

We consider that the probability of at least two people in a group of n people sharing a birthday, $P(s)$, is the same as 1 minus the probability of no shared birthdays in a group of n people, $P(n)$

$$P(s) = 1 - P(n)$$

We know there are, in the simple case, 365 possible birthdays. So we see for the case of 2 people:

$$P(2) = \frac{365}{365} \times \frac{364}{365}$$

Due to there being 364 possible days in which person 1 and person 2 cannot share a birthday. Therefore for a group of n people:

$$P(n) = \frac{365}{365} \times \frac{364}{365} \times \dots \times \frac{365-(n-1)}{365}$$

$$P(n) = \frac{365 \times 364 \times \dots \times (365-(n-1))}{365^n}$$

This can be rewritten using factorials:

$$365 \times 364 \times \dots \times (365-(n-1)) = \frac{365!}{(365-n)!}$$

Therefore $P(n)$ can be written as:

$$P(n) = \frac{365!}{(365-n)! 365^n}$$

Finally the probability of at least two people sharing a birthday in a group of n people is:

$$IP(s) = 1 - \frac{365!}{(365-n)! 365^n}$$

Furthermore, to find the minimum group size such that $IP(s) \geq 0.5$ we find that $n = 23$. $n = 23$, $IP(s) \approx 0.507297$

Notice the expression for $IP(n)$ is similar to the Binomial Coefficient, therefore we can rewrite:

Using: $\binom{k}{x} = \frac{k!}{x!(k-x)!}$

so $IP(n) = \frac{n!}{365^n} \binom{365}{n}$

and $IP(s) = 1 - \left[\frac{n!}{365^n} \binom{365}{n} \right]$

And for a general number of days in a year; d:

$$IP(s) = 1 - \left[\frac{n!}{d^n} \binom{d}{n} \right]$$

A second way to define $IP(n)$ is to note that in a room of n people there are $\binom{n}{2}$ pairs and the probability of a given pair not sharing a birthday is $\frac{364}{365}$, so picking with replacement, (key assumption) we say that $IP(n)$ becomes:

$$P(n) = \left(\frac{364}{365}\right)^{\binom{n}{2}}$$

and for the general d days case:

$$P(n) = \left(\frac{d-1}{d}\right)^{\binom{n}{2}}$$

Finally $P(s)$ becomes:

$$P(s) = 1 - \left(\frac{d-1}{d}\right)^{\binom{n}{2}}$$

This formula is used in the analytical solution of the extension.

For the case of a specific birthday we now have n comparisons, not $\binom{n}{2}$ so:

$$P(s) = 1 - \left(\frac{d-1}{d}\right)^n$$