

# The throw of two dice

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Two dice are thrown. If the sum of the face values is 8, what is the chance that at least one of the two dice shows a 6 (an “ace”)?



🟡 *Sample space:* ordered pairs of positive integers

$$\Omega = \{(i, j) : 1 \leq i, j \leq 6\}$$



● *Sample space*: ordered pairs of positive integers  
 $\Omega = \{(i, j) : 1 \leq i, j \leq 6\}$

● *The events of interest*:

$A :=$  (at least) one ace  $= \{(i, j) : i = 6 \text{ or } j = 6\}$   
 $= \{(6,1), (6,2), (6,3), (6,4), (6,5), (6,6), (5,6), (4,6), (3,6), (2,6), (1,6)\}$

$B :=$  sum is 8  $= \{(i, j) : i + j = 8\} = \{(6,2), (5,3), (4,4), (3,5), (2,6)\}$



● *Sample space: ordered pairs of positive integers*

$$\Omega = \{(i, j) : 1 \leq i, j \leq 6\}$$

● *The events of interest:*

$$\textcolor{red}{A} := (\text{at least one ace}) = \{(i, j) : i = 6 \text{ or } j = 6\}$$

$$= \{(6,1), (6,2), (6,3), (6,4), (6,5), (6,6), (5,6), (4,6), (3,6), (2,6), (1,6)\}$$

$$\textcolor{green}{B} := \text{sum is 8} = \{(i, j) : i + j = 8\} = \{(6,2), (5,3), (4,4), (3,5), (2,6)\}$$

● *Probability measure  $\mathbf{P}$ :*

- Combinatorial setting: to each *atom* (singleton set) assign equal *probability mass*

$$\mathbf{P}\{(i, j)\} = 1/36 \quad (1 \leq i, j \leq 6)$$

- Event probabilities via additivity:

$$\mathbf{P}(A) = 11/36$$

$$\mathbf{P}(B) = 5/36$$



A

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

B

Sample space: ordered pairs of positive integers  
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The chance of **A**  
(without side information)  
 **$P(A) = 11/36$**

**A**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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**B**

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$$P\{(i, j)\} = 1/36 \quad (1 \leq i, j \leq 6)$$

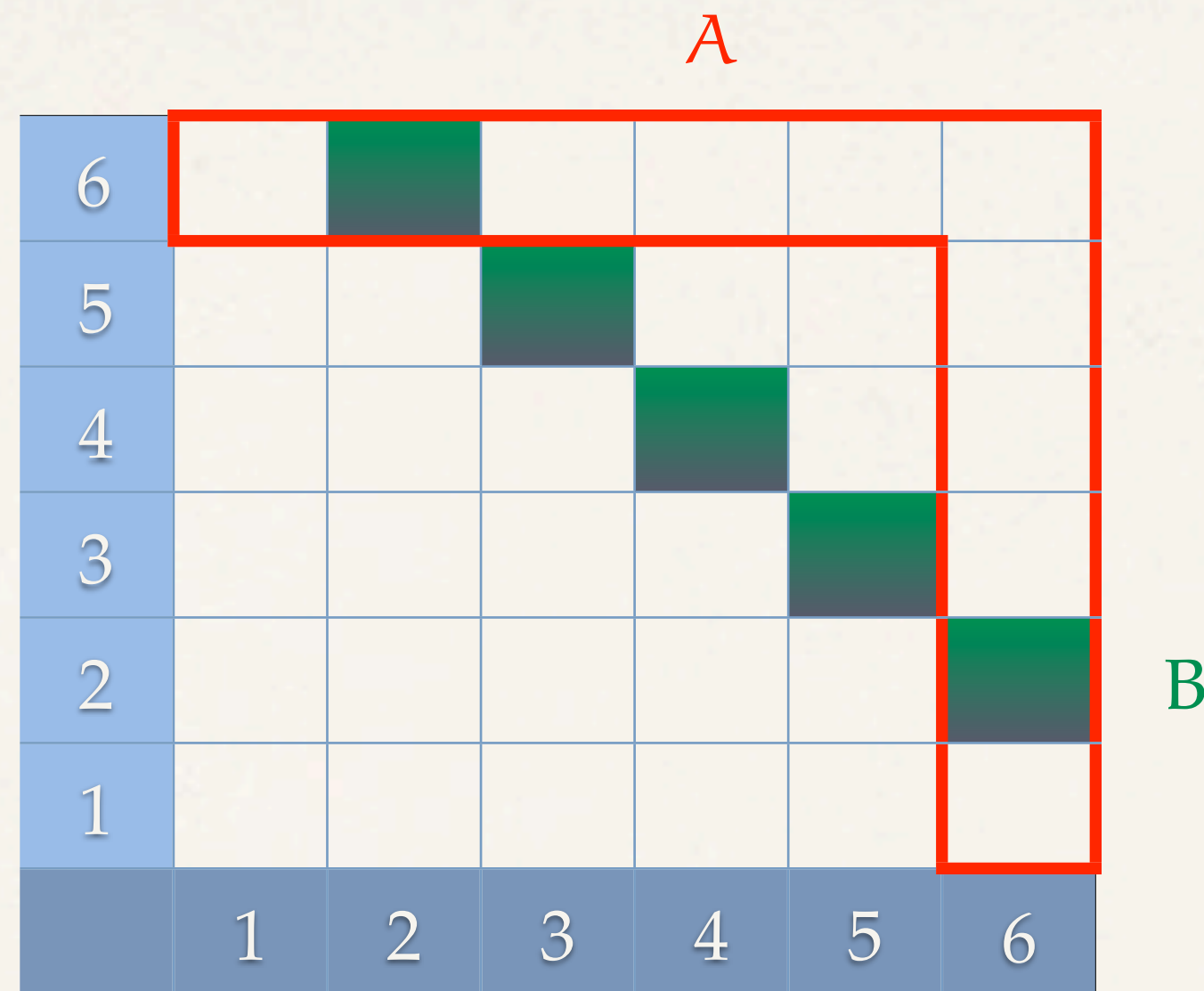
- Event probabilities via additivity:

$$P(A) = 11/36$$

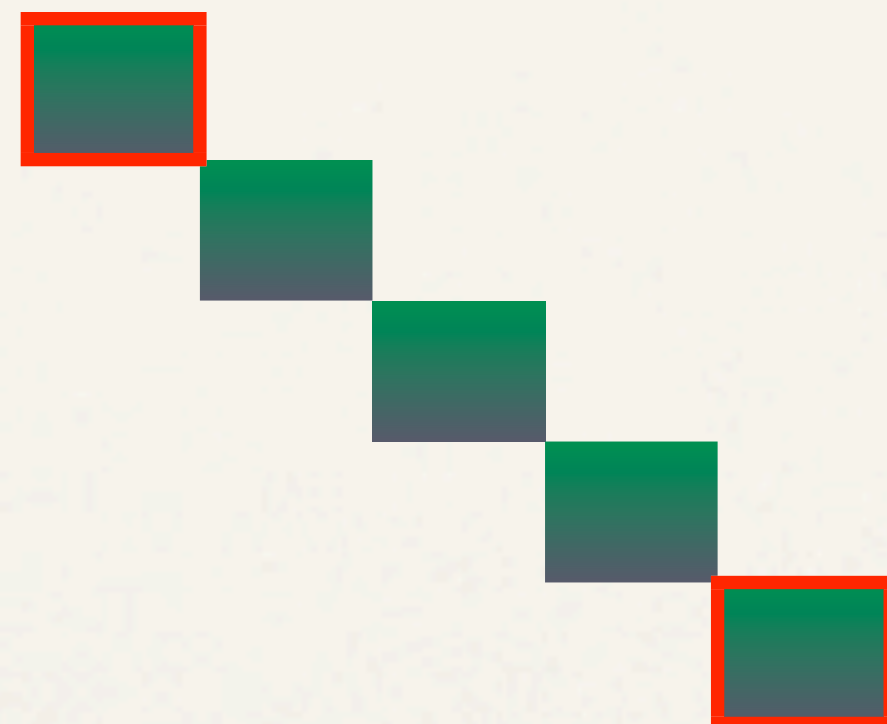
$$P(B) = 5/36$$



The chance of  $A$   
(without side information)  
 $P(A) = 11/36$



Conditioned on  
sum being 8



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The chance of **A**  
(without side information)

$$P(A) = 11/36$$

A

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

B

Conditioned on  
sum being 8



The chance of **A**  
(given that **B** occurs)

$$\frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} = \frac{2/36}{5/36} = \frac{2}{5}$$

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