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A birthday attack in cryptography exploits the birthday paradox, where a collision (same hash value) becomes likely as attempts increase.

To compute the probability, understand the birthday paradox, define hash space size and attempts, then use the formula $P(\text{collision}) = 1 - (1 - 1/\text{Hashspace})^{\text{Attempts}}$.

Example: For a 128 bit hash space find P after 2^{64} attempts. Larger hash spaces resist birthday attacks, highlighting the importance of sufficient bit length in hash function design for cryptographic security.

import math

def

birthday_attack_probability (hash_bits, num_attempts):

hash_space = 2**hash_bits

collision_probability = 1 - math.pow(1 - 1/hash_space, num_attempts)

return collision_probability

#Example: Calculate the probability for a 128 bit hash after 2^{64} attempts

num_attempts = 2**64

probability = ?

So,

birthday_attack_probability (hash_bits, num_attempts)

print ("Probability of collision: probability: 1 or 0")