

The birthday problem

Example

$n \geq 2$ students are at a party. What is the probability that two of them are born on the same day of the year?

B = at least two students have the same birthday

$$\Omega = \{ (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \mid 1 \leq x_i \leq 365 \}$$

$$\# \Omega = 365^n$$



$$\# B = ?$$

$$B = \{ (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid x_i = x_j \text{ for some } i \neq j \}$$

The birthday problem

$$P(B^c) = 1 - P(B)$$

\downarrow
not B

Example

$n \geq 2$ students are at a party. What is the probability that two of them are born on the same day of the year?

Simple observation: When $n > 365$ the probability is

$$P(B^c) = \frac{365 \cdot 364 \cdot \dots \cdot (365 - n + 1)}{365^n} = \frac{365}{365} \cdot \frac{364}{365} \cdot \frac{363}{365} \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{365 - n + 1}{365}$$

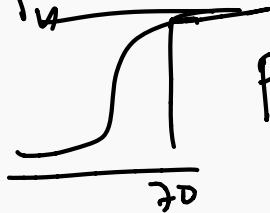
$$B^c = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid x_1, \dots, x_n \text{ are all different}\}$$



$$\rightarrow \left(1 - \frac{1}{365}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{365}\right) \dots \left(1 - \frac{n-1}{365}\right)$$

The birthday problem

$$P_n = P(B) = 1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{365}\right)\left(1 - \frac{2}{365}\right) \cdots \left(1 - \frac{n-1}{365}\right)$$



Example

$$P_2 = 1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{365}\right) = \frac{1}{365} = 0.00274 \dots$$

P_{25}

$$P_{23} \approx 0.51$$

$$\underline{\underline{P_{80}}} = 0.99$$

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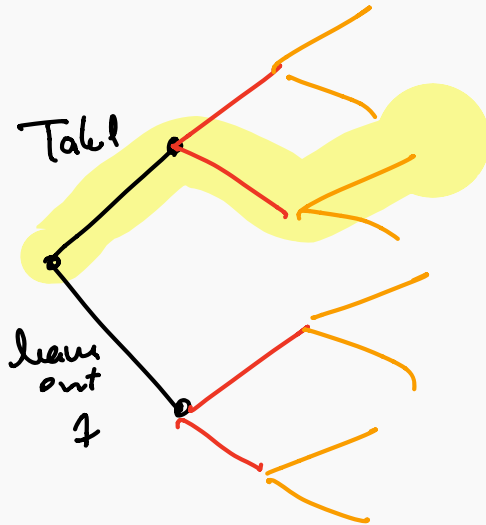
$$p = 1.$$

Counting the number of subsets of a given set

Consider a set A with n elements.

$$A = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$$

The total number of subsets of A is equal to 2^n :



$$\underbrace{2 \times 2 \times \dots \times 2}_{n \text{ times}}$$

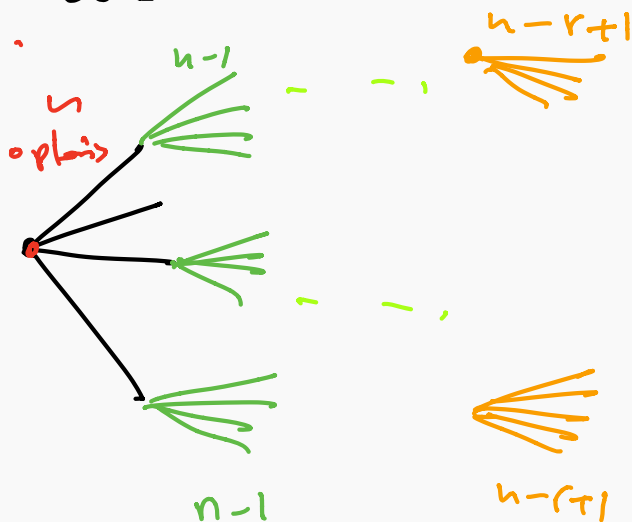
$$= 2^n$$

Counting the number of subsets of a given set

Consider a set A with n elements.

The total number of subsets of A is equal to 2^n :

Question: how many subsets of the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$ are there with exactly r elements?



$$n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-r+1)$$

Concrete A, B, C, D, E



ways of forming
a committee of r
members out of
 n candidates

$$= \frac{n(n-1) \cdots (n-r+1)}{r!}$$

r -element subsets
of a set with
 n elements

$$= \frac{n(n-1) \cdots (n-r+1) \underbrace{(n-r)(n-r-1) \cdots 1}_{(n-r)(n-r-1) \cdots 1}}{r!}$$

$$= \frac{n!}{r! (n-r)!}$$

r -element
subsets of a set
with n elements

$$= \frac{n!}{r! (n-r)!} = \binom{n}{r}$$

C_n^r

↓
 n choose r

Counting the number of subsets of a given set

Consider a set A with n elements.

The total number of subsets of A is equal to 2^n :

The total number of subsets with k elements is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\binom{n}{r} &= \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)\cdots(n-r+1)}{r!} \\ &= \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)\cdots(n-r+1)}{r!} \frac{(n-r)!}{(n-r)!} \\ &= \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

Counting questions

- From a group of 6 students how many different clubs consisting of 3 students can be formed?

$$\frac{6!}{3! (6-3)!} = \frac{\cancel{6} \times 5 \times 4 \times \cancel{3} \times \cancel{2}}{\cancel{3} \times \cancel{2} \times 1 \times \cancel{3} \times \cancel{2} \times 1} = 20$$

- From a group of 4 Math and 7 CS students how many clubs consisting of 2 math and 2 CS students can be formed?

$$\frac{4!}{2! 2!} \times \frac{7!}{2! 5!} = 6 \times 21 = \underline{126}$$

Properties of binomial coefficients

Theorem

Binomial coefficients satisfy the following ~~two~~ ^{two} properties:

- $\binom{n}{r} = \binom{n}{n-r}$ for $0 \leq r \leq n$.
- For $1 \leq r \leq n-1$ we have

$$\binom{n}{r} = \binom{n-1}{r} + \binom{n-1}{r-1}.$$



$$\frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!} = \frac{(n-1)!}{r!(n-1-r)!} + \frac{(n-1)!}{(r-1)!(n-r)!}$$

1 2 3 . . .

n

$$\begin{aligned}\binom{n-1}{r} &= \# \text{ teams not containing } \underline{n} \\ \binom{n-1}{r-1} &= \# \text{ teams containing } \underline{n}\end{aligned}$$

Pascal's triangle

$$\binom{n}{0} = \binom{n}{n} = 1$$

$$\binom{2}{1} = \binom{1}{1} + \binom{1}{0}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} & & & & 1 & & & & \\ & & & & \binom{0}{0} & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & & & & \\ & & \binom{1}{0} & & \binom{1}{1} & & & & \\ & 1 & & 2 & & & & & \\ & \binom{2}{0} & & \binom{2}{1} & & \binom{2}{2} & & & \\ & 1 & 3 & & 3 & & 1 & & \\ & \binom{3}{0} & & \binom{3}{1} & & \binom{3}{2} & & \binom{3}{3} & \\ 1 & & 4 & & 6 & & 4 & & \\ \binom{4}{0} & & \binom{4}{1} & & \binom{4}{2} & & \binom{4}{3} & & \binom{4}{4} \end{array}$$

Tie breaking

Example

A committee with an odd number of members (say, $N = 2n + 1$) is voting to choose one of the plans. Assume that the two plans are equally popular and each committee member votes for one plan with probability $1/2$. What is the probability that the last vote is a tie-breaker?

$$P(\text{vote is tie breaker}) = \frac{\binom{2n}{n}}{2^{2n}}$$

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

$2n = \#$ voters
exactly you

$$k! \sim \sqrt{2\pi k} \cdot \left(\frac{k}{e}\right)^k$$

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

$$2^{2n}$$

$$\approx \frac{\sqrt{4\pi n} \cdot \frac{2^{2n} \cdot n^{2n}}{e^{2n}}}{\frac{2\pi n \cdot n^{2n}}{e^{2n}} \cdot 2^{2n}}$$

$$\approx \frac{\cancel{2} \sqrt{\pi} \sqrt{n}}{\cancel{2} \pi n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi n}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

$$\frac{1}{1.7 \cdot \sqrt{n}}$$

Example

A committee with an odd number of members (say, $N = 2n + 1$) is voting to choose one of the plans. Assume that the two plans are equally popular and each committee member votes for one plan with probability $1/2$. What is the probability that the last vote is a tie-breaker?

For $N = 1001$ then the probability is approximately $p = 0.018$.

Probability of a disjoint union

A B disjoint $A \cap B = \emptyset$

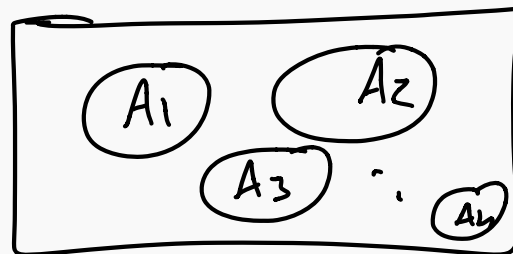
$$\mathbb{P}(A \cup B) = \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(B).$$

Theorem

Let A_1, \dots, A_n be n mutually disjoint events, i.e. $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$, when $i \neq j$. Then

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{P}[A_i].$$

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{one of the events} \\ A_1, \dots, A_n \text{ occurs} \end{array}\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{P}(A_i)$$



From a group of 10 math and 10 CS students a committee with 6 members is formed. What is the probability that there are more ~~CS~~ than ~~math~~ students in the committee?

$A =$ There are more math than CS student

$A_1 = 4 \text{ CS}, 2 \text{ math}$

$A_2 = 5 \text{ CS}, 1 \text{ math}$

$A_3 = 6 \text{ CS}, 0 \text{ math}$

$$P(A_1) = \frac{\binom{10}{4} \binom{10}{2}}{\binom{20}{6}}$$

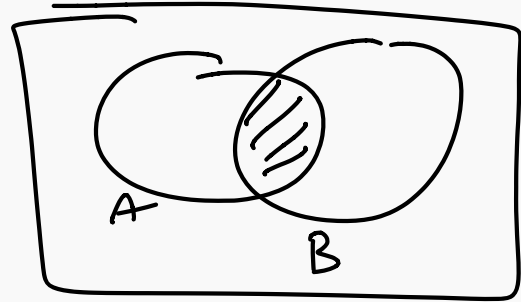
$$P(A_2) = \frac{\binom{10}{5} \binom{10}{1}}{\binom{20}{6}}$$

$$P(A_3) = \frac{\binom{10}{6} \binom{10}{0}}{\binom{20}{6}}$$

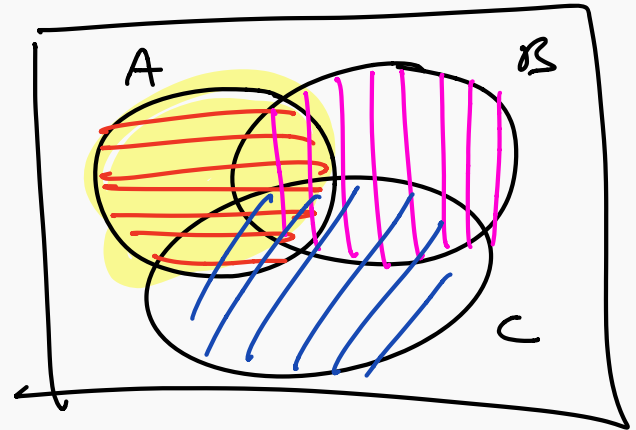
$$P(A) = \frac{\binom{10}{4} \binom{10}{2}}{\binom{20}{6}} + \frac{\binom{10}{5} \binom{10}{1}}{\binom{20}{6}} + \frac{\binom{10}{6} \binom{10}{0}}{\binom{20}{6}}$$

The inclusion-exclusion principle with three events

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$$



$$P(A \cup B \cup C) = P(A) + P(B) + P(C) - P(A \cap B) - P(A \cap C) - P(B \cap C) + P(A \cap B \cap C)$$



Theorem (Inclusion-Exclusion principle)

Let A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n be event and $A = \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$. Then

$$\mathbb{P}[A] = \sum_i \mathbb{P}[A_i] - \sum_{i < j} \mathbb{P}[A_i \cap A_j] + \sum_{i < j < k} \mathbb{P}[A_i \cap A_j \cap A_k] - \dots + (-1)^{n+1} \mathbb{P}[A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots]$$