

A very quickly growing function is defined by

$$A_k(j) = \begin{cases} j+1 & \text{if } k=0 \\ A_{k-1}^{(j+1)}(j) & \text{if } k \geq 1 \end{cases} \quad \text{for } k \geq 0 \text{ and } j \geq 1$$

$k, j \in \mathbb{Z}$

Specifically,  $A_0(j) = j$

i) Use induction to prove  $A_0^{(i)}(j) = j+i$  and  
derive  $A_1(j)$

base case  $A_0^{(0)}(j) = j = j+0$

Assume that  $A_0^{(i-1)}(j) = j+(i-1)$ , then

$$A_0^{(i)}(j) = A_0(A_0^{(i-1)}(j)) = (j+(i-1)) + 1 = j+i$$

因為  $A_0^{(i)}(j) = j+1$  可以推得

$$A_1(j) = A_0^{(j+1)}(j) = 2j+1 \quad \text{for any integer } j \geq 1$$

ii) Use induction to prove  $A_1^{(i)}(j) = 2^i(j+1)-1$  and  
derive  $A_2(j)$

base case  $A_1^{(0)}(j) = 2^0(j+1)-1 = j$

Assume that  $A_1^{(i-1)}(j) = 2^{i-1}(j+1)-1$ , then

$$A_1^{(i)}(j) = A_1(A_1^{(i-1)}(j)) = A_1(2^{i-1}(j+1)-1) \\ = 2 \left[ 2^{i-1}(j+1)-1 \right] + 1 = 2^i(j+1)-1$$

因為  $A_1^{(1)}(j) = 2^1(j+1)-1$  可推得

$$A_2(j) = A_1^{(j+1)}(j) = 2^{j+1}(j+1)-1 \text{ for any integer } j \geq 1$$

$$A_1(1) = 2 \times 1 + 1 = 3, \quad A_2(1) = 2^2 \times 2 - 1 = 7$$

$$A_3(1) = A_2^{(2)}(1) = A_2(A_2(1)) = A_2(7) \\ = 2^{7+1}(7+1)-1 = 2^{11}-1 = 2047$$

$$A_4(1) = A_3^{(2)}(1) = A_3(A_3(1)) = A_3(2047) \\ = A_2^{2048}(2047)$$

$$\gg A_2(2047) = 2^{2048} \times 2048 - 1$$

$$> 2^{2048} = 16^{512} > 10^{512} > 10^{80}$$

Hence, we can conclude that  $A_4(1)$  is  
much larger than  $10^{80}$