

Tutorial 1 notes:

14-Sept

Variation of Birthday Problem:

Consider group of n people whose birthday equally likely to fall on any day.

Sample space: $\Omega = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \mid 1 \leq x_i \leq 365\} \Rightarrow |\Omega| = 365^n$

Consider Events:

A = Someone shares your birthday (You're not part of group)

B = Any two people share a birthday

C = Any three people share a birthday

How to calculate $P(A)$, $P(B)$, $P(C)$?

First mathematically formulate the events A, B, C :

Suppose your birthday is at day 'd'. Then

Event $A \Leftrightarrow \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \mid x_k = d \text{ for some } k \leq n\}$

Easier to calculate A^c instead.

$A^c = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid x_k \neq d \ \forall k \leq n\}$

$$|A^c| = 364^n \Rightarrow \boxed{P(A) = 1 - \left(\frac{364}{365}\right)^n}$$

Event $B \Leftrightarrow \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid x_i = x_j \text{ for some } 1 \leq i, j \leq 365\}$

Here also calculate $P(B^c)$ instead.

$$B^c = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \mid x_i \neq x_j \ \forall i, j\}$$

$$|B^c| = 365 \cdot (365-1) \cdot (365-2) \cdot \dots \cdot (365-(n-1))$$

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

$$P(B) = 1 - \frac{365!}{(365-n)! \cdot 365^n}$$

Compare $P(A)$ and $P(B)$ to see $P(B)$ is much more likely than $P(A)$.

$$\text{For } P(A) \geq 0.5 \Rightarrow n > 252$$

$$P(B) \geq 0.5 \Rightarrow n \geq 23$$

Calculating $P(C)$ is much more complicated:

$$\text{Event } C \Leftrightarrow \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid x_i = x_j = x_k \text{ for some } i, j, k\}$$

all distinct birthdays

$$C^c = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid x_i \neq x_j \ \forall i, j\} \cup \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid x_i = x_j \text{ for some}$$

$$i, j \text{ and } x_k \neq x_i \ \forall k \neq i, j\} \cup \dots \cup \dots$$

↑
one pair and rest distinct

↑
two pairs and rest distinct

Finding explicit formula for $|C^c|$ is much more complicated. Can use numerical approx. for small n instead.

Pascal's Triangle: - Encodes combinatorial properties

- Defined by recursion: $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k} + \binom{n-1}{k-1}$

$n=0$

1

$n=1$

1

1

$n=2$

1

2

1

$n=3$

1

3

3

1

$n=4$

1

4

6

4

1

$\binom{n}{0}$

$\binom{n}{1}$

...

$\binom{n}{n-1}$

$\binom{n}{n}$