

6.3 Probability in games of chance

Theorem 1

Given a simple experiment, called a **Bernoulli trial**, and an event that occurs with a probability p , if the trial is repeated independently n times, then the probability of having exactly k successes is

$$C(n, k) \cdot p^k \cdot (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

^a

Example 1 What is the probability that in 10 successive rolls of a fair, six-sided die, we get exactly five results of 6?

Here, we have $n = 10$, $k = 5$, and $p = \frac{1}{6}$, so:

$$C(10, 5) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^5 \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1}{6}\right)^{10-5}$$

$$\frac{10!}{5!(10-5)!} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^5 \cdot \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^5$$

$$\frac{3628800}{14400} \cdot \frac{1}{7776} \cdot \frac{3125}{7776}$$

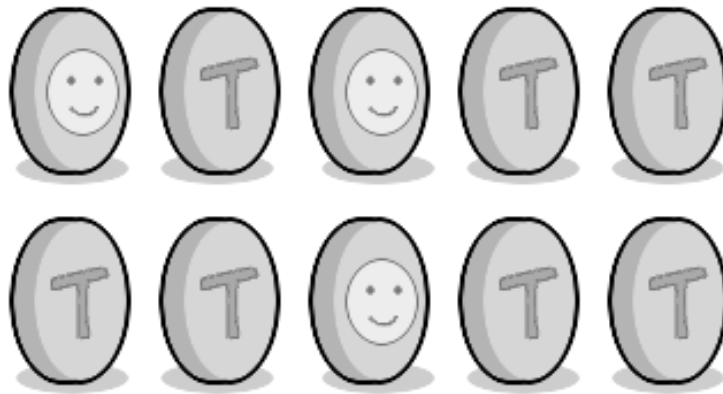
$$\approx 0.013$$

^aFrom Discrete Math by Ensley and Crawley, page 460

Question 1

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What is the probability of getting exactly 3 heads on 10 tosses of a fair coin?



n , the amount of trial repeats: _____

k , the amount of successes (heads): _____

p , the probability of success: _____

Use the formula of $C(n, k) \cdot p^k \cdot (1 - p)^{n-k}$ to find the probability.

Question 2

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What is the probability that in seven rolls of a six-sided die, the result of 1 appears *at least* five times?

**Hint**

For this one, we will need to use the **rule of sums** to combine several outcomes: Getting 5 1's, 6 1's, OR 7 1's.

		repeats n	successes k	probability p
A	Getting five 1's	7	5	1/6
B	Getting six 1's	7		
C	Getting seven 1's	7		

Now, using the formula $C(n, k) \cdot p^k \cdot (1 - p)^{n-k}$ three different times for case (A), (B), and (C).

$$(A) \quad C(n, k) \cdot p^k \cdot (1 - p)^{n-k} =$$

$$(B) \quad C(n, k) \cdot p^k \cdot (1 - p)^{n-k} =$$

$$(C) \quad C(n, k) \cdot p^k \cdot (1 - p)^{n-k} =$$

To find the probability of getting at least five 1's in seven rolls, add (A), (B), and (C) together. (Just write out the formula; don't solve.)

$$Prob(\text{ at least five 1's }) =$$

Question 3

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What is the probability of getting exactly one 6 on 10 tosses of a fair six-sided die?