


# Authenticator

Elizabeth Brocklebank





## Approve sign-in request

 Open your Authenticator app, and enter the number shown to sign in.

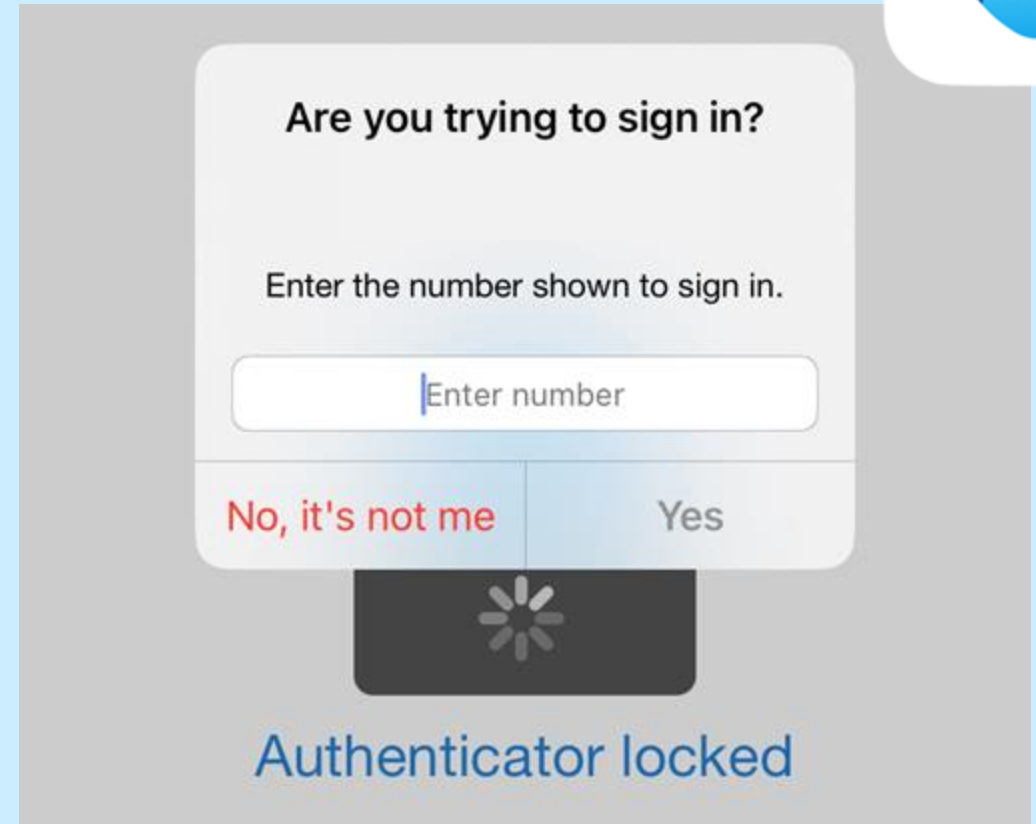
58

No numbers in your app? Make sure to upgrade to the latest version.

[I can't use my Microsoft Authenticator app right now](#)

[More information](#)

This service is available to authorised users only. By using this facility you confirm that such use shall comply with Durham University IT Regulations.





# Results





# The question

- How many times do we need to log in to have drawn all possible numbers
- Can we hack the system? – Are there numbers that appears more/less often than others





# Coupon Collector's problem

- How many coupons do we need to draw (on average) with replacement, before having drawn every coupon at least once?
- Geometric random variable – number of trials required to achieve success:

$$E(X) = \frac{1}{p}$$



# Assumptions

- Every number has an equally likely chance of being drawn
- Infinite number of logins





# Expected number of total logins

$$E(p_1 + p_2 + \cdots + p_{90})$$

$$= E(p_1) + E(p_2) + \cdots + E(p_{90})$$

$$= \frac{90}{90} + \frac{90}{89} + \cdots + \frac{90}{2} + \frac{90}{1}$$

$$= 90 \left( \frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{89} + \frac{1}{90} \right)$$

**Harmonic series!**

$$= 90 H_{90}$$



458 logins on average!

# Results



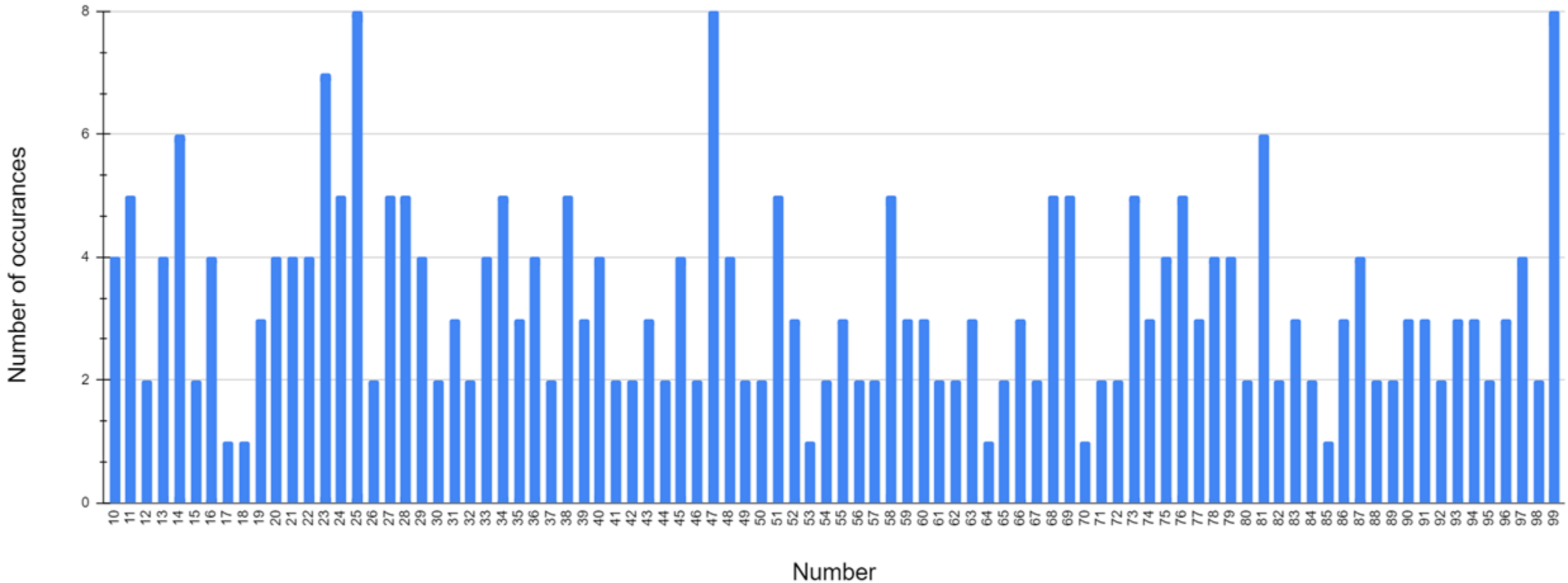
# Results



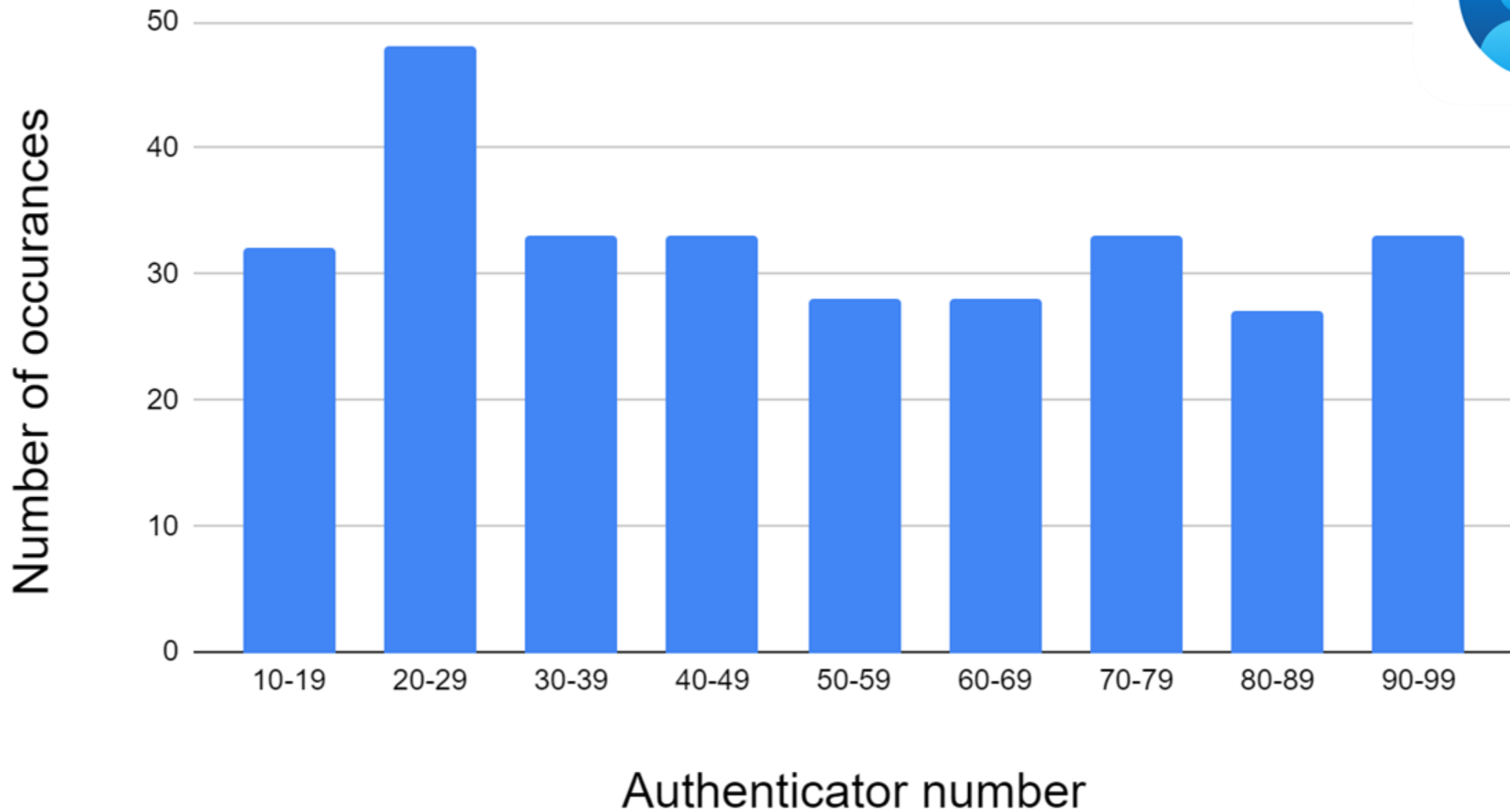
	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	SUM
0		4	4	2	4	2	3	1	2	3	25
1		5	4	3	2	5	2	2	6	3	32
2		2	4	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	21
3		4	7	4	3	1	3	5	3	3	33
4		6	5	5	2	2	1	3	2	3	29
5		2	8	3	4	3	2	4	1	2	29
6		4	2	4	2	2	3	5	3	3	28
7		1	5	2	8	2	2	3	4	4	31
8		1	5	5	4	5	5	4	2	2	33
9		3	4	3	2	3	5	4	2	8	34
SUM		32	48	33	33	28	28	33	27	33	295



- Most common numbers – 25, 47, 99
- Least common numbers – 17, 18, 53, 64, 70
- Total number of logins - 295



# Number of occurrences vs Authenticator number



# Conclusions

- Choose the number 25!

