

Chapter 14: Probability

What is Probability?

- **Probability** means the chance of something happening.
- Deals with **random experiments** like tossing a coin or rolling a die.

Important Definitions

- **Experiment:** Any activity with observable results (e.g., tossing a coin).
- **Outcome:** A possible result (e.g., Head or Tail).
- **Sample Space:** Set of all possible outcomes.


Theoretical (Classical) Probability

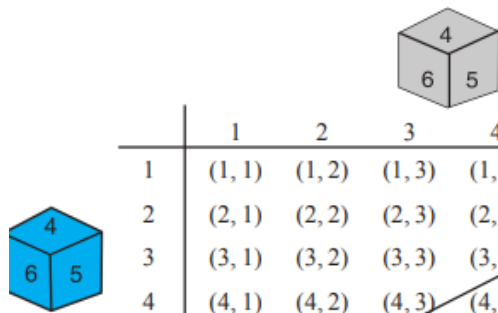
If all outcomes are **equally likely**, then:

$$P(E) = \frac{\text{Number of outcomes favourable to E}}{\text{Number of all possible outcomes of the experiment}},$$

 Defined by Pierre Simon Laplace (1795)

Examples of Equally Likely Outcomes

- Tossing a coin: Head or Tail
- Throwing a die: 1 to 6 ( Fig. 14.3)



	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	(1, 1)	(1, 2)	(1, 3)	(1, 4)	(1, 5)	(1, 6)
2	(2, 1)	(2, 2)	(2, 3)	(2, 4)	(2, 5)	(2, 6)
3	(3, 1)	(3, 2)	(3, 3)	(3, 4)	(3, 5)	(3, 6)
4	(4, 1)	(4, 2)	(4, 3)	(4, 4)	(4, 5)	(4, 6)
5	(5, 1)	(5, 2)	(5, 3)	(5, 4)	(5, 5)	(5, 6)
6	(6, 1)	(6, 2)	(6, 3)	(6, 4)	(6, 5)	(6, 6)

Fig. 14.3

- Picking a card from a deck (52 cards)

Key Properties

1. $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$
2. **P(Sure event) = 1**
3. **P(Impossible event) = 0**
4. **P(Not E) = 1 – P(E)**
→ E and Not E are called **complementary events**

Real-Life Examples

✓ Drawing a card from 52 cards

- $P(\text{Ace}) = 4/52 = 1/13$
- $P(\text{Not Ace}) = 48/52 = 12/13$

✓ Coin Toss

- $P(\text{Head}) = 1/2$
- $P(\text{Tail}) = 1/2$
- $P(\text{Head or Tail}) = 1$

✓ Drawing a red ball from a bag

- If bag has 3 red, 2 white, 4 blue balls \rightarrow Total = 9
- $P(\text{Red}) = 3/9 = 1/3$

✓ Two coins tossed

- Outcomes: (H, H), (H, T), (T, H), (T, T)
- $P(\text{At least one Head}) = 3/4$

Geometry-based Probability

✓ Area-Based Probability (Fig. 14.1 & 14.2)

If outcomes are continuous:

$$P(E) = (\text{Favourable area}) / (\text{Total area})$$

Example:

- Helicopter crash inside lake:
 $P = 7.5 / 40.5 = 5/27$

Probability of Events from Dice or Cards

Two dice thrown

- Total outcomes = $6 \times 6 = 36$
- $P(\text{Sum is 8}) = 5/36$
- $P(\text{Sum is 13}) = 0$
- $P(\text{Sum} \leq 12) = 1$

Cards

- $P(\text{Red Face Card}) = 6/52$
- $P(\text{King of red}) = 2/52$
- $P(\text{Spade}) = 13/52 = 1/4$

Summary Box

Event Type	Probability
Impossible Event	0
Sure Event	1
Complementary Events	$P(E) + P(\text{Not } E) = 1$
Minimum Value of $P(E)$	0
Maximum Value of $P(E)$	1