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Ramsey number, in general

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Ramsey number, in general

Definition

The graph Ramsey number R(k, I) is the smallest n such that for every graph G of n vertices, either G contains K_k or \overline{G} contains K_I .

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Theorem

For every $k, l \ge 3$ the following inequality holds: $R(k, l) \le R(k - 1, l) + R(k, l - 1).$

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Proof Take a graph G on n = R(k - 1, l) + R(k, l - 1) vertices and fix any point x of it.

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With this theorem and the easy observation: R(2, k) = R(k, 2) = kwe get that $R(k, l) \leq \binom{k+l-2}{k-1} = \binom{k+l-2}{l-1}$, **(Ramsey's theorem)** where the proof is by induction, the induction step being the theorem above and the base cases are R(2, k) = R(k, 2) = k.

With this theorem and the easy observation: R(2, k) = R(k, 2) = kwe get that $R(k, I) \leq \binom{k+I-2}{k-1} = \binom{k+I-2}{I-1}$, **(Ramsey's theorem)** where the proof is by induction, the induction step being the theorem above and the base cases are R(2, k) = R(k, 2) = k. Therefore a few upper bounds for the Ramsey numbers are given by the table below

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k,l	2	3	4	5	6
2	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*
3	3*	6*	10	15	21
4	4*	10	20		
5	5*	15			
6	6*	21			

In this table the values denoted by a * are exact values.

A few Ramsey numbers

However, a better, exact estimate on R(3,4) = R(4,3) is 9, as seen earlier. This value itself will give better estimates for the other members of the previous table:

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2	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*	
3	3*	6*	9 ^a	14^{b}	20	
4	4*	9 ^a	18 ^c			
5	5*	14 ^b				
6	6*	20				

In this table the values for R(3,4) = 9, R(3,5) = 14 and R(4,4) = 18 are exact too.

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Claim $R(P_3, K_n) = 2n - 1$

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$$ex(n, P_4) = \begin{cases} n & \text{for } 3|n\\ n-1 & \text{for } 3 \nmid n \end{cases}$$