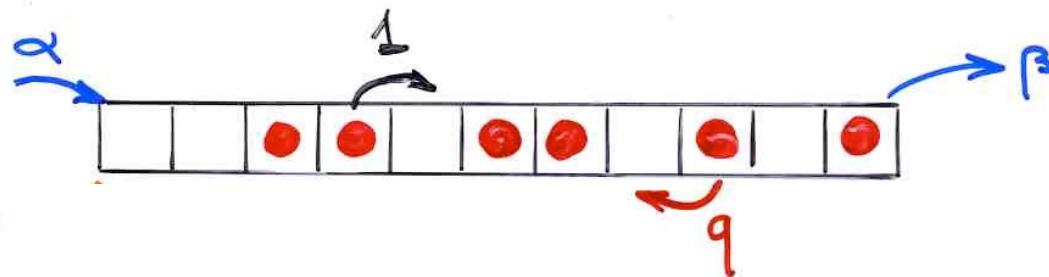
column vector  $v$   
row vector  $w$

# PASEP with 3 parameters

$$\gamma = \delta = 0$$

$$q, \alpha, \beta$$

PASEP



}

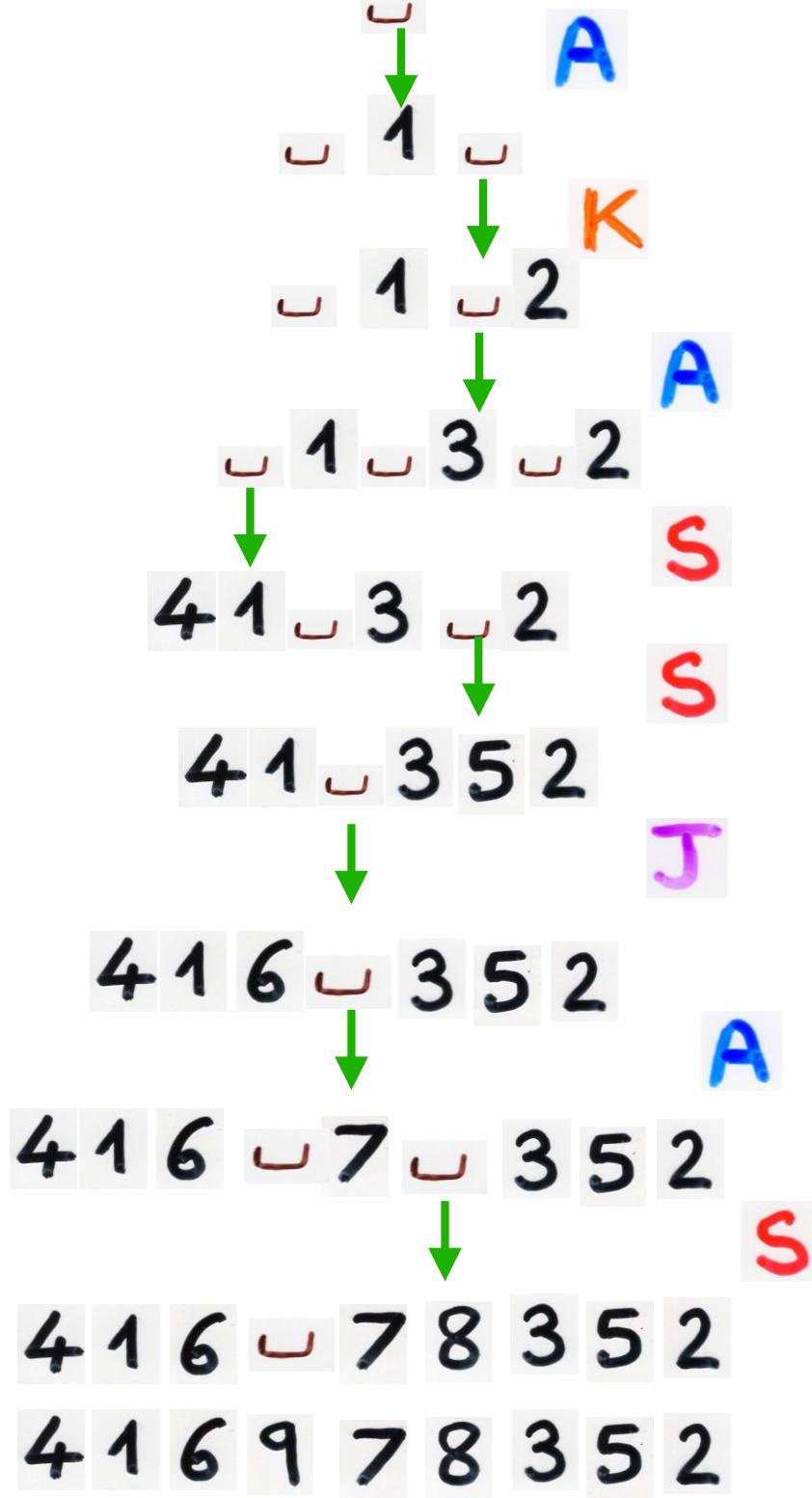
$$\mathcal{D}E = qED + E + D$$

$$\mathcal{D}|V\rangle = \bar{\beta}|V\rangle$$

$$\langle W|E = \bar{\alpha} \langle W|$$

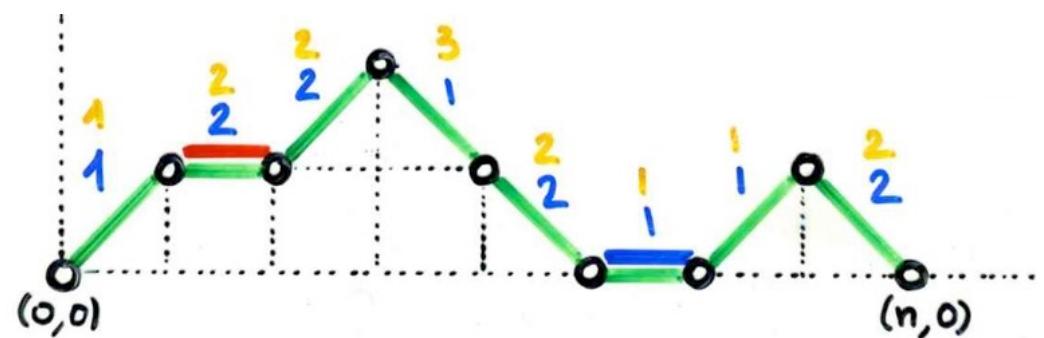
$$\bar{\beta} = \frac{1}{\beta}$$

$$\bar{\alpha} = \frac{1}{\alpha}$$



$$D = A + K$$
$$E = S + J$$

$$DE = -ED + E + D$$



# Laguene histories

# PASEP with 3 parameters

$Z_n$  partition function

= moments of

$q$ -Laguerre polynomials

$$\begin{cases} b_k = [k]_q + [k+1]_q \\ \lambda_k = [k]_q \times [k]_q \end{cases}$$

$q, \alpha, \beta$

§. 21. Datur vero alias modus in summam huius seriei inquirendi ex natura fractionum continuarum petitus, qui multo facilius et promptius negotium conficit: sit enim formulam generalius exprimendo:

$$A = 1 - x + 2x^2 - 6x^3 + 24x^4 - 120x^5 + 720x^6 - 5040x^7 + \text{etc.} = \frac{1}{1+x}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &= \frac{1}{1+x} \\
 &= \frac{1}{1+x} \\
 &\quad \frac{x}{1+2x} \\
 &\quad \frac{x}{1+2x} \\
 &\quad \frac{2x}{1+3x} \\
 &\quad \frac{2x}{1+3x} \\
 &\quad \frac{3x}{1+4x} \\
 &\quad \frac{3x}{1+4x} \\
 &\quad \frac{4x}{1+5x} \\
 &\quad \frac{4x}{1+5x} \\
 &\quad \frac{5x}{1+6x} \\
 &\quad \frac{5x}{1+6x} \\
 &\quad \frac{6x}{1+7x} \\
 &\quad \frac{6x}{1+7x} \\
 &\quad \text{etc.}
 \end{aligned}$$

9

§. 22. Quemadmodum autem huiusmodi fractio-

$$\lambda_k = \left\lceil \frac{k}{2} \right\rceil$$

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} n! t^n =$$

$$\frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{1 - \frac{t}{1 - \frac{1}{1 - \frac{t}{1 - \frac{2}{1 - \frac{t}{1 - \frac{2}{1 - \frac{t}{1 - \frac{3}{1 - \dots}}}}}}}}}$$

$$\lambda_k = \left[ \left\lceil \frac{k}{2} \right\rceil \right]_q$$

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} (n!)_q t^n = \frac{1}{1 - (1)t} \frac{1 - (1)t}{1 - (1+q)t} \frac{1 - (1+q)t}{1 - (1+q+q^2)t} \frac{1 - (1+q+q^2)t}{1 - \dots}$$

subdivided  
Laguerre  
histories



Orthogonal Polynomials  
Sasamoto (1999)  
Blythe, Evans, Colaiori, Essler (2000)

$q$ -Hermite polynomial  
 $\alpha, \beta, q$        $\gamma = 8 = 1$

$$D = \frac{1}{1-q} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-q}} \hat{a}$$
$$E = \frac{1}{1-q} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-q}} \hat{a}^+$$
$$\hat{a} \hat{a}^+ - q \hat{a}^+ \hat{a} = 1$$

Pairs  
of

Hermite  
histories

$$UD = qDU + I$$



permutations

Laguerre  
histories

Hermite  
polynomials

$$DE = qED + E + D$$

Laguerre  
polynomials

→ Uchiyama, Sasamoto, Wadati (2003)  
 $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, q$

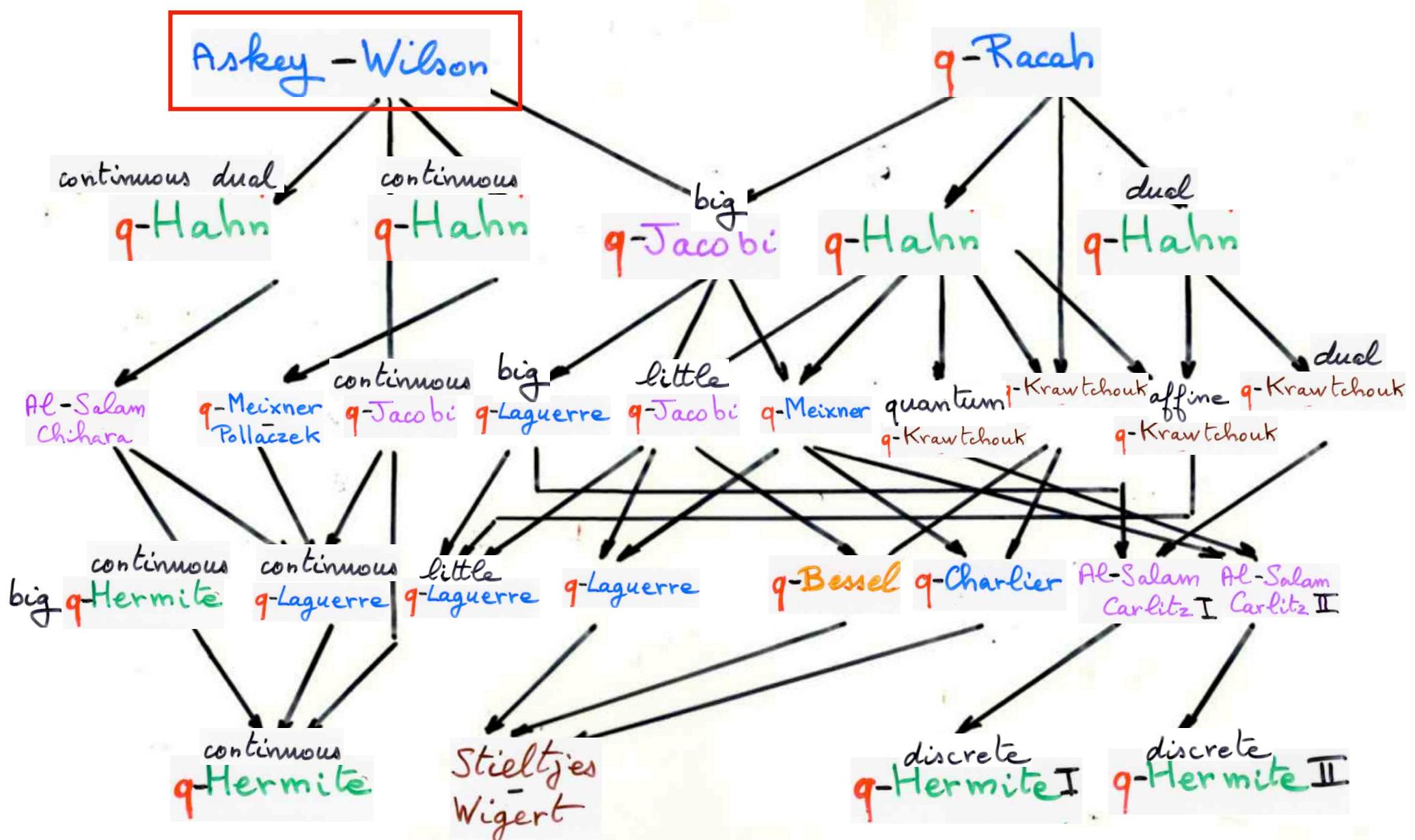
Askey-Wilson polynomials

$Z_n$  partition function

S. Corteel, L. Williams (2009)

staircase tableaux

scheme  
of  
basic hypergeometric  
orthogonal polynomials



# The Art of Bijective Combinatorics

Part IV. Combinatorial theory of orthogonal polynomials  
and continued fractions (2019)

« Video-book »

- videos

mirror website

- slides

[www.imsc.res.in/~viennot](http://www.imsc.res.in/~viennot)

- [www.viennot.org](http://www.viennot.org)

Thank you!

