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EMBEDDING THE POLYTOMIC TREE INTO THE n -CUBE

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In the whole paper a “graph” is a nondirected, possibly infinite graph without loops and multiple edges, expressed as an ordered pair $\mathcal{G} = \langle V, E \rangle$, where V is the set of vertices and E is the set of edges, a subset of $V^{(2)}$, the set of all unordered pairs of elements of V . $\mathcal{G}' = \langle V', E' \rangle$ is said to be the subgraph of $\mathcal{G} = \langle V, E \rangle$ induced by V' iff $V' \subset V$, $E' = E \cap V'^{(2)}$. $\mathcal{G}' = \langle V', E' \rangle$ is said to be a partial subgraph of $\mathcal{G} = \langle V, E \rangle$ iff $V' \subset V$, $E' \subset E \cap V'^{(2)}$. (Cf [3].) By $] [$ we denote the post-office function.

Definition 1. Let S be a set, by 2^S denote as usual the set of all subsets of S . Put $E(S) = \{(A, B) \mid A \subset S, B \subset S, \text{card}(A \dot{-} B) = 1\}$. $(A \dot{-} B)$ denotes here the symmetric difference of A and B . By the S -cube we understand the graph $\mathcal{K}(S) = \langle 2^S, E(S) \rangle$.

Definition 2. By $\mathfrak{R}(S)$ denote the class of all graphs isomorphic to some partial subgraph of $\mathcal{K}(S)$. If $S = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, write $\mathfrak{R}(S) = \mathfrak{R}_n$. Put $\mathfrak{R} = \{\mathcal{G} \mid \exists S, \mathcal{G} \in \mathfrak{R}(S)\}$. By \mathfrak{R} denote the class of all graphs \mathcal{G} such that for any finite partial subgraph \mathcal{G}' of \mathcal{G} , $\mathcal{G}' \in \mathfrak{R}$.

Trivially, if $\mathcal{G} \in \mathfrak{R}(S)$ and \mathcal{G}' is a partial subgraph of \mathcal{G} , then $\mathcal{G}' \in \mathfrak{R}(S)$.

Definition 3. Let $\mathcal{G} = \langle V, E \rangle$ be a graph, F a set. Assume there exists a mapping $\psi : E \rightarrow F$ such that

- (i) if (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_r) is the sequence of edges of a finite open path in \mathcal{G} , then there is an element of F that appears an odd number of times in the sequence $(\psi(e_1), \psi(e_2), \dots, \psi(e_r))$.
- (ii) if (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_s) is the sequence of edges of a finite closed path in \mathcal{G} , then all the elements of F appear an even number (possibly null) of times in the sequence $(\psi(f_1), \psi(f_2), \dots, \psi(f_s))$.

Then we call ψ a $\bar{\mathcal{C}}$ -valuation of \mathcal{G} . Let n be a natural number. If $\text{card}(\psi(E)) \leq n$, we call ψ a C_n -valuation of \mathcal{G} .

Definition 4. By $\bar{\mathcal{C}}$ denote the class of all graphs \mathcal{G} such that there exists a $\bar{\mathcal{C}}$ -valuation of \mathcal{G} , by \mathcal{C} denote the class of all graphs \mathcal{G} such that for any finite partial subgraph \mathcal{G}' of \mathcal{G} , $\mathcal{G}' \in \bar{\mathcal{C}}$. Let n be a natural number. By \mathcal{C}_n denote the class of all graphs \mathcal{G} such that there exists a C_n -valuation of \mathcal{G} .

Remark 1. If $\mathcal{G} \in \bar{\mathcal{C}}$ is finite, then for some n , $\mathcal{G} \in \mathcal{C}_n$. Further, $\mathcal{C}_n \subset \bar{\mathcal{C}} \subset \mathcal{C}$.

Theorem 1 in [2] asserts that

- (a) $\mathcal{R}_n \subset \mathcal{C}_n$
- (b) $\mathcal{G} \in \mathcal{C}_n$ connected $\Rightarrow \mathcal{G} \in \mathcal{R}_n$
- (c) $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{R}$.

Remark 2. Let \mathcal{T} be an arbitrary tree. Then condition (ii) of Def. 3 is empty and moreover, putting $F = E$, ψ the identity map, we have $\mathcal{T} \in \bar{\mathcal{C}}$ and hence $\mathcal{T} \in \mathcal{R}$. Also, $\mathcal{T} \in \mathcal{R}_n \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{T} \in \mathcal{C}_n$.

In what remains, we shall be concerned with trees only, and with the problem to find to a tree \mathcal{T} the smallest n such that $\mathcal{T} \in \mathcal{R}_n$. We shall denote this n by $\text{dim}(\mathcal{T})$.

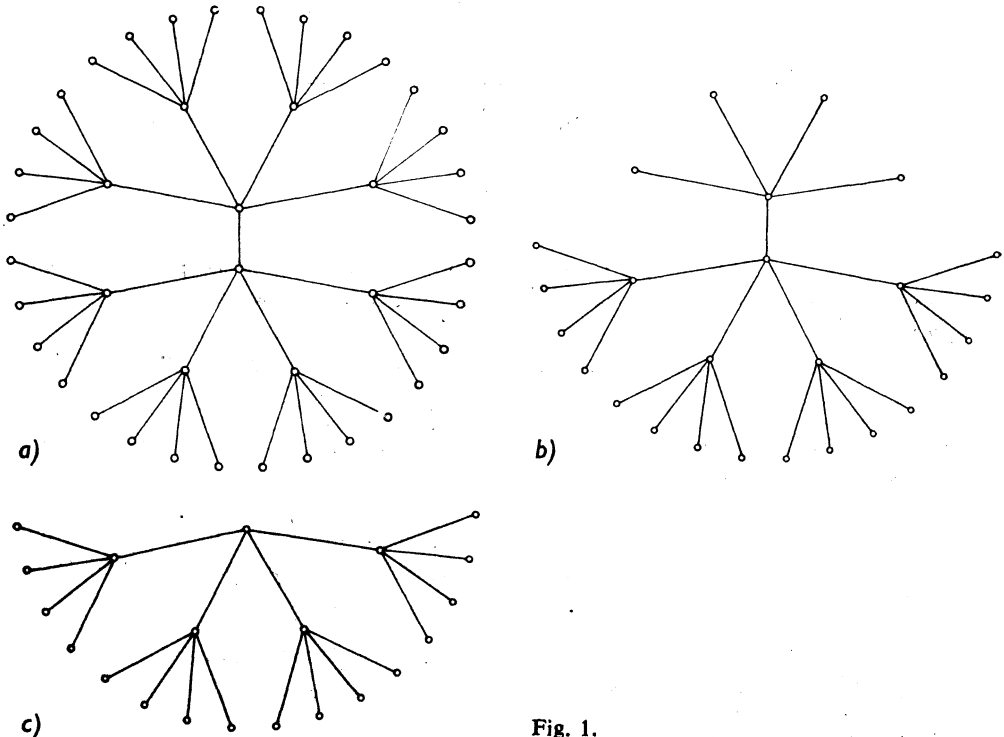


Fig. 1.

To study trees the vertices of which have their degree bounded from above by a given number, we introduce three infinite classes of trees, closely related to each other. $\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$, the "polytomic tree", is a straightforward generalization of the dichotomic tree \mathcal{D}_l of [1]. $\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ may be considered to be a star of k rays, each endpoint of a ray being again the center of a new k -star, and this procedure repeated l times. So, there are vertices of "level" 1 to $(l + 1)$, where the (single) vertex of level 1 has degree k , the vertices of the outermost level $(l + 1)$ have degree 1 and the remaining vertices have degree $(k + 1)$. ${}^b\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ and ${}^*\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ arise from $\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ if it is completed in such a way that all its vertices have either degree 1 or degree $(k + 1)$.

Definition 5. Let $k \geq 2$ and $l \geq 1$ be natural numbers. Define

$$\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)} = \langle V_l^{(k)}, E_l^{(k)} \rangle, \quad {}^b\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)} = \langle {}^bV_l^{(k)}, {}^bE_l^{(k)} \rangle, \quad {}^*\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)} = \langle {}^*V_l^{(k)}, {}^*E_l^{(k)} \rangle$$

as follows:

Put

$$\begin{aligned} V_l^{(k)} &= \{v_j^{(i)} \mid 1 \leq i \leq l + 1, 1 \leq j \leq k^{i-1}\} \\ {}^bV_l^{(k)} &= \{v_j^{(i)} \mid (1 \leq i \leq l + 1) \vee (-l \leq i \leq -1), 1 \leq j \leq k^{|i|-1}\} \\ {}^*V_l^{(k)} &= \{v_j^{(i)} \mid 1 \leq |i| \leq l + 1, 1 \leq j \leq k^{|i|-1}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Further, for $v_j^{(i)} \in {}^*V_l^{(k)}$, $v_{j'}^{(i')} \in {}^*V_l^{(k)}$, $(v_j^{(i)}, v_{j'}^{(i')}) \in {}^*E_l^{(k)} \Leftrightarrow (|i'| = |i| - 1) \& (j' = \lfloor j/k^2 \rfloor \vee ((i = 1) \& (i' = -1)))$. Denote $(v_1^{(1)}, v_1^{(-1)})$ by $e_1^{(0)}$ and further $(v_j^{(i)}, v_{j'}^{(i')}) \in E^{(k)}$ by $e_j^{(i)}$, if $|i| < |i'|$. ${}^b\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ resp. $\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ are defined as the subgraphs of ${}^*\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ induced by ${}^bV_l^{(k)}$ resp. $V_l^{(k)}$.

Fig. 1a, b, c shows ${}^*\mathcal{T}_2^{(4)}$, ${}^b\mathcal{T}_2^{(4)}$ and $\mathcal{T}_2^{(4)}$.

As is seen, ${}^*\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ consists of two trees $\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ with their "roots" joined by a new edge whereas ${}^b\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ arises in a similar manner from one $\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ and one $\mathcal{T}_{l-1}^{(k)}$ (for $l \geq 2$). As for the number of vertices, $\text{card } {}^*V_l^{(k)} = 2(k^{l+1} - 1)/(k - 1)$, $\text{card } {}^bV_l^{(k)} = (k^{l+1} + k^l - 2)/(k - 1)$ and $\text{card } V_l^{(k)} = (k^{l+1} - 1)/(k - 1)$. In [1], $\mathcal{T}_l^{(2)}$ is denoted by \mathcal{D}_l . Theorem 3 of [1] asserts that for $l \geq 2$, $\dim \mathcal{T}_l^{(2)} = l + 2$ ($\dim \mathcal{T}_1^{(2)} = 2$ being trivial). Another partial result of the general problem of $\dim \mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ is supplied by the following theorem. But first a

Remark 3. ${}^*\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)} \in \mathfrak{R}_n \Rightarrow {}^b\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)} \in \mathfrak{R}_n \Rightarrow \mathcal{T}_l^{(k)} \in \mathfrak{R}_n \Rightarrow {}^*\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)} \in \mathfrak{R}_{n+1}$. The first two implications being trivial, consider for the third the two constituent $\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ of ${}^*\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ as having a C_n -valuation with the same F and the joining edge being assigned a new element f_{n+1} .

Theorem 1.

$$\begin{aligned} \dim ({}^*\mathcal{T}_2^{(2p)}) &= \dim ({}^b\mathcal{T}_2^{(2p)}) = \dim (\mathcal{T}_2^{(2p)}) = 3p + 1, \\ \dim ({}^*\mathcal{T}_2^{(2p+1)}) &= \dim ({}^b\mathcal{T}_2^{(2p+1)}) = 3p + 3, \\ \dim (\mathcal{T}_2^{(2p+1)}) &= 3p + 2. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. In view of Remark 3, it is sufficient to prove

$$\begin{aligned} {}^* \mathcal{T}_2^{(2p)} \in \mathfrak{R}_{3p+1}, \quad \mathcal{T}_2^{(2p+1)} \in \mathfrak{R}_{3p+2}, \quad \mathcal{T}_2^{(2p)} \notin \mathfrak{R}_{3p}, \quad \mathcal{T}_2^{(2p+1)} \notin \mathfrak{R}_{3p+1}, \\ {}^b \mathcal{T}_2^{(2p+1)} \notin \mathfrak{R}_{3p+2}. \end{aligned}$$

1. To construct a C_{3p+1} -valuation ψ of ${}^* \mathcal{T}_2^{(2p)}$, put

$$F = \{a'_{p+1}, a'_{p+2}, \dots, a'_{2p}, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{2p+1}\}.$$

Further define

$$\begin{aligned} (*) \quad \psi(e_1^{(0)}) &= a_{2p+1}, \\ \psi(e_j^{(1)}) &= a_j \quad (1 \leq j \leq 2p), \\ \psi(e_j^{(-1)}) &= a''_j \quad (1 \leq j \leq 2p), \end{aligned}$$

where we write for short

$$a''_t = a_t \quad (1 \leq t \leq p), \quad a''_t = a'_t \quad (p+1 \leq t \leq 2p), \quad a''_{2p+1} = a_{2p+1}.$$

Instead of proceeding by defining explicitly $\psi(e_j^{(2)})$ and $\psi(e_j^{(-2)})$, observe that the edges $e_j^{(2)}$ and $e_j^{(-2)}$ are classified naturally into groups of $2p$ by the j of the $e_j^{(1)}$ they are adjacent to:

$$\begin{aligned} G_j^{(1)} &= \{e_t^{(2)} \mid 2p(j-1) + 1 \leq t \leq 2pj\}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 2p, \\ G_j^{(-1)} &= \{e_t^{(-2)} \mid 2p(j-1) + 1 \leq t \leq 2pj\}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 2p. \end{aligned}$$

Obviously a permutation of the valuation ψ inside one group is immaterial. So, we define merely a set of $2p$ values for each group putting

$$\begin{aligned} (**) \quad \psi(G_j^{(1)}) &= \{a_t \mid j+1 \leq t \leq \min((j+p), (2p+1))\} \cup \\ &\quad \cup \{a_t \mid 1 \leq t \leq j-p-1\} \cup \{a'_t \mid p+1 \leq t \leq 2p\}, \\ \psi(G_j^{(-1)}) &= \{a''_t \mid j+1 \leq t \leq \min((j+p), (2p+1))\} \cup \\ &\quad \cup \{a''_t \mid 1 \leq t \leq j-p-1\} \cup \{a_t \mid p+1 \leq t \leq 2p\}. \end{aligned}$$

(One such valuation ψ is shown for $p=2$ on Fig. 2, where for transparency we write 1 for a_1 , 3' for a'_3 etc.) (Observe that considering the valuation induced by ψ on ${}^b \mathcal{T}_2^{(2p)}$ and looking at $e_1^{(0)}$ as " $e_{2p+1}^{(1)}$ " and at $\{e_j^{(-1)} \mid 1 \leq j \leq 2p\}$ as " $G_{2p+1}^{(1)}$ ", ψ on them meets the rules (*) and (**).)

Let us now show that ψ so defined is a C -valuation. For paths of odd length the condition (i) of Def. 3 holds trivially, so we concern ourselves only with paths of length 2 or 4 in $\mathcal{T}_2^{(2p)}$. The paths of length 2 being well valued by inspection, assume there is a path p of length 4 such that two elements of F , say x and y , appear on it twice each. The center of any path of length 4 in $\mathcal{T}_2^{(2p)}$ is either in $v_1^{(1)}$ or in $v_1^{(-1)}$. Assume for p the former happens. Hence x and y must be both unprimed a 's, say a_r and a_s .

So it must simultaneously be $a_r \in G_s^{(1)}$, $a_s \in G_r^{(1)}$, with possible $r = k + 1$ or $s = k + 1$. That however is impossible by definition of $\psi(G_j^{(1)})$. What concerns the case that the center of p is in $v_1^{(-1)}$, observe the symmetry in ψ which permits us to repeat the former argument with interchange of a_j and a'_j ($p + 1 \leq j \leq 2p$). Q.E.D.

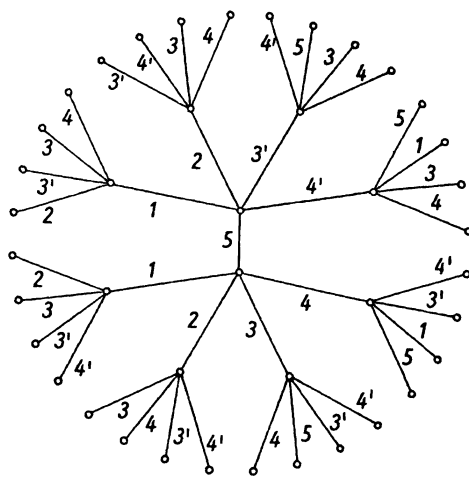


Fig. 2.

2. To construct a C_{3p+2} -valuation of $\mathcal{F}_2^{(2p+1)}$, consider the valuation used for ${}^*\mathcal{F}_2^{(2p)}$, specifically that induced on ${}^b\mathcal{F}_2^{(2p)}$. $\mathcal{F}_2^{(2p+1)}$ arises from ${}^b\mathcal{F}_2^{(2p)}$ by adding one $e_j^{(2)}$ in each $G_j^{(1)}$. The desired C_{3p+2} -valuation is simply obtained by modifying ψ in the way that to each mentioned new $e_j^{(2)}$ the new value a'_{2p+1} is assigned. Obviously this does not spoil the property (i) of Def. 3. Q.E.D.

3. We proceed now to show that ${}^b\mathcal{F}_2^{(2p+1)} \notin \mathfrak{R}_{3p+2}$. Assume the contrary. Consider ${}^b\mathcal{F}_2^{(2p+1)}$ as a partial subgraph of \mathcal{K}_{3p+2} . Without loss of generality assume $v_1^{(1)}$ is in the vertex \emptyset of \mathcal{K}_{3p+2} , and the $2p + 2$ neighbours of $v_1^{(1)}$ in ${}^b\mathcal{F}_2^{(2p+1)}$ are in the vertices $\{j\}$ for $1 \leq j \leq 2p + 2$ of \mathcal{K}_{3p+2} . It is now necessary to place the $(2p + 1)(2p + 2) = 4p^2 + 6p + 2$ vertices of degree 1 of the ${}^b\mathcal{F}_2^{(2p+1)}$ into the $\binom{3p + 2}{2} - \binom{p}{2} = 4p^2 + 5p + 1$ vertices $\{i, j\}$ of \mathcal{K}_{3p+2} with $1 \leq i \leq 3p + 2$, $1 \leq j \leq 3p + 2$, $i \neq j$, such that not both i and j are $> 2p + 2$. As this is not possible by reason of numbers, the proof is complete.

4. To complete the proof of the whole theorem, we have to show $\mathcal{F}_2^{(2p)} \notin \mathfrak{R}_{3p}$, $\mathcal{F}_2^{(2p+1)} \notin \mathfrak{R}_{3p+1}$. To that purpose we show that from $\mathcal{F}_2^{(k)} \in \mathfrak{R}_n$ follows $2n \geq 3k + 1$. Indeed, if $\mathcal{F}_2^{(k)}$ is a partial subgraph of \mathcal{K}_n , there are certain k^2 vertices of $\mathcal{F}_2^{(k)}$ to be placed into $\binom{n}{2} - \binom{n-k}{2}$ vertices of \mathcal{K}_n , hence $k^2 \leq \binom{n}{2} - \binom{n-k}{2}$ and the desired inequality follows.

To be able to derive statements about much wider classes of trees than $\mathcal{T}_1^{(k)}$, ${}^b\mathcal{T}_1^{(k)}$, ${}^*\mathcal{T}_1^{(k)}$, we observe that ${}^b\mathcal{T}_1^{(k)}$ and ${}^*\mathcal{T}_1^{(k)}$ are in a sense the most general trees with given diameter and given maximum degree of the vertices. Strictly speaking, the following holds:

Lemma 1. *Let the maximum degree of the vertices of the tree \mathcal{T} be $k + 1$. If the diameter of \mathcal{T} equals $2l$ resp. $(2l + 1)$, then \mathcal{T} is a partial subgraph of ${}^b\mathcal{T}_1^{(k)}$ resp. ${}^*\mathcal{T}_1^{(k)}$.*

Proof is obvious.

Corollary 1. *Suppose the maximum degree of the vertices of the tree \mathcal{T} is $d \geq 1$ and the diameter of \mathcal{T} is ≤ 5 . If $d = 2a$ then $\dim \mathcal{T} \leq 3a$, if $d = 2a + 1$ then $\dim \mathcal{T} \leq 3a + 1$. There is, on the other hand, to any $d \geq 1$ a tree \mathcal{T} with maximum degree of the vertices equal d and diameter ≤ 4 such that $\dim \mathcal{T} = 3a$ for $d = 2a$ resp. $\dim \mathcal{T} = 3a + 1$ for $d = 2a + 1$.*

Proof. The inequalities follow, for $d \geq 3$, from L 1 and Th 1. On the other hand observe that $\mathcal{T}_2^{(k)}$ has diameter 4 and maximal degree of its vertices $(k + 1)$. The cases $d = 1$ and $d = 2$ are trivial.

For $\mathcal{T}_1^{(2)}$ and $\mathcal{T}_2^{(k)}$ the results obtained are exact. For $k > 2$, $l > 2$ we are only able to give bounds for $\dim \mathcal{T}_1^{(k)}$. From one side, we only succeeded in finding trivial bounds:

Remark 4. $\dim \mathcal{T}_1^{(k)} \leq kl$. The proof of this rests on the following C_{kl} -valuation of $\mathcal{T}_1^{(k)}$. For the edges of each level of $\mathcal{T}_1^{(k)}$, k different elements of F are reserved and distributed in such a way that adjacent edges are assigned different values. In fact, an insubstantially better bound is obtained by using Th 1. for the first two levels, and applying a slightly finer reasoning to the remaining ones. For $k > 2$, $l > 2$ it holds that $\dim \mathcal{T}_1^{(k)} \leq 3/2k + 1 + (l - 2)(k - 1)$.

Theorem 2. $\dim \mathcal{T}_1^{(k)} > kl/e$ where $e = 2,71 \dots$

Proof. Assume $\mathcal{T}_1^{(k)}$ to be isomorphic to some partial subgraph of \mathcal{X}_n . Then comparing the number of vertices, $2^n \geq \text{card } V_1^{(k)} > k^l$ and hence

$$(1) \quad n > l \log_2 k.$$

Consider first $2 \leq k \leq 8$. Here we have $e \log_2 k > k$ and hence $n > l \log_2 k > kl/e$ and the desired inequality holds. Assume now $k > 8$. It follows from (1) that

$$(2) \quad n > 3l.$$

The isomorphism may be assumed such that to the vertex $v_1^{(1)}$ of $\mathcal{T}_1^{(k)}$ the vertex \emptyset of \mathcal{X}_n corresponds. Then to the k^l vertices of distance l from $v_1^{(1)}$ in $\mathcal{T}_1^{(k)}$ there must

correspond vertices of \mathcal{X}_n whose cardinalities are either l or less than l by an even number, hence

$$(3) \quad k^l < \binom{n}{l} + \binom{n}{l+2} + \binom{n}{l-4} + \dots$$

where the sum at the right is finite, ending either with n or 1 depending on the parity of l . As

$$\binom{n}{p-2} / \binom{n}{p} \leq \binom{n}{l-2} / \binom{n}{l} = q$$

for $p \leq l$, we may write

$$(4) \quad \binom{n}{l} + \binom{n}{l-2} + \binom{n}{l-4} + \dots < \binom{n}{l} (1 + q + q^2 + \dots) = \binom{n}{l} / (1 - q).$$

Using (2) we have, however,

$$q = l(l-1) / ((n-l+1)(n-l+2)) < l(l-1) / ((2l+1)(2l+2)) < 1/4$$

and this yields together with (3) and (4)

$$(5) \quad k^l < \frac{4}{3} \binom{n}{l}.$$

For estimating $\binom{n}{l}$ we use the trivial $n(n-1)\dots(n-l+1) < n^l$ and Stirling's formula

$$l! = \sqrt{(2\pi l)} (l/e)^l \exp(\theta_l)$$

where $|\theta_l| < 1/(12l)$ and get from (5)

$$k^l < \frac{4}{3} \exp(-\theta_l) (ne/l)^l (2\pi l)^{-1/2}.$$

Finally

$$\left(\frac{ne}{kl}\right)^l > \frac{3}{4} \sqrt{(2\pi l)} \exp(\theta_l) = \sqrt{[9/8\pi l \exp(2\theta_l)]} > \sqrt{[9/8\pi l \exp(-1/6)]} > 1,$$

Q.E.D.

Corollary 2. *Suppose the maximum degree of the vertices of the tree \mathcal{T} is $d \geq 3$ and the diameter of \mathcal{T} is $D > 5$. Then $\dim \mathcal{T} \leq \frac{1}{2}(d-1)D$. On the other hand, given $d \geq 3$ and $D > 5$, there is a tree \mathcal{T} with maximum degree of the vertices equal d and of diameter $\leq D$ such that $\dim \mathcal{T} > \lfloor (D-1)/2 \rfloor \cdot (d-1)/e$.*

Proof. The first inequality follows from Lemma 1, Remark 4 and Remark 3. The proof of the second statement follows by observing that for the tree \mathcal{T} we may take $\mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ for $l = \lfloor (D-1)/2 \rfloor$ and $k = d-1$.

Compared with Theorem 3 in [1] and Theorem 1 of this paper, the result of Remark 4 and Theorem 2 is much less satisfactory. It would be desirable to narrow the bounds, if not find an equality – which, however, seems difficult. It appears to us that while the lower bound is rather close to the actual value of $\dim \mathcal{T}_l^{(k)}$ there is much space for improvement with the upper bound.

One remark more. It may be noted that we mention $\dim {}^b\mathcal{T}_l^{(2)}$ or $\dim {}^*\mathcal{T}_l^{(2)}$ nowhere. Trivially, there is an inequality following from Remark 3 and from Theorem 3 of [1], namely $l + 2 \leq \dim {}^b\mathcal{T}_l^{(2)} \leq \dim {}^*\mathcal{T}_l^{(2)} \leq l + 3$. We have, however, a conjecture, which we were not able to prove and only succeeded in verifying for $l = 2, 3, 4$:

Conjecture. $\dim {}^*\mathcal{T}_l^{(2)} = l + 2$.

Added in proof. Meanwhile, L. NEBESKÝ in a paper to appear has proved the Conjecture. Also, F. OLLÉ in his M. Sc. thesis has substantially improved Remark 4, proving $\dim \mathcal{T}_l^{(k)} \leq \frac{1}{2}(kl + 2l + k - 2)$.

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