

1. Suppose you have a fair 6-sided die with the numbers 1 through 6 on the sides and a fair 5-sided die with the numbers 1 through 5 on the sides. What is the probability that a roll of the six-sided die will produce a value larger than the roll of the five-sided die?

Answer. The total number of samples in this (probability) space is $6 \cdot 5 = 30$.

The number of samples where "the six-sided die will produce a value larger than the roll of the five-sided die" is $5 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 15$.

Therefore, the chance of the event is $15/30 = 0.5$.

2. What is the expected number of rolls until a fair five-sided die rolls a 3? Justify your answer briefly.

Answer. Consider some finite cases:

The probability of rolling a 3 the 1st time is $1/5$.

The probability of rolling a 3 only at the 2nd time is $4/5 \cdot 1/5$.

The probability of rolling a 3 only at the 3rd time is $4/5 \cdot 4/5 \cdot 1/5$.

...

So on and so on.

Hence, the expectation of the number of rolls is

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{5} \cdot 1 + \frac{4}{5} \cdot \frac{1}{5} \cdot 2 + \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^2 \cdot \frac{1}{5} \cdot 3 + \dots \\
 &= \frac{1}{5} \left(1 + \frac{4}{5} \cdot 2 + \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^2 \cdot 3 + \dots\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (k+1) \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^k \\
 &= \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^k + \frac{1}{5} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^k \\
 &= \frac{1}{5} + 4 + \frac{4}{5} \\
 &= 5
 \end{aligned}$$