



Why

We want to talk about a set of objects associated with some uncertain outcome, one for each outcome. We use a correspondence between each outcome and its corresponding object in the second set.

Definition

Let Ω be a set of outcomes. An *outcome variable* is function whose domain is Ω . We call the codomain of the function the set of *values* of the outcome variable. If the set is named $_$, we call the function a $_$ -valued outcome variable on Ω . Often Ω is fixed, and clear from context, and we drop the final prepositional phrase “on Ω .”

Other terminology

The standard terminology is to refer to an outcome variable as a *random variable*.¹

Example: two dice

Let $D = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$. Consider the set of outcomes $A = D \times D$. An outcome variable associated with A is the function $s : A \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$ which is defined by

$$s((d_1, d_2)) = d_1 + d_2.$$

¹Future editions may do so. For now, this is avoided in contrast with the notion of measurability required for random variables.

We interpret the outcome variable s as the sum of the two dice.

