

# Nimstring Values for $2 \times n$ Rectangular Arrays II

By

Toru ISHIHARA

*Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokushima*

*e-mail address : tostfeld@mb.pikara.ne.jp*

(Received September 30, 2011)

## Abstract

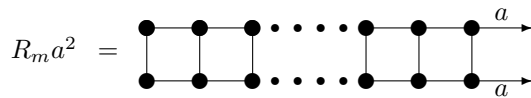
In the present paper, succeeding the previous paper [4], we continue to study Nimstring values of  $2 \times n$  rectangular arrays.

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification. Primary 05A99; Secondary 05C99

## Introduction

In this paper, our main purpose is to obtain the value of an array with two arrows like Figure 1. It has  $m$  boxes and two arrows, and it is described as  $R_m a^2$ . The arrow is denoted by  $a$ .

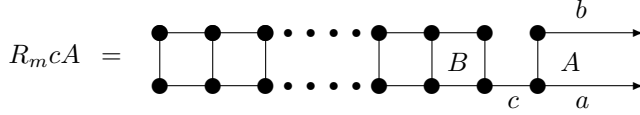
Figure 1



# 1 Arrays of form $R_m cA$

Let  $A$  be a graph composed of two arrows  $a, b$  and a v-edge connecting them. In this section, we study a graph  $R_m cA$  composed of  $m$  boxes and  $A$  which is described in Figure 2 below.

**Figure 2**



Let both the sizes of  $a$  and of  $b$  be  $x$  and that of  $c$  be  $y$ . Let  $B$  be the rightmost box with size  $z$ . Moreover, let the size of the box next to  $B$  be  $w$ . Put  $G = R_m cA$

**Proposition 1.** (1) *In the case  $x = y = 1$  and  $z = 1$  or  $z \geq 4$ , the value  $|G|$  is 0 (resp. \*) if  $m$  is odd (resp. even).*

(2) *In the cases  $(x = 2, 3, y = 2, 3, z \geq 1), (x = 1, 2, 3, y \geq 4, z \geq 1), (x = 3, y = 1, z \geq 1), (x = 2, y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3)$ , the value  $|G|$  is \* (resp. 0) if  $m$  is odd (resp. even), except the case  $m = 1, x = 2, y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3$  in which its value is \*2.*

(3) *In the cases  $(x = 1, y = 2, 3, z \geq 1), (x = y = 1, z = 2, 3), (x = 2, y = 1, z \geq 4)$ , the value  $|G|$  is \*2 (resp. \*3) if  $m$  is odd (resp. even), except the case  $m = 1, x = 1, y = 1, z = 2, 3$  in which its value is 0.*

(4) *In the case  $x \geq 4$  and  $y = z = 1$  or  $y = 1, 2, 3, z \geq 4$ , the value  $|G|$  is \* (resp. 0) if  $m$  is odd (resp. even).*

(5) *In the case  $x \geq 4$  and  $y = 2, 3, z = 1, 2, 3$  or  $y = 1, z = 2, 3$ , the value  $|G|$  is \*3 (resp. \*2) if  $m$  is odd (resp. even).*

*Proof.* Let  $e$  be the rightmost inner v-edge of  $R_m$ . By removing an inner h-edge of  $R_m$ , we get a subgraph  $H = R_{n_1} d R_{n_2} cA$ , where  $n_1 + n_2 = m - 1$  and  $d$  is a connection of  $R_{n_1}$  and  $R_{n_2} cA$ .

(1) Let  $m$  be odd. The value  $|c|$  (correctly, the value of a proper edge of  $c$ ) is \*. By Proposition 3 in [4], the values  $|a|$  and  $|b|$  are both \*3 (resp. \*) if  $z = 1$  (resp.  $z \geq 4$ ). If  $z = 1$ , the value of a h-edge of  $B$  is \*3 by induction. The value  $|e|$  is \*3 (resp. \*) if  $z = 1, w = 1, 2$  (resp.  $z = 1, w \geq 3$  or  $z \geq 4, w \geq 1$ ). The values of the other inner v-edges are \*. We prove the value  $|d|$  in  $H$  is 0. If both  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are odd (resp. even), The values  $|R_{n_1}|$  and  $|R_{n_2} cA|$  are both 0 (resp. \*). Hence, the value  $|H|$  is not 0. Thus, the value  $|G|$  is 0, because the values of all its edges are not 0.

Let  $m$  be even. The value  $|c|$  is 0. The value  $|a|$  and  $|b|$  are both \*2 (resp. 0) if  $z = 1$  (resp.  $z \geq 4$ ), by Proposition 3 in [4]. If  $z = 1$ , the value of a h-edge of  $B$  is \*2 by induction. The value  $|e|$  is \*2 (resp. 0) if  $z = 1, w = 1, 2$  (resp.

$z = 1, w \geq 3$  or  $z \geq 4$ ). The values of the other inner v-edges are 0. We prove the value  $|d|$  in  $H$  is \*. If  $n_1$  is odd (resp. even) and  $n_2$  is even (resp. odd), The value  $|R_{n_1}|$  is 0 (resp. \*) and  $|R_{n_2}cA|$  is \* (resp. 0). Hence, the value  $|H|$  is not \*. Thus, the value  $|G|$  is \*, because  $G$  has some edges with value 0 and the values of all its edges are not \*.

(2) Let  $m$  be odd. The value  $|c|$  is 0 (resp. loony) if  $x = 2, 3$  and  $y = 1, 2, 3$  (resp.  $x = 1, 2, 3$  and  $y \geq 4$ ). The value  $|a|$  is 0 and  $|b|$  is \*3 (resp. 0) if  $x = 2, y = 1$  (resp.  $x = 2, 3, y = 2, 3$  or  $x = 3, y = 1$ ). If  $z = 1, 2, 3$ , the values of outer edges of  $B$  are 0. The value  $|e|$  is 0 (resp. \*3) if  $(x = 2, 3, y = 2, 3), (x = 1, 2, 3, y \geq 4), (x = 3, y = 1)$  or  $(x = 1, y = 2$  and  $z = 1, w = 1, 2$  or  $z = 2, w = 1)$  (resp.  $x = 1, y = 2$  and  $(z = 1, w \geq 3), (z = 2, w \geq 2)$  or  $z = 3$ ). The values of the other inner v-edges are 0. We prove the value  $|d|$  in  $H$  is \* except the case  $n_2 = 1, x = 2, y = 1$  and  $z = 1, 2, 3$ . If  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are odd (resp. even), The value  $|R_{n_1}|$  is 0 (resp. \*) and  $|R_{n_2}cA|$  is \* (resp. 0). When  $n_2 = 1, x = 2, y = 1$  and  $z = 1, 2, 3$ , the value of the lower h-edge of  $B$  in  $H = R_{m-1}dR_1cA$  is \*. Hence, the value  $|H|$  is not \*. Thus, the value  $|G|$  is \*, because it has some edges with value 0 and the values of all its edges are not \*.

Let  $m$  be even. The value  $|c|$  is \* (resp. loony) if  $x = 2, 3$  and  $y = 1, 2, 3$  (resp.  $x = 1, 2, 3$  and  $y \geq 4$ ). The value  $|a|$  is \*, and  $|b|$  is \*2 (resp. \*) if  $x = 2, y = 1$  (resp.  $(x = 2, 3, y = 2, 3), (x = 1, 2, 3, y \geq 4)$  or  $(x = 3, y = 1)$ ). If  $z = 1, 2, 3$ , the values of outer edges of  $B$  are \*. The value  $|e|$  is \* (resp. \*2) if  $(x = 2, 3, y = 2, 3), (x = 1, 2, 3, y \geq 4), (x = 3, y = 1)$  or  $(x = 2, y = 1$  and  $z = 1, w = 1, 2$  or  $z = 2, w = 1)$  (resp.  $x = 1, y = 2$  and  $(z = 1, w \geq 3), (z = 2, w \geq 2)$  or  $(z = 3, w \geq 1)$ ). The values of the other inner v-edges are \*. We prove the value  $|d|$  in  $H$  is 0 except the case  $n_2 = 1, x = 2, y = 1$  and  $z = 1, 2, 3$ . If  $n_1$  is odd (resp. even) and  $n_2$  is even (resp. odd), the values  $|R_{n_1}|$  and  $|R_{n_2}cA|$  are both 0 (resp. \*). When  $n_2 = 1, x = 2, y = 1$  and  $z = 1, 2, 3$ , the value of the lower h-edge of  $B$  in  $H = R_{m-1}dR_1cA$  is 0. Hence, the value  $|H|$  is not 0. Thus, the value  $|G|$  is 0, because the values of all its edges are not 0.

(3) Let  $m$  be odd. The value  $|c|$  is \* (resp. 0) if  $x = 1$  (resp.  $x = 2$ ). The values  $|a|$  is 0. The value  $|b|$  is \*, if  $z \geq 4$  and  $x = 1, y = 2$  or  $x = 2, y = 1$ . This value is 0 (resp. \*3) if  $x = 1, y = 3, z \geq 1$  (resp.  $x = 1, y = 2, z = 1, 2, 3$  or  $x = 1, y = 1, z = 2, 3$ ). If  $z = 1, 2, 3$ , the values of outer edges of  $B$  are 0 or \*3. The value  $|e|$  is \* (resp. \*3) if  $(x = 1, y = 1)$  and  $z = 2, w \geq 2$  or  $z = 3, w \geq 1$  (resp.  $(x = 1, y = 2, 3, z \geq 1), (x = 1, y = 1, z = 2, w = 1)$  or  $(x = 1, y = 1, z \geq 4)$ ). The values of the other inner v-edges are \*3. We prove the value  $|d|$  in  $H$  is \*2 except the case  $n_2 = 1, x = y = 1, z = 2, 3$ . If  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are odd (resp. even), The value  $|R_{n_1}|$  is 0 (resp. \*) and  $|R_{n_2}cA|$  is \*2 (resp. \*3). When  $n_2 = 1, x = y = 1$  and  $z = 2, 3$ , the value  $|d|$  in  $H = R_{m-1}dR_1cA$  is \*2, by Lemma 2 below. Hence, the value  $|H|$  is not \*2. Thus, the value  $|G|$  is \*2, because  $G$  has some edges with value 0 and ones with value \*, and the values of its all edges are not \*2.

Let  $m$  be even. The value  $|c|$  is 0 (resp.  $*$ ) if  $x = 1$  (resp.  $x = 2$ ). The values  $|a|$  is  $*$ . The value  $|b|$  is 0, if  $z \geq 4$  and  $x = 1, y = 2$  or  $x = 2, y = 1$ . This value is  $*$  (resp.  $*2$ ) if  $x = 1, y = 3, z \geq 1$  (resp.  $x = 1, y = 2, z = 1, 2, 3$  or  $x = 1, y = 1, z = 2, 3$ ). If  $z = 1, 2, 3$ , the values of outer edges of  $B$  are  $*$ (resp.  $*$  or  $*2$ ), if  $x = 1, y = 3, z = 1$  or  $z = 2, 3$  (resp.  $x = 1, y = 2, z = 1$ ). The value  $|e|$  is  $*2$  (resp. 0) if  $(x = 1, y = 2, 3, z \geq 1), (x = y = 1, z = 2, w = 1)$  or  $(x = 2, y = 1, z \geq 4)$  (resp.  $(x = y = 1, z = 2, w \geq 2)$  or  $(x = y = 1, z = 3, w \geq 1)$ ). The values of the other inner v-edges are  $*2$ . We prove the value  $|d|$  in  $H$  is  $*3$  except the case  $n_2 = 1, x = y = 1, z = 2, 3$ . If  $n_1$  is odd (resp. even) and  $n_2$  is even (resp. odd), The value  $|R_{n_1}|$  is 0 (resp.  $*$ ) and  $|R_{n_2}cA|$  is  $*3$  (resp.  $*2$ ). When  $n_2 = 1, x = y = 1$  and  $z = 2, 3$ , the value  $|b|$  in  $H = R_{m_1}dR_1A$  is  $*3$ , by Lemma 2 below. Hence, the value  $|H|$  is not  $*3$ . Thus, the value  $|G|$  is  $*3$ , because  $G$  has some edges with value 0, ones with value  $*$  and ones with value  $*2$ , and the values of all its edges are not  $*3$ .

(4) Let  $m$  be odd. The value  $|c|$  is 0. If  $z = 1$ , the value of an outer edge of  $B$  is 0. The value  $|e|$  is 0 or  $*2$ . The values of the other inner v-edges of  $R_m$  are 0. We prove the value  $|d|$  in  $H$  is  $*$ . If  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are odd (resp. even), the value  $|R_{n_1}|$  is 0 (resp.  $*$ ) and  $|R_{n_2}cA|$  is  $*$  (resp. 0). Hence, the value  $|H|$  is not  $*$ . Thus, the value  $|G|$  is  $*$ , because  $G$  has some edges with value 0 and the values of all its edges are not  $*$ .

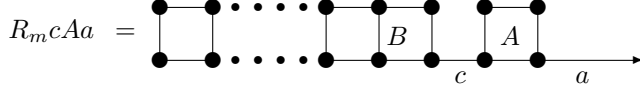
Let  $m$  be even. The value  $|c|$  is  $*$ . If  $z = 1$ , the value of an outer edge of  $B$  is  $*$ . The value  $|e|$  is  $*$  or  $*3$ . The values of the other inner v-edges of  $R_m$  are  $*$ . We prove the value  $|d|$  in  $H$  is 0. If  $n_1$  is odd (resp. even) and  $n_2$  is even (resp. odd), The values  $|R_{n_1}|$  and  $|R_{n_2}cA|$  is 0 (resp.  $*$ ). Hence, the value  $|H|$  is not 0. Thus, the value  $|G|$  is 0, because the values of all edges of  $G$  are not 0.

(5) Let  $m$  be odd. The value  $|c|$  is 0. The value of the lower h-edge of  $B$  is  $*$  and values of the other outer edges are 0,  $*$  or  $*2$ . The value  $|e|$  is 0 or  $*2$ . The values of the other inner v-edges of  $R_m$  are  $*2$ . We prove the value  $|d|$  in  $H$  is  $*3$  except the case  $n_2 = 1, y = 1, 2, 3$ . If  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are odd (resp. even), The value  $|R_{n_1}|$  is 0 (resp.  $*$ ) and  $|R_{n_2}cA|$  is  $*3$  (resp.  $*2$ ). When  $n_2 = 1, y = 1, 2, 3$ , the value of  $H = R_{m-1}dR_1cA$  is  $*2$ , by Lemma 3 below. Hence, the value  $|H|$  is not  $*3$ . Thus, the value  $|G|$  is  $*3$ , because  $G$  has some edges with value 0, ones with the value  $*$  and ones with value  $*2$  and the values of all its edges are not  $*3$ .

Let  $m$  be even. The value  $|c|$  is  $*$ . The value of the lower h-edge of  $B$  is 0 and values of the other outer edges are 0,  $*$  or  $*3$ . The value  $|e|$  is  $*$  or  $*3$ . The values of the other inner v-edges of  $R_m$  are  $*3$ . We prove the value  $|d|$  in  $H$  is  $*2$  except the case  $n_2 = 1, y = 1, 2, 3$ . If  $n_1$  is odd (resp. even) and  $n_2$  is even (resp. odd), The value  $|R_{n_1}|$  is 0 (resp.  $*$ ) and  $|R_{n_2}cA|$  is  $*2$  (resp.  $*3$ ). When  $n_2 = 1, y = 1, 2, 3$ , the value of  $H = R_{m-1}dR_1cA$  is  $*3$ , by Lemma 3 below. Hence, the value  $|H|$  is not  $*2$ . Thus, the value  $|G|$  is  $*2$ , because  $G$  has some edges with value 0 and ones with the value  $*$ , and the values of all its edges are not  $*2$ .

Put  $G = R_m c A a$ , where  $A a$  is a box with an arrow  $a$  and  $c$  is a connection of  $R_m$  and  $A a$ . Let the size of  $A$  be 2 or 3, that of  $a$  be 2 or 3 and that of  $c$  be 1, 2 or 3. Let the rightmost box of  $R_m$  be  $B$ . As in Figure 3,  $G$  is described.

**Figure 3**



**Lemma 2.** The value of  $G = R_m c A a$  is  $*2$  (resp.  $*3$ ) if  $m$  is odd (resp. even).

Proof. Let the size of  $a$  be  $x$ , that of  $A$  be  $y$ , that of  $c$  be  $z$  and that of  $B$  be  $w$ . By removing an inner h-edge of  $R_m$ , we get a subgraph  $H = R_{n_1} d R_{n_2} c A a$ , where  $n_1 + n_2 = m - 1$  and  $d$  is a connection of  $R_{n_1}$  and  $R_{n_2} c A a$ .

Let  $m$  be odd. The value  $|a|$  is  $*$  or  $*3$  by Proposition 2 in [4],  $|c|$  is  $*$  and the value of the lower h-edge of  $A$  is 0. The values of h-edges of  $B$  are  $*3$  (resp. 0 or  $*3$ ), if  $z = 1, w = 1$  (resp.  $z = 2, w = 1$  or  $z = 1, w = 2$ ). These values are 0 if  $z = 2, w = 2, 3$  or  $z = 3, w = 1, 2, 3$ . The values of the inner v-edges of  $R_m$  are  $*3$ . We show the value  $|d|$  in  $H$  is  $*2$  to prove  $|H|$  is not  $*2$ . If  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are odd (resp. even), the value  $|R_{n_1}|$  is 0 (resp.  $*$ ) and  $|R_{n_2} c A a|$  is  $*2$  (resp.  $*3$ ). Thus, the value  $|G|$  is  $*2$ , because  $G$  has some edges with value 0 and ones with value  $*$ , and the value of all its edges are not  $*2$ .

Let  $m$  be even. The value  $|a|$  is 0 or  $*2$  by Proposition 2 in [4],  $|c|$  is 0 and the value of the lower h-edge of  $A$  is  $*$ . The values of h-edges of  $B$  are  $*2$  (resp. 0 or  $*2$ ), if  $z = 1, w = 1$  (resp.  $z = 2, w = 1$  or  $z = 1, w = 2$ ). These values are  $*$  if  $z = 2, w = 2, 3$  or  $z = 3, w = 1, 2, 3$ . The values of the inner v-edges of  $R_m$  are  $*2$ . We show the value  $|d|$  in  $H$  is  $*3$  to prove  $|H|$  is not  $*3$ . If  $n_1$  is odd (resp. even) and  $n_2$  is even (resp. odd), the value  $|R_{n_1}|$  is 0 (resp.  $*$ ) and  $|R_{n_2} c A a|$  is  $*3$  (resp.  $*2$ ). Thus, the value  $|G|$  is  $*3$ , because  $G$  has some edges with value 0, ones with value  $*$  and ones with value  $*2$ , and the value of all its edges are not  $*3$ .

**Lemma 3.** Let  $G$  be a graph  $R_m d B c A$ , where  $A$  is the subgraph,  $c$  is the connection given in Proposition 1,  $B$  is a box of size  $z$  and  $d$  is a connection. Assume  $z$  is 2 or 3 and the size of  $d$  is 1, 2 or 3. Then, the value  $|G|$  is  $*2$  (resp.  $*3$ ) if  $m$  is odd (resp. even).

Proof. By removing an inner h-edge of  $R_m$ , we get a subgraph  $H = R_{n_1} e R_{n_2} d B c A$ , where  $n_1 + n_2 = m - 1$  and  $e$  is a connection of  $R_{n_1}$  and  $R_{n_2} d B c A$ .

Let  $m$  be odd. The value  $|c|$  is  $*$  or  $*3$  by Proposition 2 in [4] and  $|d|$  is  $*$ . The value of the lower h-edge of  $B$  is 0. The values of the inner v-edges of  $R_m$  are  $*3$ . If we can remove an outer edge of the rightmost box of  $R_m$ , its value is  $*3$  or 0. We prove the value  $|e|$  in  $H$  is  $*2$ . If  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are odd (resp. even), the value  $|R_{n_1}|$  is 0 (resp.  $*$ ) and  $|R_{n_2}dBcA|$  is  $*2$  (resp.  $*3$ ). Hence, the value  $|H|$  is not  $*2$ . Thus, the value  $|G|$  is  $*2$ , because  $G$  has some edges with value 0 and ones with the value  $*$ , and the values of all its edges are not  $*2$ .

Let  $m$  be even. The value  $|c|$  is  $0*$  or  $*2$  by Proposition 2 in [4] and  $|d|$  is 0. The value of the lower h-edge of  $B$  is  $*$ . The values of the inner v-edges of  $R_m$  are  $*2$ . If we can remove an outer edge of the rightmost box of  $R_m$ , its value is  $*2$  or  $*$ . We prove the value  $|e|$  in  $H$  is  $*3$ . If  $n_1$  is odd (resp. even) and  $n_2$  is even (resp. odd), The value  $|R_{n_1}|$  is 0 (resp.  $*$ ) and  $|R_{n_2}dBcA|$  is  $*3$  (resp.  $*2$ ). Hence, the value of  $H$  is not  $*3$ . Thus, the value  $|G|$  is  $*3$ , because  $G$  has some edges with value 0, ones with the value  $*$  and ones with value  $*2$  and the values of all its edges are not  $*3$ .

## 2 Arrays with two arrows

Let  $G = R_m a^2$  be an array which has  $m$  boxes and two arrows. Let the size of the arrow  $a$  be  $x$ . Let  $A$  be the rightmost box of  $R_m$  and  $B$  be the box next to  $A$ . Let the sizes of  $A$  and  $B$  be  $y$  and  $z$  respectively.

**Proposition 4.** (1) *In the cases  $x = y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3$  or  $x = 1, 2, 3, y \geq 4, z \geq 1$  except the case  $m = 2, x = y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3$ , the value  $|G|$  is  $*2$  (resp.  $*3$ ), if  $m$  is odd (resp. even). When  $m = 2, x = 1, y = 1$  and  $z = 1, 2, 3$ , its value is  $*$ .*

(2) *In the case  $x = 1, y = 1, z \geq 4, m \geq 2$ , the value  $|G|$  is 0 (resp.  $*$ ), if  $m$  is odd (resp. even).*

(3) *In the cases  $x = 1, y = 2, 3, z \geq 1$  or  $x = 2, 3, y = 1, 2, 3, z \geq 1$  except  $m = 1$ , the value  $|G|$  is  $*$  (resp. 0) if  $m$  is odd (resp. even) except  $m = 1$ . When  $m = 1$ , its value is  $*2$ .*

(4) *In the case  $x \geq 4, y \geq 1, z \geq 1$ , the value  $|G|$  is  $*$  (resp. 0) if  $m$  is odd (resp. even)*

Proof. When  $m = 1$  or  $m = 2$ , we can get the results directly in any cases. By removing an inner h-edge of  $R_m$ , we get a subgraph  $H = R_{n_1} c R_{n_2} a^2$ , where  $n_1 + n_2 = m - 1$  and  $c$  is a connection of  $R_{n_1}$  and  $R_{n_2} a^2$ . Let the rightmost v-edge of  $R_m$  be denoted by  $e_1$ , and the v-edge next to  $e_1$  be denoted by  $e_2$ .

(1) Let  $m$  be odd. By Proposition 3 in [4], we have  $|a| = *$ . By induction, we get  $|e_1| = 0$ , and  $|e_2| = 0$  (resp.  $|e_2| = *3$ ) if  $x = y = 1, z = 1, 2$  (resp.  $x = y = 1, z = 3$  or  $x = 1, 2, 3, y \geq 4$ ). The values of the other v-edges of  $R_m$

are \*3 (resp. \* or \*3) if  $y \geq 4$  (resp.  $x = y = 1$ ). The value of a h-edge of  $A$  is \* (resp. \*3), if  $x = y = z = 1$  (resp.  $x = y = 1, z = 2, 3$ ), by Proposition 1. We show the value  $|c|$  in  $H$  is \*2 except the case  $m_2 = 2, x = y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3$ . If  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are odd (resp. even), we have  $|R_m| = 0$  (resp.  $|R_m| = *$ ) and  $|R_{m_2}a_2| = *2$  (resp.  $|R_{m_2}a_2| = *3$ ). When  $m_2 = 2, x = y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3$ , the value of a h-edge of  $A$  in  $H$  is also \*2. Hence, we get  $|H| \neq *2$ . Thus  $|G| = *2$ , because  $G$  has some edges with value 0 and ones with value \*, and the values of all its edges are not \*2.

Let  $m$  be even. By Proposition 3 in [4], we have  $|a| = 0$ . By induction, we get  $|e_1| = *$ , and  $|e_2| = *$  (resp.  $|e_2| = *2$ ) if  $x = y = 1, z = 1, 2$  (resp.  $x = y = 1, z = 3$  or  $x = 1, 2, 3, y \geq 4$ ). The value of the v-edge next to  $e_2$  is \*2 (resp. 0 or \*2) if  $y \geq 4$  (resp.  $x = y = 1$ ). The value of the other v-edges of  $R_m$  are \*2. The value of a h-edge of  $A$  is 0 (resp. \*2), if  $x = y = z = 1$  (resp.  $x = y = 1, z = 2, 3$ ), by Proposition 1. We show the value  $|c|$  in  $H$  is \*3 except the case  $m_2 = 2, x = y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3$ . If  $m_1$  is odd (resp. even) and  $m_2$  is even (resp. odd), we get  $|R_m| = 0$  (resp.  $|R_m| = *$ ) and  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = *3$  (resp.  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = *2$ ). When  $m_2 = 2, x = y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3$ , the value of a h-edge of  $A$  in  $H$  is also \*3. Hence, we get  $|H| \neq *3$ , Thus  $|G| = *3$ , because  $G$  has some edges with value 0, ones with value \* and ones with value \*2, and the values of all its edges are not \*3

(2) Let  $m$  be odd. By Proposition 3 in [4], we have  $|a| = *$ . By induction, we get  $|e_1| = |e_2| = *3$ . The values of the other v-edges of  $R_m$  are \*. The value of a h-edge of  $A$  is \*, by Proposition 1. We show the value  $|c|$  in  $H$  is 0. If  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are odd (resp. even), we have  $|R_m| = 0$  (resp.  $|R_m| = *$ ) and  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = 0$  (resp.  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = *$ ). Hence, we get  $|H| \neq 0$ . Thus  $|G| = 0$ , because the values of all edges of  $G$  are not 0.

Let  $m$  be even. By Proposition 3 in [4], we have  $|a| = 0$ . By induction, we get  $|e_1| = |e_2| = *2$ . The values of the other v-edges of  $R_m$  are 0. The value of a h-edge of  $A$  is 0, by Proposition 1. We show the value  $|c|$  in  $H$  is \*. If  $m_1$  is odd (resp. even) and  $m_2$  is even (resp. odd), we have  $|R_m| = 0$  (resp.  $|R_m| = *$ ) and  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = *$  (resp.  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = 0$ ). Hence, we get  $|H| \neq *$ . Thus  $|G| = *$ , because  $G$  has some edges with value 0, and the values of all its edges are not \*.

(3) Let  $m$  be odd. By Proposition 3 in [4], we have  $|a| = *3$ . By induction, we get  $|e_1| = 0$  (resp.  $|e_1| = *3$ ), if  $(x = 2, 3, y = 2, 3, z \geq 1), (x = 3, y = 1, z \geq 1), (x = 1, y = 3, z \geq 1), (x = 1, y = 2, z = 1, 2, 3)$  or  $(x = 2, y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3)$  (resp.  $(x = 1, y = 2, z \geq 4)$  or  $(x = 2, y = 1, z \geq 4)$ ). We also have  $|e_2| = 0$  (resp.  $|e_2| = *3$ ), if  $(x = 2, 3, y = 1, z = 1, 2), (x = 2, 3, y = 2, z = 1)$  or  $(x = 1, y = 2, z = 1)$  (resp.  $(x = 2, 3, y = 1, 2, 3, y + z \geq 4)$  or  $(x = 1, y = 2, 3, y + z \geq 4)$ ). The values of the other v-edges of  $R_m$  are 0. The value of a h-edge of  $A$  is 0 (resp. \*3) if  $(x = 2, 3, y = 2, 3, z \geq 1), (x = 3, y = 1, z \geq 1)$  or  $x = 2, y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3$  (resp.  $(x = 2, y = 1, z \geq 4)$  or  $x = 1, y = 2, 3, z \geq 1$ ), by Proposition 1. We show the value  $|c|$  in  $H$  is \* except the case  $n_2 = 1$ . If  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are odd (resp. even),  $|R_m| = 0$  (resp.  $|R_m| = *$ ) and  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = *$

(resp.  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = 0$ ). Hence, we get  $|H| \neq *$ . When  $n_2 = 1$ , we can show  $H \neq *$  in Lemma 6 below. Thus  $|G| = *$ , because  $G$  has some edges with value 0, and the values of all its edges are not  $*$ .

Let  $m$  be even. By Proposition 3 in [4], we have  $|a| = *2$ . By induction, we get  $|e_1| = *$  (resp.  $|e_1| = *2$ ), if  $(x = 2, 3, y = 2, 3, z \geq 1)$ ,  $(x = 3, y = 1, z \geq 1)$ ,  $(x = 1, y = 3, z \geq 1)$ ,  $(x = 1, y = 2, z = 1, 2, 3)$  or  $(x = 2, y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3)$  (resp.  $(x = 1, y = 2, z \geq 4)$  or  $(x = 2, y = 1, z \geq 4)$ ). We also have  $|e_2| = *$  (resp.  $|e_2| = *2$ ), if  $(x = 2, 3, y = 1, z = 1, 2)$ ,  $(x = 2, 3, y = 2, z = 1)$  or  $(x = 1, y = 2, z = 1)$  (resp.  $(x = 2, 3, y = 1, 2, 3, y + z \geq 4)$  or  $(x = 1, y = 2, 3, y + z \geq 4)$ ). The values of the other v-edges of  $R_m$  are  $*$ . The value of a h-edge of  $A$  is  $*$  (resp.  $*2$ ) if  $(x = 2, 3, y = 2, 3, z \geq 1)$ ,  $(x = 3, y = 1, z \geq 1)$  or  $x = 2, y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3$  (resp.  $(x = 2, y = 1, z \geq 4)$  or  $(x = 1, y = 2, 3, z \geq 1)$ ), by Proposition 1. We show the value  $|c|$  in  $H$  is 0 except the case  $n_2 = 1$ . If  $m_1$  is odd (resp. even) and  $m_2$  is even (resp. odd), we get  $|R_m| = 0$  (resp.  $|R_m| = *$ ) and  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = 0$  (resp.  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = *$ ). Hence, we get  $|H| \neq 0$ . When  $n_2 = 1$ , we can show  $H \neq 0$  in Lemma 6 below. Thus  $|G| = 0$ , because the values of all edges of  $G$  are not 0.

(4) Let  $m$  be odd. By induction, we get  $|e_1| = |e_2| = 0$ . The values of the other v-edges of  $R_m$  are also 0. If  $z = 1, 2, 3$ , the value of a h-edge of  $A$  is 0 or  $*2$ , by Proposition 1. We show the value  $|c|$  in  $H$  is  $*$ . If  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are odd (resp. even), we have  $|R_m| = 0$  (resp.  $|R_m| = *$  and  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = *$  (resp.  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = 0$ ). Hence, we get  $|H| \neq *$ . Thus  $|G| = *$ , because  $G$  has some edges with value 0, and the values of all its edges are not  $*$ .

Let  $m$  be even. By induction, we get  $|e_1| = |e_2| = *$ . The values of the other v-edges of  $R_m$  are also  $*$ . If  $z = 1, 2, 3$ , the value of a h-edge of  $A$  is  $*$  or  $*3$ , by Proposition 1. We show the value  $|c|$  in  $H$  is 0. If  $m_1$  is odd (resp. even) and  $m_2$  is even (resp. odd), we get  $|R_m| = 0$  (resp.  $|R_m| = *$  and  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = 0$  (resp.  $|R_{m_2}a^2| = *$ ). Hence, we get  $|H| \neq 0$ . Thus  $|G| = 0$ , because the values of all edges of  $G$  are not 0.

**Lemma 5** Let  $H = R_{m-3}cR_2a^2$  be the graph given in the proof of Proposition 4(1) for the case  $m_2 = 2, x = y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3$ , where  $R_2 = AB$ . Then, we have  $|H| \neq *2$  (resp.  $|H| \neq *3$ ) if  $m$  is odd (resp. even).

Proof. Let  $b_1$  (resp.  $b_2$ ) be the upper (resp. lower) h-edge of  $A$ . By removing the edge  $b_1$  (resp.  $b_2$ ) from  $H$ , we get a subgraph  $K_1 = R_{m-3}cBb_2a^2$  (resp.  $K_2 = R_{m-3}cBb_1a^2$ ). We prove  $|K_1| = |K_2| = *2$  (resp.  $|K_1| = |K_2| = *3$ ), if  $m$  is odd (resp. even). This shows our desired result. Let the size of the rightmost box  $D$  of  $R_{m-3}$  be  $w$ . By removing an inner h-edge of  $R_{m-3}$ , we get a subgraph  $H_1 = R_{n_1}dR_{n_2}cBb_2a^2$ , where  $n_1 + n_2 = m - 4$  and  $d$  is a connection of  $R_{n_1}$  and  $R_{n_2}cBb_2a^2$ .

Let  $m$  be odd. We get  $|c| = *$ , and  $|b| = *$  or  $|b| = *3$ . The value of the lower (resp. upper) h-edge of  $B$  is 0 (resp. 0 or  $*3$ ). If  $w = 1, 2, 3$ , then the



values of the outer edges of  $D$  are 0 or  $*3$ . The values of the inner v-edges of  $R_{m-3}$  is  $*3$ . We show  $|d|$  in  $H_1$  is  $*2$ . If  $n_1$  is odd (resp. even) and  $n_2$  is even (resp. odd), we have  $|R_{n_1}| = 0$  (resp.  $|R_{n_1}| = *$ ) and  $|R_{n_2}cBb_2a^2| = *2$  (resp.  $|R_{n_2}cBb_2a^2| = *3$ ). Hence, we get  $|H_1| \neq *2$ . We will show later that the values of arrows in  $K_1$  are  $*3$  (resp.  $*2$ ) if  $m$  is odd (resp. even). Thus, when  $m$  is odd, we get  $|K_1| = *2$ , because  $K_1$  has some edges with value 0 and ones with value  $*$ , and the values of all its edges are not  $*2$ . Similarly, we can prove  $|K_2| = *2$ .

Let  $m$  be even. We get  $|c| = 0$ , and  $|b| = 0$  or  $|b| = *2$ . The value of the lower (resp. upper) h-edge of  $B$  is  $*$  (resp. 0 or  $*2$ ). If  $w = 1, 2, 3$ , then the values of the outer edges of  $D$  are  $*$  or  $*2$ . The values of the inner v-edges of  $R_{m-3}$  is  $*2$ . We show  $|d|$  in  $H_1$  is  $*3$ . If  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are odd (resp. even), we have  $|R_{n_1}| = 0$  (resp.  $|R_{n_1}| = *$ ) and  $|R_{n_2}cBb_2a^2| = *3$  (resp.  $|R_{n_2}cBb_2a^2| = *2$ ). Hence, we get  $|H_1| \neq *3$ . We will show later that the values of arrows in  $K_1$  are  $*3$  (resp.  $*2$ ) if  $m$  is odd (resp. even). Thus, when  $m$  is even, we get  $|K_1| = *3$ , because  $K_1$  has some edges with value 0, ones with value  $*$  and ones with value  $*2$ , and the values of all its edges are not  $*3$ . Similarly, we can prove  $|K_2| = *3$ .

Now, We show that the values of arrows in  $K_1$  are  $*3$  (resp.  $*2$ ) if  $m$  is odd (resp. even). By removing one of arrows from  $K_1$ , we get a subgraph  $L = R_{m-3}cBa'$ , where  $a'$  is an arrow of size 2 or 3. We will show  $|L| = *3$  (resp.  $|L| = *2$ ), if  $m$  is odd (resp. even).

Let  $m$  be odd. We have  $|c| = 0$  and the values of h-edges of  $B$  are  $*$ . We also get  $|a'| = 0$  or  $|a'| = *2$  by Lemma 2. If  $w = 1, 2, 3$ , the values of the outer edges of  $D$  are  $*$  or  $*2$ . The values of the inner v-edges of  $R_{m-3}$  are  $*2$ . By removing an inner h-edge of  $R_{m-3}$ , we can show the values of inner h-edges are not  $*3$ . Thus, we obtain  $|L| = *3$ .

Let  $m$  be even. We have  $|c| = *$  and the values of h-edges of  $B$  are 0. We also get  $|a'| = *$  or  $|a'| = *3$  by Lemma 2. If  $w = 1, 2, 3$ , the values of the outer edges of  $D$  are 0 or  $*3$ . The values of the inner v-edges of  $R_{m-3}$  are  $*3$ . By removing an inner h-edge of  $R_{m-3}$ , we can show the values of inner h-edges are not  $*2$ . Thus, we obtain  $|L| = *2$ .

**Lemma 6** Let  $H = R_{m-2}cAa^2$  be the graph given in the proof of Proposition 4(3) for the case  $m_2 = 1$  and  $x = 1, 2, 3, y = 2, 3, z = 1, 2, 3$  or  $x = 2, 3, y = 1, z = 1, 2, 3$ , where the size of  $c$  is  $z$ . Then, we have  $|H| \neq *$  (resp.  $|H| \neq 0$ ), when  $m$  is odd (resp. even).

Proof. Let  $m$  be odd. By Proposition 1, the value of the right v-edge of  $A$  is  $*$  when  $z = 1, 2, 3$  and  $x = 1, y = 2$  or  $x = 2, y = 1$ . The value of the lower h-edge of  $A$  is  $*$  when  $y = 1, 2, 3$  and  $x = 1, 2, 3, z = 2, 3$  or  $x = 2, 3, z = 1$ . When  $x = 1, y = 3, z = 1$ , the value of the upper h-edge of  $A$  is  $*$ . Hence, in any cases, we have  $|H| \neq *$ .

Let  $m$  be even. By Proposition 1, the value of the right v-edge of  $A$  is 0

when  $z = 1, 2, 3$  and  $x = 1, y = 2$  or  $x = 2, y = 1$ . The value of the lower h-edge of  $A$  is 0 when  $y = 1, 2, 3$  and  $x = 1, 2, 3, z = 2, 3$  or  $x = 2, 3, z = 1$ . When  $x = 1, y = 3, z = 1$ , the value of the upper h-edge of  $A$  is 0. Hence, in any cases, we have  $|H| \neq 0$ .

## References

- [ 1 ] E. R. Berlecamp, The Dot and Boxes Game, A K Perters Ltd, MA 2001.
- [ 2 ] E. R. Berlecamp, J. H. Conway and R. K. Guy, Winning Ways for Your Mathematical Games, Second edition, A K Perters Ltd, MA 2001.
- [ 3 ] J. C. Holladay, A note on the game of dots, *American Mathematical Monthly*, **73**, (1966), 717-720.
- [ 4 ] T. Ishihara, Nimstring values for  $2 \times n$  rectangular arrays I, *J. of Math.*, The University of Tokushima, **44**, (2010), 47-52.