CSE 102 Spring 2021 Advanced Homework Assignment 1

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1. Prove that $\binom{2n}{n} = \Theta(\frac{4^n}{\sqrt{n}})$, where $\binom{m}{k}$ denotes the binomial coefficient $\binom{m}{k} = \frac{m!}{k!(m-k)!}$, for $(0 \le k \le m)$.

Proof. By using *Stirling's Formula*, we can get:[1]

$$\binom{2n}{n} = \frac{(2n)!}{n! \cdot n!}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{2\pi 2n} \cdot (\frac{2n}{e})^{2n}}{(\sqrt{2\pi n} \cdot (\frac{n}{e})^n)^2}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{4\pi n} \cdot \frac{4^n \cdot n^{2n}}{e^{2n}}}{(\sqrt{2\pi n} \cdot \frac{n^n}{e^n})^2}$$

$$= \frac{4^n}{\sqrt{\pi n}}$$

Therefore, we can observe that:

$$\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{100} \cdot \frac{4^n}{\sqrt{\pi n}} \le \frac{4^n}{\sqrt{\pi n}} \le \sqrt{\pi} \cdot \frac{4^n}{\sqrt{\pi n}}$$
$$\frac{1}{100} \cdot \frac{4^n}{\sqrt{n}} \le \frac{4^n}{\sqrt{\pi n}} \le \frac{4^n}{\sqrt{n}}$$
$$\frac{1}{100} \cdot \frac{4^n}{\sqrt{n}} \le \binom{2n}{n} \le \frac{4^n}{\sqrt{n}}$$

Hence, we have $\binom{2n}{n} = \Theta(\frac{4^n}{\sqrt{n}})$.

References

[1] Wikipidea, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stirling