1003-08-1042 **Steve Seif** and **Japheth Wood*** (`jwood@chatham.edu`), Chatham College, Science Division, Woodland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. *Asymptotic growth of free spectra of band monoids.*

We show that for a positive integer k, the finite band monoid $\mathbf{B_k}$, a subdirectly irreducible band monoid defined by J.A. Gerhard, generates a variety with free spectrum in the asymptotic class of $2^{(\log_2 n)(n^{k-2})}$ thereby answering in the negative a question in "64 Problems in Universal Algebra" from the 2001 Budapest conference, *A Course in Tame Congruence Theory.* (Received October 03, 2004)