

planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

crazy dice

Canonical name CrazyDice

Numerical id 7

Author mathcam (2727)

Entry type Definition Classification msc 05A15 It is a standard exercise in elementary combinatorics to the number of ways of rolling any given value with 2 fair 6-sided dice (by taking the of the two rolls). The below table the number of such ways of rolling a given value n:

n	# of ways
2 3	1
	2
4	3
5	4
6	5
7	6
8	5
9	4
10	3
11	2
12	1

A somewhat (un?) natural question is to ask whether or not there are any other ways of re-labeling the faces of the dice with positive integers that these sums with the same frequencies. The surprising answer to this question is that there does indeed exist such a re-labeling, via the labeling

Die
$$1 = \{1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4\}$$

Die $2 = \{1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8\}$

and a pair of dice with this labeling are called a set of *crazy dice*. It is straight-forward to verify that the various possible occur with the same frequencies as given by the above table.