

Birthday problem

Suppose we have k people in a room. Define event A as the event at least two people in the room share the same birthday. What is $P(A)$?

Assumptions:

- “same birthday” here means same month and day
- We don’t have twins/triplets/etc.
- No one born on February 29 (leap year)
- Each day of the year is equally likely to be a birthday \rightarrow let's use naive prob.

$$P_{\text{naive}}(A) = \frac{|A|}{|S|} = \frac{|A|}{365^k}$$

$$A^c = \text{no one has same birthday} \equiv \text{choosing } k \text{ birthdays without replacement from } 365 \text{ total}$$

$$|A^c| = P_{365, k} = \frac{365!}{(365-k)!}$$

$$\underline{365} \quad \underline{364} \quad \underline{363} \times \dots$$

$$P_{\text{naive}}(A) = 1 - P_{\text{naive}}(A^c) = 1 - \frac{365! / (365-k)!}{365^k}$$