

The package dice2e (2023-11-27 v0.1)

Davide Campagnari

Searching in the Comprehensive T_EX Archive Network for the keyword “*dice*” I found four results: one is a METAFONT font, one a package which includes a clipped external file, and the other two use tikz. I thus decided (mostly for fun) to write a small package to draw dice with pict2e.

Loading it








The package is loaded as usual by

```
\usepackage{drcdice}
```



and it loads the packages pict2e and color. There is only one package option, black, which is described below.

Using it

The package provides a single macro `\dice<*>[<length>]{<number>}` doing this:

Code	Output
<code>\dice{0}</code>	
<code>\dice{1}</code>	
<code>\dice*{2}</code>	
<code>\dice{3}</code>	
<code>\dice{4}</code>	
<code>\dice*{5}</code>	
<code>\dice{6}</code>	

Numbers larger than 6 (as well as negative numbers) yield an error. The optional parameter (default 2ex) sets the symbols’ size:

`\dice{3}` →  `\dice[3]{3}` → 

If no explicit unit is given, then ex is assumed. The line thickness scales according to the size. (The default is currently fixed at 0.07742 times the total size; the weird number comes from the thickness being 0.8pt in the default 10pt setting.)

The package option ‘black’

As you can see from the example, the macro `\dice` uses black pips on a white background, while the starred form `\dice*` uses white pips on a black background. By loading the package with the option black, the behaviour of the non-starred and starred forms is swapped.

Grammatical considerations

I know that technically the singular form is ‘die’ (though ‘dice’ is widely used also as singular), but I really did not want to write a macro named `\die...`