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A Slightly Better Upper Bound on R(k)

Exposition by William Gasarch

January 23, 2025

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Definition Let $a, b, k \ge 2$.



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We will use item (2) to improve the upper bound from item (1).

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 $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k} + \binom{n-1}{k-1}.$

Thm For $a, b \ge 2$, $R(a, b) \le {a+b-2 \choose a-1}$.

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Base Case a + b = 4.

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Base Case a + b = 4. Then a = b = 2.

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Thm For $a, b \ge 2$, $R(a, b) \le {a+b-2 \choose a-1}$. Proof is by induction on a + b.

Base Case a + b = 4. Then a = b = 2. $R(2, 2) \le \binom{2}{1} = 2$. True!

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Thm For $a, b \ge 2$, $R(a, b) \le {a+b-2 \choose a-1}$. Proof is by induction on a + b. Base Case a + b = 4. Then a = b = 2. $R(2, 2) \le {2 \choose 1} = 2$. True! IH For all a', b', a' + b' < a + b, $R(a', b') \le {a'+b'-2 \choose a'-1}$.

Thm For $a, b \ge 2$, $R(a, b) \le \binom{a+b-2}{a-1}$. Proof is by induction on a + b. Base Case a + b = 4. Then a = b = 2. $R(2, 2) \le \binom{2}{1} = 2$. True! IH For all a', b', a' + b' < a + b, $R(a', b') \le \binom{a'+b'-2}{a'-1}$. IS $R(a, b) \le R(a - 1, b) + R(a, b - 1)$

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$$R(k) = R(k,k) \le \binom{2k-1}{k}$$

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 $R(k) = R(k, k) \le \binom{2k-1}{k}$ Use Stirling's Formula



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$$R(k) = R(k, k) \le \binom{2k-1}{k}$$

Use Stirling's Formula $n! \sim \sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n$

 $\begin{aligned} R(k) &= R(k,k) \leq \binom{2k-1}{k} \\ \text{Use Stirling's Formula } n! \sim \sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n \text{ to obtain} \end{aligned}$

$$\begin{split} R(k) &= R(k,k) \leq \binom{2k-1}{k} \\ \text{Use Stirling's Formula } n! \sim \sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n \text{ to obtain} \end{split}$$

$$R(k) \leq \frac{2^{2k-1}}{\sqrt{\pi k}}.$$

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$$R(k) \leq \binom{2k-1}{k} \sim \frac{2^{2k-1}}{\sqrt{\pi k}}.$$

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What Else is Known About Upper Bounds on R(k)

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Vote A YES means you think its known and best known.

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Vote A YES means you think its known and best known. *c*: there is some constant *c*. ϵ : there is a small ϵ .

1) $R(k) \leq O(\frac{4^k}{k^{1/2}})$. We did this proof.

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2) $R(k) \le O(\frac{4^{k}}{k^{c}})$. $c > \frac{1}{2}$.
3) $R(k) \le O(\frac{4^{k}}{k^{c \log k}/\log \log k})$.

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5) $R(k) \leq O((4-\epsilon)^k)$

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Answer on the Next Slide!

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1) $R(k) \leq O(\frac{4^k}{k^{1/2}})$. We did this proof. Old, Folklore.



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2) $R(k) \leq O(\frac{4^{k}}{k^{c}}), c > \frac{1}{2}$. Thomson 1988.
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5) $P(k) \leq O((4 - k^{k}))$. Compare C iffulie Maria for

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5) $R(k) \leq O((4 - \epsilon)^k)$. Campos, Griffthis, Morris, Sahasrabudhe 2023.https://arxiv.org/pdf/2303.09521 Result (5) is the best known.