

6.3 Probability in games of chance

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: 10

k , the amount of successes (heads): 3

p , the probability of success: $(1/2)$

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

$$C(10, 3) \cdot (1/2)^3 \cdot (1/2)^7 = \frac{15}{128}$$

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?

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

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

$$(A) \quad C(n, k) \cdot p^k \cdot (1 - p)^{n-k} = C(7, 5) \cdot (1/6)^5 \cdot (5/6)^2$$

$$(B) \quad C(n, k) \cdot p^k \cdot (1 - p)^{n-k} = C(7, 6) \cdot (1/6)^6 \cdot (5/6)^1$$

$$(C) \quad C(n, k) \cdot p^k \cdot (1 - p)^{n-k} = C(7, 7) \cdot (1/6)^7 \cdot (5/6)^0$$

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.)

$$Prob(\text{ at least five 1's }) = C(7, 5) \cdot (1/6)^5 \cdot (5/6)^2 + C(7, 6) \cdot (1/6)^6 \cdot (5/6)^1 + C(7, 7) \cdot (1/6)^7 \cdot (5/6)^0$$

Question 3

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

$$n = 10, k = 1, p = (1/6)$$

$$C(10, 1) \cdot (1/6)^1 \cdot (5/6)^9 \approx 0.323$$