

Escuela de Investigación CIMPA  
"Álgebra, Combinatoria y Física"

Facultad de Ingeniería, Universidad de Valparaíso, Chile  
Valparaíso, 20-31 Enero 2014 -

29 Enero 2014  
curso I

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LaBRI, CNRS, Bordeaux

<http://cours.xavierviennot.org>

**Courses Talca, Chile 2013/2014**

**Cours Universidad de Talca**

(December 2013 - January 2014)

**Heaps of pieces (24 h)**

(with interactions in mathematics and physics)

Basic definitions and theorems:

Ch1 Commutations monoids and heaps of pieces: basic definitions

Ch2 Generating functions for heaps of pieces

Ch3 Heaps and paths, flow monoids, rearrangements

Some applications in classical mathematics:

Ch4 Heaps and linear algebra: bijective proofs of classical theorems

Ch5 Heaps and combinatorial theory of orthogonal polynomials  
and continued fractions

Ch6 Heaps and algebraic graph theory

Some applications in theoretical physics:

Ch7 Directed animals and gas model in statistical physics,  
Lorentzian triangulations in 2D quantum gravity

Ch8 Polyominoes, q-analogue and SOS model in physics

Applications to more advanced mathematics:

Ch9 Fully commutative class of words in Coxeter groups

[Representation theory in Lie algebras with operators on heaps]

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**Courses Talca, Chile 2013/2014**  
**Cours Universidad de Talca**  
(December 2013 - January 2014)  
**Heaps of pieces (24 h)**  
(with interactions in mathematics and physics)

X.G.Viennot,

Introduction to the theory of pieces with applications to statistical mechanics and quantum gravity

in workshop “*Combinatorial Identities & their Applications in Statistical Mechanics*”,

Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Science, Cambridge, 7 April 2008

slides and video

Ch 1

Commutation monoids  
and heaps of pieces:  
basic definitions

§1 Commutation monoids

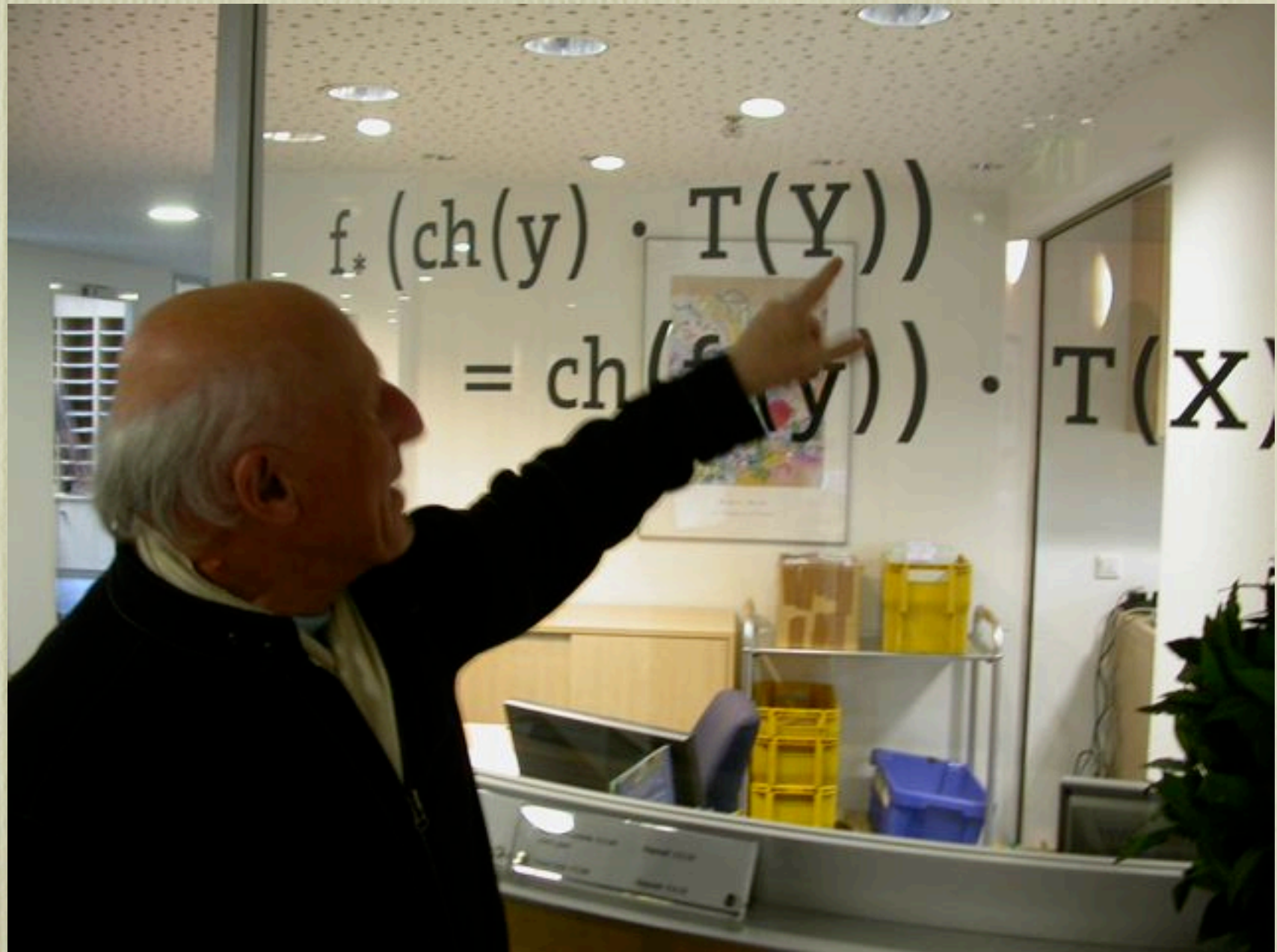
Cartier-Foata

commutation

monoid

Lecture Note in Maths n°85 (1969)

"Problèmes combinatoires de  
commutation et réarrangements"







alphabet  
free monoid

$A$   
 $A^*$

words  $w = a_1 a_2 \dots a_p$

product : concatenation

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} u = a_1 \dots a_p \\ v = b_1 \dots b_q \end{array} \right\} uv = a_1 \dots a_p b_1 \dots b_q$$

empty word

commutation

relation

$C$

antireflexive  
symmetric

$\equiv_C$

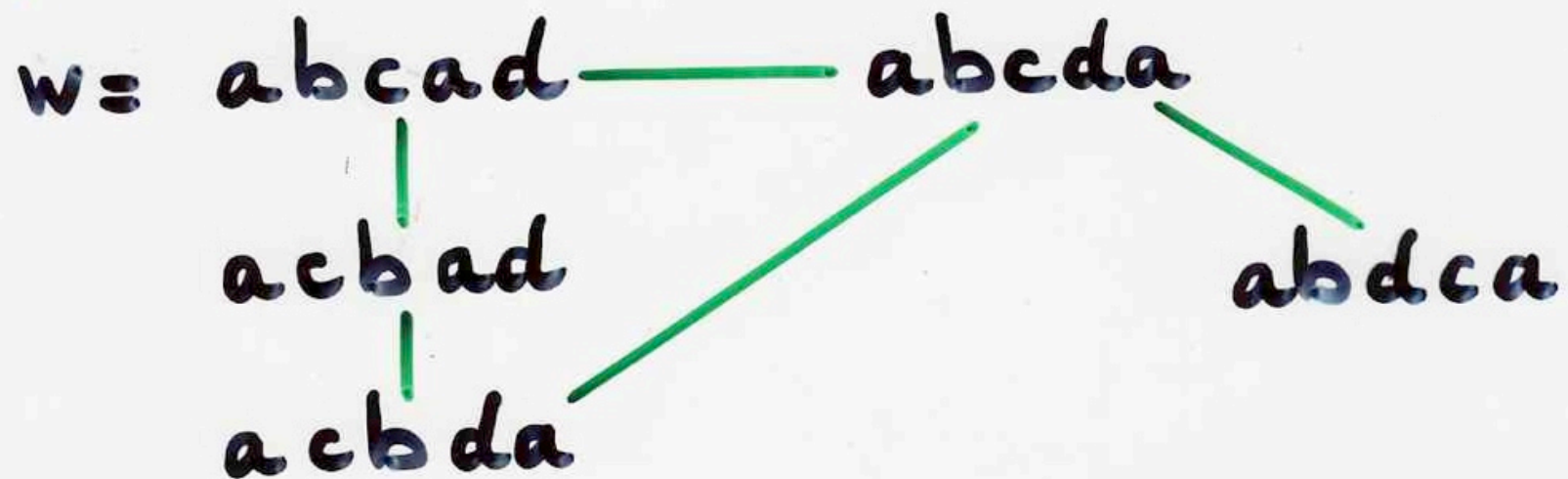
congruence of  $A^*$  generated  
by the commutations

$$ab \equiv ba \text{ iff } aCb$$

ex:  $A = \{a, b, c, d\}$

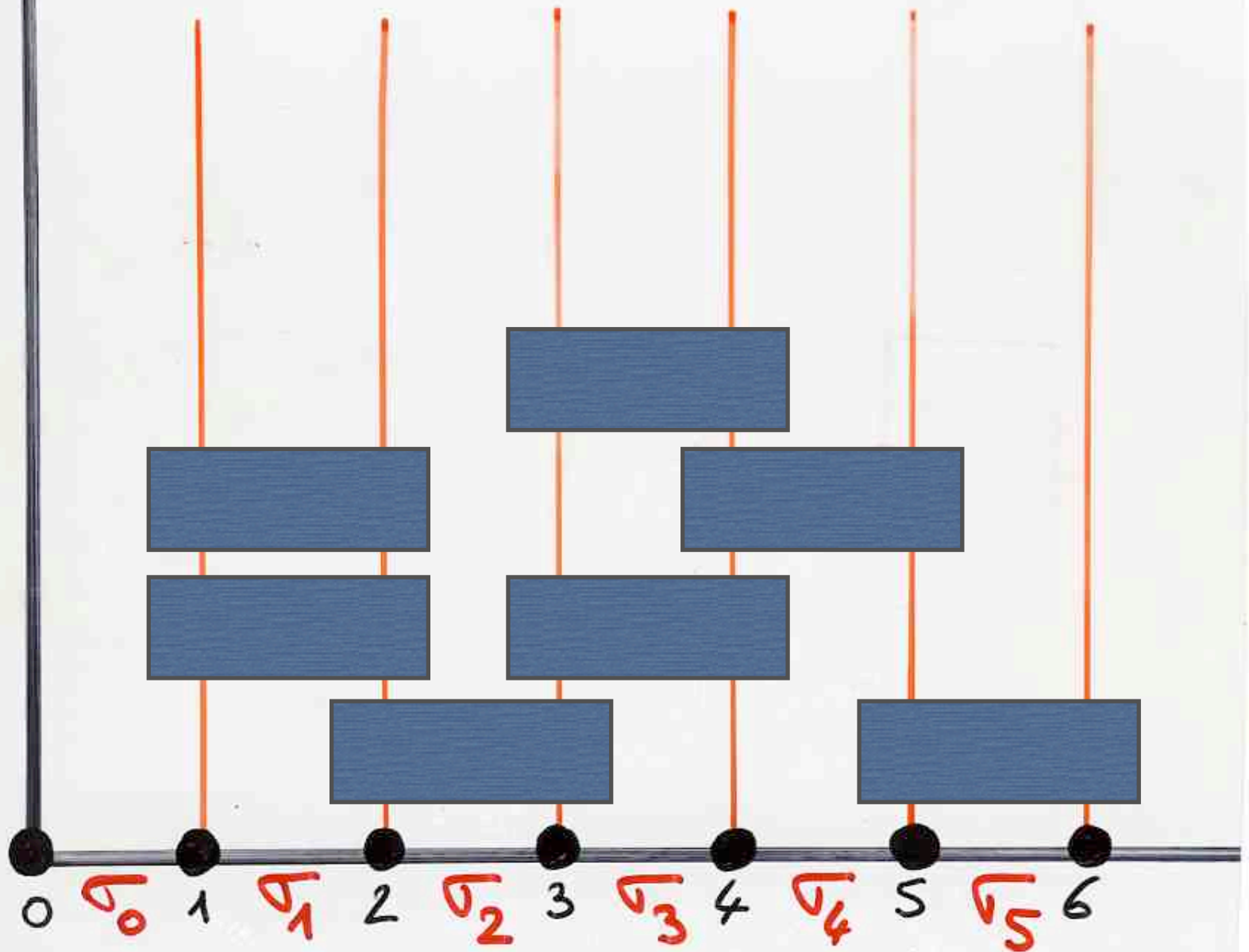
$C \begin{cases} ad = da \\ bc = cb \\ cd = dc \end{cases}$

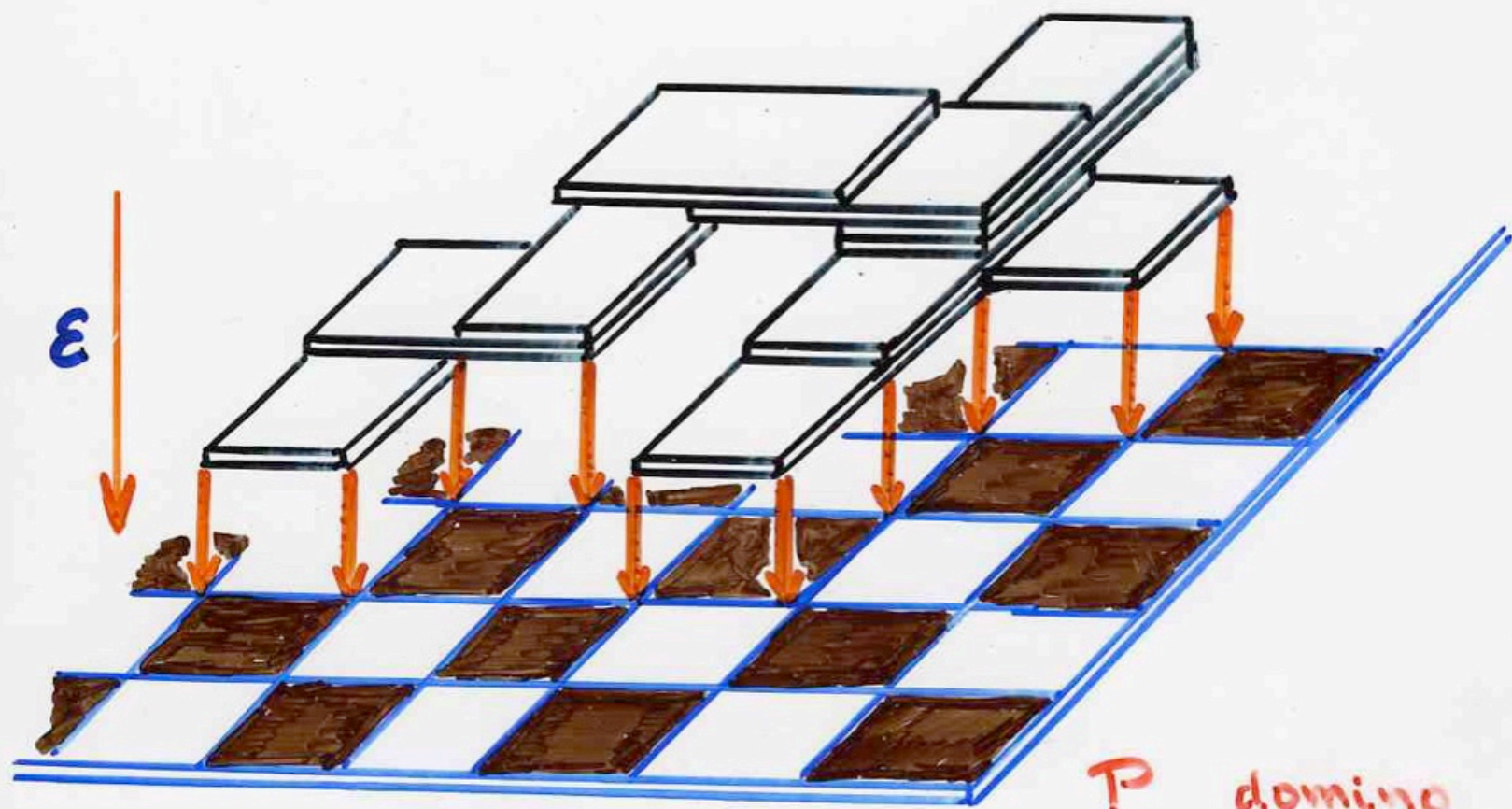
equivalence class



§2 Heaps of pieces:  
basic definitions

$$W = \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \sigma_5 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_3$$





$$B = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$$

$P$  domino

$$\pi = \text{Id}$$

# heap

## definition

- $\mathcal{P}$  set (of basic pieces)
- $\mathcal{E}$  binary relation on  $\mathcal{P}$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{symmetric} \\ \text{reflexive} \end{array} \right.$   
(dependency relation)
- heap  $E$ , finite set of pairs  
 $(\alpha, i)$   $\alpha \in \mathcal{P}, i \in \mathbb{N}$  (called pieces)  
 $\swarrow$   $\nwarrow$   
projection level

(i)

(ii)

# heap

## definition

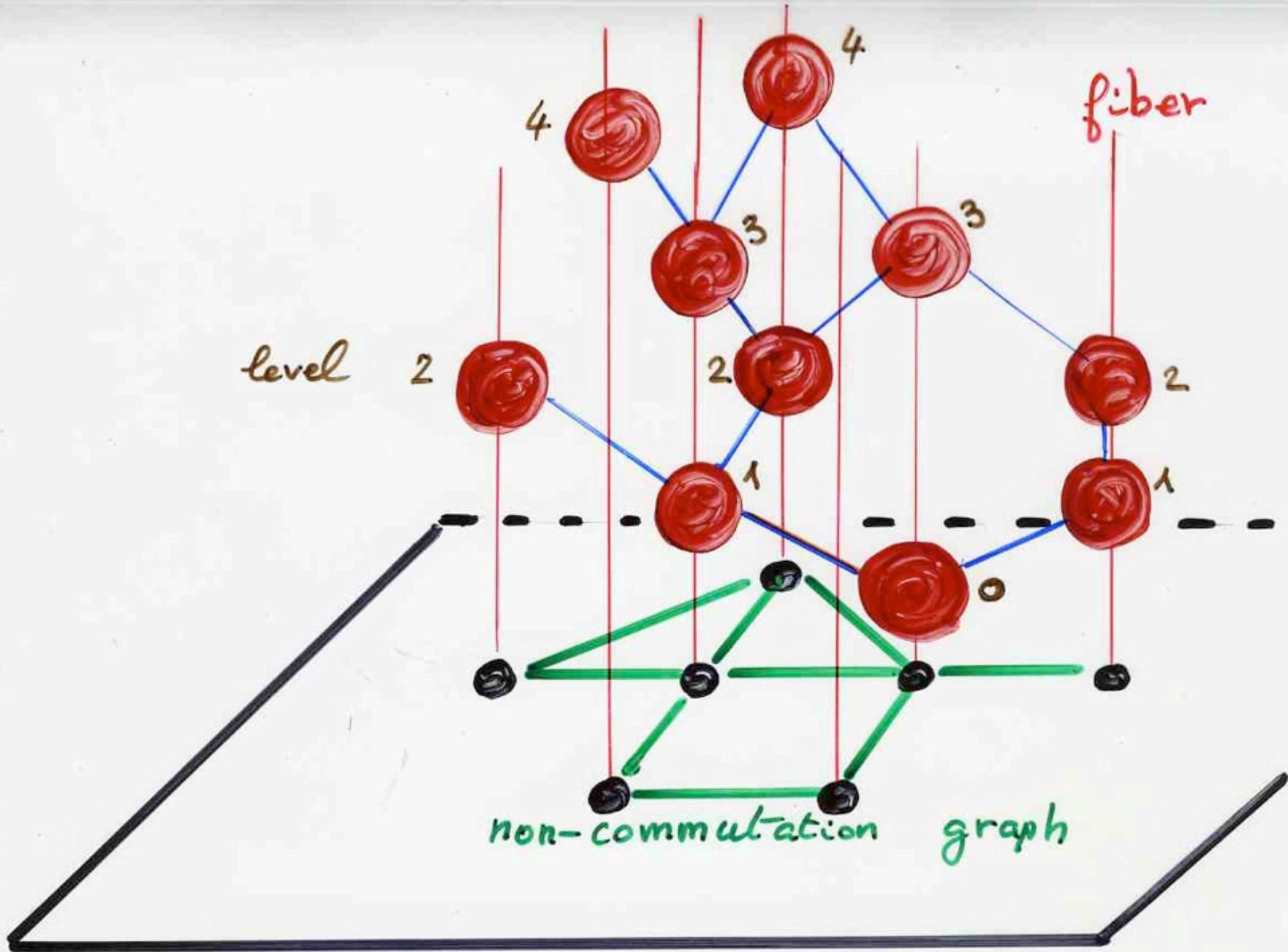
- $\mathcal{P}$  set (of basic pieces)
- $\mathcal{C}$  binary relation on  $\mathcal{P}$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{symmetric} \\ \text{reflexive} \end{array} \right.$   
(dependency relation)
- heap  $E$ , finite set of pairs  
 $(\alpha, i)$   $\alpha \in \mathcal{P}, i \in \mathbb{N}$  (called pieces)

projection      level

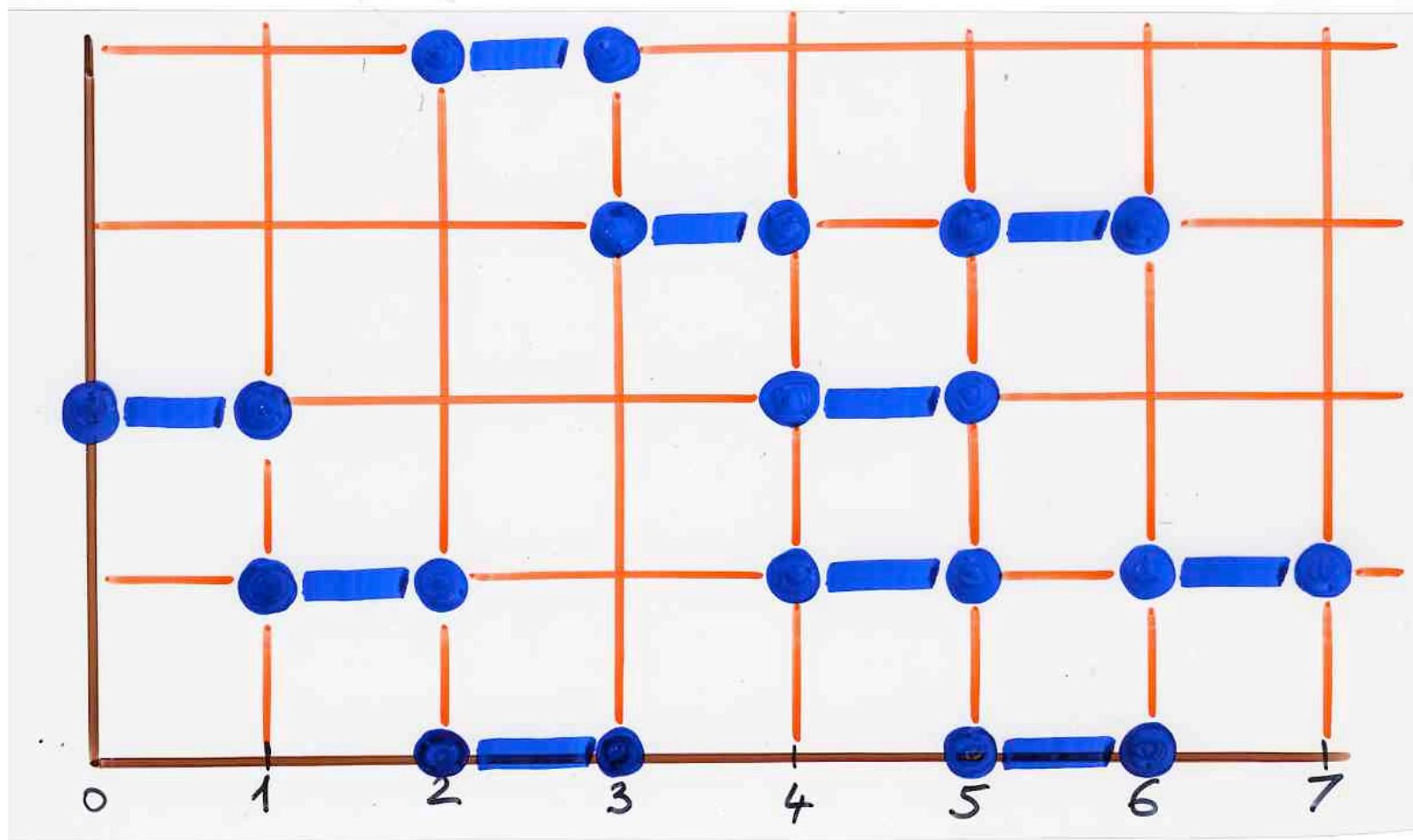
$$(i) \quad (\alpha, i), (\beta, j) \in E, \alpha \mathcal{C} \beta \implies i \neq j$$

$$(ii) \quad (\alpha, i) \in E, i > 0 \implies \exists \beta \in \mathcal{P}, \alpha \mathcal{C} \beta, \\ (\beta, i-1) \in E$$

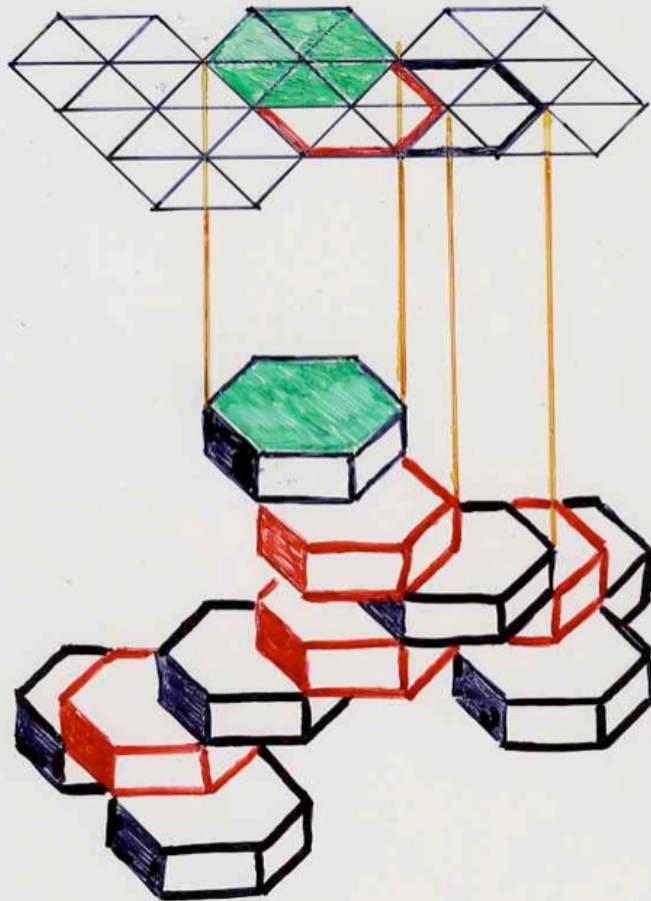




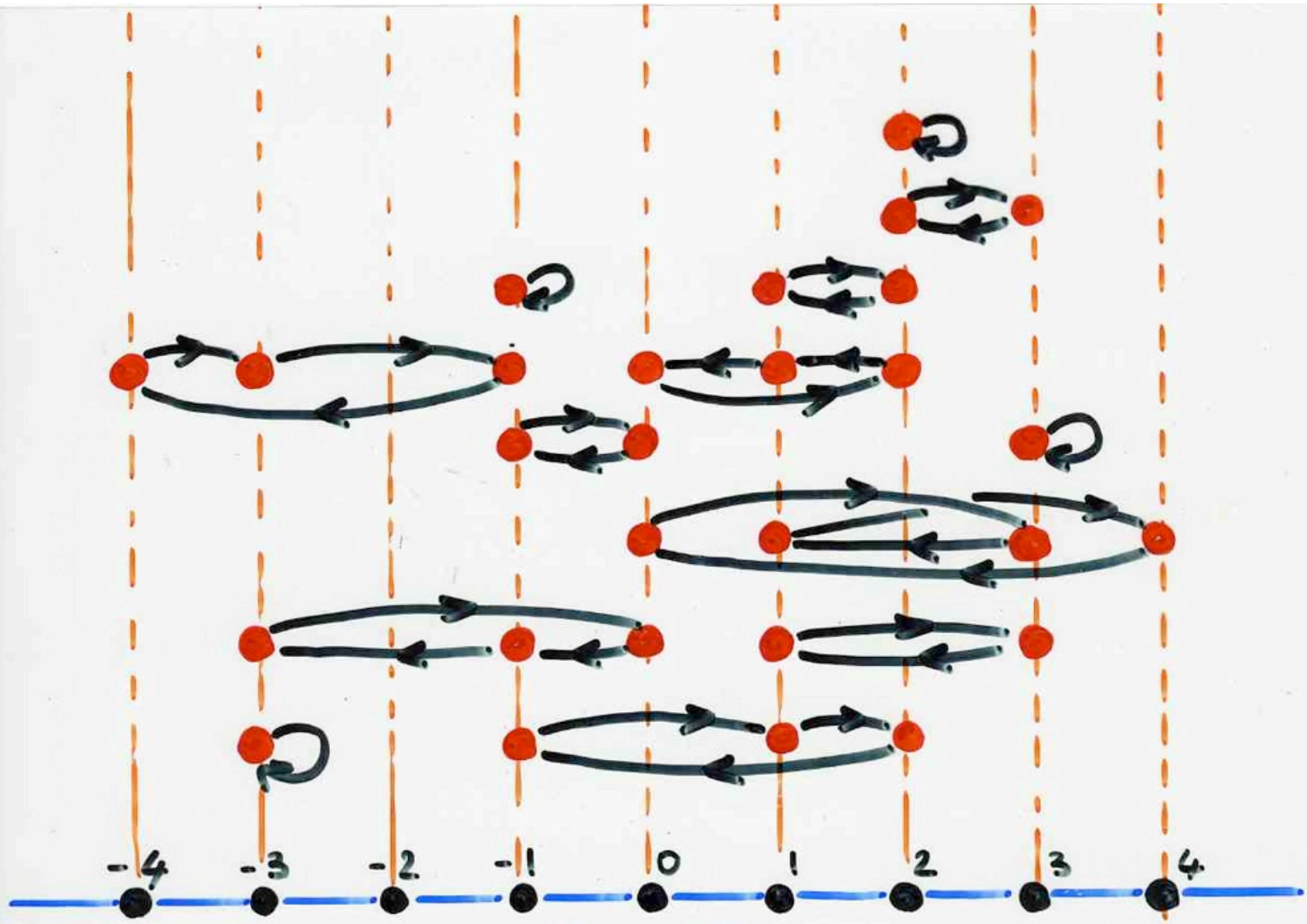
# Heap of dimers over $[1, n]$



$$-p(-t) = y$$



10.



$$B = \mathbb{Z}$$

P  
C

cycles on  $\mathbb{Z}$   
intersection

# Proposition

$$\text{Heap}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}) \cong \mathcal{P}^* / \equiv \mathcal{C}$$

commutation monoid

$$\mathcal{C} = \overline{\mathcal{E}}$$

complementary relation

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

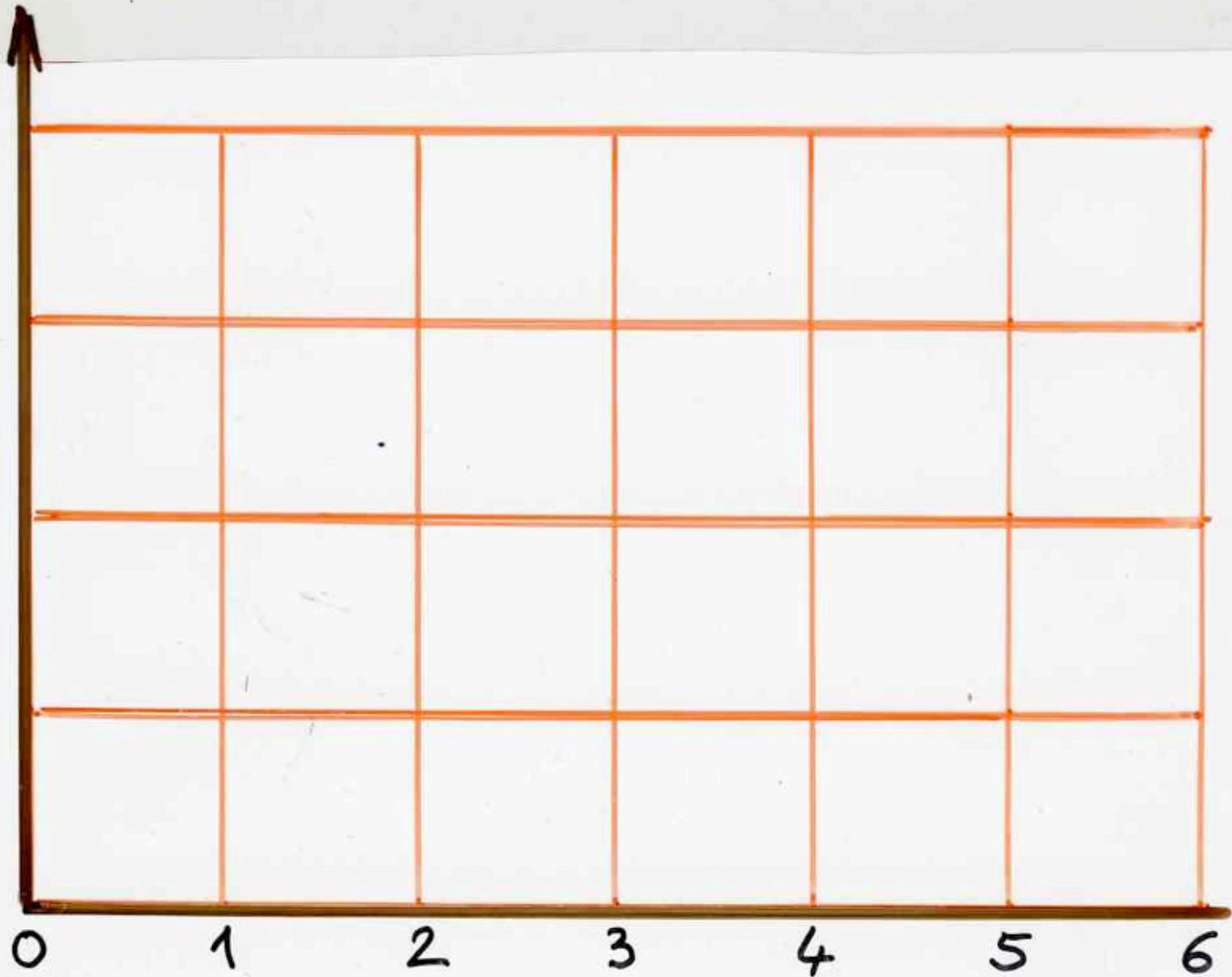
on  $\{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$

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

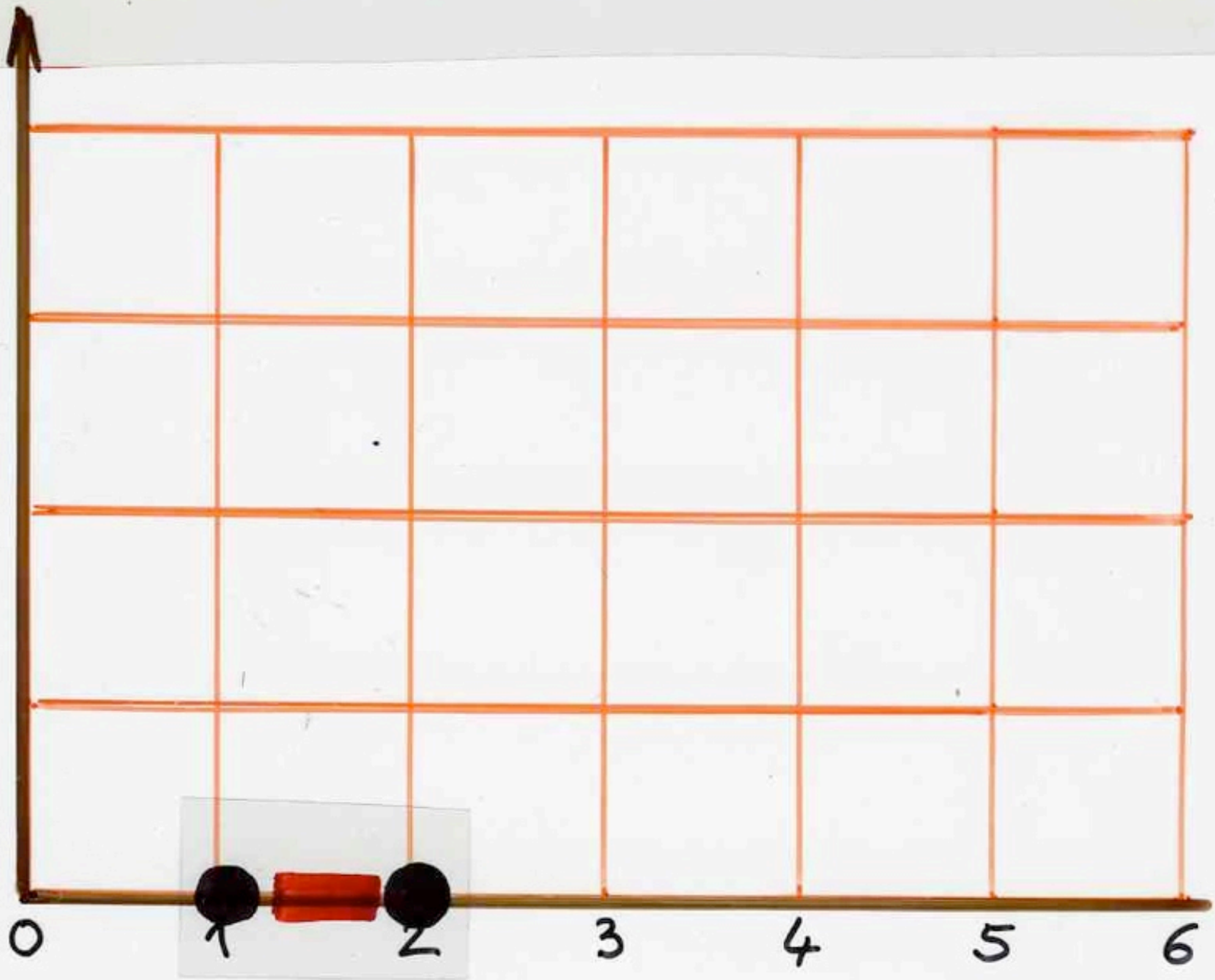
$$\sigma_i \sigma_j = \sigma_j \sigma_i$$

$$\text{iff } |i-j| \geq 2$$

$$w = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \sigma_0 \sigma_4$$

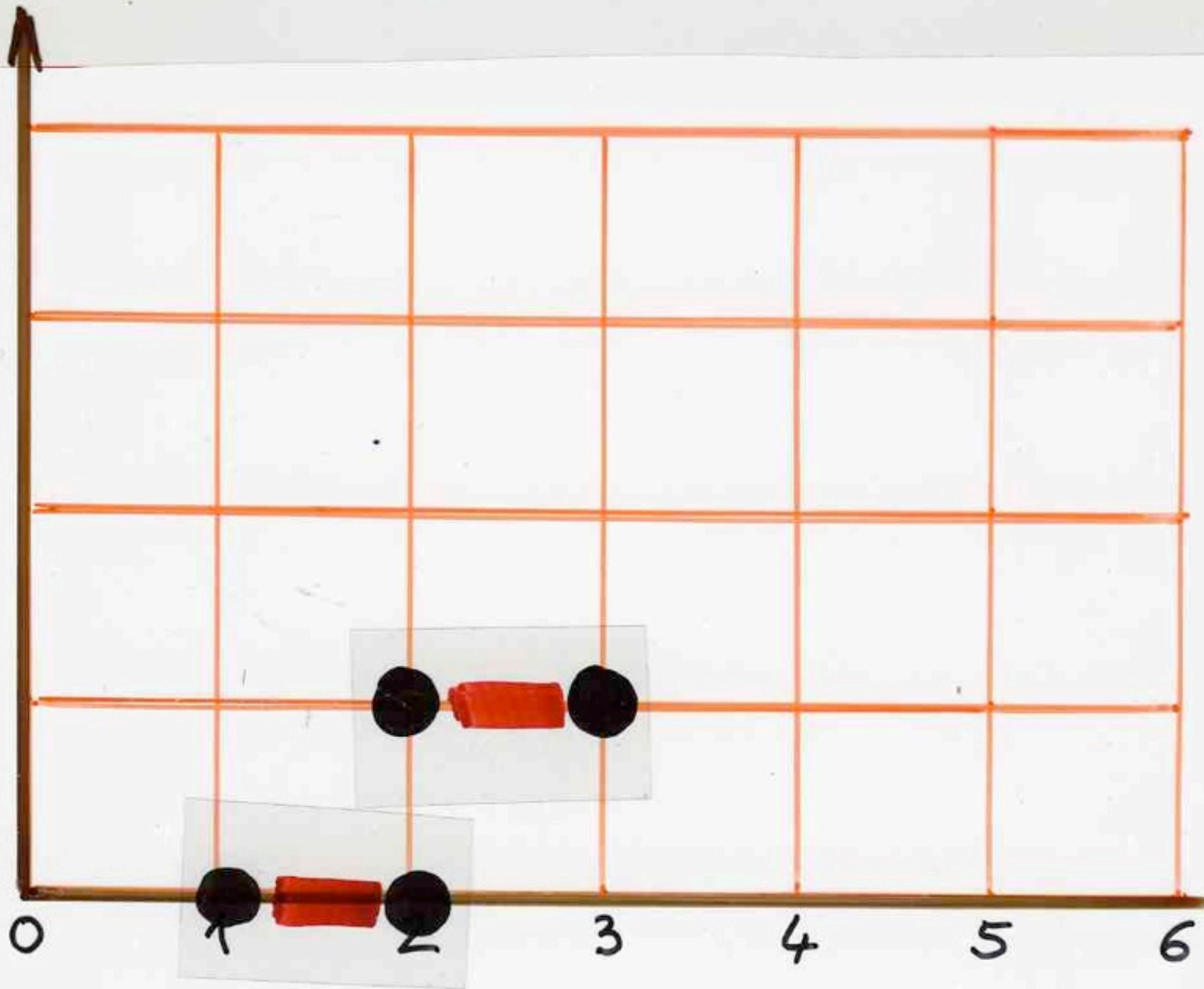


$$w = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \sigma_0 \sigma_4$$

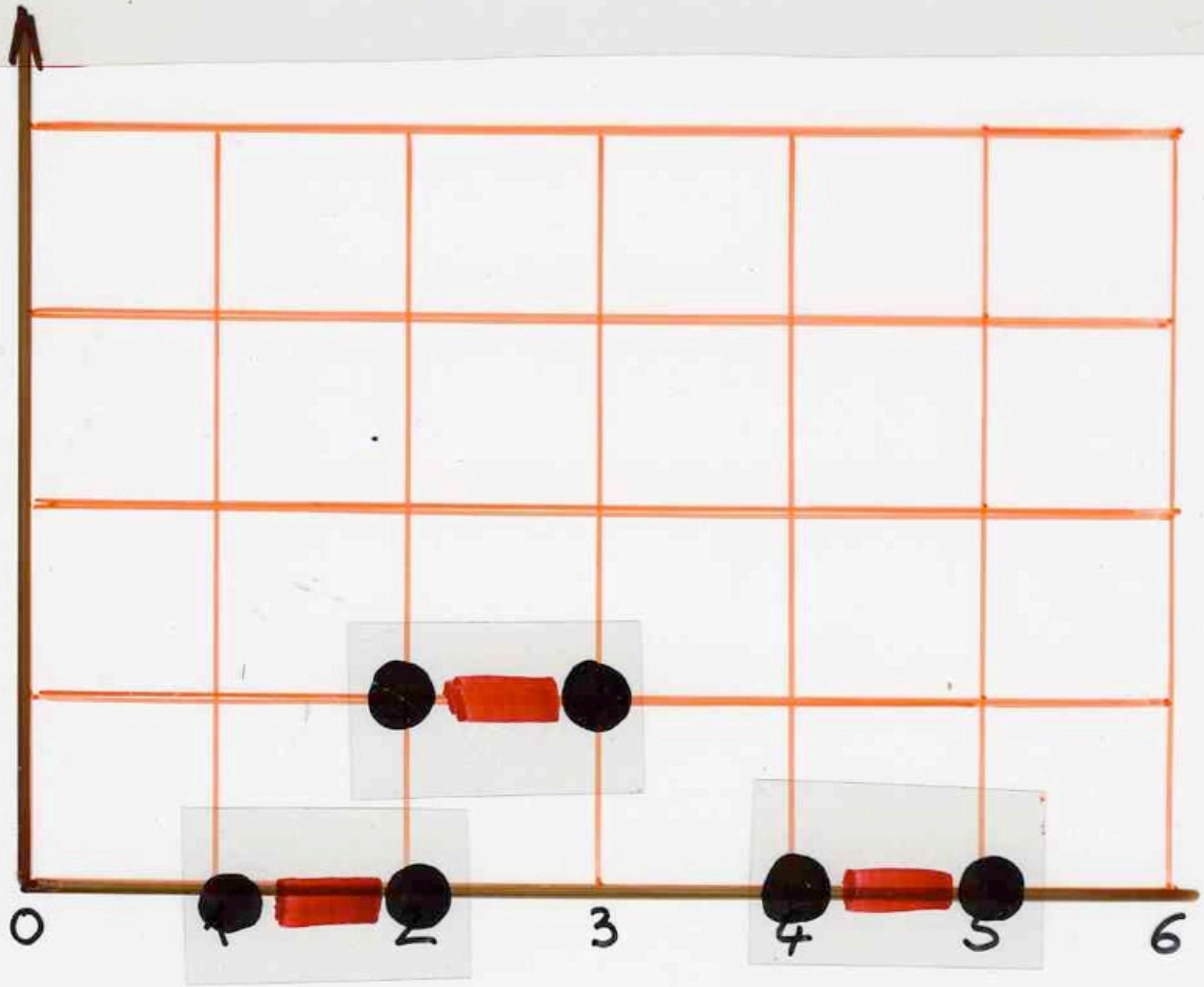




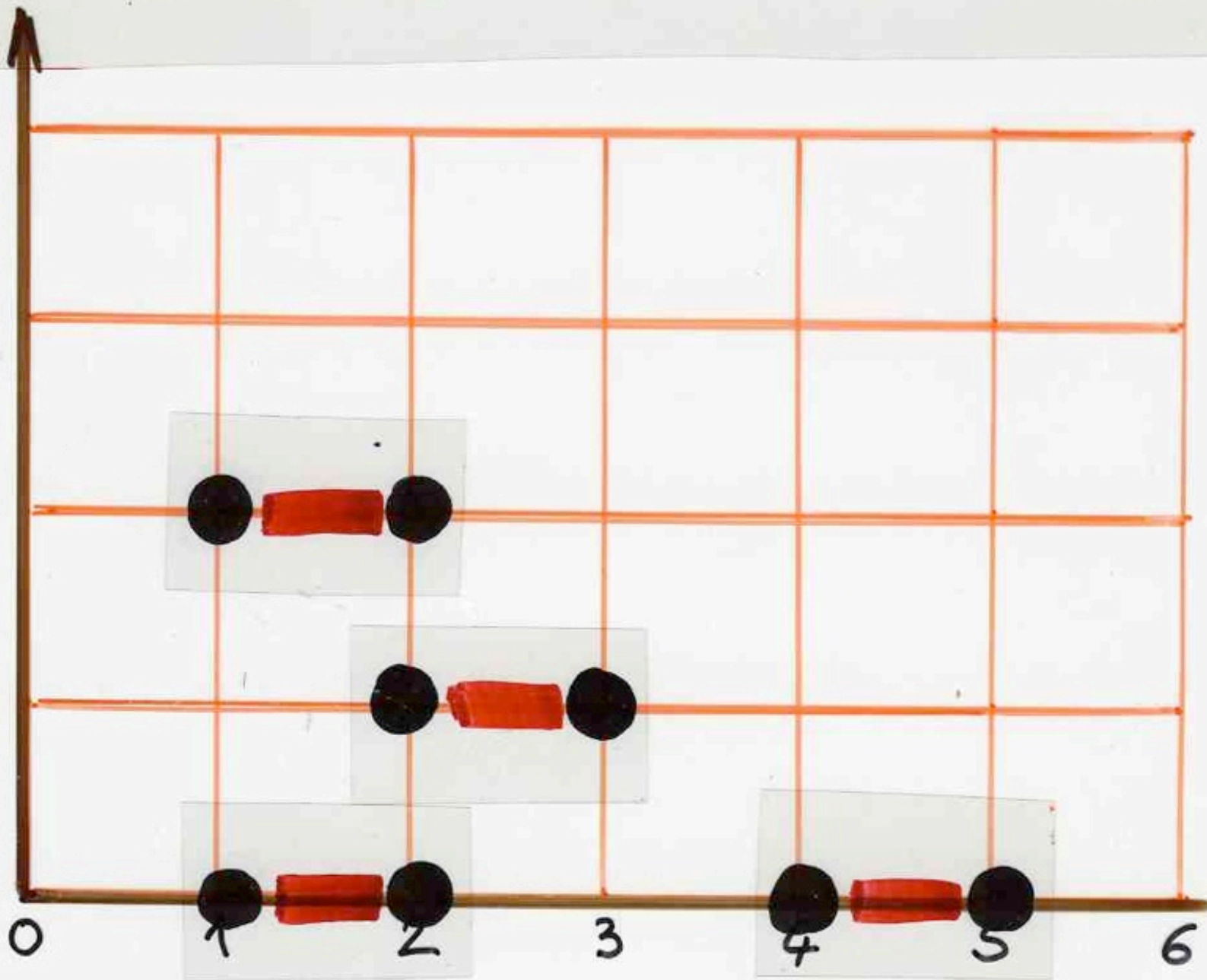
$$W = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \sigma_0 \sigma_4$$



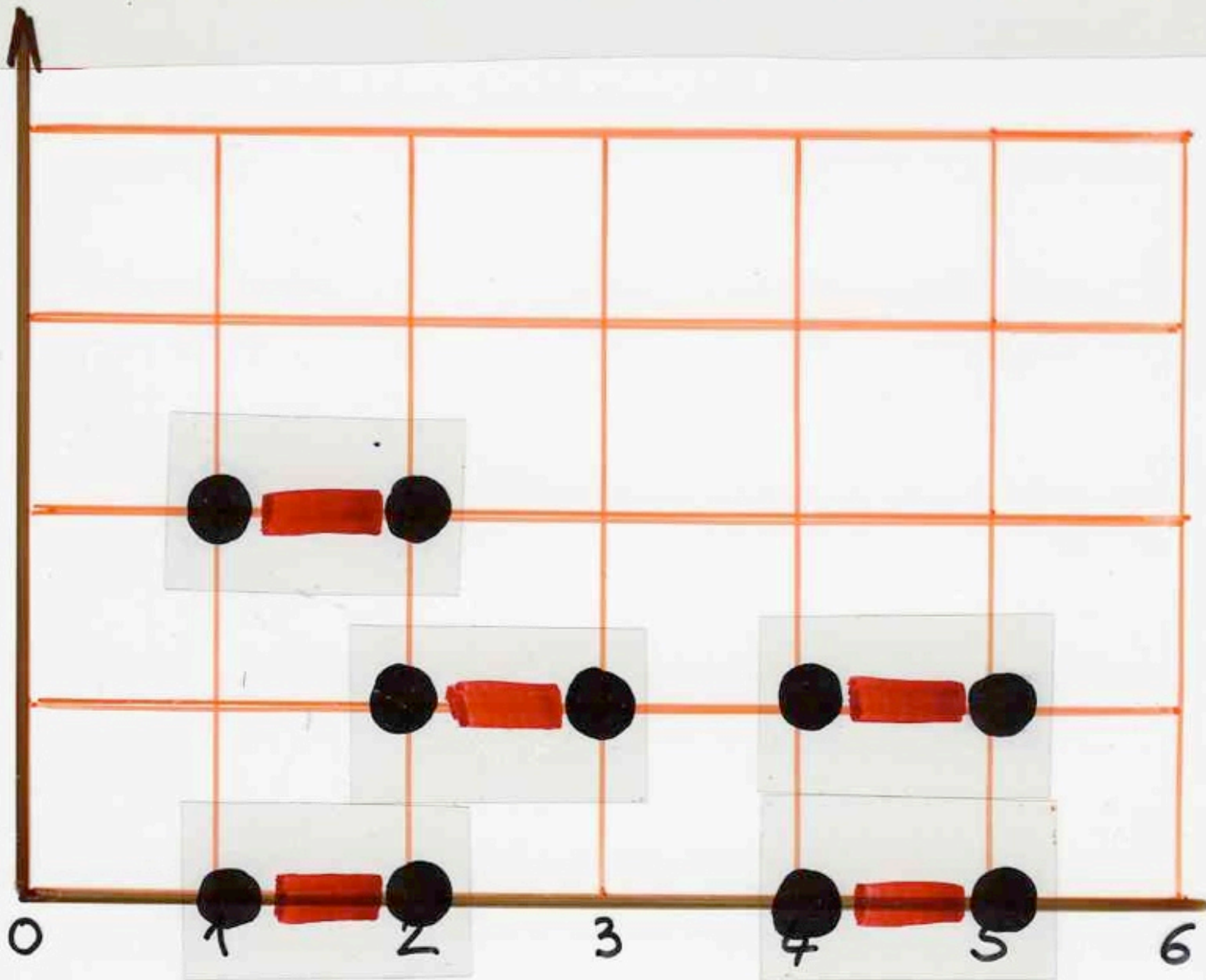
$$w = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \sigma_0 \sigma_4$$



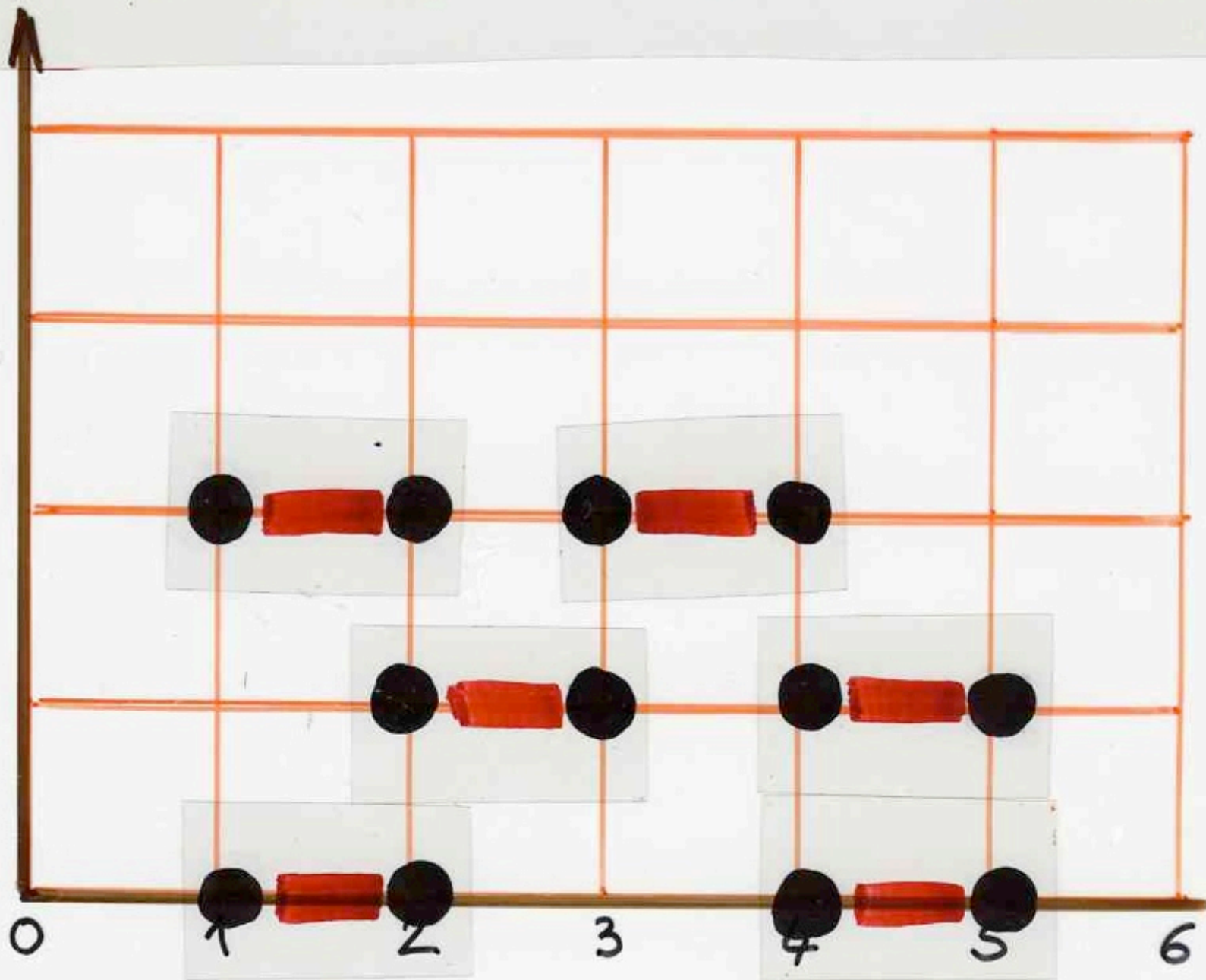
$$W = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \sigma_0 \sigma_4$$



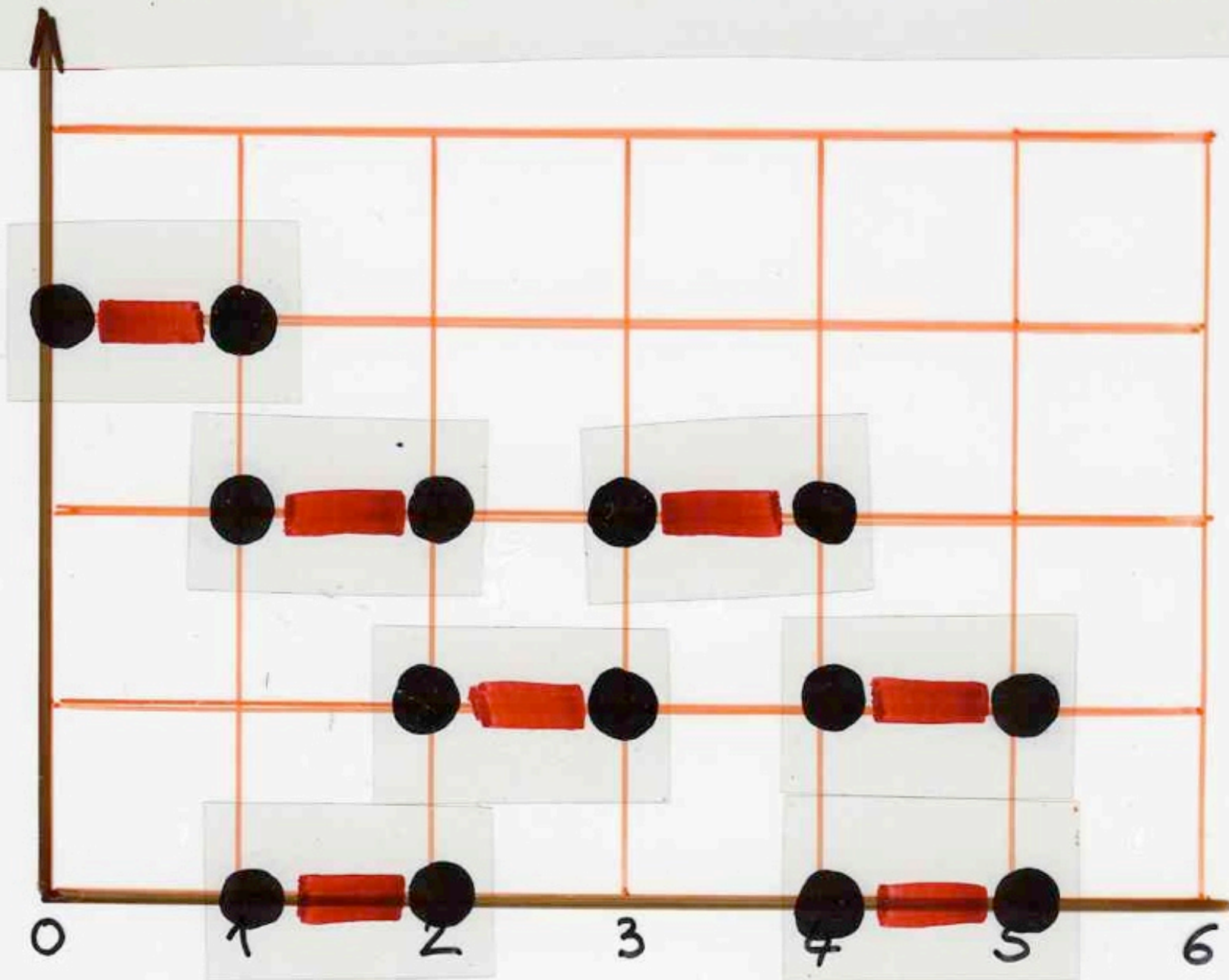
$$w = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \sigma_0 \sigma_4$$



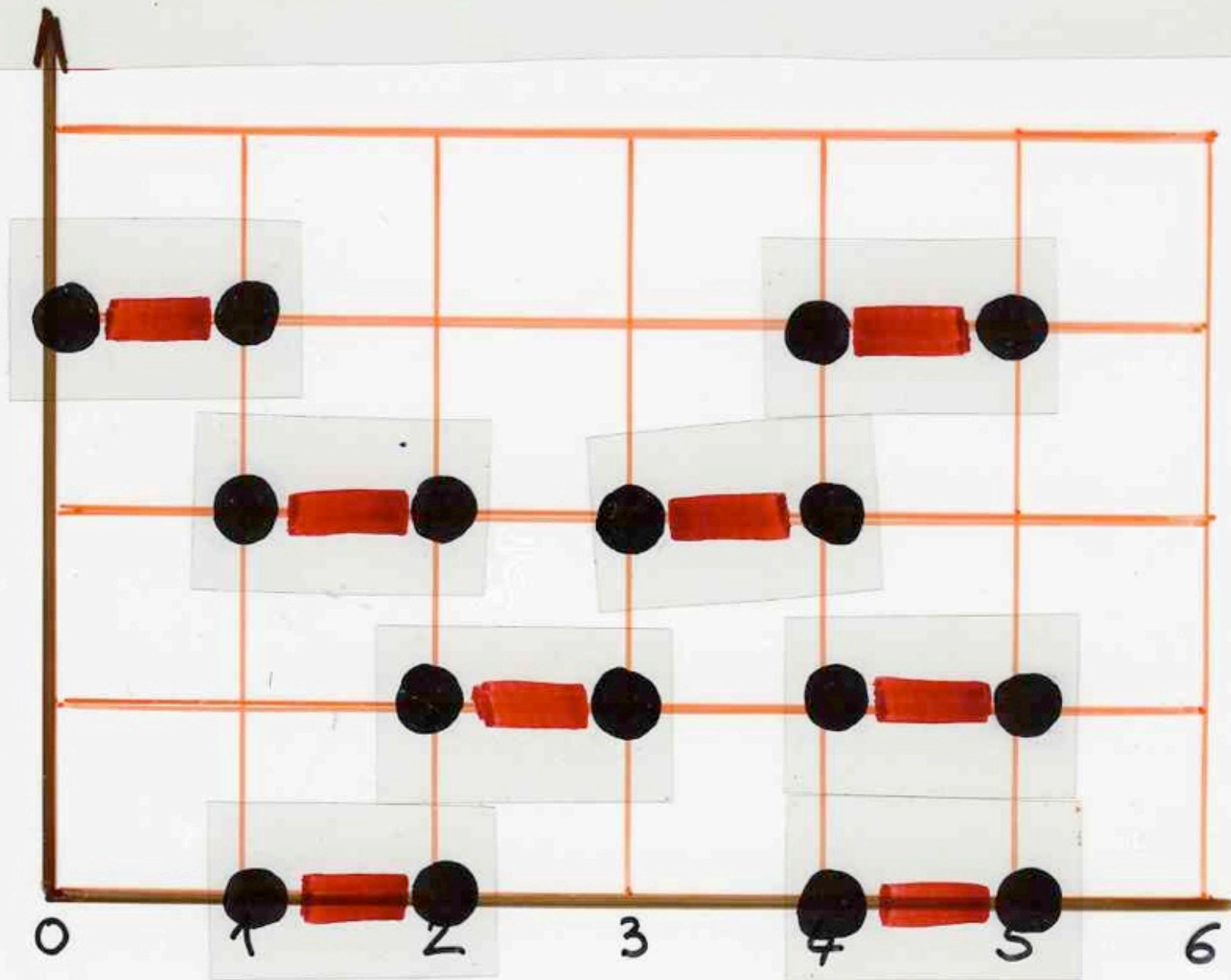
$$W = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \sigma_0 \sigma_4$$



$$W = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \sigma_0 \sigma_4$$

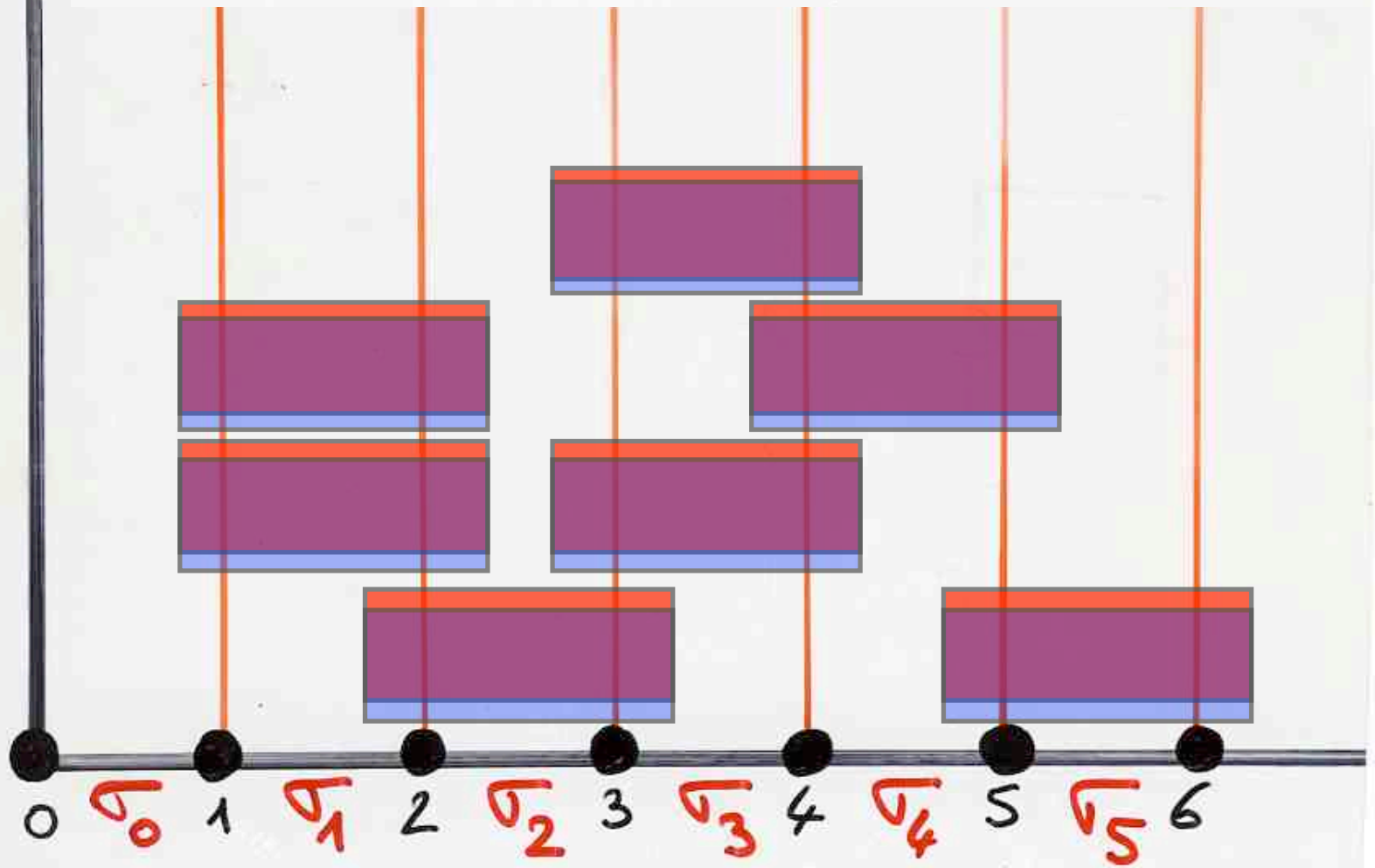


$$W = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \sigma_0 \sigma_4$$



$$W = \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \sigma_5 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_3$$

$$W = \sigma_5 \sigma_2 \sigma_1 \sigma_1 \sigma_3 \sigma_4 \sigma_3$$





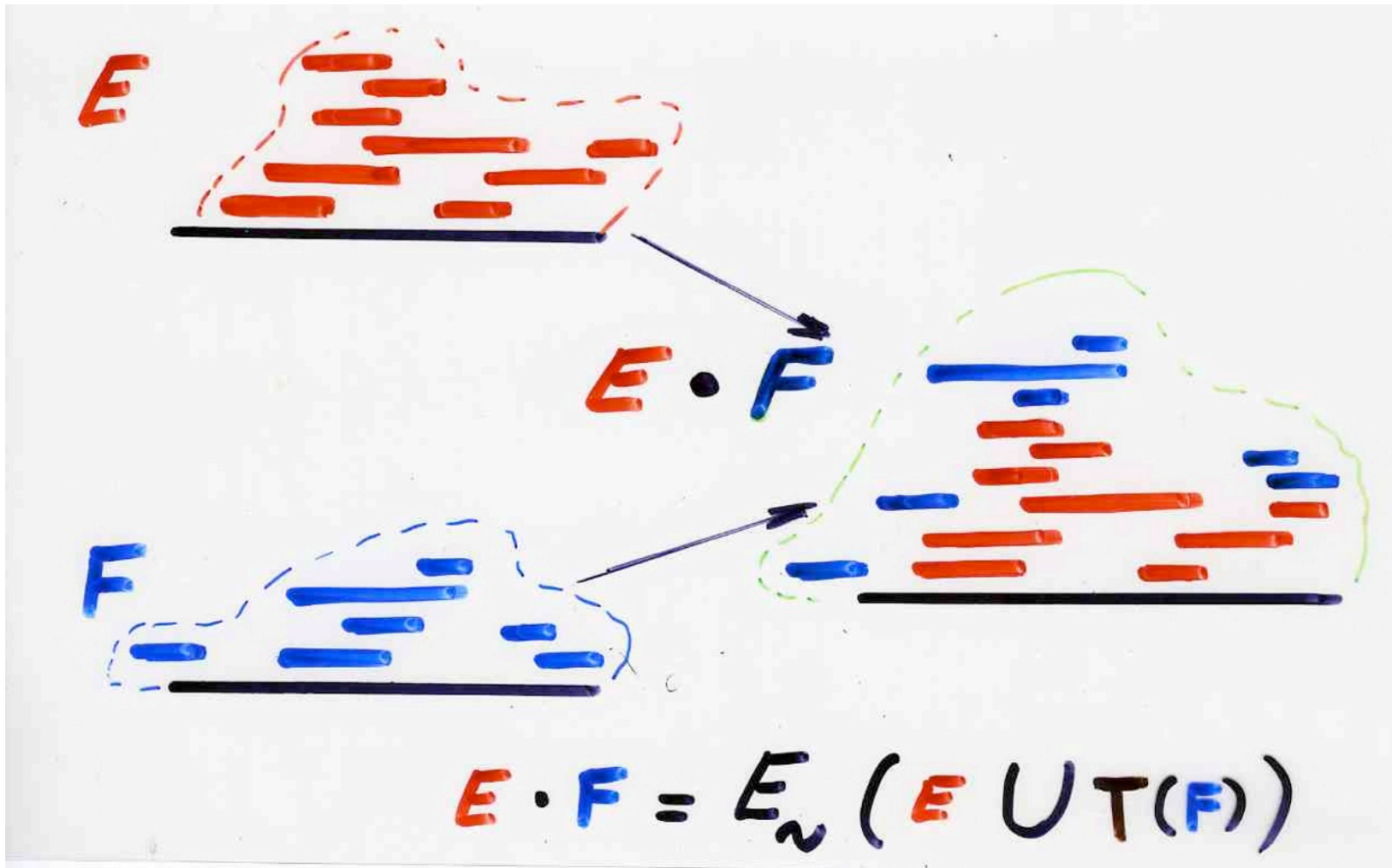
# Proposition

$$\text{Heap}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}) \cong \mathcal{P}^* / \equiv \mathcal{C}$$

commutation monoid

$$\mathcal{C} = \overline{\mathcal{E}}$$

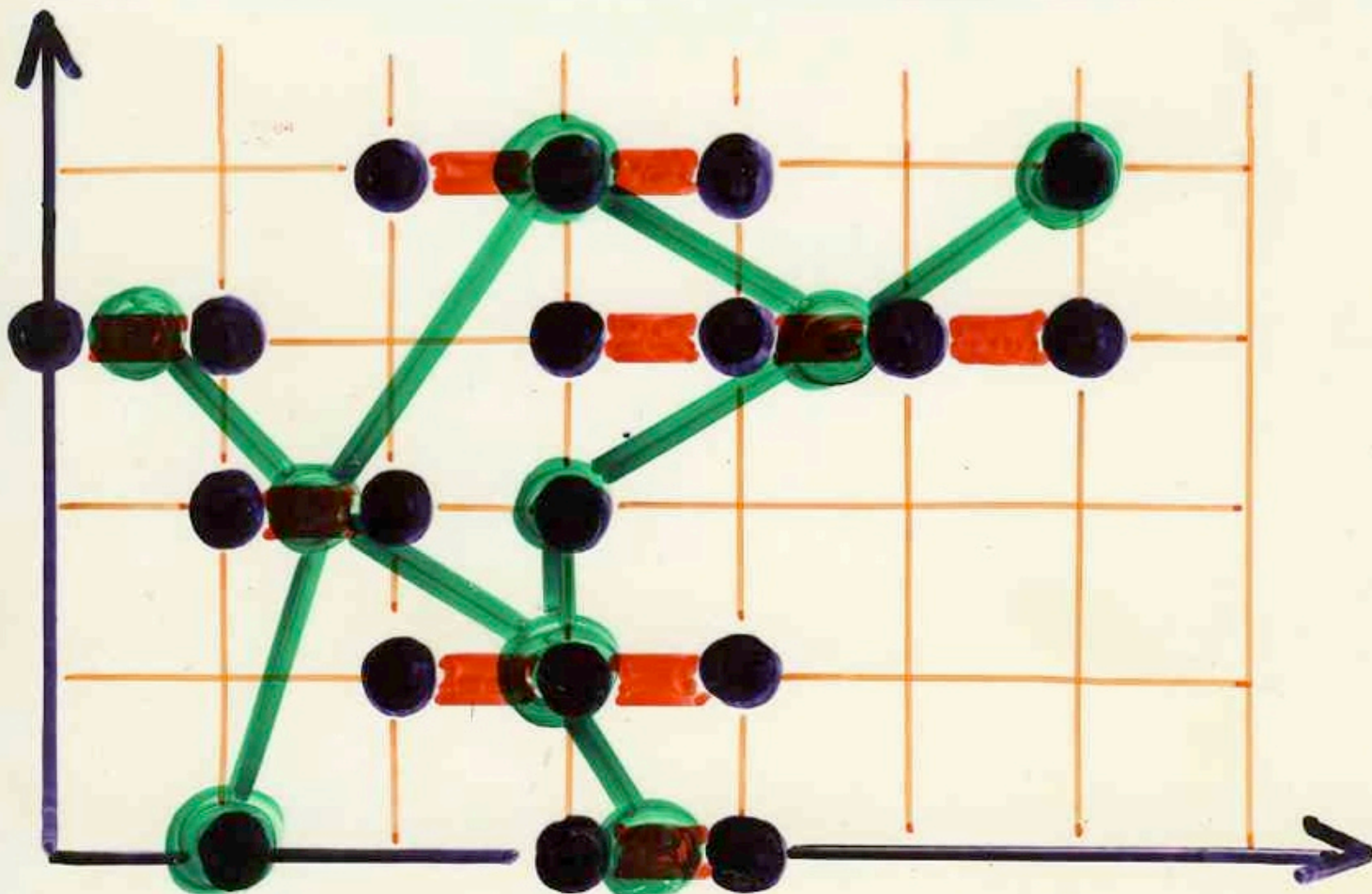
complementary relation



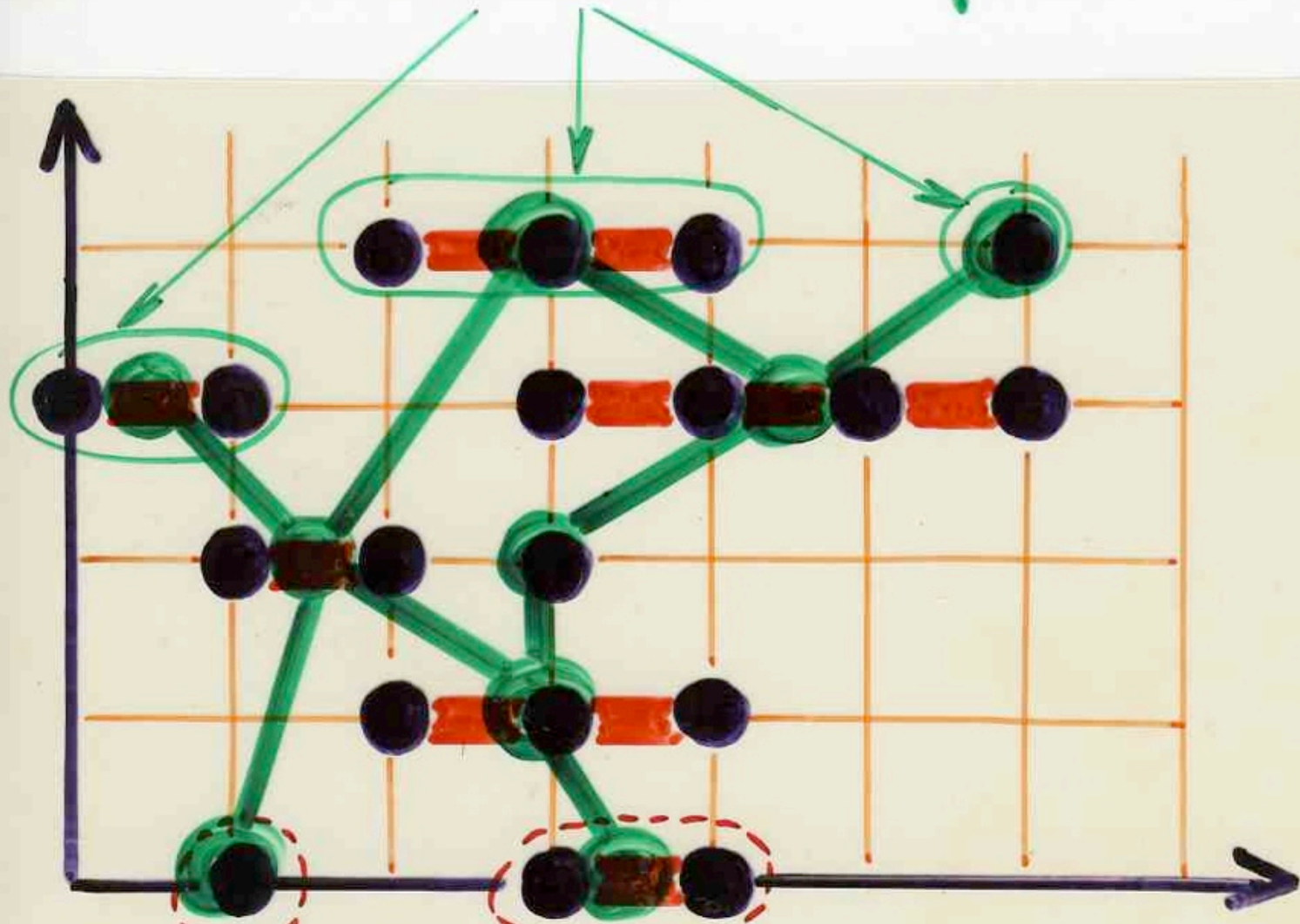
heaps monoid

§3 Heaps and posets



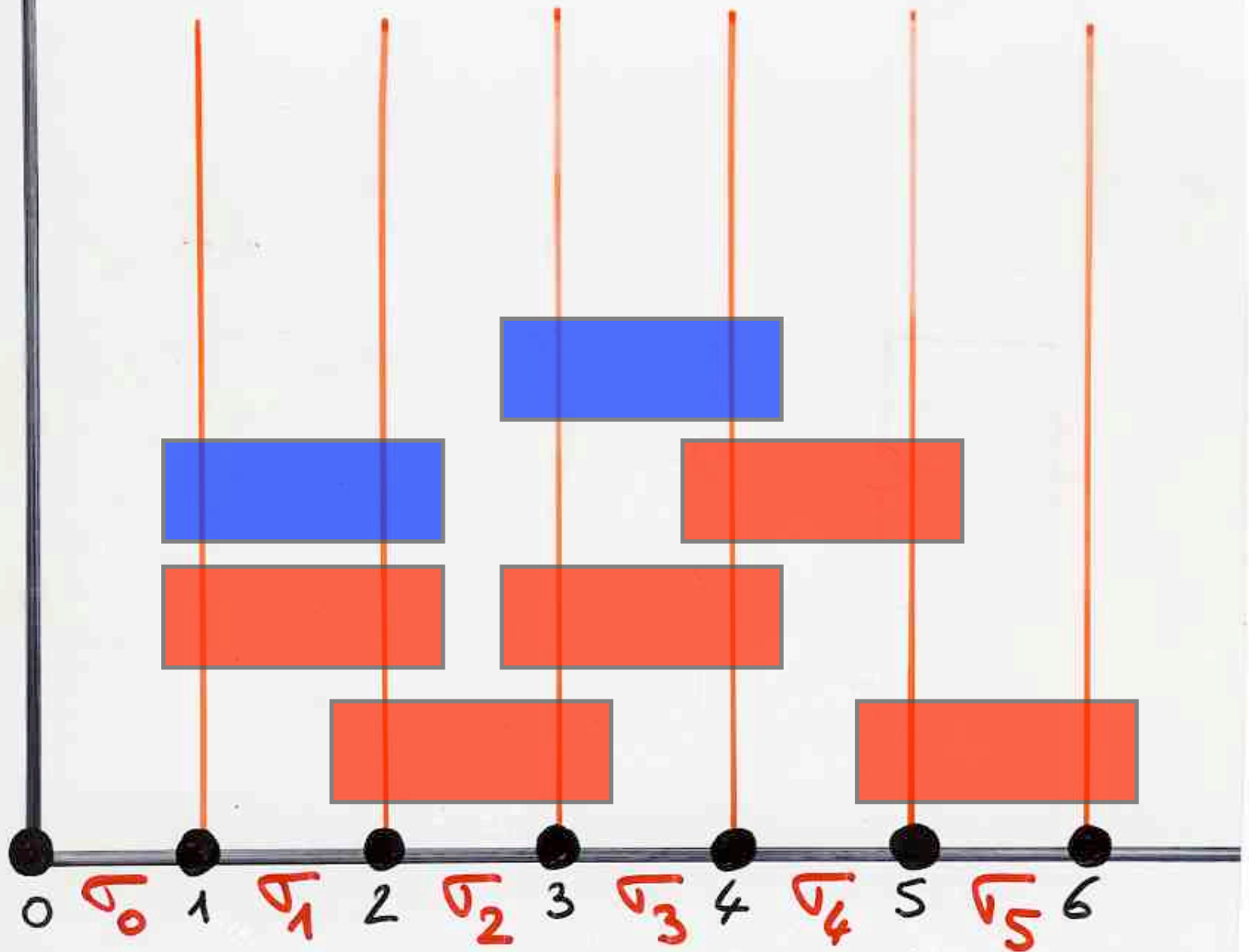


maximal pieces



minimal pieces

$$W = \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \sigma_5 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_3$$



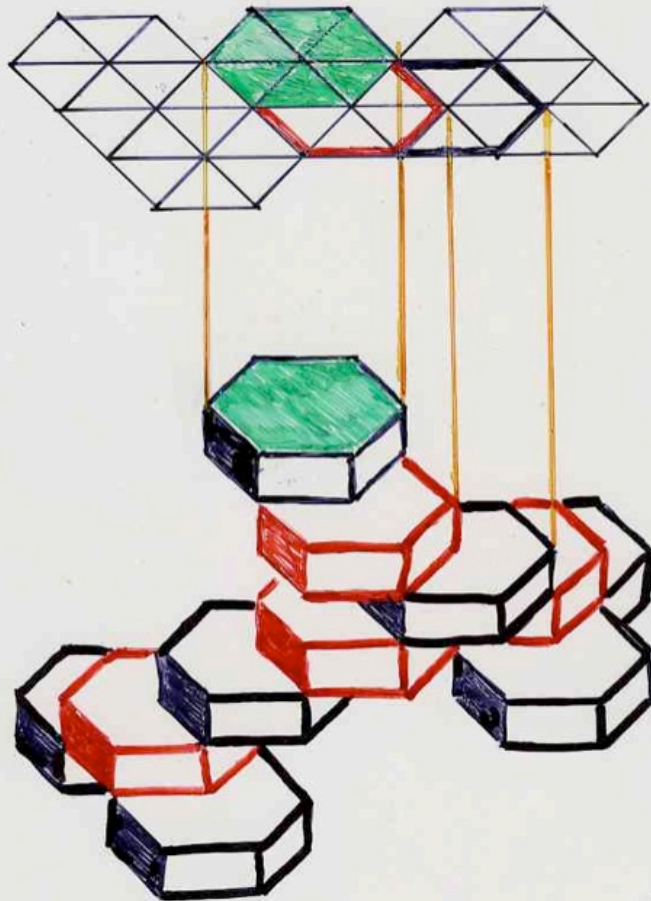
# Pyramid

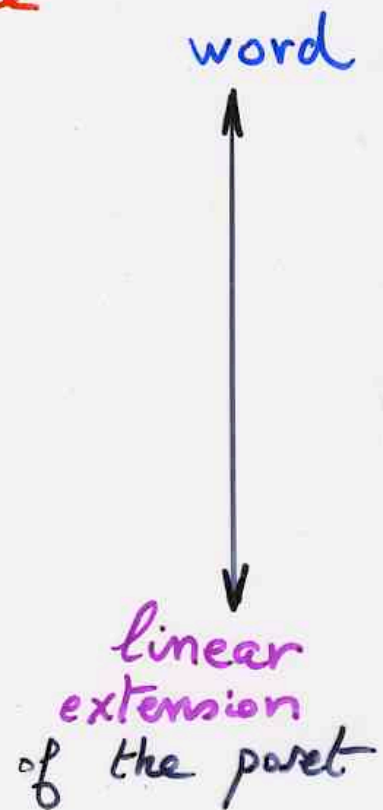
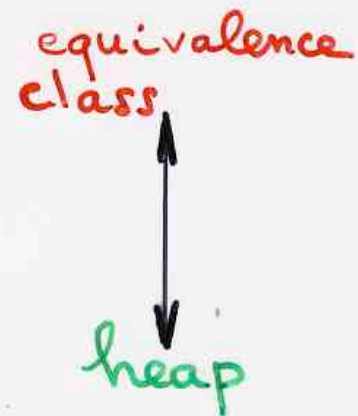
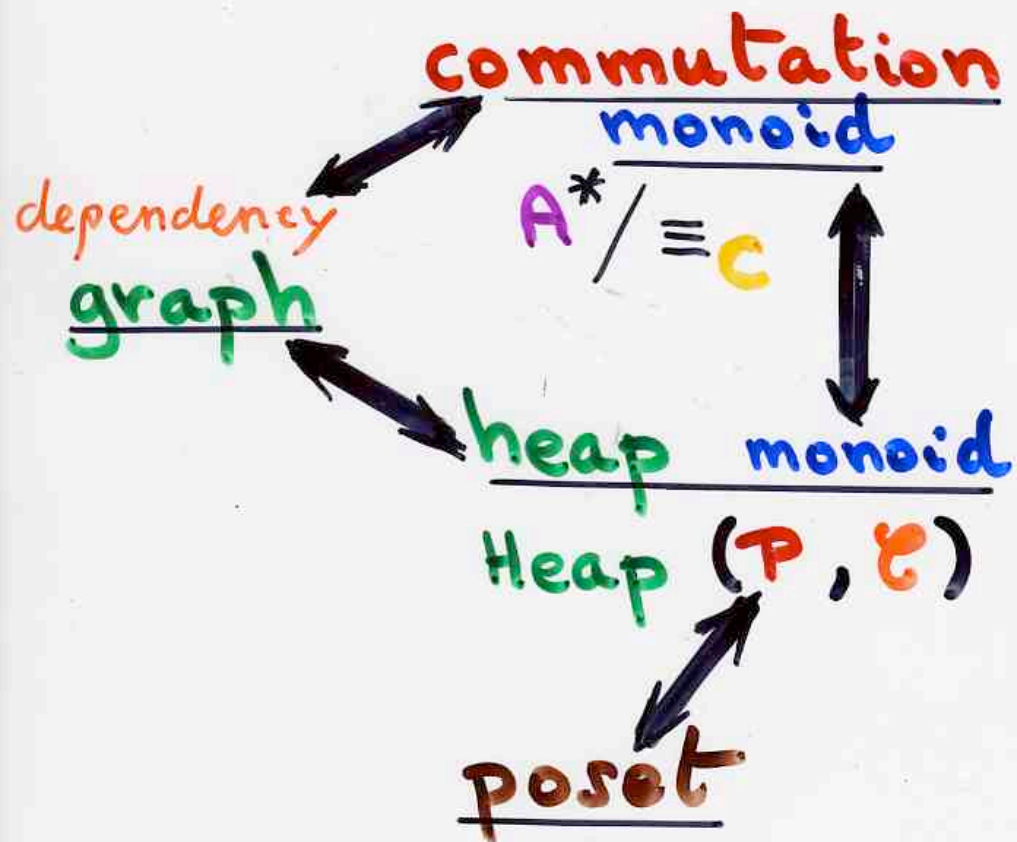
Def- Heap having only one maximal piece



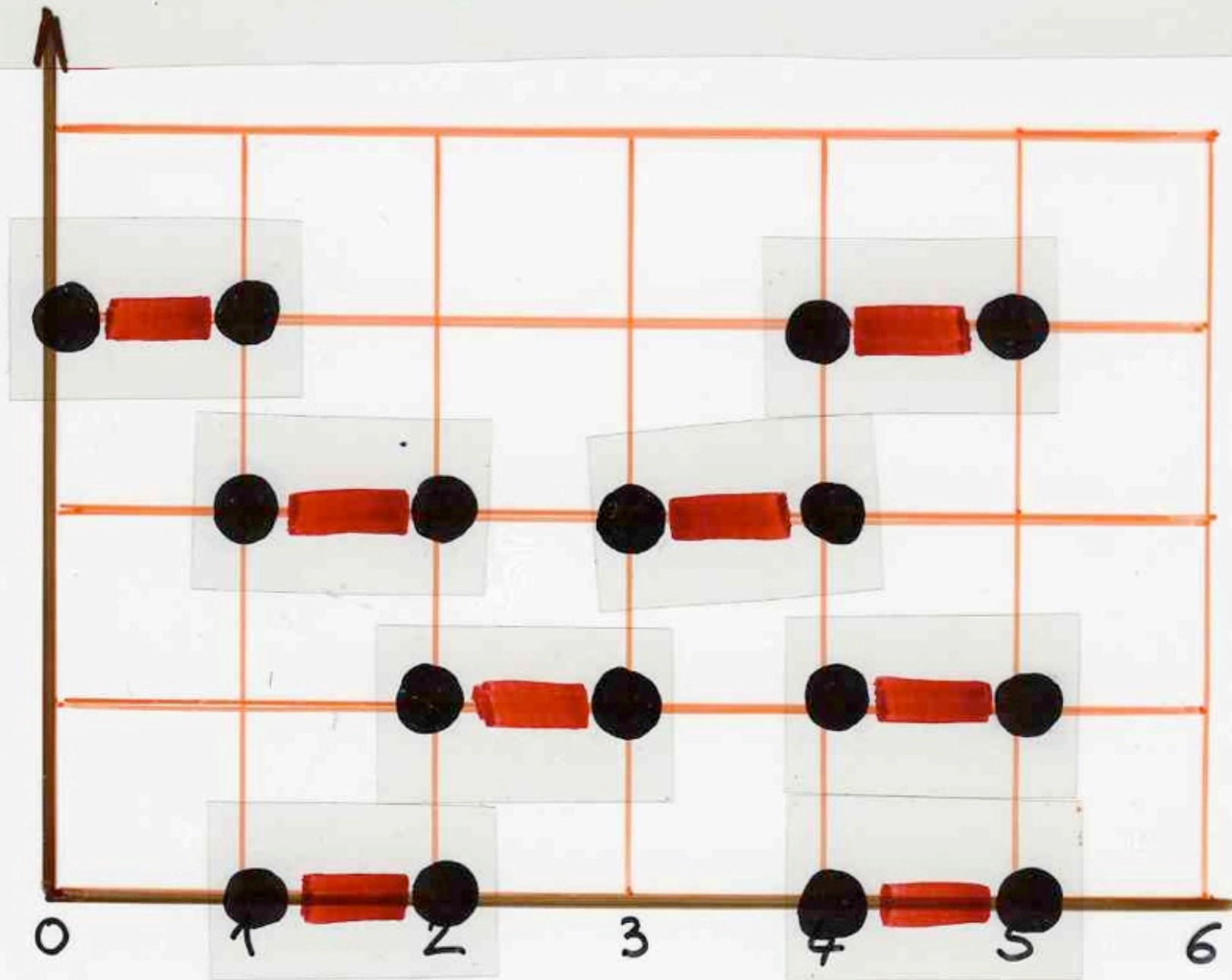


$$-p(-t) = y$$

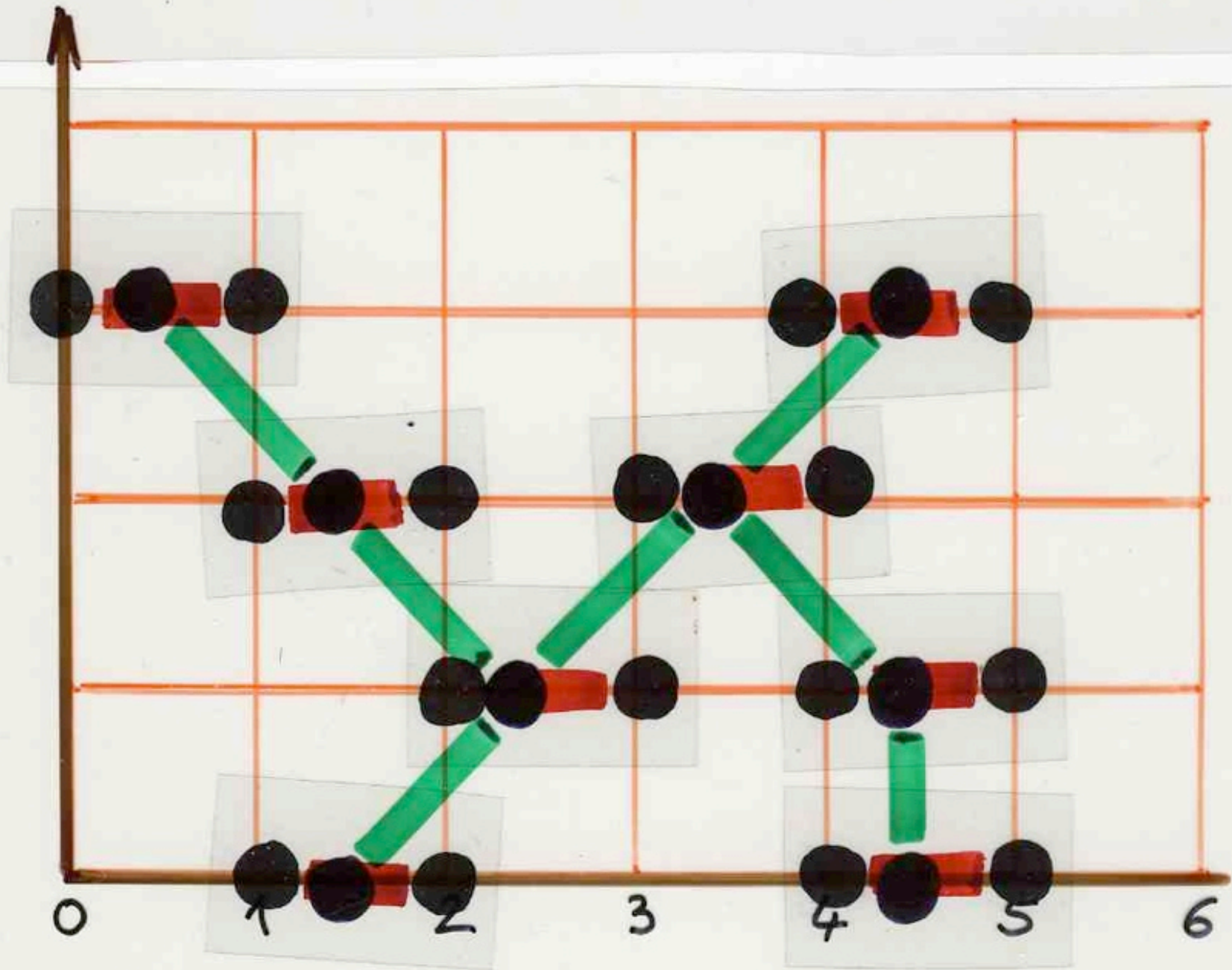




$$W = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \sigma_0 \sigma_4$$



$$w = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \sigma_0 \sigma_4$$



$$w = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \sigma_0 \sigma_4$$

