

# Symbolic Evaluation of Determinants and Rhombus Tilings of Holey Hexagons

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Experimental Math Seminar at Rutgers University  
July 20, 2018



Inventiones math. 53, 193 – 225 (1979)

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## **Plane Partitions (III): The Weak Macdonald Conjecture**

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$$D_{0,0}(n).$$

## Andrews's Result (1979)

**Theorem.** We have

$$D_{0,0}(n) = 2 \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} R_{0,0}(i),$$

in other words  $R_{0,0}(n) = D_{0,0}(n+1)/D_{0,0}(n)$ ,

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$$R_{0,0}(2n) = \frac{(\mu + 2n)_n \left(\frac{\mu}{2} + 2n + \frac{1}{2}\right)_{n-1}}{(n)_n \left(\frac{\mu}{2} + n + \frac{1}{2}\right)_{n-1}},$$

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and where  $(a)_n$  denotes the Pochhammer symbol

$$(a)_n := a \cdot (a+1) \cdots (a+n-1).$$

Another question is the possibility of other general determinants of this nature. At first glance

$$E_m(\mu) = \det \left( \delta_{ij} + \binom{\mu+i+j}{i+1} \right)_{0 \leq i, j \leq m-1}$$

looks interesting. Indeed it turns out that

$$E_1(\mu) = \mu + 1,$$

$$E_2(\mu) = (\mu+2)(\mu+1),$$

$$E_3(\mu) = \frac{(\mu+14)(\mu+3)(\mu+2)(\mu+1)}{12},$$

$$E_4(\mu) = \frac{(\mu+14)(\mu+9)(\mu+4)(\mu+3)(\mu+2)(\mu+1)}{72},$$

$$E_5(\mu) = \frac{(\mu+9)(\mu+5)(\mu+4)(\mu+3)(\mu+2)(\mu+1)(\mu^3+45\mu^2+722\mu+3432)}{8640}.$$

Empirically it seems reasonable to guess that

$$\frac{E_{2m}(\mu)}{E_{2m-1}(\mu)} = f_{2m, 2m}(\mu-2),$$

George Andrews (1980):  
Macdonald's conjecture and  
descending plane partitions

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We let  $D_{1,1}(n)$  denote Andrews's 1980 determinant

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**Conjecture.** The following holds:

$$\frac{D_{1,1}(2n)}{D_{1,1}(2n-1)} = (-1)^{\frac{(n-1)(n-2)}{2}} 2^n \frac{\left(\frac{\mu}{2} + 2n + \frac{1}{2}\right)_{n-1} \left(\frac{\mu}{2} + n\right)_{\lfloor (n+1)/2 \rfloor}}{\binom{n}{n} \left(-\frac{\mu}{2} - 2n + \frac{3}{2}\right)_{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor}}$$

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→ Proven in 2013 using computer algebra.

$$D_{1,1}(1) = \mu + 1$$

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$$D_{1,1}(5) = \frac{1}{8640}(\mu + 1)(\mu + 2)(\mu + 3)(\mu + 4)(\mu + 5)(\mu + 9) \\ \times (\mu^3 + 45\mu^2 + 722\mu + 3432)$$

$$D_{1,1}(6) = \frac{1}{518400}(\mu + 1)(\mu + 2)(\mu + 3)(\mu + 4)(\mu + 5)(\mu + 6) \\ \times (\mu + 8)(\mu + 13)(\mu + 15)(\mu^3 + 45\mu^2 + 722\mu + 3432)$$

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**Definition:** For  $n, s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $n \geq 1$ , and  $\lambda := \mu - 2$  with  $\mu$  being an indeterminate, we define  $D_{s,t}(n)$  to be the following  $(n \times n)$ -determinant:

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- ▶ monstrous conjecture for  $D_{1,1}(n)$  (Christoph and Aek 2013)

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where  $B_J^I$  denotes the matrix that is obtained by deleting all rows with indices in  $I$  and all columns with indices in  $J$  from the matrix

$$\left( \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \lambda + i + j + s + t - 2 \\ j + t - 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{b_{i,j,s,t}} \right)_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}.$$

## Lindström-Gessel-Viennot Lemma

Consider 'base' and 'destination' vertices of a directed acyclic graph denoted by  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  and  $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ , respectively.

## Lindström-Gessel-Viennot Lemma

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$$e(a, b) = \sum_{P:a \rightarrow b} \omega(P) \quad \text{and}$$
$$M = \begin{pmatrix} e(a_1, b_1) & e(a_1, b_2) & \cdots & e(a_1, b_n) \\ e(a_2, b_1) & e(a_2, b_2) & \cdots & e(a_2, b_n) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ e(a_n, b_1) & e(a_n, b_2) & \cdots & e(a_n, b_n) \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Then the determinant of  $M$  is the signed sum over all  $n$ -tuples  $P = (P_1, \dots, P_n)$  of non-intersecting paths from  $A$  to  $B$ :

$$\det(M) = \sum_{(P_1, \dots, P_n): A \rightarrow B} \text{sign}(\sigma(P)) \prod_{i=1}^n \omega(P_i).$$

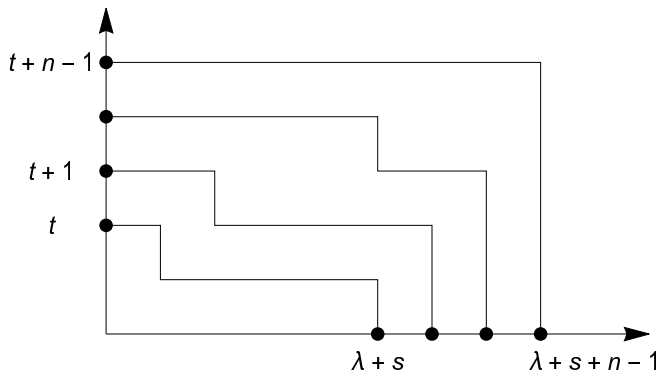
where  $\sigma$  denotes a permutation that is applied to  $B$ .

## Lindström-Gessel-Viennot Lemma

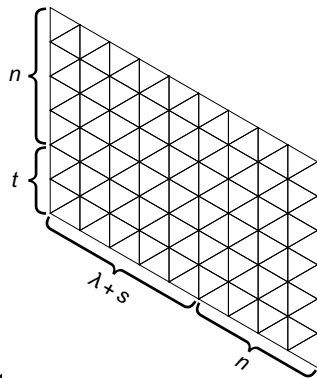
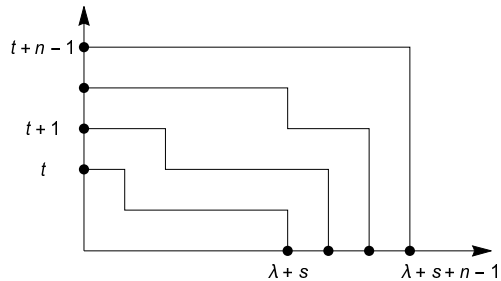
In our context, it implies that the determinant without the Kronecker-Delta

$$\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left( \binom{\lambda + i + j + s + t - 2}{j + t - 1} \right)$$

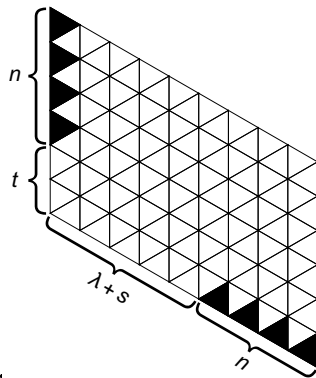
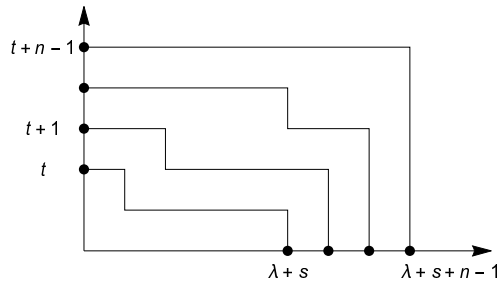
counts  $n$ -tuples of non-intersecting paths in the lattice  $\mathbb{N}^2$ :



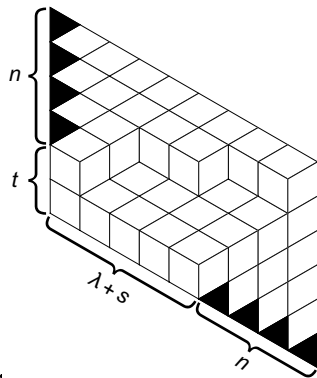
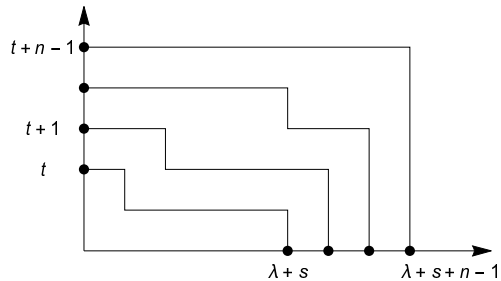
# Lattice Paths $\longrightarrow$ Rhombus Tilings



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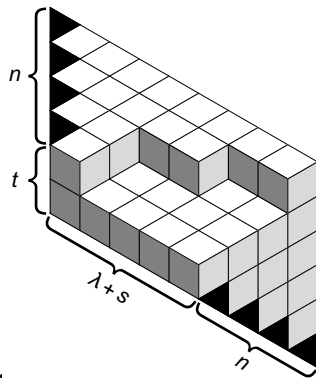
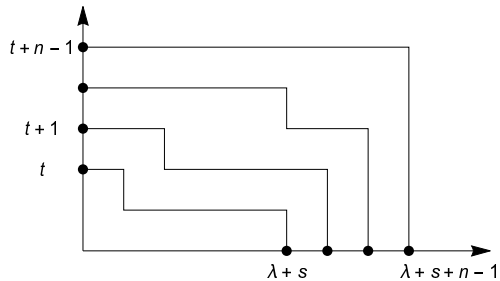


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## Kronecker-Deltas on the Main Diagonal

If  $s = t$ , the previous formula for  $D_{s,t}$  simplifies to

$$D_{s,s}(n) = \sum_{I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}} \det(B_I^I),$$

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**Hence:**

$D_{s,s}(n)$  counts all  $k$ -tuples of non-intersecting lattice paths,  $k = 0, \dots, n$ , and where the start and end points are given by the same  $k$ -subset.

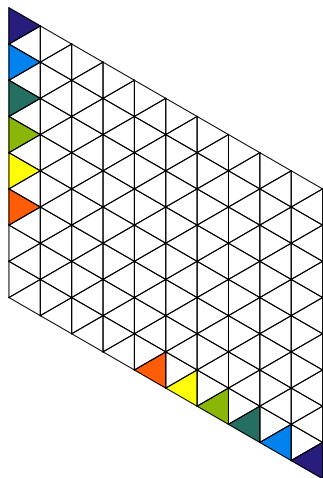
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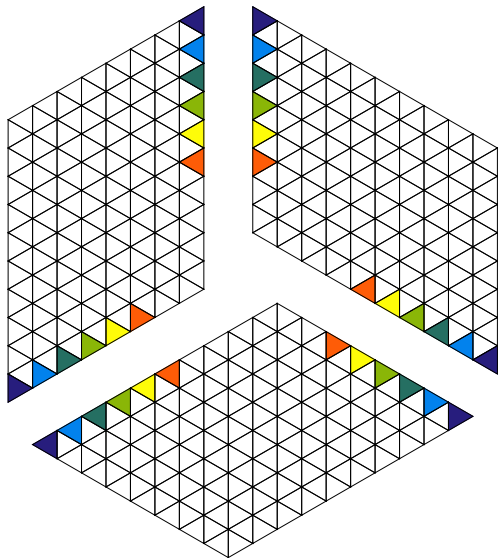
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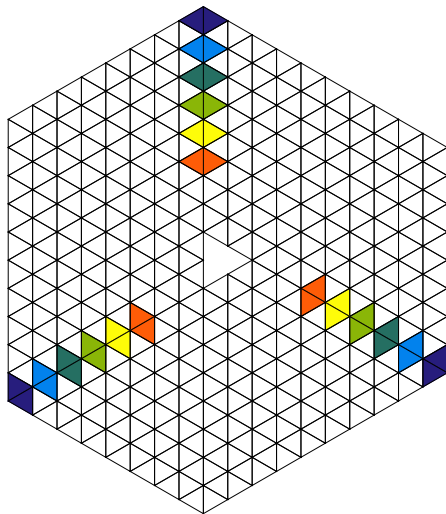
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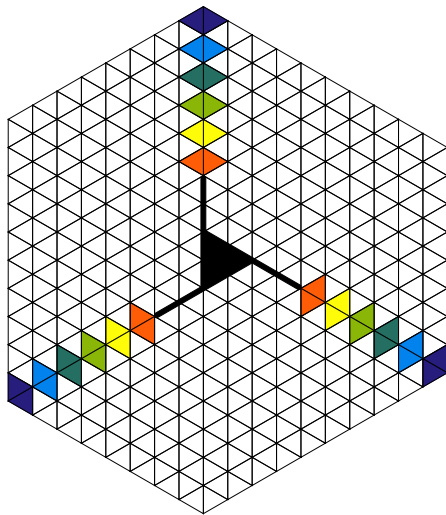
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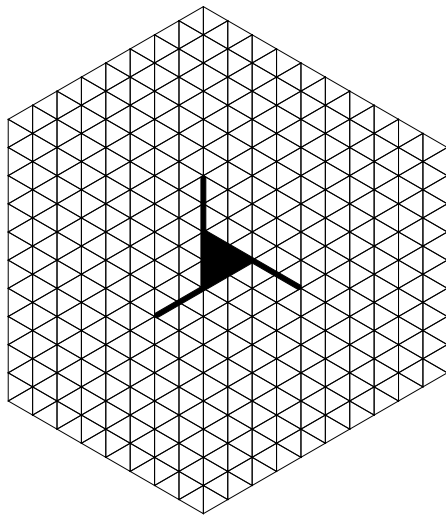
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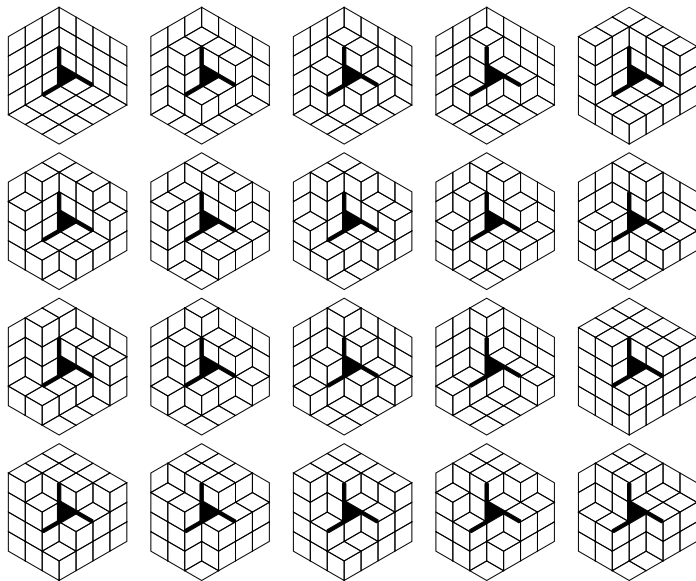
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**Example:** For  $s = t = 1$ ,  $n = 2$ , and  $\lambda = 1$  we obtain

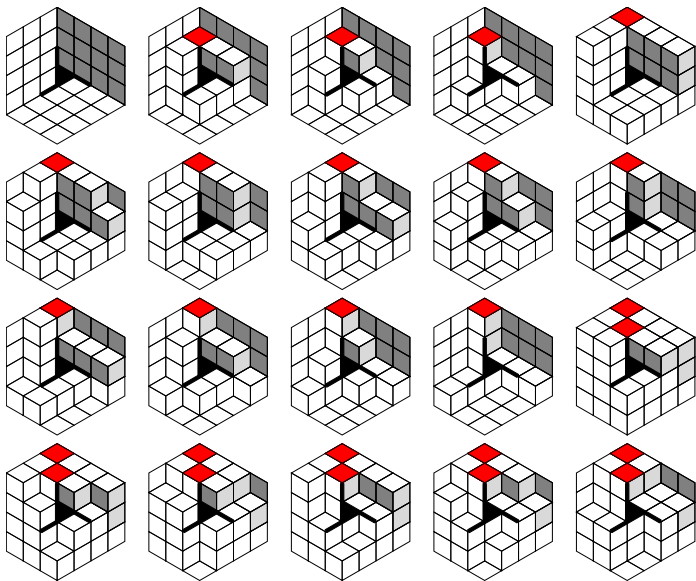
$$D_{1,1}(2)|_{\lambda \rightarrow 1} = \begin{vmatrix} 4 & 6 \\ 4 & 11 \end{vmatrix} = 20.$$

# Cyclically Symmetric Rhombus Tilings of a Holey Hexagon





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$$F_m(n) = \left( \prod_{i=1}^{\lfloor \frac{1}{4}(n-1) \rfloor} (\mu + 2i + n + m)^{1-2i-m} \right) \\ \times \left( \prod_{i=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{4} - 1 \rfloor} (\mu - 2i + 2n - 2m + 1)^{1-2i-m} \right),$$

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$$F(n) = \begin{cases} E(n)F_0(n), & \text{if } n \text{ is even,} \\ E(n)F_1(n) \prod_{i=1}^{\frac{1}{2}(n-5)} (\mu + 2i + 2n - 1), & \text{if } n \text{ is odd,} \end{cases}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} T(k) = & 55296k^6 + 41472(\mu - 1)k^5 + 384(30\mu^2 - 66\mu + 53)k^4 \\ & + 96(\mu - 1)(15\mu^2 - 42\mu + 61)k^3 \\ & + 4(19\mu^4 - 122\mu^3 + 419\mu^2 - 544\mu + 72)k^2 \\ & + (\mu - 1)(\mu^4 - 14\mu^3 + 101\mu^2 - 160\mu - 84)k \\ & + 2(\mu - 3)(\mu - 2)(\mu - 1)(\mu + 1), \end{aligned}$$

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## Desnanot-Jacobi-Dodgson Identity (DJD)

**Theorem.** Let  $(m_{i,j})_{i,j \in \mathbb{Z}}$  be an infinite sequence and denote by  $M_{s,t}(n)$  the determinant of the  $(n \times n)$ -matrix whose upper left entry is  $m_{s,t}$ , more precisely the matrix  $(m_{i,j})_{s \leq i < s+n, t \leq j < t+n}$ . Then:

$$M_{s,t}(n)M_{s+1,t+1}(n-2) = \\ M_{s,t}(n-1)M_{s+1,t+1}(n-1) - M_{s+1,t}(n-1)M_{s,t+1}(n-1).$$

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**Schematically:**

The diagram illustrates the DJD identity using black squares and gray borders. It shows the equation: a solid black square multiplied by a black square with a gray border, equals a black square with a gray border multiplied by a solid black square, minus a black square with a gray border multiplied by a black square with a gray border.

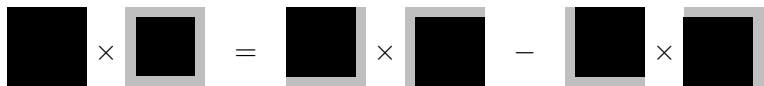
(DJD) for  $D_{1,1}(n)$


$$\blacksquare \times \square = \square \times \square - \square \times \square$$

By (DJD) we obtain a recurrence equation for  $D_{1,1}(n)$ :

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We rewrite it slightly:

$$D_{1,1}(n) = \underbrace{\frac{D_{0,0}(n+1)}{D_{0,0}(n)}}_{= R_{0,0}(n)} D_{1,1}(n-1) + \frac{D_{1,0}(n)D_{0,1}(n)}{D_{0,0}(n)}.$$

→ Hence we need to know  $D_{1,0}(n)$  and  $D_{0,1}(n)$ .

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- ▶ It has always dim. 1:  $\ker(M^{(2n)}) = \langle c_n \rangle$  for  $c_n \in \mathbb{Q}(\mu)^{2n}$ .

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We can show that  $D_{1,0}(2n) = 0 = D_{0,1}(2n)$  for all  $n$ .

Let  $M^{(2n)}$  be the  $(2n \times 2n)$ -matrix of  $D_{1,0}(2n)$ .

- ▶ Compute the (nontrivial) nullspace of  $M^{(2n)}$  for  $n \leq 15$ .
- ▶ It has always dim. 1:  $\ker(M^{(2n)}) = \langle c_n \rangle$  for  $c_n \in \mathbb{Q}(\mu)^{2n}$ .
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- ▶ “Guess” recurrence equations for the bivariate sequence  $c_{n,j}$ .
- ▶ Use the holonomic systems approach to prove

$$M^{(2n)} \cdot c_n = 0, \text{ i.e., } \sum_{j=1}^{2n} M_{i,j}^{(2n)} c_{n,j} = 0 \text{ for all } i \text{ and } n.$$

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**Method:** "Pull out of the hat" a holonomic function  $c_{n,j}$  and prove

$$\begin{aligned}c_{n,n} &= 1 && (n \geq 1), \\ \sum_{j=1}^n c_{n,j} a_{i,j} &= 0 && (1 \leq i < n), \\ \sum_{j=1}^n c_{n,j} a_{n,j} &= \frac{d_n}{d_{n-1}} && (n \geq 1).\end{aligned}$$

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**Example:** For  $D_{0,0}(2n)$  we obtain the following holonomic system of recurrence relations for  $c_{n,j}$ .

## Recurrence Equations for $c_{n,j}$ for $D_{0,0}(2n)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \{ (j + \mu + 2n - 3)(2\mu j^6 + 8nj^6 - 2j^6 + 3\mu^2 j^5 - 48n^2 j^5 - 12\mu j^5 - 24nj^5 + 9j^5 + \\
 & \mu^3 j^4 + 48n^3 j^4 - 11\mu^2 j^4 - 84\mu n^2 j^4 + 204n^2 j^4 + 21\mu j^4 - 20\mu^2 n j^4 + 38\mu n j^4 - \\
 & 10n j^4 - 11j^4 + 216n^4 j^3 - 2\mu^3 j^3 + 312\mu n^3 j^3 - 408n^3 j^3 + 7\mu^2 j^3 + 28\mu^2 n^2 j^3 + \\
 & 122\mu n^2 j^3 - 198n^2 j^3 - 2\mu j^3 - 9\mu^3 n j^3 + 68\mu^2 n j^3 - 113\mu n j^3 + 78n j^3 - 3j^3 - \\
 & 864n^5 j^2 - 756\mu n^4 j^2 + 432n^4 j^2 - \mu^3 j^2 - 112\mu^2 n^3 j^2 - 308\mu n^3 j^2 + 600n^3 j^2 + \\
 & 11\mu^2 j^2 - 3\mu^3 n^2 j^2 - 66\mu^2 n^2 j^2 + 189\mu n^2 j^2 - 168n^2 j^2 - 23\mu j^2 - 2\mu^4 n j^2 + \\
 & 15\mu^3 n j^2 - 28\mu^2 n j^2 + 33\mu n j^2 - 34n j^2 + 13j^2 + 864n^6 j + 432\mu n^5 j + 432n^5 j - \\
 & 144\mu^2 n^4 j + 1116\mu n^4 j - 1104n^4 j + 2\mu^3 j - 88\mu^3 n^3 j + 384\mu^2 n^3 j - 392\mu n^3 j - \\
 & 36n^3 j - 10\mu^2 j - 14\mu^4 n^2 j + 45\mu^3 n^2 j + 40\mu^2 n^2 j - 317\mu n^2 j + 270n^2 j + 14\mu j - \\
 & \mu^5 n j + 3\mu^4 n j + 17\mu^3 n j - 89\mu^2 n j + 112\mu n j - 42n j - 6j + 432\mu n^6 - 864n^6 + \\
 & 432\mu^2 n^5 - 1080\mu n^5 + 432n^5 + 144\mu^3 n^4 - 324\mu^2 n^4 - 156\mu n^4 + 456n^4 + 20\mu^4 n^3 - \\
 & 18\mu^3 n^3 - 220\mu^2 n^3 + 470\mu n^3 - 204n^3 + \mu^5 n^2 + 3\mu^4 n^2 - 37\mu^3 n^2 + 57\mu^2 n^2 + \\
 & 36\mu n^2 - 60n^2 + 2\mu^4 n - 18\mu^3 n + 54\mu^2 n - 62\mu n + 24n) \mathbf{c}_{n,j} - (j + \mu - 3)(2j + \mu - \\
 & 3)(j - 2n + 1)(\mu + 4n - 1)(j^4 + 2\mu j^3 - 6j^3 + \mu^2 j^2 - 12n^2 j^2 - 9\mu j^2 - 6\mu n j^2 + \\
 & 6n j^2 + 13j^2 - 3\mu^2 j - 12\mu n^2 j + 36n^2 j + 13\mu j - 6\mu^2 n j + 24\mu n j - 18n j - 12j + \\
 & 2\mu^2 - 2\mu^2 n^2 + 20\mu n^2 - 24n^2 - 6\mu - \mu^3 n + 11\mu^2 n - 22\mu n + 12n + 4) \mathbf{c}_{n,j+1} + \\
 & 2(2j + \mu - 2)n(2n + 1)(-j + 2n + 1)(-j + 2n + 2)(j + \mu + 2n - 1)(\mu + 4n - 3)(\mu + \\
 & 4n - 1) \mathbf{c}_{n+1,j}, -(j + 1)(2j + \mu)(j - 2n)(j + \mu + 2n - 3) \mathbf{c}_{n,j} + (4j^4 + 8\mu j^3 - 8j^3 + \\
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 & 4\mu^2 n j + 16\mu n j - 12n j + 12j + \mu^3 - 3\mu^2 - 2\mu^2 n^2 + 16n^2 - 2\mu - \mu^3 n + 3\mu^2 n + \\
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## Back to $D_{1,1}(n)$

By (DJD) we had the recurrence

$$D_{1,1}(n) = R_{0,0}(n)D_{1,1}(n-1) + \frac{D_{1,0}(n)D_{0,1}(n)}{D_{0,0}(n)}.$$

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$$= R_{0,0}(n)D_{1,1}(n-1) + (\mu - 1) \frac{\left(\prod_{j=1}^{\frac{n-1}{2}} R_{1,0}(j)\right)\left(\prod_{j=1}^{\frac{n-1}{2}} R_{0,1}(j)\right)}{2 \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} R_{0,0}(j)}$$

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## Main Result

**Theorem.** Let  $\mu$  be an indeterminate and let  $\rho_k$  be defined as  $\rho_0(a, b) = a$  and  $\rho_k(a, b) = b$  for  $k > 0$ .

If  $n$  is an odd positive integer then

$$\begin{aligned} D_{1,1}(n) = & \sum_{k=0}^{(n+1)/2} \rho_k \left( 4(\mu - 2), \frac{1}{(2k-1)!} \right) \frac{(\mu - 1)_{3k-2}}{2 \left( \frac{\mu}{2} + k - \frac{1}{2} \right)_{k-1}} \\ & \times \left( \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{(\mu + 2j + 1)_{j-1} \left( \frac{\mu}{2} + 2j + \frac{1}{2} \right)_{j-1}}{(j)_{j-1} \left( \frac{\mu}{2} + j + \frac{1}{2} \right)_{j-1}} \right)^2 \\ & \times \left( \prod_{j=k}^{(n-1)/2} \frac{(\mu + 2j)_j^2 \left( \frac{\mu}{2} + 2j - \frac{1}{2} \right)_j \left( \frac{\mu}{2} + 2j + \frac{3}{2} \right)_{j+1}}{(j)_j (j+1)_{j+1} \left( \frac{\mu}{2} + j + \frac{1}{2} \right)_j^2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

If  $n$  is an even positive integer then... [similar formula]



# Off-Diagonal Kronecker-Deltas

Now let's look at the situation  $s \neq t$ .

**General formula:**

$$D_{s,t}(n) = \begin{cases} \sum_{I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n-s+t\}} (-1)^{(s-t) \cdot |I|} \det(B_{I+s-t}^I) & \text{if } s \geq t \\ \sum_{I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n-t+s\}} (-1)^{(s-t) \cdot |I|} \det(B_I^{I+s-t}) & \text{if } s \leq t, \end{cases}$$

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**Remark:**

For a particular (cyclically symmetric) rhombus tiling, the number of unit segments which are not crossed by a horizontal rhombus corresponds to the cardinality of the set  $I$  and hence its parity determines whether this tiling is counted with weight  $+1$  or with weight  $-1$ .

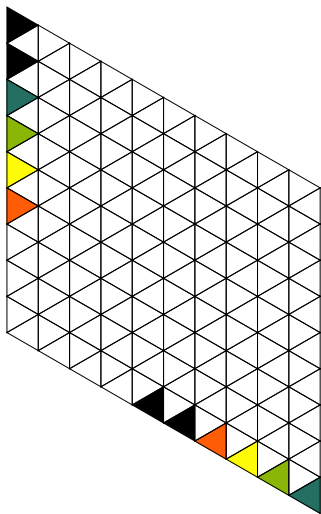
# Off-Diagonal Kronecker-Deltas

$$s = 1$$

$$t = 3$$

$$n = 6$$

$$\lambda = 3$$



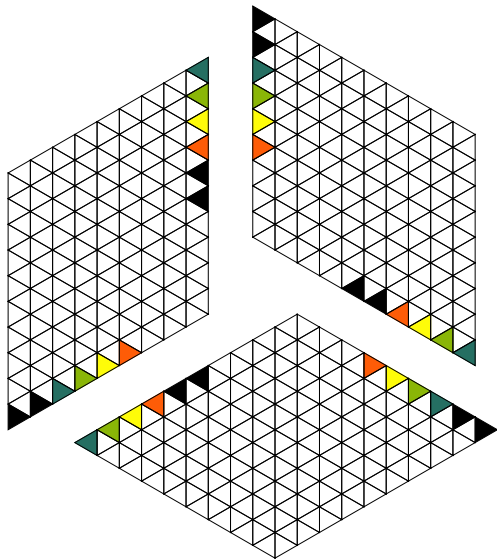
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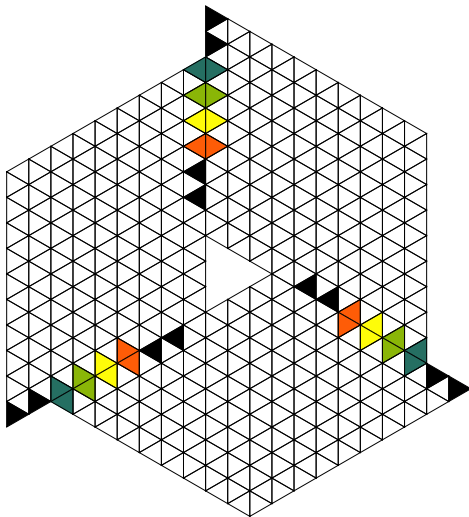
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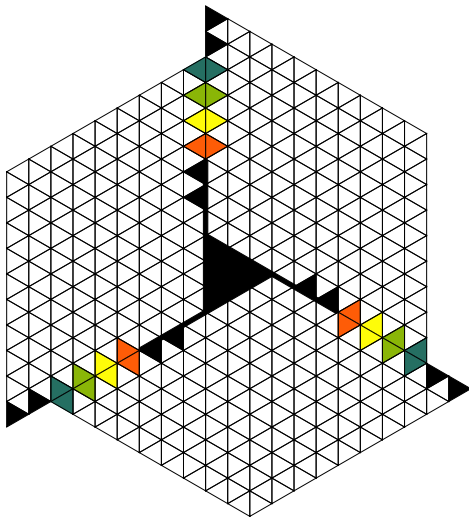
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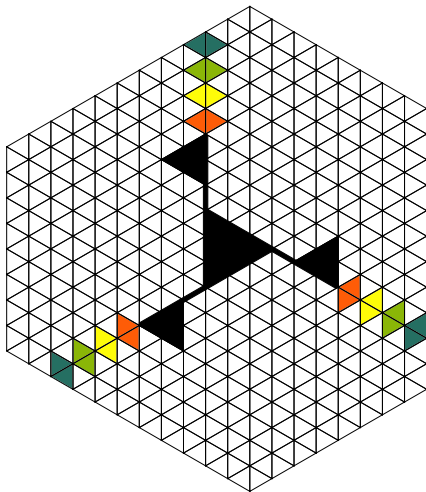
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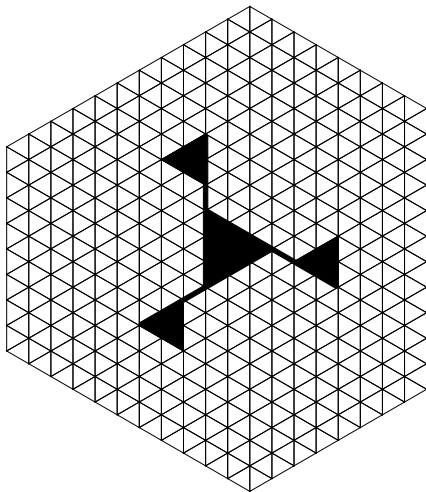
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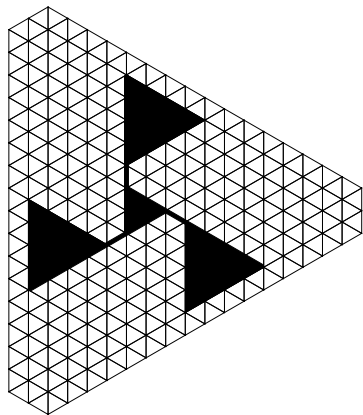
$$\lambda = 3$$



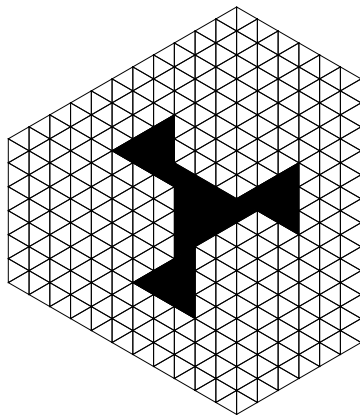


# Off-Diagonal Kronecker-Deltas

**Example:** Shapes for different choices parameters.



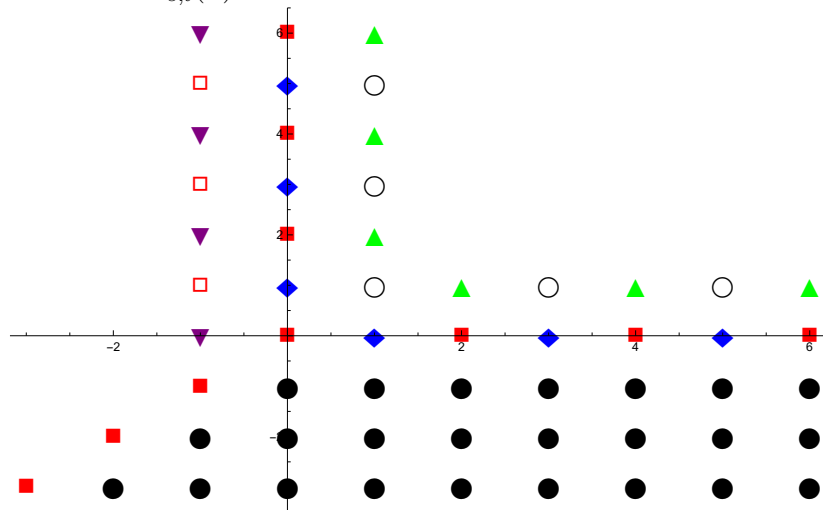
$$s = 5, t = 1, n = 5, \lambda = 2$$



$$s = -1, t = 2, n = 6, \lambda = 4$$

## More Results

We find closed-form evaluations of some infinite 1-dimensional families of  $D_{s,t}(n)$ .



## Example of an Infinite Family (A): Red Squares

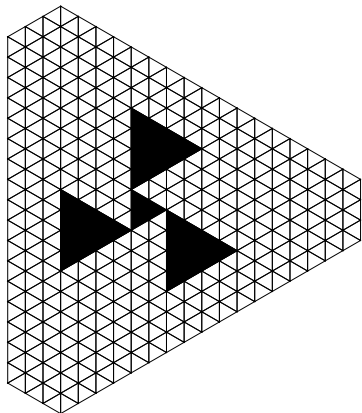
**Family A:** can be reduced to the base case  $D_{0,0}(n)$ :

$$D_{2r,0}(n) = D_{0,0}(n - 2r) \Big|_{\mu \rightarrow \mu + 6r}$$

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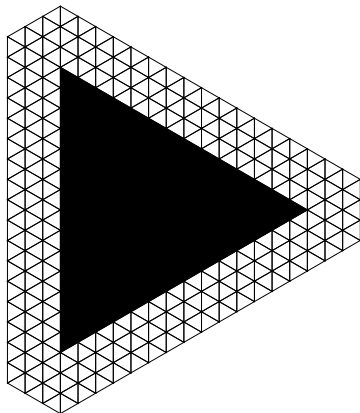
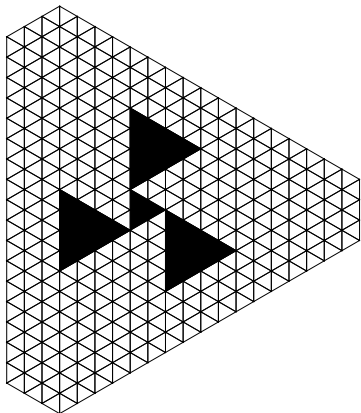
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## Example of an Infinite Family (B): Blue Diamonds

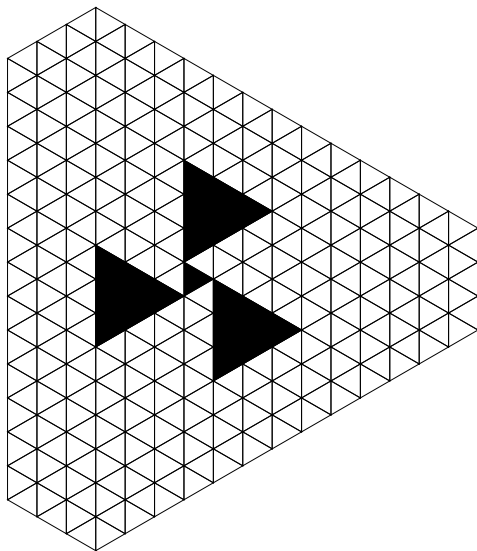
**Family B:** If  $n \geq 2r$  is an even number, then  $D_{2r-1,0}(n) = 0$ .

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$$\lambda = 1$$



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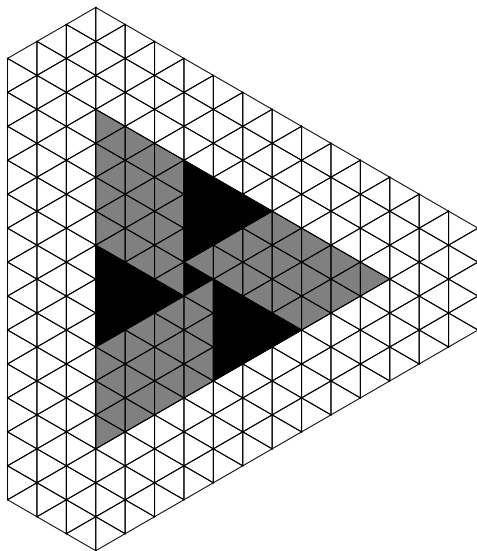
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$$\lambda = 1$$



## Example of an Infinite Family (B): Blue Diamonds

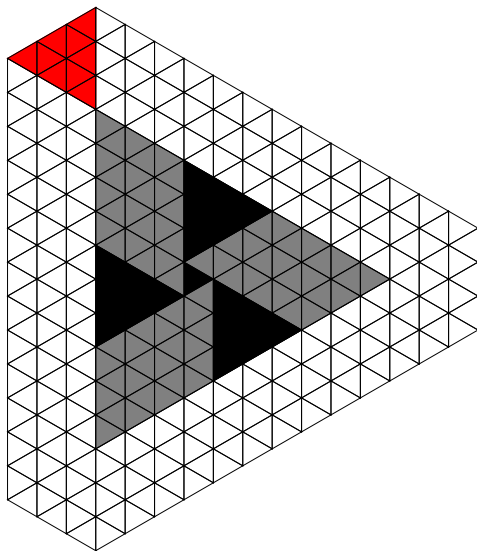
**Family B:** If  $n \geq 2r$  is an even number, then  $D_{2r-1,0}(n) = 0$ .

$$s = 3$$

$$t = 0$$

$$n = 6$$

$$\lambda = 1$$





## Example of an Infinite Family (B): Blue Diamonds

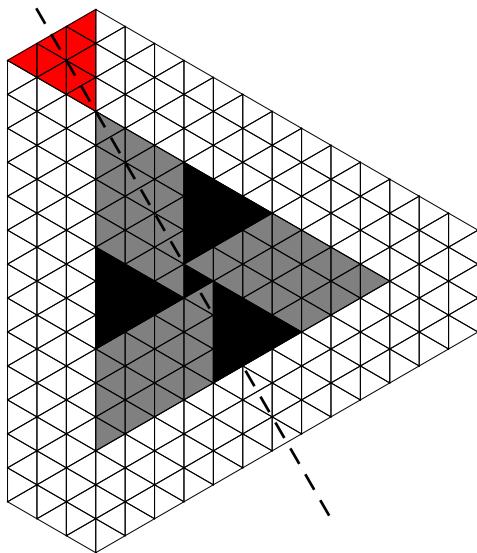
**Family B:** If  $n \geq 2r$  is an even number, then  $D_{2r-1,0}(n) = 0$ .

$$s = 3$$

$$t = 0$$

$$n = 6$$

$$\lambda = 1$$



## Example of an Infinite Family (B): Blue Diamonds

**Theorem.** Let  $\mu$  be an indeterminate, and let  $r$  and  $n$  be positive integers. If  $n$  is an odd number, then

$$D_{2r-1,0}(n) = \prod_{i=r}^{(n-1)/2} (-R_{2r-1,0}(i)),$$

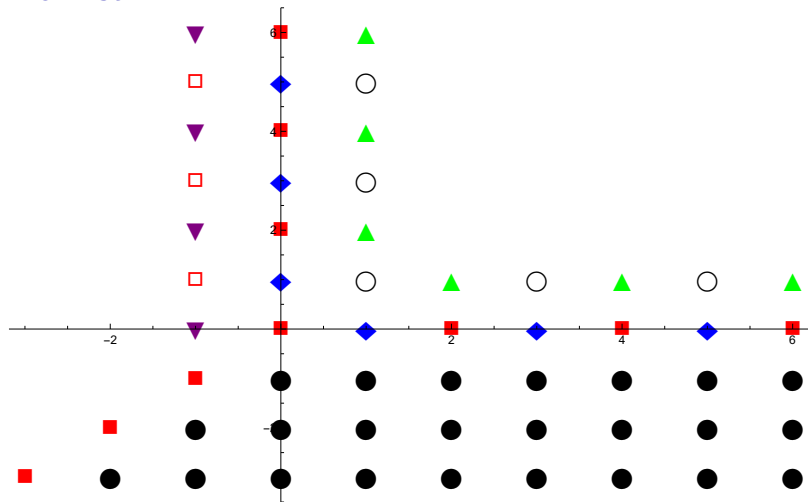
where  $R_{2r-1,0}(n) =$

$$\frac{(\mu + 2n + 4r - 4)_{n-r+1} (\mu + 2n + 4r - 3)_{n-r} \left(\frac{\mu}{2} + 2n + r - \frac{1}{2}\right)_{n-r}^2}{(n-r+1)_{n-r+1} (n-r+1)_{n-r} \left(\frac{\mu}{2} + n + 2r - \frac{3}{2}\right)_{n-r}^2}$$

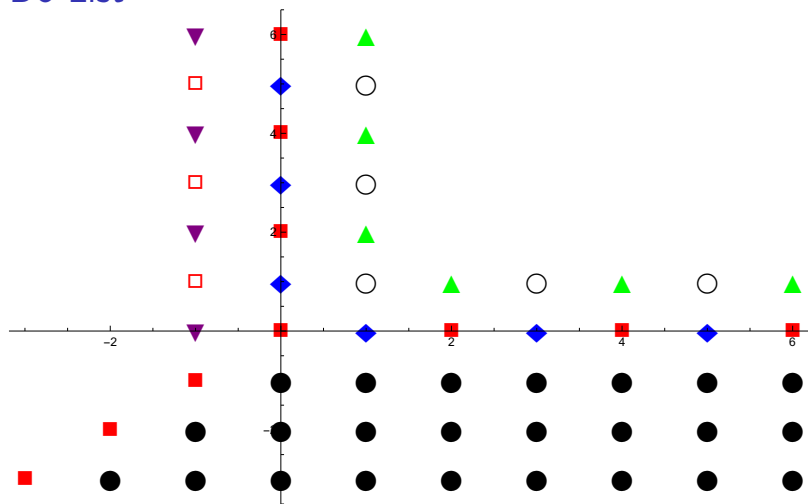
i.e.,  $R_{2r-1,0}(n) = D_{2r-1,0}(2n+1)/D_{2r-1,0}(2n-1)$  for  $n \geq r$ .  
If  $n \geq 2r$  is an even number, then  $D_{2r-1,0}(n) = 0$ . Moreover,

$$D_{0,2r-1}(n) = \left( \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{(\mu + i - 1)_{2r-1}}{(i+1)_{2r-1}} \right) \cdot D_{2r-1,0}(n).$$

# To Do List

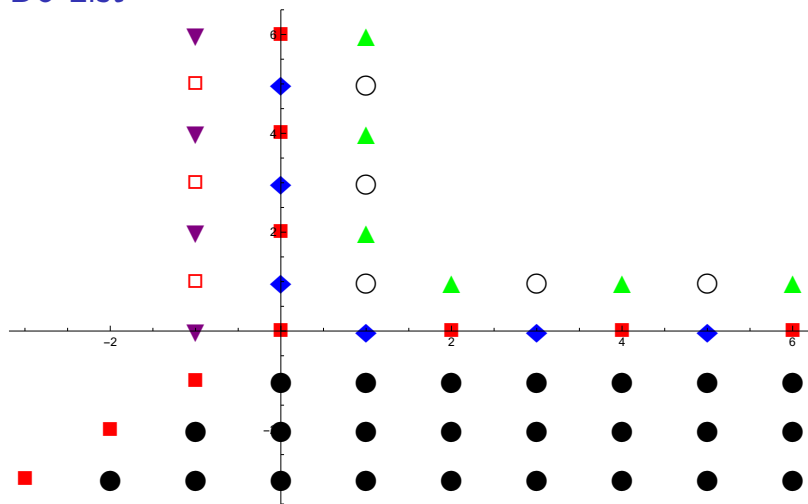


# To Do List



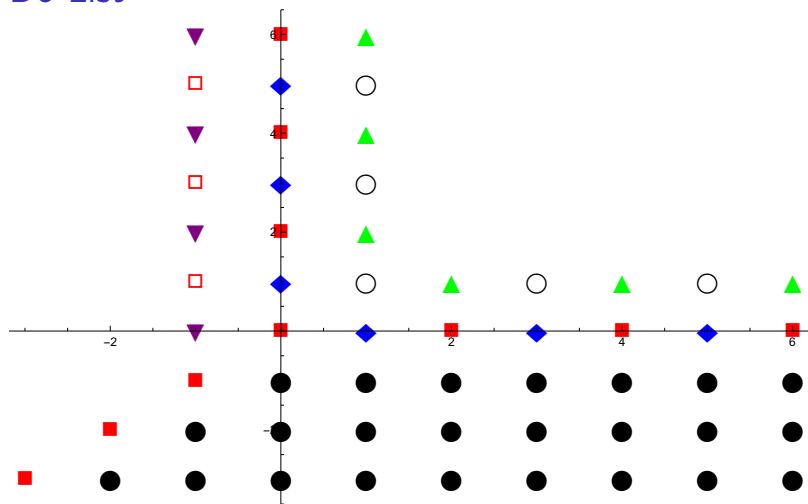
✓ Done: Red Squares and Blue Diamonds (Combinatorics)

## To Do List



- ✓ Done: Red Squares and Blue Diamonds (Combinatorics)
- ✓ Follows: Hollow Squares and Hollow Circles (DJD)

# To Do List



- ✓ Done: Red Squares and Blue Diamonds (Combinatorics)
- ✓ Follows: Hollow Squares and Hollow Circles (DJD)
- ✓ To Do: Purple and Green Triangles

## Reference

Christoph Koutschan and Thotsaporn Thanatipanonda:  
*A Curious Family of Binomial Determinants That Count Rhombus  
Tilings of a Holey Hexagon*

- ▶ arxiv:1709.02616
- ▶ <http://www.koutschan.de/data/det2/>