

On zeros of irreducible characters of the symmetric group S_n

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79th Séminaire Lotharingien de Combinatoire

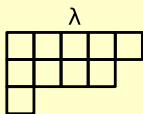
September 11, 2017

Irreducible characters of S_n

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$$\chi^\lambda : S_n \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$$

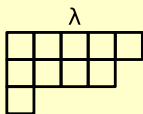
Murnaghan–Nakayama rule for computing $\chi^\lambda(g)$



$$g = (13586)(24)(79)(10)$$

$$\mu = 5 \ 2 \ 2 \ 1$$

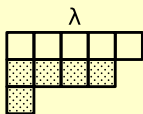
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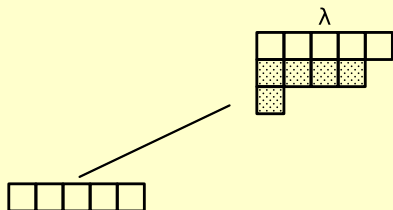
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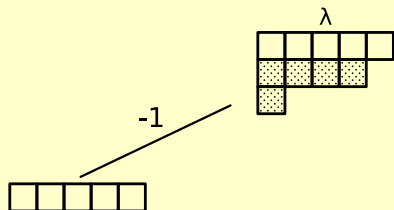
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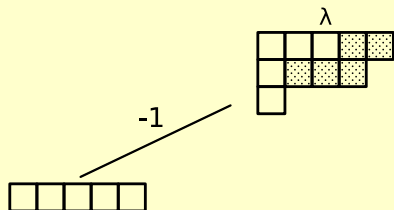
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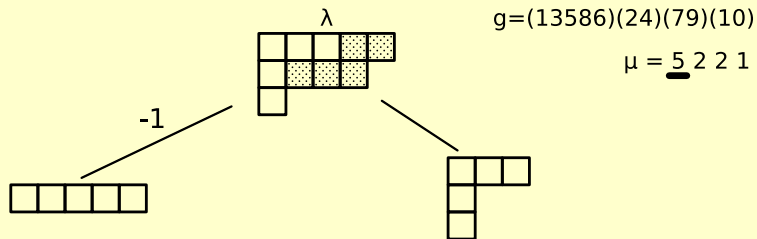
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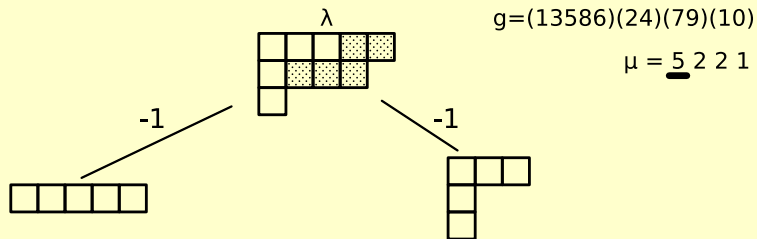
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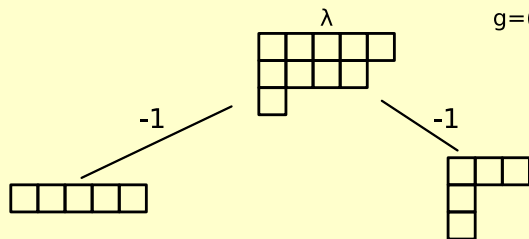
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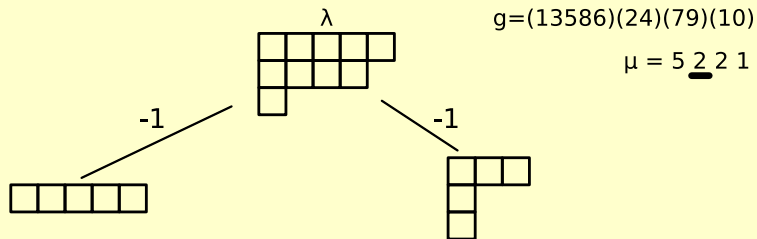
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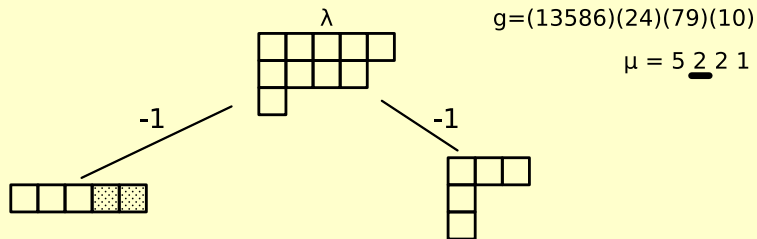
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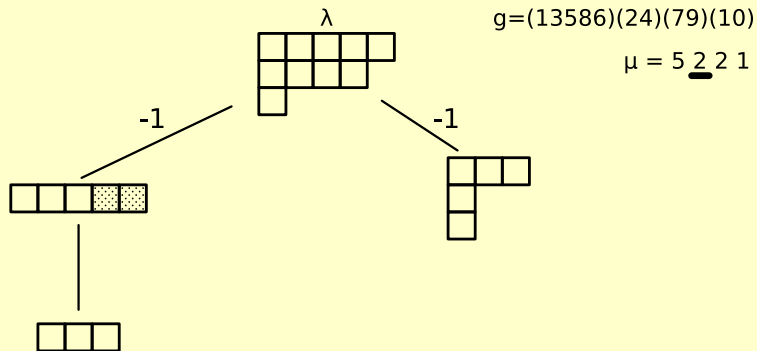
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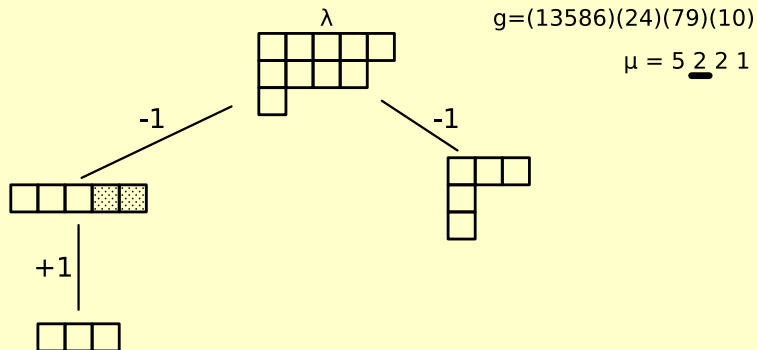
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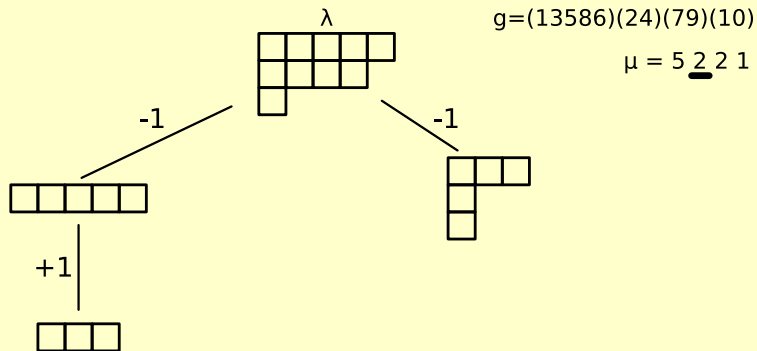
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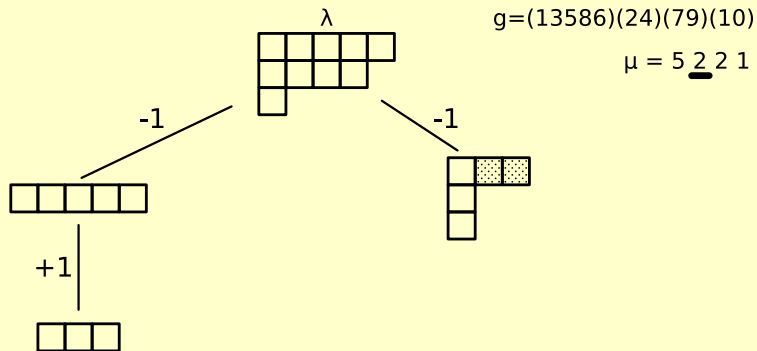
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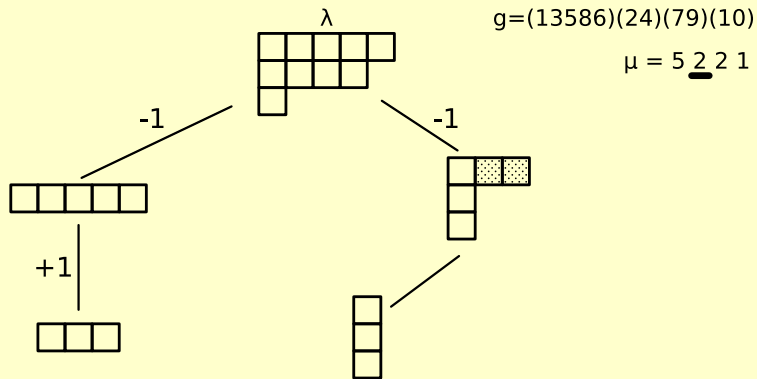
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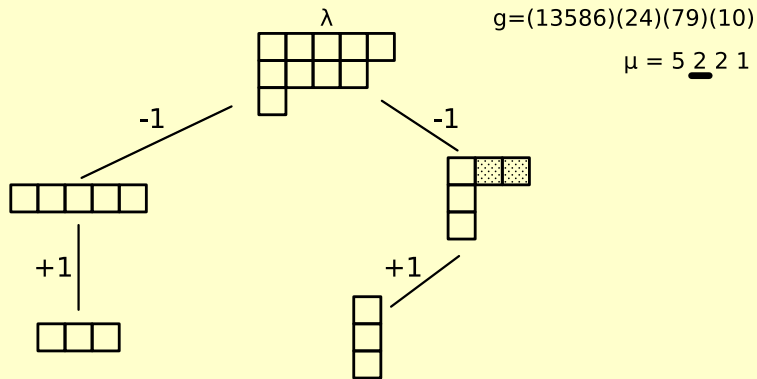
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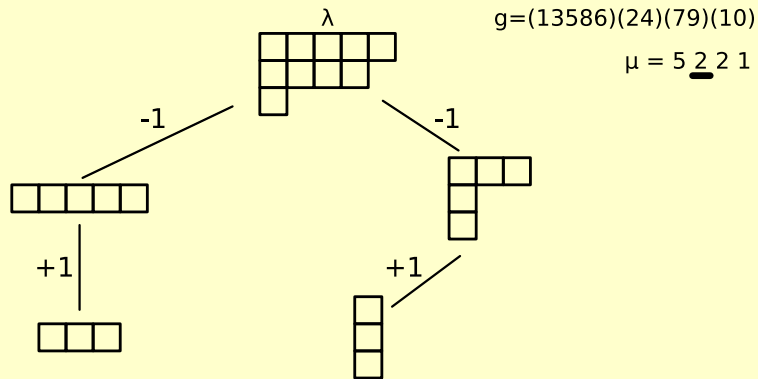
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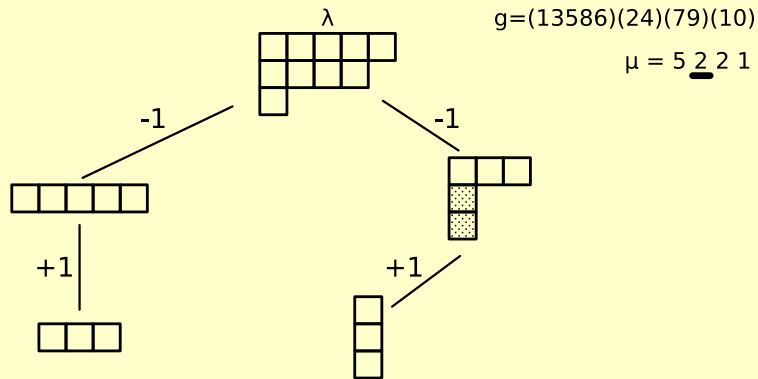
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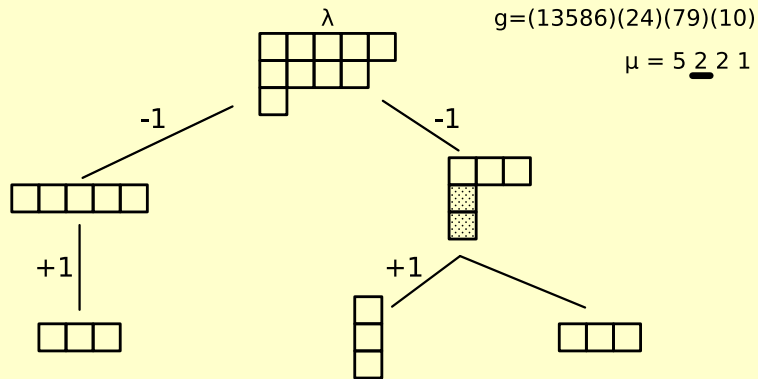
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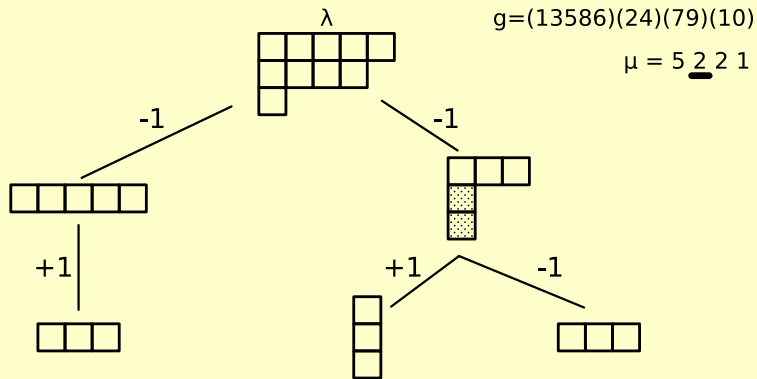
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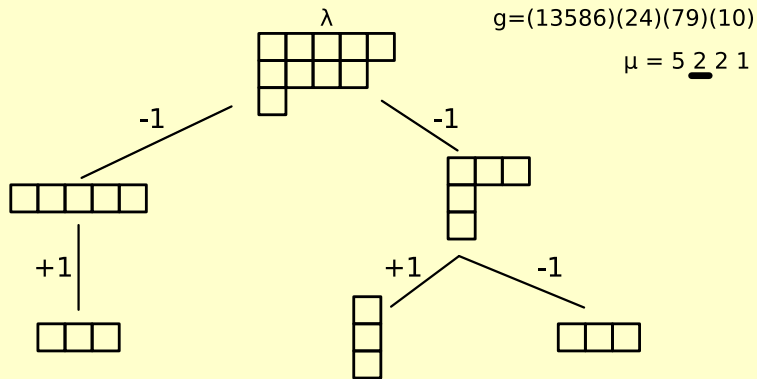
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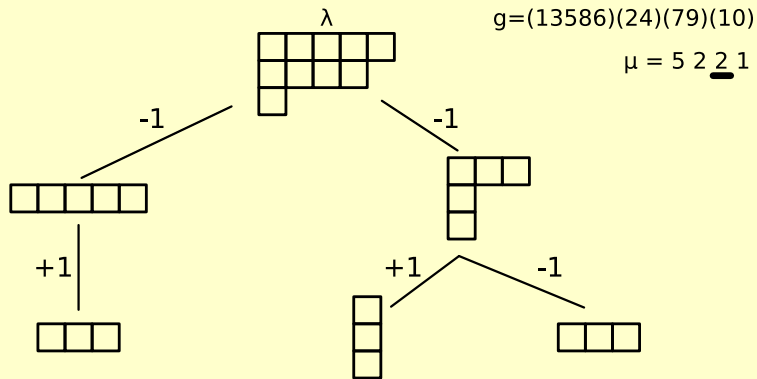
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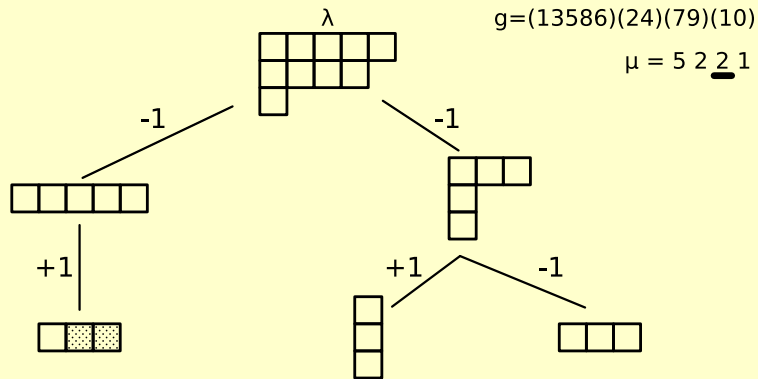
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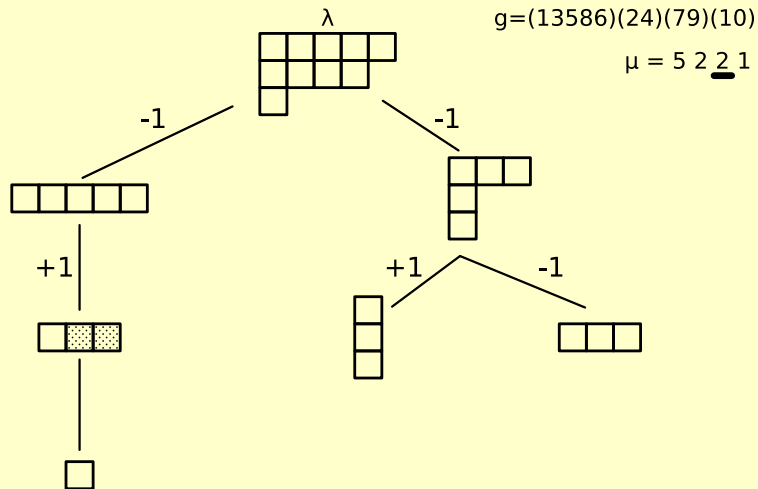
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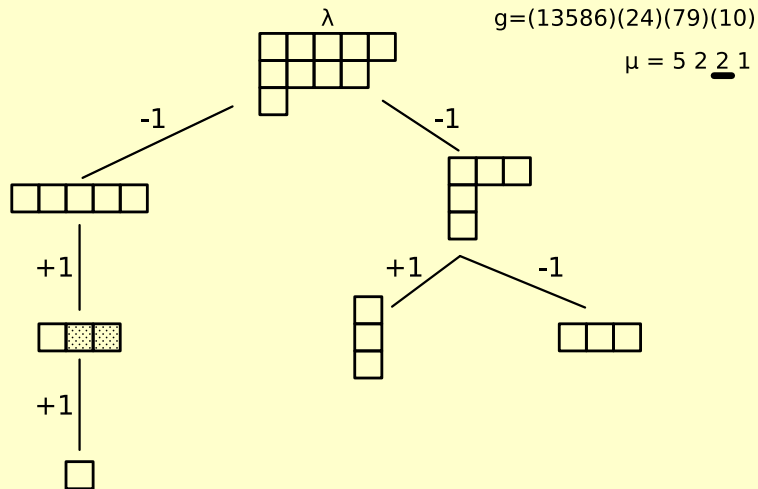
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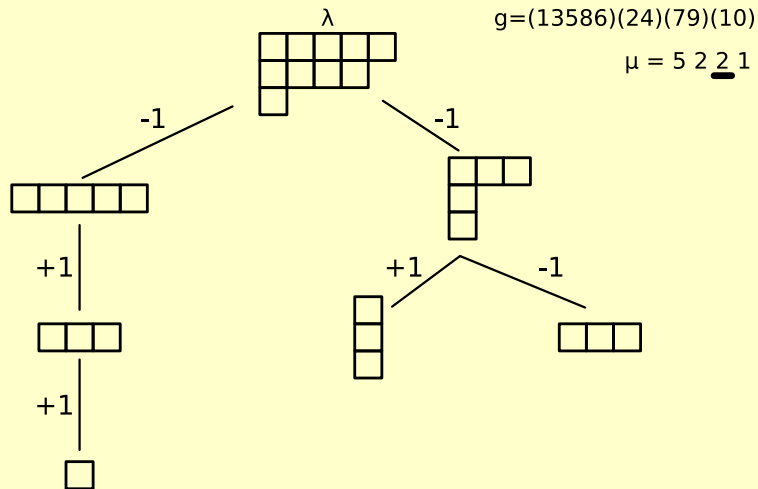
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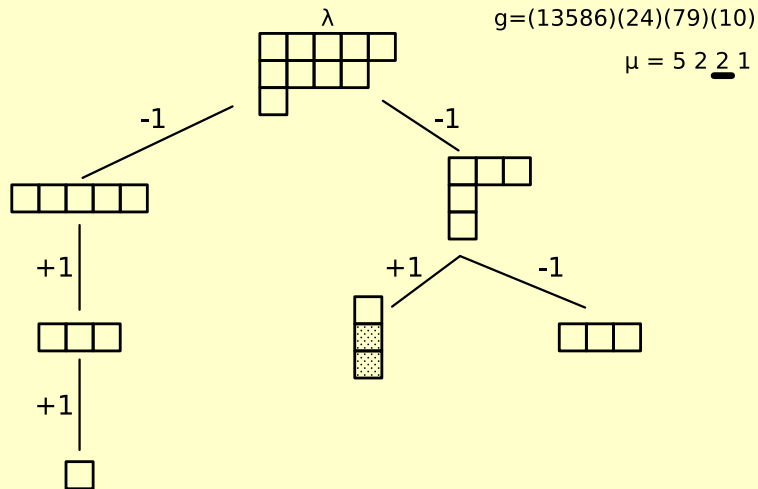
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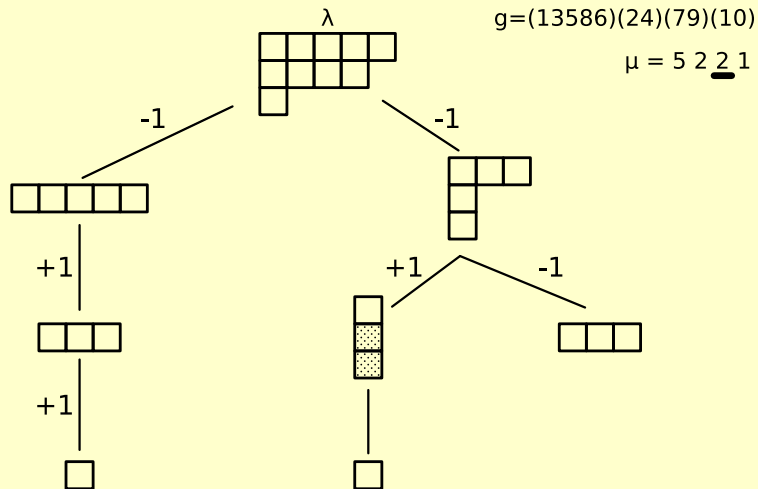
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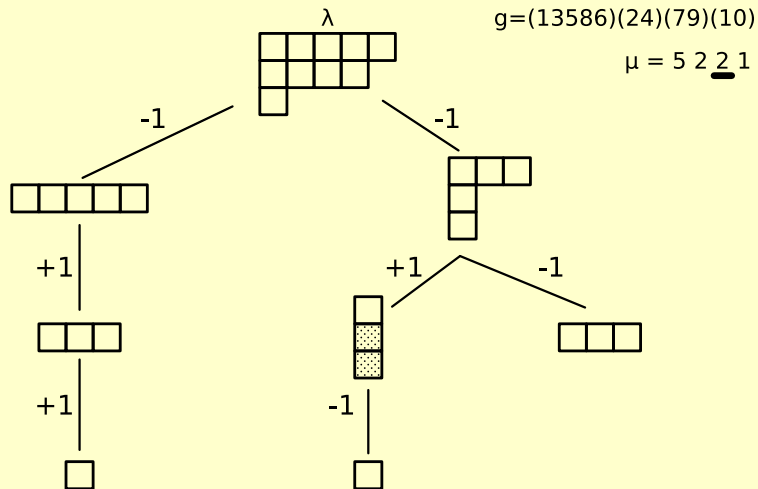
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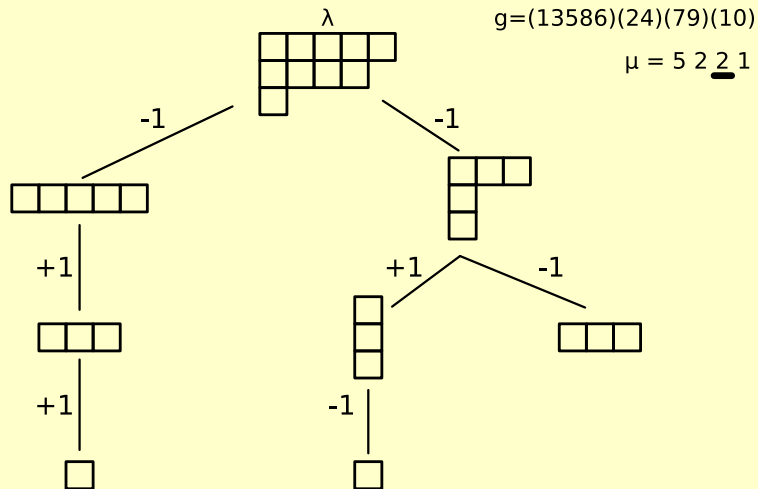
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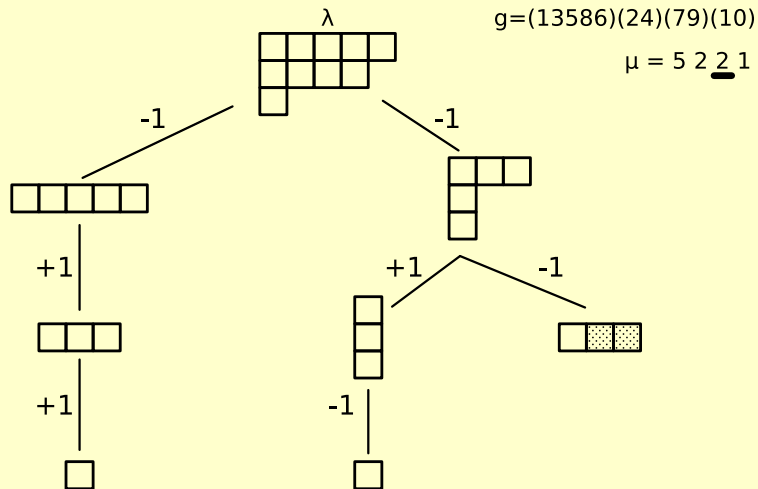
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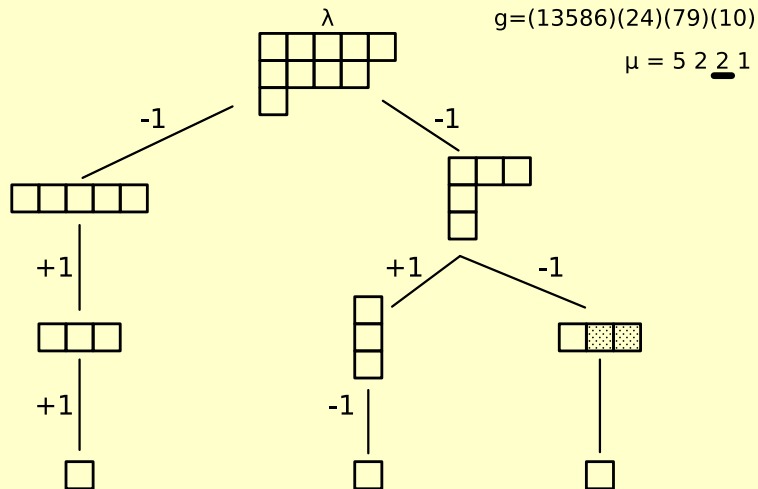
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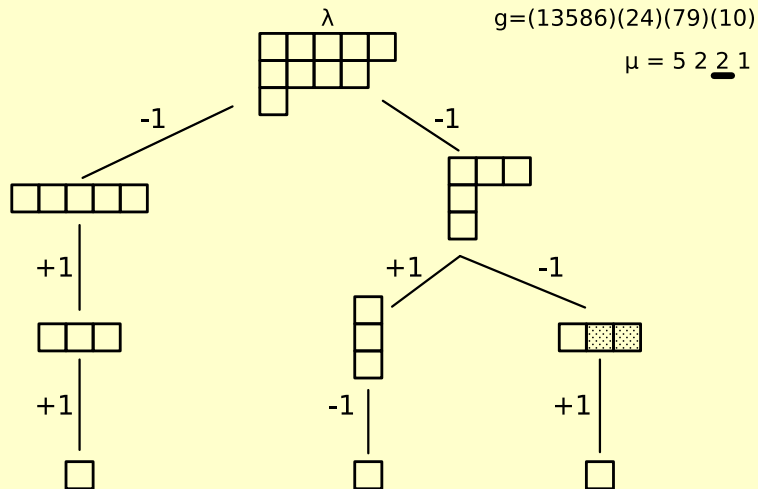
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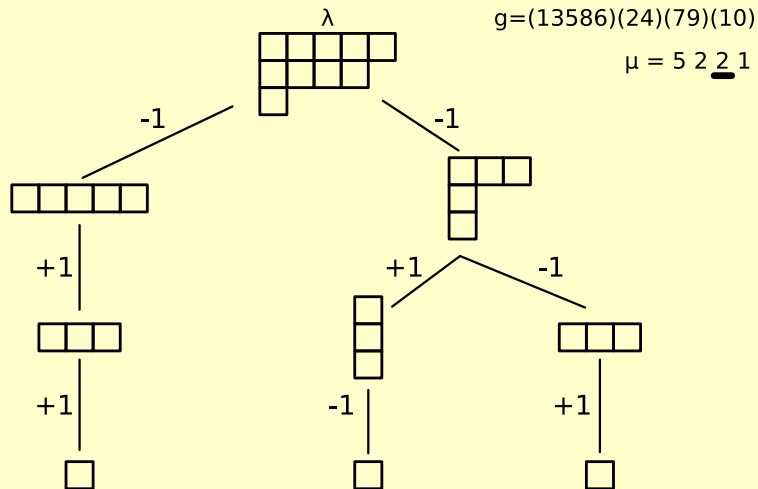
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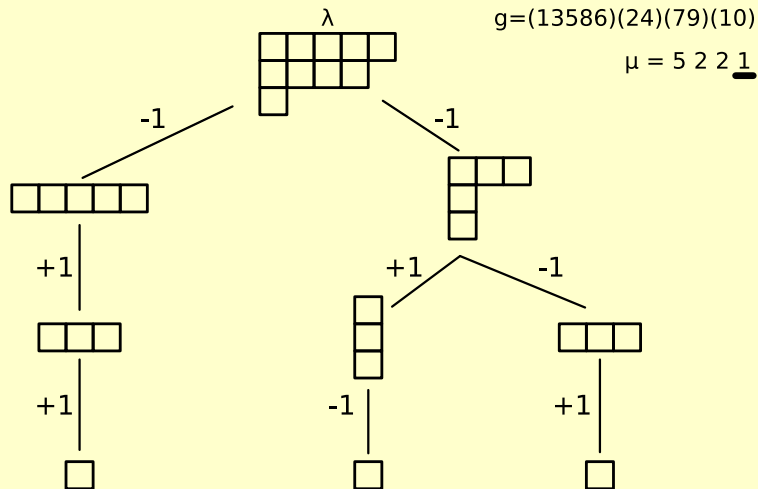
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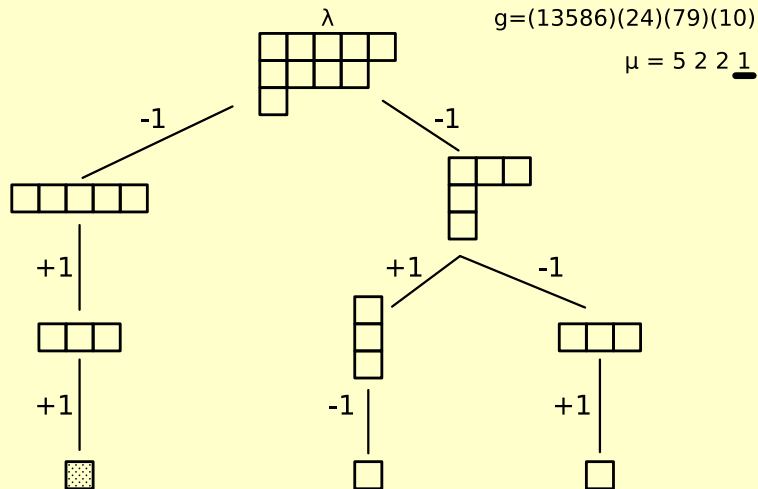
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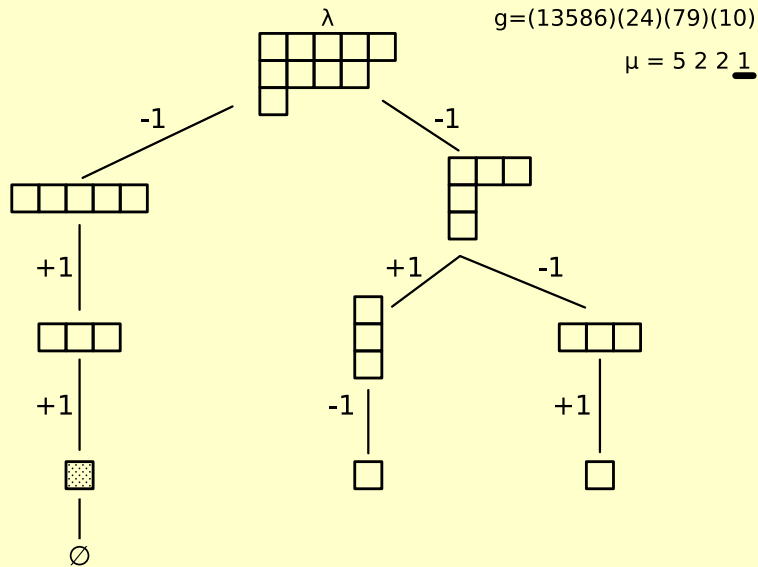
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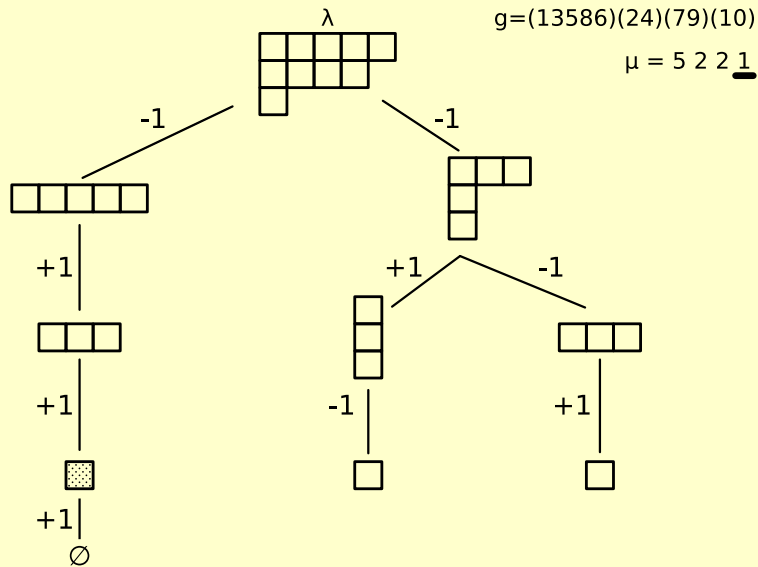
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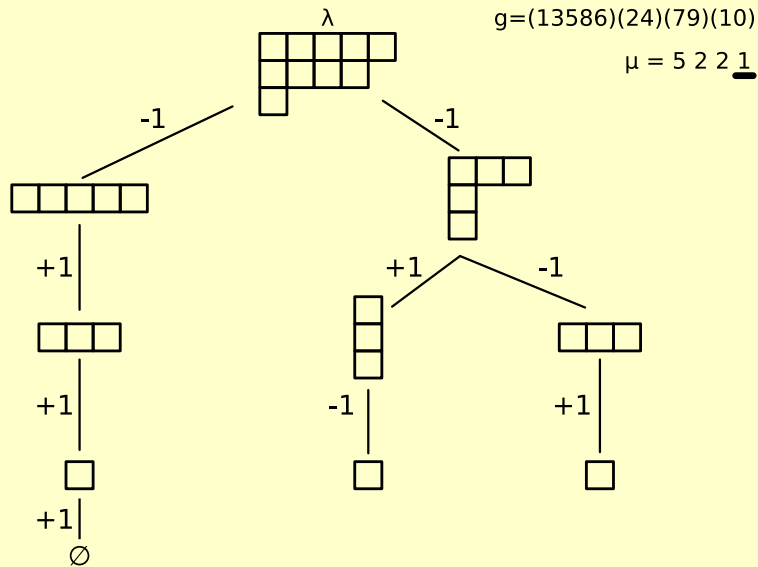
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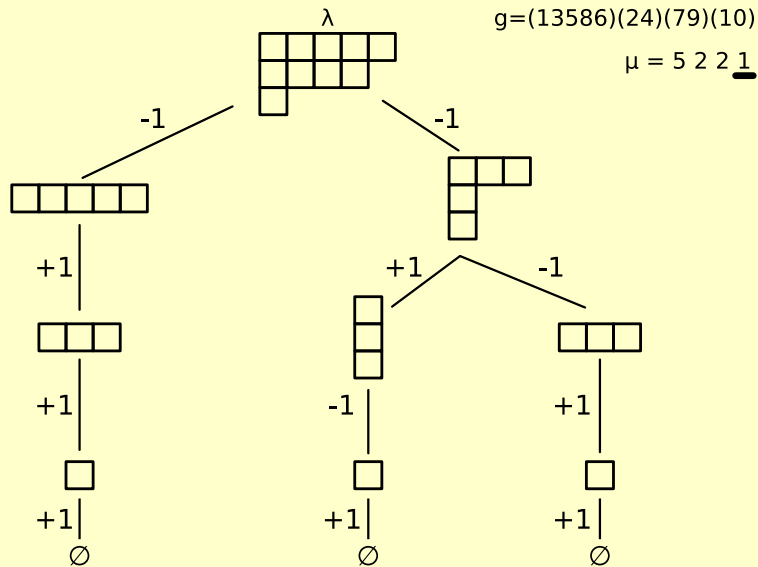
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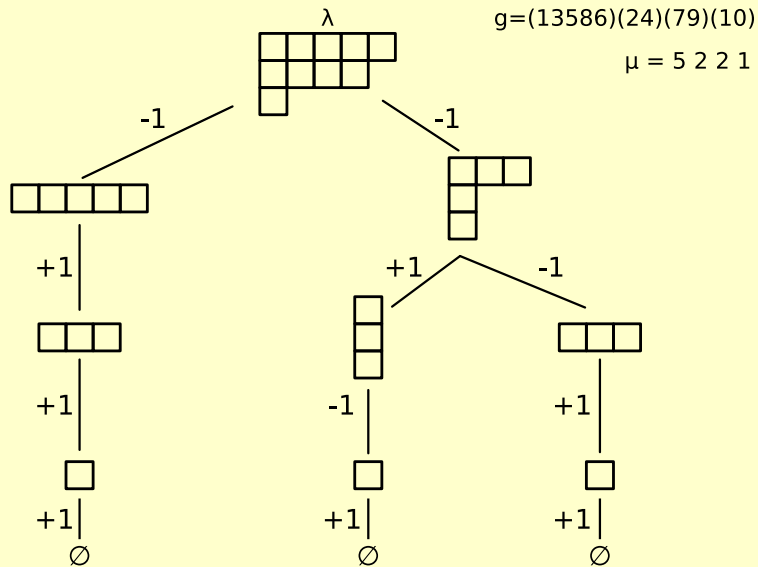
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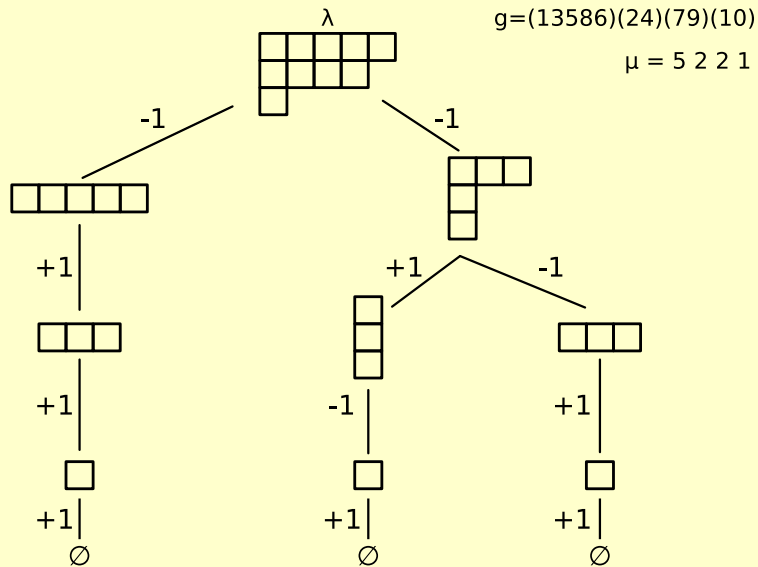
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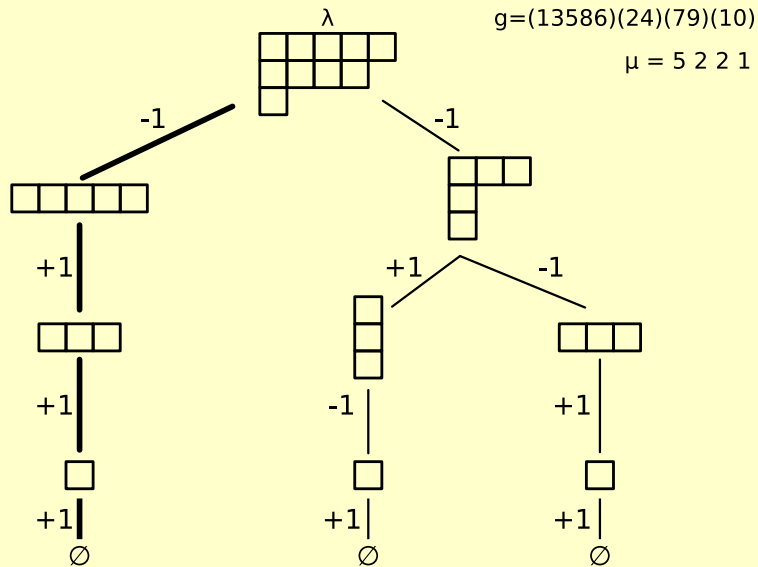
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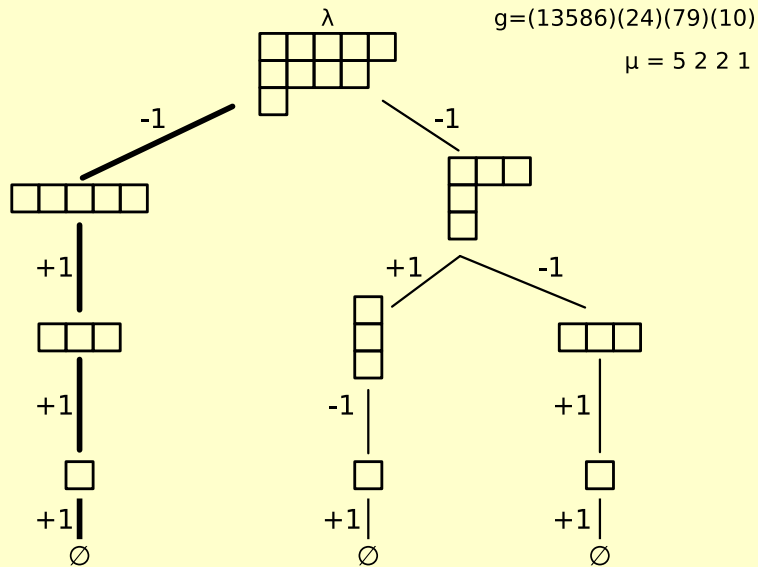
Murnaghan–Nakayama rule for computing $\chi^\lambda(g) =$



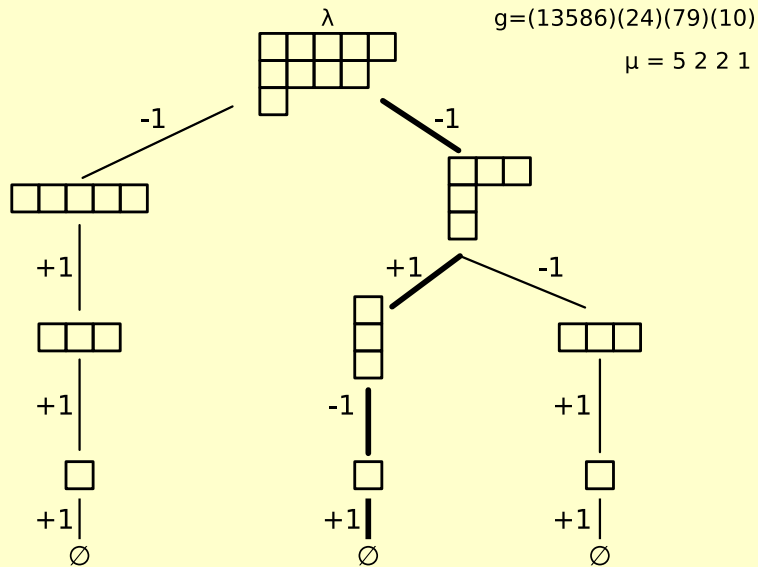
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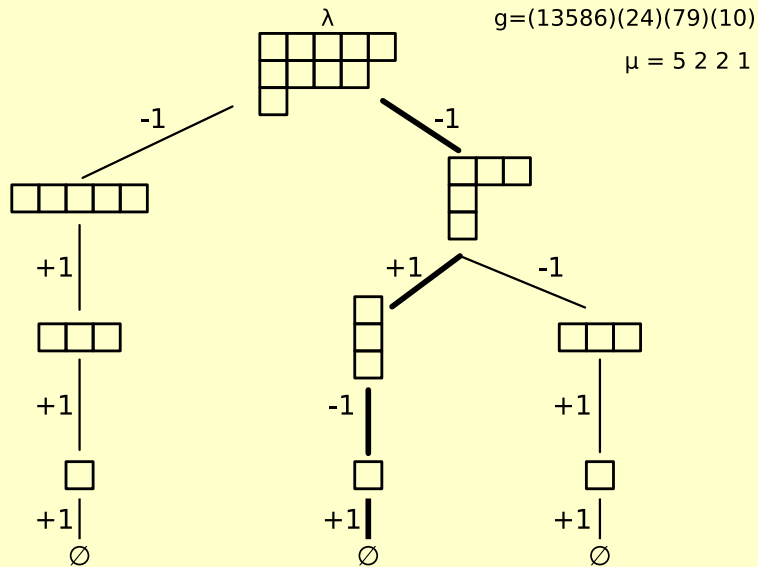
Murnaghan–Nakayama rule for computing $\chi^\lambda(g) = -1$



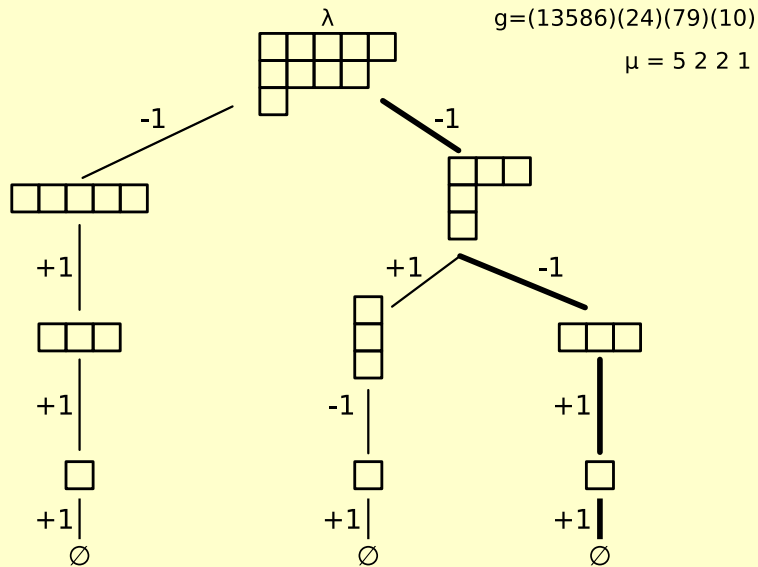
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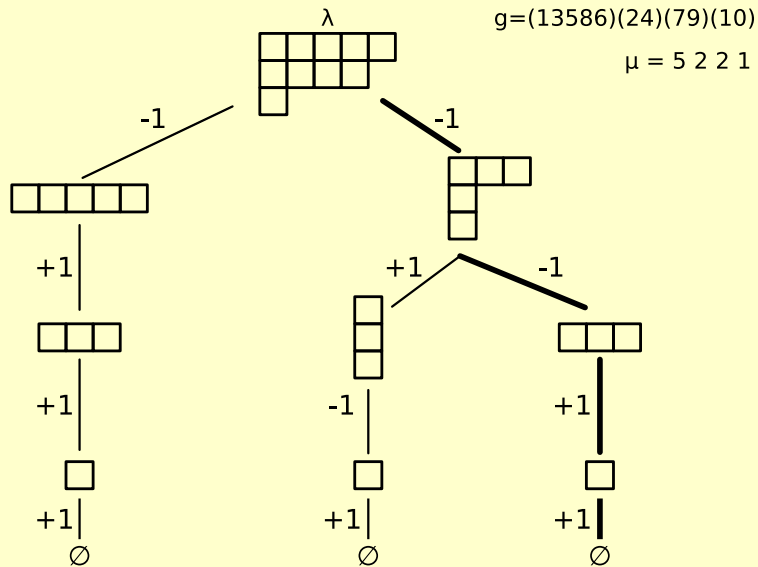
Murnaghan–Nakayama rule for computing $\chi^\lambda(g) = -1 + 1$



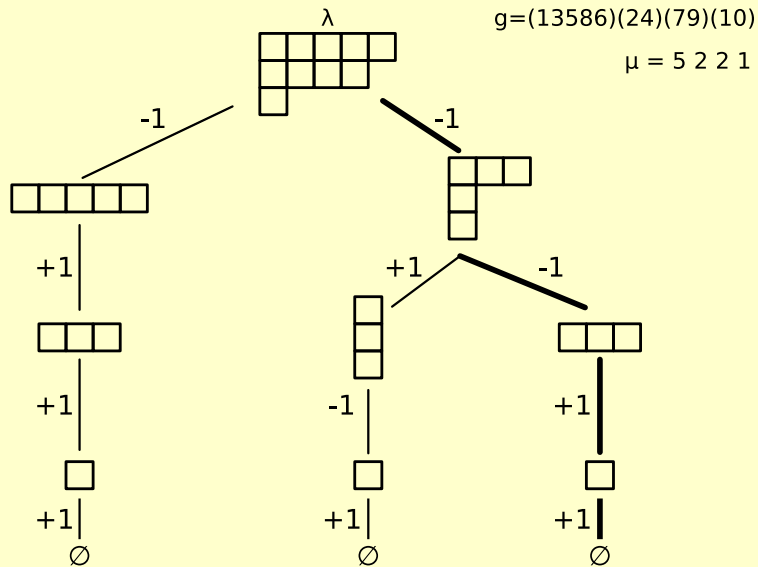
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Murnaghan–Nakayama rule for computing $\chi^\lambda(g) = -1 + 1 + 1$



Murnaghan–Nakayama rule for computing $\chi^\lambda(g) = -1 + 1 + 1 = 1$



Part 1. $\text{Prob}(\chi(\mathbf{g}) = 0)$

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Theorem (Burnside)

Each nonlinear irreducible character of a finite group G has at least one zero.

(Nonlinear means $\chi(\text{id}_G) \neq 1$.)

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Theorem (Miller)

For the symmetric group S_n we have that $\text{Prob}(\chi(g) = 0) \rightarrow 1$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Part 2. $\text{Prob}(\chi^\lambda(\mu) = 0)$

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Example Character table of S_5 :

$\lambda \setminus \mu$							
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	4	2	0	1	-1	0	-1
	5	1	1	-1	1	-1	0
	6	0	-2	0	0	0	1
	5	-1	1	-1	-1	1	0
	4	-2	0	1	1	0	-1
	1	-1	1	1	-1	-1	1

So for example $\chi^{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square \\ \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}}((12)(35)(4)) = \chi^{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square \\ \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}}\left(\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square \\ \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}\right) = 1$.

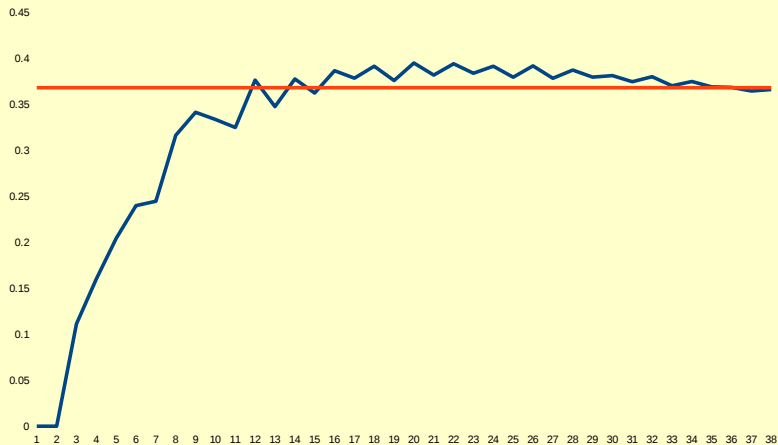
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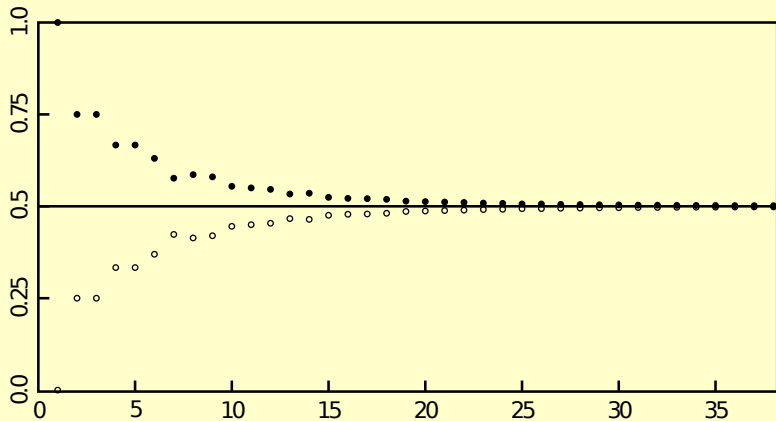
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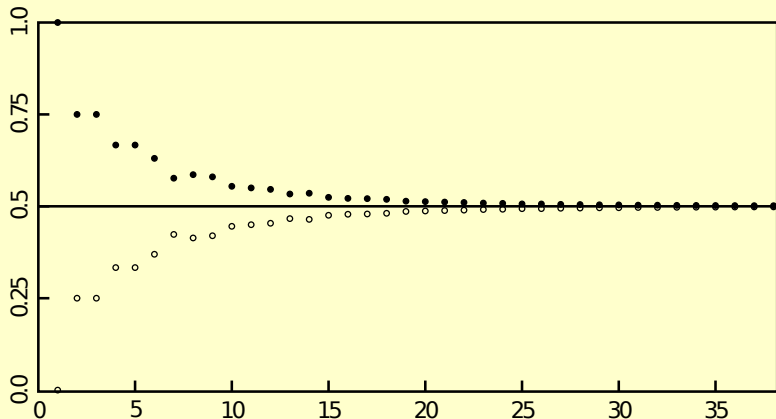
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Conjecture (Miller) $\text{Prob}(\chi^\lambda(\mu) > 0 \mid \chi^\lambda(\mu) \neq 0) \rightarrow 1/2$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.



Part 4. $\text{Prob}(\chi^\lambda(\mu) \equiv 0 \pmod{2})$

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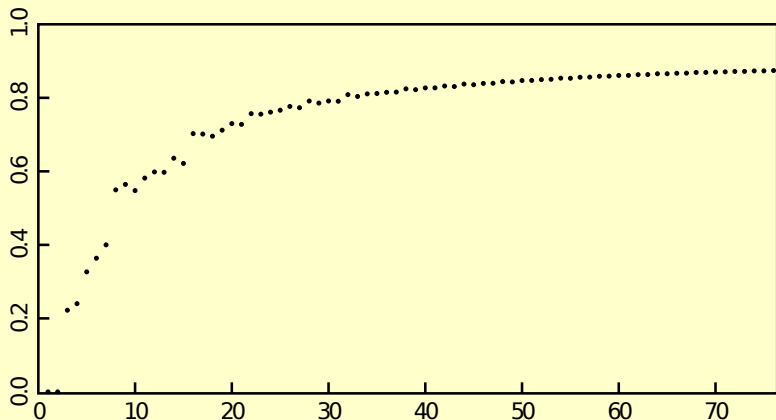
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(Proportion of the character table of S_n covered by even integers)

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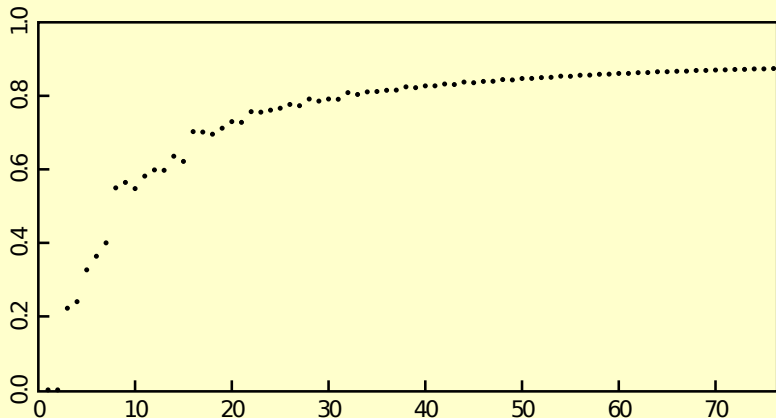
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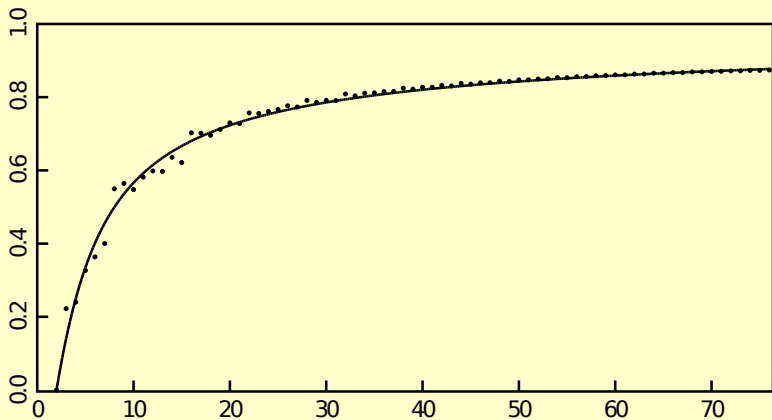
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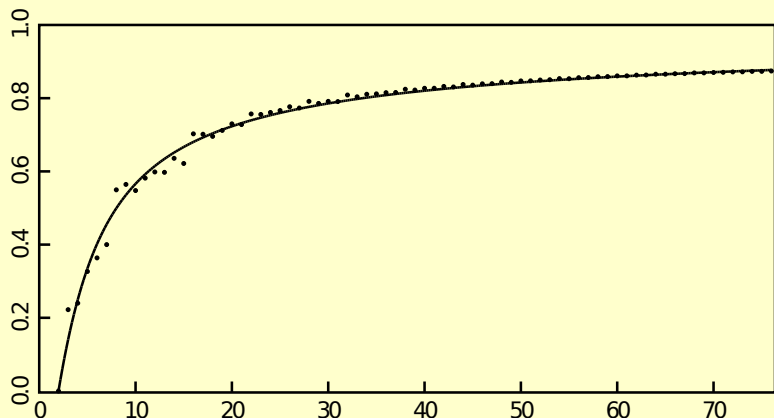
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$\text{Prob}(\chi^\lambda(\mu) \equiv 0 \pmod{2})$ and $2\pi^{-1} \arctan(\sqrt{n/2} - 1)$ for $2 \leq n \leq 76$