

By cases, then:

1. If no integer $c_i - i$ lies in the interval $[-d-1, a_d - d-1]$, then

$$c_i - i \in [a_i - i, a_{i+1} - i],$$

and σ_c can appear only in the last term of the sum (*).

⌈ The last term of (*) is $(-1)^d \sigma_{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{d-1}} \cdot \sigma_{a_d}$.
 If $j < d$, and suppose σ_c appear in the j -th term of the sum (*),

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_{a_1, \dots, a_{j-1}, a_{j+1}, \dots, a_{d-1}} \cdot \sigma_{a_j + d - j} = \sigma_{a_j + d - j} \cdot \sigma_{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{j-1}, a_{j+1}, \dots, a_{d-1}}$$

$$= \sum_{\substack{a_i \leq c_i \leq a_{i+1} \\ \sum c_i = a + \sum_{b_i = a_{i+1}} b_i}} \sigma_c \quad \begin{matrix} i \leq j-1 & a_{j+1} \leq c_i \leq a_{i+1} & i \geq j \\ a_{j+1} \leq c_j \leq a_{j+1} \end{matrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow c_j - j \in [a_{j+1} - (j+1), a_{j+1} - j]$$

$$\Rightarrow c_j - j \in [a_{j+1} - (j+1), a_j - (j+1)]$$

$$\text{or } [a_j - j, a_{j+1} - j] \text{ so}$$

$$\Rightarrow c_j - j \notin [a_{j+1} - (j+1), a_j - (j+1)], \text{ and } c_j - j \in [a_j - j, a_{j+1} - j]$$

$$= [-d-1, a_d - (d+1)]$$

By the assumption, $j = d \Rightarrow$ Contradiction.

$\Rightarrow \sigma_c$ can appear only in the last term.

But since $c_i \geq a_i$ and $\sum c_i = \sum a_i$,
 it follows that $c = a$.

⌈ From $c_i - i \in [a_i - i, a_{i+1} - i]$ for all i ,