


Week 4 Lecture Notes

$$E \cup \bar{E} = S \Rightarrow P(E) + P(\bar{E}) = 1 \quad \leftarrow P(S) = 1$$

Example:

1. What is the probability that in a group of six people, at least two will have birthdays in the same month assuming all months are equally likely?

a) What is S ?

Set of all ordered 6-tuples: $\{(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6) \mid x_i \in [1, \dots, 12]\}$

b) What is E ?

The event where at least two of the numbers are the same.

c) Solve

Using the property:

$$\sum_{x \in S} P(x) = 1$$

\bar{E} = event where all #s are distinct

$|\bar{E}|$ = permutation of 6 #s from $\{1, 2, \dots, 12\} = P(12, 6)$

Probability that two or more people have the same birthday month is:

$$P(E) = 1 - P(\bar{E}) = 1 - \frac{P(12, 6)}{12^6} \approx 1 - 0.22 \approx 0.78$$